

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – JULY 2019

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Tuesday 23 July 2019 (9:00-12:30 and 14:30-18:30)

in Brussels, Room ASP A3E-2

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Organisation of the work of the Committee on Fisheries for the 9th legislature
- ▶ Presentation of the opinion on the General Budget 2020
- ▶ Exchange of views on Fisheries Control
- ▶ Exchange of views with the Commission on IUU fishing and non-cooperating countries
- ▶ Presentation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Cape Verde, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

Wednesday 4 September, 9:00-12:30

Wednesday 4 September, 14:30-18:30

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



*Chris DAVIES
Chair of Committee on Fisheries*

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Committee on Fisheries!

To become Chair of the Fisheries Committee was unexpected but very welcome. I suspect I am the only Chair ever to have communicated his wish for a sustainable Common Fisheries Policy by once wearing a fish costume in the Parliament's buildings! It's exciting now to have the opportunity to work with colleagues of all parties in putting principles into practice, addressing problems (some of them severe) and building a successful and secure fishing industry.

I want to thank in particular my predecessor Alain Cadec for his chairmanship over the past legislative term. A good number of legislative proposals related to CFP implementation were adopted, and during this time progress was made in many areas. I also pay tribute to the work of all former Members of the Committee.

A majority of Members are new to the Parliament and their ideas and enthusiasm will be very welcome. To lay the foundations for our mandate, and help us all appreciate the current situation, I propose that at our meetings in September the Commission should be invited to build on its recent Communication and present two 'State of the Seas' reports, one for the Atlantic and Baltic areas and one for the Mediterranean and Black Seas. We all need to know where progress is being made and where real difficulties are experienced.

Fisheries is the most integrated of Union policies and the challenges ahead are numerous: the new EMFF programme, the Fisheries Control Regulation, the adoption of multiannual management plans, the consequences of climate change, the scrutiny of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Should Brexit become a reality, which I very much hope will not be the case, we (or you!) will also have to find a way to manage the common stocks in the North Sea and adjacent waters in a responsible and sustainable way.

I nurse the belief that our seas could sustain much greater volumes of fish, as they once did, and that the fishing industry across Europe could be more profitable and provide more jobs in consequence. As Members of the European Parliament I hope we all remember that fish are a finite natural resource and we have to create an environment that allows them to flourish. Let's keep focused on ensuring that we have fish for the future.

I wish you all a happy "*rentrée*" on Tuesday 23rd July!

Chris DAVIES

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Fisheries control COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193(COD) PECH/9/00323	TBC	COD	TBC	TBC
Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd reading)	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/8/13776	Mato	COD	07/03/2019	04/04/2019
Multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks COM(2017)0097 - C8-0095/2017 2017/0043(COD) PECH/8/09349	Tomasic	COD	09/10/2018	13/11/2018
NLE reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde (2019-2024) 08662/2019 - COM(2019)0137 - C9-0004/2019 2019/0078(NLE) PECH/9/00456	TBC	NLE	TBC	TBC
Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024) 08928/2019 - COM(2019)0171 - C9-0011/2019 2019/0090(NLE) PECH/9/00462	TBC	NLE	TBC	TBC
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia and the Implementation Protocol thereto COM(2019)0135 - 2019/0076(NLE) PECH/9/00453	TBC	NLE	TBC	TBC

Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections COM(2019)0400 - 2019/2028(BUD) PECH/9/00513	Davies	BUD	04/09/2019	BUDG TBC
Accession of Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part COM(2019)0204 - 09405/2019 - C9-0010/2019 2019/0099(NLE) PECH/9/00469	TBC	NLE	TBC	INTA TBC
Conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam COM(2018)0691 - 06050/2019- C9-0023/2019 2018/0356(NLE) PECH/9/00631	TBC	NLE	TBC	INTA TBC

**Note on procedures:*

COD: Ordinary legislative procedure; **INI:** Own-Initiative;

NLE: Non-legislative (consent to international agreements); **DEC:** Discharge; **BUD:** Budget

RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

European fisheries - latest developments and future challenges

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

CFP and fisheries management

Implementation and impact of the key European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) measures on the CFP
The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Italian case
The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Spanish case
Social and Economic impact of the penalty point system
Scientific Advice in Fisheries Management - Introduction to Stock Assessment and Maximum Sustainable Yield Ranges
Workshop on The discard ban and its impact on the Maximum Sustainable Yield objective on fisheries
The discard ban and its impact on the MSY objective - The Bay of Biscay case/The Baltic Sea/The North Sea
Options of handling choke species in view of the EU landing obligation - the Baltic plaice example
Landing obligation and choke species in mixed fisheries - North Sea/North-Western Waters/South-Western Waters

Stocks

Situation of the clam (Tapes spp) fisheries sector in the EU
Environmental, social and economic sustainability of the European eel management
The European eel: reproductive biology, migration and sustainable management

Structural Policy and economics

Markets of fisheries and aquaculture products: The added value chain and the role of promotion, labelling and consumer information - Small-scale fisheries case
Feasibility of measuring socio-economic and environmental impacts of recreational and semi-subsistence fisheries in the EU
Seafood Industry Integration in the EU
The management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions
Sustainable 'blue growth' in the EU and opportunities for small-scale fisheries
Regional ocean governance in Europe: the role of fisheries
"Marine Recreational and Semi-subsistence fishing - its value and its impact on fish stocks"
Training of Fishers
Workshop on the Implementation and Impact of EMFF Measures on the Common Fisheries Policy
Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018

External dimension

Impact of fisheries partnership agreements in the development of employment in the EU and in third countries
Consequences of Brexit for the Common Fisheries Policy
Legal framework for governance
Trade and economic related issues
Resources and fisheries

Mission briefings

Fisheries in Madeira/Japan/Guadeloupe (2017)
Fisheries in Andalusia/Finland/Ireland/Vietnam (2018)

@ You can access the studies and other documents via this [link](#)

FISHERIES NEWS IN BRIEF

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[News - Press service](#)

New chair and vice-chairs of the Committee on Fisheries 10/07/2019

Chris DAVIES (Renew Europe, UK) was elected by acclamation chair of the Committee on Fisheries at the committee's constitutive meeting on Wednesday, 10 July.

The committee also elected by acclamation Peter van DALEN (EPP, NL; first vice-chair), Søren GADE (Renew Europe, DK; second vice-chair) and Giuseppe Ferrandino (S&D, IT; third vice-chair).

Cláudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR (EPP, PT) was elected fourth vice-chair with 19 votes in favour, against second candidate, Rosanna CONTE (ID, IT), who received 8 votes.

The new committee leadership (also referred to as the “[committee bureau](#)”) will serve for a two-and-a-half year mandate.

The new Fisheries Committee has [28 full members](#), following the [approval by the EP Plenary](#). The first ordinary committee meeting of the new legislative term will take place on 23 July.

Responsibilities of the committee

According to the Parliament's Rules of procedure, the Committee on Fisheries is responsible for:

1. the operation and development of the common fisheries policy and its management;
2. the conservation of fishery resources, the management of fisheries and fleets exploiting such resources and marine and applied fisheries research;
3. the common organisation of the market in fishery and aquaculture products and the processing and marketing thereof;
4. structural policy in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including the financial instruments and funds for

fisheries guidance to support these sectors;

5. the integrated maritime policy as regards fishing activities;
6. sustainable fisheries partnership agreements, regional fisheries organisations and the implementation of international obligations in the field of fisheries.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

Questions and Answers - Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in general and in Taiwan 27 June 2019

On IUU fishing in general

What is IUU fishing?

IUU fishing stands for illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing.

The European Union IUU legislation applies to all fishing vessels, under any flag, in all maritime waters.

A fishing vessel is notably presumed to engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities if it is shown to carry out activities in contravention with the conservation and management measures applicable in the area concerned. This includes, inter alia, fishing without a valid licence, in a closed area or during a closed season, or using a prohibited gear, as well as the failure to fulfil reporting obligations or obstruction of the inspectors work.

Why is the Commission committed to solve the IUU fishing issue?

IUU fishing is one of the most serious threats to the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources and hence jeopardises the foundation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), as well as the EU's international efforts to promote better ocean governance. IUU fishing also represents a major hazard to the marine environment and marine biodiversity.

What is the policy of the EU to fight illegal fishing?

The EU is the world's largest import market for fisheries products and as such bears a prime market State responsibility in the fight against IUU fishing.

The [EU Regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing](#) (IUU Regulation) entered into force on 1 January 2010. It applies to trade of marine fishery products with the EU. It aims to make sure that no illegally caught fisheries products end up on the EU market.

To achieve this, the Regulation requires flag States to certify the origin and legality of the fish, thereby ensuring the full traceability of marine fishery products traded with the EU. The system ensures as well that countries comply with their own conservation and management rules and with internationally agreed rules. [Read more](#)

Illegal fishing: EU lifts Taiwan's yellow card following reforms **27 June 2019**

The EU recognises Taiwan's reforms put in place during the last three and a half years to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). Today the European Commission decided to lift the yellow card acknowledging the progress made by Taiwan and the major upgrade of its fisheries legal and administrative systems to fight against IUU fishing.

The EU is committed to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and is working with countries across the world to that end. After the issuing of the yellow card in October 2015, the European Commission, on behalf of the EU, and Taiwan have engaged in three and a half years of intense cooperation and dialogue.

As a result of that cooperation, Taiwanese authorities now have a broad range of modern and efficient tools to fight IUU fishing in place. This is a major step forward, given that Taiwan's long distance fleet is the second largest in the world, and therefore plays a central role in the international supply chain for fisheries products. Taiwan has also reinforced obligations imposed on Taiwanese

operators owning fishing vessels flagged to third countries.

To keep building on these achievements, the Commission will propose the establishment of a dedicated IUU Working Group. This forum will allow both sides to maintain a close cooperation on matters relating to the fight against IUU fishing, including at the multilateral, regional and sub-regional levels. In addition, the EU and Taiwan will continue addressing labour conditions in the fishing sector in the framework of their human rights consultations.

Background

The global value of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) is estimated at 10-20 billion euros per year. Every year, between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish are caught illegally, corresponding to at least 15% of the world catches. The EU is the world's biggest importer of fisheries products. [Read more](#)

CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment): A new era for maritime surveillance **24/06/2019**

The Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) has made important progress by entering its transitional phase (2019 – 2021) which will be managed and led by European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in close cooperation with the Member States.

Integrated Maritime Surveillance is the effective understanding of all activities carried out at sea that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment of the European Union and its Member States. A common information-sharing environment (CISE) is currently being developed jointly by the European Commission and EU/EEA members with the support of relevant agencies such as the EFCA. It integrates existing surveillance systems and networks and gives all those authorities concerned access to the information they need for their missions at sea. The CISE makes different systems interoperable so that data and other information can be exchanged easily through the use of modern technologies.

CISE has now entered a new phase, funded through a direct grant of 3,5 million € by EMFF, during which it will build upon the successful completion of the EU interoperability project EUCISE 2020 as well as upon the knowledge gained through important national projects.

The CISE Stakeholders Group which will be the governance body for the transitional phase was set up by Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) and held its kick off meeting in Lisbon on May 15, 2019. All EU Member States, many EU agencies (EFCA, Frontex, European Union Satellite Centre - SatCen, European Defence Agency - EDA) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) are members of this group. The next meeting of the CISE Stakeholders Group will take place in October. CISE is now expected to further facilitate quick and reliable exchange of information across borders and across different maritime authorities and contribute to ensure a safer and more secure maritime environment, which is a key precondition to allow blue economy to grow and flourish. It will improve maritime surveillance and mitigate the diverse risks that might have a negative effect on our seas and shores, such as pollution, illegal and criminal activities, piracy, or terrorism.

A Staff Working Document is currently being drafted, aiming in presenting the review of CISE, the achievements of last years and the main challenges that lay ahead for its further implementation.

Read more

[CISE](#)

Coast Guard Experts discuss burning issues in the Mediterranean

24/06/2019

Illegal migration, fisheries control, maritime surveillance, environmental protection, oil spill response are just some of the challenges the coast guards have to deal with in their daily work. The eighth Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum plenary meeting held in Casablanca on 12-13 May 2019, addressed some of these

issues and highlighted the importance of close cooperation among Coast Guards.

Representatives from the participant countries (Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey) and organisations (European Commission, EFCA, EMSA, Frontex, INTERPOL) agreed on the need to adopt a common approach in enforcing international conventions and instruments. The first step is to share information and best practices among European Coast Guard Functions Forum, Black Sea Cooperation forum, Atlantic Coast Guard Forum and Asian Coast Guard Agencies. A useful cooperation tool would be to develop guidelines to better support the implementation of sea basin and sub sea-basin strategies and initiatives.

Knowledge is best spread though participating in trainings and exchange programs organised by national maritime authorities in the region. A dedicated workshop on multipurpose operations will be co-organised with the EU coast Guard Agencies in spring 2020.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) annual meeting: progress towards sustainability

24/06/2019

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) held its 23rd Annual Meeting in Hyderabad, India, from 17 to 21 June 2019. The EU welcomes the adoption of ambitious measures to improve the management of FADs and offset their possible negative impacts on the ecosystem, and the retention ban on Manta and Mobula rays. However, there is still a lot to be done to reach the sustainable management of stocks covered by the organisation's mandate, in particular the Yellowfin Tuna (YFT).

One of the meeting's most positive outcomes is the adoption of ambitious measures on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). The IOTC established a series of measures to set the highest standards in all Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). FADs numbers are to be further reduced to 300, with increased monitoring and data collection. The

IOTC also made it mandatory to have completely non-entangling designs for FADs to reduce the possibility of catching non-targeted species. As of 2022, all FADs will have to be made of biodegradable material, in line with the EU efforts to reduce marine litter. In addition, the adopted measure contains a set of clear definitions, improved standards for data collection, the establishment of a marking scheme and strengthened control procedures. The result is the outcome of the joint efforts of the EU and many IOTC members, which have resulted in improving the original EU proposal. The IOTC also endorsed a [proposal](#) tabled by the EU on Mobulids, namely the interdiction to retain on board any Manta and Mobula rays for all vessels operating in the IOTC convention area: the ban was recommended by the IOTC Scientific Committee to protect this endangered species. Artisanal fisheries are exempted from this ban but only for accidental catches and until 2022.

However, the EU regrets that the new conservation measures on the Yellowfin Tuna (YFT) were not ambitious enough to reduce current overfishing but welcomes the strengthening of compliance related measure. The EU will continue to push for better management of YFT.

Background

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The objective of the Commission is to promote cooperation among its members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and the optimisation of the utilisation of stocks in the area and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

The members of IOTC are Australia, Maldives, Mauritius, China, Mozambique, Comoros, Oman, Eritrea, Pakistan, European Union, Philippines, France, Seychelles, Guinea, Sierra Leone, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sudan, Iran, Tanzania, Japan, Thailand, Kenya, United Kingdom, South Korea, Madagascar, Yemen and Malaysia.

EU signs Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement Protocol with Guinea Bissau

19/06/2019

On 15 June, the EU and Guinea Bissau signed a new 5-year protocol to the existing Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement (SFPA). This new protocol fully reflects the long-standing spirit of the EU partnership and the general principles of the EU Common Fisheries Policy such as sustainable management of resources, legal stability, transparency, science-based access and monitoring, and the sustainable development of the partner country fisheries sector.

Taking fully into account scientific advice, this new protocol allows access of EU vessels to the waters of Guinea Bissau for several fish species, i.e. tuna, demersal fish, cephalopods, shrimps, as well as a new category, the small pelagic species. In exchange for the fishing rights, the EU will offer a financial contribution of €15.6 million plus an additional contribution from the EU ship-owners. An annual EU contribution of €4 million is earmarked for supporting the sustainable development of fisheries, in particular through measures in favour of monitoring, control and surveillance, reinforcement of export and scientific capacities and the modernisation of small scale fisheries. This protocol will have an important and positive impact on the social and economic development of the country, and will help valorise its natural resources, while contributing to food security.

More information

[Bilateral agreements with countries outside the EU](#)

GFCM High-level Conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives: advances and renewed commitments (11-12 June 2019, Marrakech)

14/06/2019

The MedFish4Ever Declaration, initiated by the European Commission and adopted in March 2017, created a new governance of the Mediterranean fisheries and

aquaculture, bringing, for the first time, joint political commitment of the riparian countries to implement a concrete roadmap in the coming 10 years.

Two years down the road, on 11-12 June, a high-level conference under the umbrella of the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) gathered the Mediterranean states in Marrakech to review progress and renew their commitment to live up to the promises of the Declaration, while looking into the future challenges that this region is facing in pursuing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

MedFish4Ever has already changed the way we manage our fisheries. Commissioner Vella highlighted landmark achievements by the EU in the Mediterranean, such as the first multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean, significant reduction of the fleet size, extending the implementation of specific control and inspection programmes to the Mediterranean and the Black Seas through joint deployment programmes, gradual elimination of discards, protection of sensitive species and habitats by establishing fishing restricted areas and marine protected areas [1]. 16 Mediterranean countries confirmed their renewed commitments to reinforce efforts in key priorities: protection of marine resources, combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, strengthening the viability of coastal communities through the support to the small-scale fisheries prevailing in the region, ensuring decent working conditions and social protection of fishers, making fisheries more attractive to the young generation and giving equal recognition of the work of women, as well as building sustainable aquaculture and strengthening the value chain. All these commitments will require additional financial and human resources, as well as keeping up the exemplary cooperation and partnership among all the countries and among all the stakeholders in the region.

While identifying the future challenges and tools needed to tackle them, Commissioner Vella emphasized that the right priorities should be identified and words should be put into action, recalling that growth should be equitable (no growth can happen at the sacrifice of the other). In order to raise

awareness of one of the key challenges - the destructive effects of the IUU fishing on the Mediterranean fish stocks, fisheries economy and food security, 7 best practice cases implemented in the region were awarded. Among them, 3 EU projects were duly recognised: the pilot project in the Strait of Sicily coordinated by European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the use of new digital technology in Croatian national Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system, and a project under Interreg FishMPABlue 2 investigating IUU fishing in Marine Protected Areas.

Links

[The Conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives, 11-12 June, Marrakech](#)

[Malta #MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration GFCM mid-term strategy 2017-2020](#)

[Sofia Ministerial Declaration, adopted in June 2018, to boost regional cooperation in Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture](#)

[Regional plan of action for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, adopted in September 2018](#)

[1] The Cabrera National Park in Spain, the Jabuka / Pomo Pit fishing restricted area agreed by Italy and Croatia, spatial and temporal closures under joint agreement by Spain and France in the Gulf of Lion, to name just a few.

EUSBR Annual Forum: Blue Investment opportunities in the Baltic 13/06/2019

Investment opportunities in Baltic Sea Region was the focus of a seminar co-organized by the European Commission (DG MARE) and ‘Race for the Baltic’ foundation during the 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (12 & 13 June 2019, Gdansk, Poland).

The cross-sector seminar explored investment in sustainable “blue” ventures, in particular for SMEs and start-ups. Discussions centered around investment gaps and the available sources of financing, including innovative financial instruments.

The speakers also presented concrete circular economy examples from the Baltic, ranging from aquaculture, blue bio-technology to renewable ocean energy and green shipping, while the Commission introduced the upcoming technical assistance mechanism.

Read more

[EUSBSR - EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region](#)
[10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region](#)

Sustainable fisheries: Commission presents progress made and opportunities for 2020

04/06/2019

The European Commission has adopted a Communication, taking stock of the implementation of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and launching a consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2020.

The Communication reaffirms the Commission's commitment to promoting fisheries that are both environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

The EU continues to make progress in attaining sustainable fisheries. More stocks in the North-West Atlantic and adjacent areas are being fished sustainably. The biomass in these areas is 36% higher now than in 2003.

Next year is an important landmark for fisheries in the EU. EU Member States have agreed to bringing commercial fishing pressure to sustainable levels by 2020, in line with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The MSY represents the maximum amount of fish that fishermen can take out of the sea without compromising the regeneration of the stock. The main objective of the Commission's proposals for the fishing opportunities for 2020, will be to set fishing opportunities at MSY level for all assessed stocks. In the Western Mediterranean, the Commission's proposal will follow the newly agreed Multiannual Plan (MAP), which establishes that the fishing effort should be reduced by 10% in the first year of the MAP and sustainability should be achieved by 2025 at the latest.

Healthy stocks result in better economic performance of the EU fleet. The economic performance of the EU fleet has improved, registering record-high net profits of EUR 1.3 billion in 2017. Wages have increased on average with 2.7% per year. Evidence shows that fleets exploiting healthy stocks have positive economic results. This is the case for fleets targeting haddock, megrim and plaice in the Irish Sea, herring, Northern hake, sole in the Eastern and Western English Channel, anglerfish in the Bay of Biscay. These fleets improved their profitability and salaries, while fleets targeting overexploited stocks, tend to perform worse.

In the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, the situation remains worrying: 35 out of the 40 stocks assessed were exploited beyond sustainable levels in 2017. Further joint efforts are required in the context of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Strategy and of the 2018 [Sofia Ministerial Declaration](#). From its side, the Commission will continue to work closely with all the stakeholders to implement the Western Mediterranean Multiannual plan.
[Read more](#)

Questions & Answers about the state of play on implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Fishing Opportunities in the EU for 2020

04/06/2019

The European Commission has taken stock of the implementation of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and launched the process of agreeing fishing opportunities for 2020.

The European Commission has adopted its annual consultation document in preparation for the setting of 2020 fishing opportunities later in the year, which also contains an update on the state of play of the implementation of the reformed CFP.

Why is the Commission reporting on the state of play on the implementation of the CFP, and on what indicators is the assessment made?

We are now in the sixth year of the implementation of the reformed CFP. This gives us the opportunity to assess progress

towards the achievement of its main objectives, notably sustainability. The Communication reports on this by looking at:

- progress made in the exploitation and state of the stocks;
- the balance between the capacity of the EU fleet and the available fishing opportunities;
- the socio-economic performance of the EU fleet;
- progress with decentralising fisheries management – a key shift within the reformed CFP;
- the implementation of the landing obligation;
- concrete efforts to reverse the preoccupying situation in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas; and
- the external dimension of the CFP.

Ensuring that the exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield – which also contributes to achieving good environmental status in European seas by 2020 – is the key objective of the CFP.

What is the state of play on the economic performance of the EU Fleet?

The EU fleet's economic performance has improved significantly in recent years and has a positive impact on many EU coastal communities. Continued improvements were mainly a result of high average fish prices (more value for less quantity landed) and continued low fuel prices, while improved status of some important stocks and technological advances also contributed. Projections for 2018 and 2019 suggest positive economic results. Average salaries and labour productivity have also increased.

Economic data indicate positive trends in a number of fleets that are exploiting healthy stocks. Fleets targeting stocks exploited sustainably (such as haddock, megrim and plaice in the Irish Sea, herring, Northern hake, sole in the Eastern and Western English Channel, anglerfish in the Bay of Biscay) tend to improve their profitability and salaries, and vice-versa, fleets targeting overexploited stocks tend to register poorer economic performance. [Read more](#)

Preventing unregulated fishing in the Arctic: EU and partners meet to further the implementation of historic agreement

03/06/2019

The European Union, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States met in Ottawa on 29-30 May to begin preparatory work on outstanding issues to ensure a smooth entry into force of the Agreement to prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Delegations agreed to formalise a provisional scientific group to coordinate the work of scientific experts under the Agreement to further develop the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring envisaged under the Agreement. The group of scientists will meet for the first time in February 2020 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy.

In Ottawa, the EU also announced two scientific expeditions into the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean, one starting in September 2019 (MOSAIC) and one in the fall of 2020 (Oden expedition) to determine what fish stocks might exist in this area. The findings of these actions will contribute to the future Joint Programme.

Delegations also discussed the integration of indigenous and local knowledge and the importance of participation of representatives of Arctic communities, including Arctic indigenous peoples, through the process of discussions and implementation of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring envisaged under the Agreement. Canada will host a workshop on this topic in the late Fall of 2019. The results of which are to feed into the scientific meeting hosted by the EU next year.

Many regional bodies have already developed conservation and management measures governing exploratory fisheries. A compilation and assessment of these existing measures are to provide a first step for the further development of conservation and management

measures for governing exploratory fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean.

A preparatory conference is to be convened by mid-2020 to take stock of these development and decide on further steps.

Background

The Arctic region is warming at almost three times the global average rate, causing a change in the size and distribution of fish stocks. As a result, the Arctic high seas may become more attractive for commercial fisheries in the medium to long term. However, until present, most of the Arctic high seas were not covered by any international conservation and management regime. Meanwhile there is still a limited understanding of the marine ecosystems of the Arctic and, in particular, of determining whether fish stocks might exist in this area that could be harvested on a sustainable basis. [Read more](#)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#)

16/09/2019

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027: Council ready to negotiate with the European Parliament

18/06/2019

The EU is working to improve the existing European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in the coming years to encourage a dynamic fishing sector, support generational renewal, and ensure a fair standard of living for coastal communities.

The Council today agreed its negotiating position ('**partial general approach**') on the proposal for a regulation on the **2021-2027 EMFF**, which aims to support the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the EU's maritime policy and international commitments in the field of ocean governance, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"The EMFF is key to ensuring proper implementation of the Common Fisheries

Policy's objectives. In the past its effectiveness was undermined by complex rules and red tape, but the Council is committed to make it a flexible and workable tool at the service of European fishermen", said **Petre Daea**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania and President of the Council.

The negotiating position is defined as "partial" as it excludes at this stage budget-related and horizontal issues which are currently being negotiated in the context of the EU's next multiannual financial framework (MFF) covering the period 2021 to 2027.

While it remains generally close to the Commission proposal, the Council's partial negotiating position further improve the text by **simplifying** and **clarifying** the structure of the fund.

Moreover the agreed position will **expand** the scope of **eligible operations** to include those related to investments in **on-board safety**, **labour conditions** and **energy efficiency**, and to the **acquisition** or **importation** of fishing vessels, as well as the replacement or modernisation of **engines** for vessels up to **24 metres**. However, these derogations will be subject to very restrictive conditions so as to **avoid any increase in capacity** and to fully respect the CFP objectives. For instance, to judge whether the first acquisition of a fishing vessel by a young fisherman is eligible for financing, the age and length of the vessel; the age, qualification or experience of the fisher, plus the requirement for a balanced segment of the fleet to which the vessel should belong will be taken into account.

Background and next steps

The EMFF is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds which seek to promote a growth and job based recovery in Europe. So far the EMFF has in particular: helped fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing, supported coastal communities in diversifying their economies, financed projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts, and supported sustainable aquaculture developments. [Read more](#)

Final greenlight on new technical and conservation measures in fisheries

13/06/2019

A new and comprehensive legislative framework setting out the **practices** and **conditions** under which **fisheries activities** can be carried out across **all EU waters** will soon enter into force. The Council today signed off on a **regulation** on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through **technical measures**.

The adopted measures cover issues such as the **taking and landing** of fisheries resources, **fishing gears** and mesh sizes, **closed areas** and **seasons**. They are intended to **minimise the impact** of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and **environment**, but also to bring **simplification** and decision-making closer to fishermen and coastal communities, through enhanced **regionalisation** and a bottom up approach.

The new rules, covering mostly **commercial fishing** and where applicable **recreational fishing**, will increase the **selectivity** of fishing gears. They will also introduce quantitative indicators to help **reduce unwanted catches** of marine species below minimum conservation reference sizes, and by-catches of non-commercial and **sensitive marine species** including mammals such as whales, dolphins and porpoises, seabirds and marine reptiles. The fishing of rare species such as certain sharks and rays will be prohibited.

The regulation also introduces a **total ban on electric pulse trawl fishing from 1 July 2021**, with the possibility for member states to immediately prohibit or restrict this type of fishing in their coastal waters. A **phasing-out period** to allow the sector to adapt is nonetheless foreseen.

Other fishing methods such as explosives, poison, stupefying substances, electric current, pneumatic hammers or other percussive instruments which could damage any type of coral will be **prohibited**.

- [Regulation on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures](#)

- [Technical measures in fisheries: Council confirms deal with the EP \(press release, 22/02/2019\)](#)
- [Conservation of fisheries through technical measures: deal on Council negotiating position \(press release, 11/05/17\)](#)
- [Fisheries Policy Page](#)

[Visit the meeting page](#)

First ever multi-annual management plan for fisheries in the Western Mediterranean becomes reality

06/06/2019

Longer-term rules allowing for **better protection** of **fish stocks** in the **western Mediterranean** Sea are being introduced for the first time. The aim of these rules is to **revitalise depleted stocks** and **ensure** environmental and socio-economic **sustainability** for fisheries in the area.

The Council formally adopted a new regulation establishing a **multiannual management plan** for **demersal stocks** (i.e. those that live at the bottom of the seabed) in an area covering mainly **French, Italian** and **Spanish waters**.

The main measures in the plan include **quantifiable fishing efforts** for the **key fish stocks** for all trawl vessels operating in the western Mediterranean, but they also allow for some **flexibility** to take account of **mixed fisheries**.

A **3-month closure** area for the protection of juveniles will be introduced and specific **technical conservation measures** set up for all stocks. **Recreational fisheries** will be included through regionalisation.

Finally **regional cooperation** will be enhanced on issues such as the landing obligation and technical conservation.

The western Mediterranean Sea only accounts for around 31% of the total Mediterranean landings but its demersal fisheries have a high commercial value. Catches for these stocks have significantly decreased by around 23 % since the early 2000s and at current rate, more than 90 % of the stocks would be overfished by 2025.

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
ICES	26-30/8/2019	Copenhagen	WG on Seasonal-to-Decadal Prediction of Marine Ecosystems
ICES	27/8/2019-2/9/2019	Bergen	WG on Eels
ICES	28/8/2019-3/9/2019	Santa Cruz, Tenerife	WG on Widely Distributed Stocks
ICES	2-6/9/2019	Tromsø, Norway	WG on Harp and Hooded Seals
BSAC	3/9/2019	Helsinki at the HQ of HELCOM	ExCom and theme meeting on future Common Fisheries Policy
ICES	3-5/9/2019	Stirling, Scotland	WG on Environmental Interactions of Aquaculture
NWWAC	4/9/2019	Dublin	FG, Advice Drafting Groups
NWWAC	5/9/2019	Dublin	All WG –Choke Advice preparation, horizontal WG
NWWAC	6/9/2019	Dublin	ExCom, GA and AGM
ICES	5-6/9/2019	Gothenburg, Sweden	WG on Common Ecosystem Reference Points
ICES	5-6/9/2019	Gothenburg, Sweden	WG on Resilience and Marine Ecosystem Services
ICES	7-8/9/2019	Gothenburg, Sweden	WG on Scenario Planning on Aquaculture
AAC	10/9/2019	Brussels	GA
BSAC	18-19/9/2019	Danish Agriculture and Food Council, Copenhagen	WG on Ecosystem based management
ICES	23-27/9/2019	Seattle, USA	Methods WG
ICES	23-27/9/2019	By correspondence	WG on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak
ICES	30/9/2019-4/10/2019	By correspondence	WG for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council ([link](#))
- NS AC: North Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MED AC: Advisory Council for the Mediterranean ([link](#))
- SWW AC: South Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- LD AC: Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BS AC: Baltic Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- AAC: Aquaculture Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MIRAC: ICES/AC meeting ([link](#))
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NORWAY/FAROE ISLANDS/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2019			
22-23 August	NAFMC	24th North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers Conference	Iceland
17-18 September	NEAFC	PECMAC	London, UK
19 September	NEAFC	WG Statistics	London, UK
1-3 October	NEAFC	PECMAS	London, UK
7 October-1 November (tbc)	Coastal States	Coastal States consultations on Mackerel, Blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian Herring, Red Fish (tbc)	London, UK
12-15 November	NEAFC	Annual meeting	London, UK

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2019			
22-26 July	IATTC	Annual meeting	Bilbao
22-26 July	International Seabed Authority	25th Session: Assembly	Jamaica
7-15 August	WCPFC	Scientific Committee	Pohnpei, FS Micronesia
23-27 August	FAO	10th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	Trondheim (Norway)
19-30 August	UN	Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction - third session	New York, USA
10-12 September	GFCM	Scientific Committee on Aquaculture	Malaga
17-19 September	CECAF	22nd session of the Committee	Libreville, Gabon
23-27 September	NAFO	41st Annual Meeting	Bordeaux
30 September - 4 October	ICCAT	Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)	Madrid
18-25 November	ICCAT	Annual meeting	Spain, Mallorca (tbc)
5-11 December	WCPFC	Annual meeting	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2019		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2019		LEGAL PROCESS			LATEST INFORMATION (last JCM, last negotiation round, etc.)
			Date	Location	Date	Location	Estimated date of adoption of proposal for negotiating mandate by the Commission	Estimated date of adoption of negotiating mandate by Council	Estimated date of adoption of Council Decision on signing and provisional application	
MIXED AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	15 November 2019	/	/	JULY-AUGUST 2019 (tbc)	tbc		8 JULY 2019		The last JCM took place in December 2018. The ex-post/ex-ante evaluation has been finalised.
	Morocco	2023	JULY 2019 (tbc)	Rabat		/	/	/	/	New agreement and protocol initialled on 24 July 2018. No provisional application foreseen (signature with Morocco: 14 January 2019). Approved by EU on 4 March 2019. Ratification by Morocco ongoing.
	Senegal	19 November 2019	/		16-18 JULY 2019	Brussels		15 JULY 2019	/	Last scientific meeting took place in July 2018. Last JCM took place on 18-19 October 2018 ex-post/ex-ante evaluation finalised.
	The Gambia	2025	SEPT 2019	Banjul		/	/	/	Adopted on 25 June 2019	Negotiations concluded on 19 October 2018 - protocol initialled. The Commission adopted its legislative package for the signature of the new agreement and protocol on 12 March 2019. Pending signature.
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024	SEPT-OCT 2019	Bissau		/	/	/	Adopted on 6 June 2019	Negotiations concluded on 15 November 2018 - new protocol initialled. The Commission adopted its legislative package for the signature of the new Protocol on 10 April 2019. Signature took place on 15 June 2019.
	Greenland	31 December 2020	NOV 2019	Brussels	NOV 2019	Brussels	Q4/2019	Q3/2019		Last joint Committee took place in November 2018.
WEST AFRICA	Cape-Verde	19 May 2024	AUGUST/SEPT	Cabo Verde		/	/	/	Adopted on 17 May 2019	Negotiations concluded on 12 October 2018; new protocol initialled. The Commission adopted its legislative package for the signature of the new Protocol on 14 March 2019. Signature took place on 20 May 2019.
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	OCT 2019	Brussels		/	/	/	/	Protocol signed and provisionally applied on 1st August 2018. Last JCM took place 27-28 November 2018.
	Gabon	23 July 2016 - EXPIRED			tbd	Libreville	/	/	/	Resumption of negotiation pending political situation.
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol				/	/	/	/	The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016 and mandate adopted on March 2017.
	Liberia	8 December 2020					Q1/2020	/	/	Protocol signed and provisionally applied on 9/12/2015. Last JCM took place in April 2019 in Brussels.
	Equatorial Guinea	N.A.								The ex-ante evaluation was approved at the end of November 2016.

	São Tomé and Príncipe	23/05/2018 - EXPIRED					/	/	Q3/2019	Negotiations concluded on 17 April 2019; new protocol initialled. The Commission is currently preparing its legislative package for the signature of the new Protocol.
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	DENOUNCED					/	/	/	The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 03/07/2018.
	Madagascar	31 December 2018 - EXPIRED			SEPT 2019 (tbc)	tbc	/	/		The current 4-year Protocol expired on 31/12/2018. The evaluation study has been concluded (March 2018) and sent to Council, EP and Madagascar. 2nd round of negotiations took place in October 2018. Next round to be fixed.
	Mauritius	7 December 2021					/	/	/	The new 4-year protocol was signed on 8/12/2017. 1st JCM held 28/02-01/03/2018 Port Louis. The 2nd JCM was held in Brussels on 25-27/02/2019.
	Mozambique	31 January 2015 - EXPIRED					/	/	/	Negotiations for a new Protocol suspended until further notice to enable further reflection by both Parties to narrow divergences. Last Joint Committee Meeting in February 2016.
	Seychelles	17 January 2020			19-22 AUGUST 2019	Victoria		15 JULY 2019		Last JCM took place in Brussels from 27 February to 1 March 2019. The ex-post ex-ante evaluation has been finalised.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	5 June 2020					Q3/2019	Q3/2019		Last JCM took place in Brussels on 1 March 2019. No financial implications for the EU, as this agreement allows access of Seychelles flagged vessels to Mayotte's waters under EU jurisdiction.
	Tanzania	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 16 June 2015		A first technical meeting took place in Dar-Es-Salaam 4-6 July 2016. Vague interest in discussing a SFPA with the EU.
	Kenya	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 18 July 2016	/	
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13 October 2020					/ Q1/2020	/	/	The current 4-year Protocol is in force since 14/10/2016. Currently the only SFPA in the Pacific. Last JCM took place in Rarotonga from 20 to 22 February 2019.
	Kiribati	15 September 2015 - EXPIRED			Q3/2019	tbc	/	Adopted on 26 January 2015	/	3 rounds of negotiations took place (last one in November 2017). A technical meeting took place from 5 to 7 June 2019. Next round to be fixed.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

BUREAU			
Chair	DAVIES Chris		
1st Vice-Chair	VAN DALEN Peter	3rd Vice-Chair	FERRANDINO Giuseppe
2nd Vice-Chair	GADE Søren	4th Vice-Chair	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia

COORDINATORS			
EPP	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara	ECR	TOMAŠIĆ Ruža
Renew	KARLESKIND Pierre	GUE/NGL	FERREIRA João
Greens/EFA	O'SULLIVAN Grace		

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FULL MEMBERS			SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
AGUILERA Clara	ES	S&D	ANDROULAKIS Nikos	EL	S&D
ALLARD Christian	UK	Greens/EFA	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
CORBETT Richard	UK	S&D	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HIDVÉGI Balázs	HU	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	NI	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
DAVIES Chris	UK	Renew	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
DE MAN Filip	BE	ID	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
DIONISIO BRADFORD André Jorge	PT	S&D	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
DODDS Diane	UK	NI	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	MONTEITH Brian	UK	NI
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MUMMERY June Alison	UK	NI
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite	ES	Renew
JAMET France	FR	ID	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	RUISSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR
Baroness MOBARIK Nosheena	UK	ECR	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2019

- Wednesday 4 September, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 4 September, 14:30-18:30

- Monday 23 September, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 24 September, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 24 September, 14:30-18:30

- Wednesday 2 October, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 2 October, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 3 October, 9:00-12:30

- Monday 11 November, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 12 November, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 12 November, 14:30-18:30

- Wednesday 4 December (tbc)
- Thursday 5 December (tbc)

USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [link](#)
- @ Finland's Presidency of the Council [link](#)
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture [link](#)
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [link](#)