

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2019

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Wednesday 4 September 2019 (9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30)

in Brussels, Room ASP 3E-2

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Exchange of views with Jari Leppä, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, on the programme of the Finnish Presidency-in-office
- ▶ “The state of the seas”: debate with the Commission on the state of fish stocks in the North Sea, Baltic and Western Waters
- ▶ Adoption of the PECH opinion on the General Budget 2020
- ▶ Exchange of views on recent developments in the mackerel quota, in particular regarding the mackerel seizures by Iceland and Greenland

CONTENT

Words from the Chair	page 2
On-going dossiers	page 3
Studies & briefing notes	page 5
Fisheries news	page 6
AC meetings	page 13
International meetings	page 15
Partnership agreements	page 17
Committee on Fisheries	page 19
Calendar of PECH meetings	page 20

AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

Monday 23 September 2019, 15.00 – 18.30

Tuesday 24 September 2019, 9.00 – 12.30

Tuesday 24 September 2019, 14.30 – 18.30

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



*Chris DAVIES
Chair of Committee on Fisheries*

Dear Friends,

A summer visit to the port of Kilkeel in Northern Ireland provided me with illustration for many of our committee discussions.

It's a prosperous place, reflecting the profitability of a good part of Europe's fishing industry, and is looking to expand its harbour to take the largest vessels. The enthusiasm of its people to diversify and explore new opportunities is infectious. The boat building yard has orders for years ahead. Top quality langoustines are packed for shipping across Europe. Pioneering work is being done to develop more selective gear and comply with the landing obligation.

Yet even with good wages paid, boat owners struggle to attract crew and so recruit from outside Europe. Then there is the threat of Brexit, with Kilkeel close to a border with the Irish Republic that today hardly exists but that tomorrow could once again become a real obstacle.

Fishermen in Kilkeel told me that everyone now recognises the importance of sustainable fishing practice. The two 'State of the Seas' sessions in committee this month will give us an opportunity to assess progress towards meeting the legally agreed objective of ensuring that fish stocks achieve maximum sustainable yield by 2020.

At the first we can look forward to hearing some good news from the North East Atlantic, but let us not slip into complacency, there is more to be done. There are particular problems in the Baltic despite the EU having agreed a long term plan to sustain its fish stocks, and the recent declarations by Iceland and Greenland to increase their mackerel catches threaten the arrangements that are so important for the management of shared stocks.

Do not decide to leave the committee when we reach the agenda item 'Study on engine power verification'! It may not sound interesting but many of the calculations we have made about the capacity of the EU fishing fleet could have been based on false assumptions, in which case change is needed.

As is usual we shall hear from the new Council Presidency. Experience teaches us that ministers holding this position are rarely outspoken. Let us be forthright and insist that Finland makes use of its opportunity to defend the sustainability principles of the Common Fisheries Policy when it leads negotiations on both the EMFF and the TACs later this year.

I look forward to stimulating debates!

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	Aguilera	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	Monteiro De Aguiar	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	Ferreira	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	Avram	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
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	Bartolo	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:

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
European fisheries - latest developments and future challenges

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](#)

No recent news.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

Baltic Sea: Commission proposal aims to improve long-term sustainability of stocks

30/08/2019

The Commission has adopted a proposal for fishing opportunities for 2020 for the commercially most important fish stocks in the Baltic Sea.

Based on the latest available scientific advice, the Commission proposes to increase fishing opportunities for herring in the Gulf of Riga and maintain the same levels for salmon in the Gulf of Finland. For remaining stocks covered by the proposal, the Commission proposes to decrease fishing opportunities.

The proposed total allowable catches (TAC) are based on scientific advice from the [International Council on the Exploration of the Seas](#) and follow the [Baltic multiannual management plan](#) adopted in 2016 by the European Parliament and the Council.

Efforts by fishermen, industry and public authorities had, in recent years, succeeded in rebuilding important stocks in the Baltic Sea. Where complete scientific advice is available, decisions on the Baltic fishing opportunities had succeeded in setting fishing opportunities for 7 out of 8 stocks in line with the principle of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), covering 95% of fish landings in volume. However, scientists have discovered that the situation was less stable than previously estimated. Decisive action is therefore necessary to rebuild all stocks and to ensure that they grow to or remain at sustainable levels, in line with MSY.

The Council will now examine the Commission proposal, in view of adopting it during a Ministerial meeting on 14-15 October. [Read more](#)

EU fleet maintains high profits mainly thanks to sustainable fishing methods **08/08/2019**

The 2019 annual economic report on the EU fishing fleet shows that the high levels of economic performance in 2016 have continued into 2017. The report links this success to the use of sustainable fishing methods.

In 2017, the EU fleet registered a net profit of EUR 1.30 billion, only slightly lower than the record EUR 1.34 billion registered in 2016. The continued strong performance was the result of higher average fish prices, continued low fuel prices, and the improved status of some important stocks. This trend is expected to continue into 2018 and 2019 despite some fluctuations in fuel prices.

The sustainable exploitation of fish stocks was identified as an important foundation for the strong performance. The report indicates that economic performance tends to stagnate where fleets depend on stocks that are still overfished or overexploited. While the entire EU fleet was profitable, the results varied by scale of operation and by fishing region.

As expected, the large-scale and the distant-water fleet segments registered higher economic performance than the small-scale coastal fleet segments. Furthermore, the fleet segments operating in the North Eastern Atlantic, where most stocks being fished at sustainable levels, registered higher economic performance than the fleet segments operating in the Mediterranean, which has a continued (although improving) problem of overfishing or overexploitation of a number of stocks.

In 2017, the EU fleet's gross value added (i.e. the contribution of the fishing sector to the economy through wages and gross profit) amounted to EUR 4.5 billion, stable in comparison to the record-breaking 2016. The improved efficiency of the fleet has resulted in a decrease in repair and maintenance costs, as

well as other variable costs. Despite a small increase in energy costs (fuel), the average salaries in the sector increased in 2017, continuing a trend that started in 2012.

The Annual Economic Reports on the EU Fishing Fleet provide an overview of the structure and economic performance of the 23 coastal EU Member State fishing fleets. It is the result of combined work by economic experts from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee of Fisheries (STECF) and the European Commission.

Read more

[The 2019 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet](#)

SIOFA makes progress towards more sustainable fisheries

01/08/2019

The sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), which took place in Mauritius from 1-5 July, resulted in significant progress towards strengthening the regulatory framework of this relatively new organisation.

The EU contribution was essential in steering the discussion towards increased sustainability and improved management and control of fishing vessels.

Some of the key achievements include:

- the adoption of a new measure for the **management of orange roughy, alfonso and toothfish**, based on proposals by the European Union (EU) and Australia (AUS).
- the adoption of the EU-cosponsored **High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures**, expected to significantly improve SIOFA's capacity to monitor regional fishing activities effectively.
- the strengthened bottom fishing measure, including **Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME)** taxa indicators and thresholds for triggering VME move-on rules.
- SIOFA also adopted, based on EU proposals, its first prohibition of **direct shark fishing** and **mitigation measures for seabirds**.

Based on other EU proposals, the organisation also committed itself to the future development of a vessel monitoring system; a framework for new and exploratory fisheries, and a framework for scientific research and fisheries-based research in the SIOFA Area.

Background

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) entered into force in June 2012. To date, SIOFA has nine Contracting Parties: Australia, the Cook Islands, the European Union, France on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Thailand; one Participating fishing entity: Chinese Taipei; and one cooperating non-Contracting Party: Comoros. Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and New Zealand are also signatories to this Agreement, but have not ratified it.

Seminar on Fisheries Science 2019: science and research for the next decade

30/07/2019

On September 20th, the European Commission is organising the annual Seminar on Fisheries Science dedicated to exploring the research needs and priorities in the field of fisheries for the next decade.

The half-day event in Brussels will bring together representatives from a wide range of stakeholders in the common fisheries policy, such as scientists and researchers, NGOs, the fishing industry, representatives from the European Parliament, the Council and Member States, and from different Directorates General of the European Commission.

The programme of the seminar includes presentations on fisheries research projects carried out under research framework programmes and other Commission funded instruments. Scientists involved in these projects will shine a light on the outcomes, lessons learnt and recommendations from their work. There will also be a panel discussion, featuring various stakeholders, dedicated to exploring the future prospects of fisheries, marine science and research. Panellists will identify priority areas for future research and

debate how to ensure the findings are reflected in policy making. The 2019 Seminar on Fisheries Science is very relevant in the context of the preparation for the implementation of Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme. To know more about the programme, speakers and practical arrangements visit the [seminar website](#).

EU fisheries control system: Commission urges Ireland to investigate shortcomings **29/07/2019**

The Commission has decided to ask Ireland officially to conduct an administrative inquiry to evaluate its capacity to apply the rules of the common fisheries policy (CFP).

This comes as a result of the severe and significant weaknesses detected in the Irish control system during an audit carried out by the Commission in Ireland, in 2018. Principally, the Commission identified shortcomings related to the effective control of the weighing of catches of small pelagic species, issues related to underreporting of catches of these species, the inadequate and ineffective sanctioning system for offences committed by operators and the lack of control and enforcement of bluefin tuna catches by recreational vessels. The administrative inquiry should focus on the collection of information on these specific findings to enable the Commission to further evaluate Ireland's capacity to apply the rules of the CFP and to assess the potential consequences of any failure to do so. Ireland has three months to conduct this inquiry. This period may be extended for a reasonable delay by the Commission, on a duly reasoned request from Ireland. After that period, the Commission will analyse the information provided by Ireland and identify if any further steps or actions are needed.

Commission publishes an evaluation on the 'Entry/Exit scheme' for EU vessels **26/07/2019**

The Entry/Exit scheme aims to align the capacity of the EU fishing fleet with available fishing resources. In particular, this means that the capacity of any vessel entering the fishery is balanced by the prior withdrawal of a vessel or vessels with the equivalent capacity.

Moreover, Member States may not increase their fleets above capacity ceilings specified in the relevant EU legislation. The Entry/Exit scheme contributes to the overall objective of the common fisheries policy to ensure that fishing is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and that it provides a source of healthy food for EU citizens.

The Commission has carried out an evaluation of the implementation of the Entry/Exit scheme and found that:

- the Entry/Exit scheme is fit for purpose as an instrument to prevent fishing capacity from increasing, in particular in contexts where conservation and management measures are not effective enough to regulate the use of fishing capacity through enforceable input (such as licences) and output measures (such as quotas).
- the Entry/Exit scheme remains of relevance in all ecoregions given the fact that overall in the EU waters the capacity of a significant number of fleet segments (190 out of the 255 segments assessed) is too high in comparison to their [fishing opportunities](#).
- Member States respect the fundamental rules and capacity ceilings set out in the annex II to the regulation on the common fisheries policy. However, the national implementation rules have led to a perceived lack of flexibility to increase capacity in order to improve safety or working conditions.
- Finally, the evaluation underlines that the effectiveness of the Entry/Exit scheme risks to be undermined by the fact that Member State authorities in general do not generate reliable engine power figures for registration and certification purposes, as evidenced by

a [recent study](#) carried out for the Commission.

EU signs sustainable fishing partnership agreement protocol with Senegal

24/07/2019

On 19 July 2019 the EU and Senegal signed a new implementing protocol to the existing sustainable fisheries partnership agreement.

The EU and Senegal have a long-standing partnership in the field of fisheries, which started back in 1980 and has evolved during the years. The new 5-year protocol implementing the 2015 agreement is replacing the current protocol due to expire in November 2019. This new protocol allows EU vessels - a maximum of 28 tuna seiners, 10 pole-and-liners, 5 long liners and 2 trawlers - to fish tuna-like species and hake in the waters of Senegal. This is based on the best available scientific advice, a stakeholders' consultation, and follows the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Reflecting on the principles of the common fisheries policy, this protocol will contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources in the waters of Senegal as, based on scientific advice; it foresees a lower total allowable catches for hake compared to the current protocol. The reference tonnage for tuna has been adapted to historical catches. Furthermore, it also foresees measures to limit catches of marine birds and marine mammals, and to reinforce the role of scientific observers. In exchange for the fishing rights, the EU will offer Senegal a yearly financial contribution of €1,700,000. Part of this contribution, €900,000 per year, is earmarked to promote the sustainable management of fisheries in Senegal, in particular through measures that reinforce control and surveillance capacities and the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Moreover, the EU funds will be used to promote the development of scientific capacities and to support the development of the artisanal fishing. In addition to this amount, ship owners will also

contribute with approximately €1,350,000 per year.

The new protocol will enter into force when the necessary legislative procedures for its conclusion have been completed.

European Maritime Day In My Country hits a record in 2019 with 145 events!

24/07/2019

EMD In My Country was very popular this year, reaching the unprecedented number of 145 events organised in 21 different countries (15 EU and 6 non-EU), attracting 25.000 participants!

The events took place from 1 April till 30 of June, including a big variety of activities: beach-cleaning activities, guided tours of ports, workshops, conferences, seminars and exhibitions on maritime themes, eco-tours and walks in areas with significant maritime heritage (cultural, environmental), excursions by boat, visits to maritime museums or former ships, shipyards and port facilities etc. The absolute champion for EMD In My Country 2019 was Portugal with 33 events.

[See all the events](#)

A full coverage on what happened with plenty of photos from all the events can be found in [Twitter under the hashtag #EmdInMyCountry](#)

Background

Every year Europe's maritime professionals from both the public sector and the corporate world flock to European Maritime Day (EMD), the flagship event organised by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), discussing the latest developments in maritime affairs and shaping future action. But EMD is not just for professionals. On a yearly basis, various European Maritime Day events crop up in different parts of Europe to extend the celebrations around the sea to the public at large, enabling many European regions with a maritime culture to join in the celebrations and highlight the vital role of our seas and oceans. These events are spread almost all over coastal Europe countries and deal with all sorts of topics, from beach cleaning and ship restoration to seminars and musical performances.

At a time when public interest and activism about the challenges to our seas and oceans are rising steadily, the growing attendance at national events is a welcome development that multiplies the resonance of European Maritime Day, involves the public at large and brings DG MARE sustainability messages even closer to civil society.

[Events in Europe](#)

Commission approves emergency measures to protect eastern Baltic cod **23/07/2019**

The Commission has announced emergency measures to save the ailing eastern Baltic cod stock from impending collapse. Emergency measures will ban, with immediate effect, commercial fishing for cod in most of the Baltic Sea until 31 December 2019.

The ban will come into force immediately and last until 31 December 2019. It will cover all fishing vessels and apply in all those areas of the Baltic Sea where the largest part of the stock is present (i.e. subdivisions 24-26), except for some specific targeted derogations. It follows measures that have already been taken by some Member States. Given that these measures do not ensure a uniform approach in all areas where the eastern Baltic cod stock is found, and that not all Member States intend to adopt national measures, the Commission has decided that further emergency action is warranted.

While this fishing ban is an essential immediate step to help protect this vulnerable stock, the Commission and Member States will revisit the need for longer-term action later in the year, when Ministers meet to decide on next year's fishing opportunities. Scientists also warn of many factors besides fishing that threaten the stock and that need to be addressed separately, including a lack of salinity, too high water temperatures and too little oxygen, as well as parasite infestation.

Background

Recent scientific analysis has reinforced concerns regarding eastern Baltic cod: we are witnessing a rapid decline of the stock that risks leading to a collapse if no action is taken.

International scientific bodies have therefore called for a complete fishing stop to turn the situation around. The Commission has analysed the scientific evidence available and has discussed these measures with the Member States at an Expert Committee meeting.

Following scientific advice, total allowable catches for eastern Baltic cod have already been reduced every year since 2014, from 65 934t down to 24 112t in 2019. Even so, in the last years fishermen only used up between 40-60% of the total allowable catch, probably due to a lack of fish of commercial size. Indeed, according to scientists, the volume of commercial sized cod (≥ 35 cm) is currently at the lowest level observed since the 1950s. This year, fishermen have so far used around 21% of their available quota.

Eastern Baltic cod used to be one of the most valuable fish on which many fishermen depend. More than 7,000 fishing vessels from all eight EU Member States catch eastern Baltic cod, with 182 vessels from Lithuania and Poland depending on this stock for more than 50% of their catches.

Under the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission may, at the reasoned request of a Member State or on its own initiative, take emergency measures to alleviate a serious threat to the conservation of marine biological resources. These measures may be applicable for a maximum period of six months. The Commission has previously taken such emergency measures to protect vulnerable stocks, namely for anchovy in the Bay of Biscay and for northern seabass.

For More Information

[Q&A on Emergency measures eastern Baltic cod](#)

[Map on Baltic fishing zones](#)

Ratification de l'accord de pêche entre l'Union européenne et le Maroc **19/07/2019**

L'Union européenne se réjouit de l'entrée en vigueur du nouvel Accord de partenariat dans le domaine de la pêche durable entre l'Union européenne et le Royaume du Maroc, le 18 juillet 2019, à l'issue du processus de ratification des deux parties.

Cet accord est un pas supplémentaire dans le renforcement des relations bilatérales entre le Maroc et l'Union européenne dans le secteur de la pêche, entamées il y a plus de trente ans et, plus largement, dans le cadre de la politique de voisinage de l'Union européenne.

Les délibérations de la première commission mixte ont abouti ce 18 juillet à Rabat. Au cours de cette réunion, les parties ont clarifié les modalités pratiques et aspects techniques afin de permettre les activités de pêche des navires européens dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du protocole. Il est important de permettre le développement des activités de pêche des navires européens dans le cadre de cet Accord mais aussi d'assurer la durabilité environnementale, ce à quoi s'attachera la réunion scientifique conjointe.

En outre, les parties ont endossé les documents relatifs à la méthode et clé de répartition de la compensation financière du protocole et à la mise en œuvre de l'appui sectoriel.

À travers cet appui, l'Union européenne contribue, notamment, à la modernisation des infrastructures de pêche, la promotion de la recherche scientifique en vue d'une pêche durable et à l'emploi dans les métiers liés à l'activité de pêche au Maroc.

Par ailleurs, chaque navire européen qui pêche dans le cadre de l'accord emploie entre 2 et 16 marins marocains, sans compter les observateurs marocains qui embarquent régulièrement sur ces navires. L'Accord prévoit également un pourcentage non négligeable de débarquements obligatoires des captures, ce qui crée de l'emploi supplémentaire dans les ports de débarquements, les halles aux poissons et dans les industries de transformation. L'Union européenne et le Maroc coopèrent, par ailleurs, pour le suivi, le contrôle et la surveillance des activités de pêche, et luttent contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée. Enfin, l'accord encourage les relations entre les entreprises marocaines et européennes en matière technique, économique et commerciale. [Read more](#)

EU and Canada conclude ocean partnership agreement
18/07/2019

The European Union and Canada signed an ocean partnership agreement on 18 July. The partnership confirms the two sides' belief that ocean governance is a shared challenge and responsibility. Only international cooperation can ensure the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, their resources and ecosystems.

The partnership agreement includes clear commitments to combatting the negative effects of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries, marine pollution and climate change. It will also help to facilitate the sustainable development of marine and maritime sectors and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Cooperation on global ocean governance

This partnership is a major step forward and sets out general lines for future collaboration in areas such as:

- the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the high seas;
- the fight against marine pollution, including marine plastic litter and micro-plastics;
- the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change as relevant to the oceans;
- the prevention of unregulated commercial fishing in the central Arctic;
- the strengthening of ocean governance in regional and global forums;
- the promotion of safe and decent living and working conditions at sea;
- the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Ocean partnerships: a new tool International ocean governance is an important priority issue for the EU, which it aims to realise through international and bilateral cooperation. The EU and Canada have a longstanding cooperation on fisheries and ocean affairs. They also share the goal of ensuring conservation and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources in accordance with a multi-lateral and rules-based approach. The signing of this ocean partnership, one year after the first such

agreement was signed with China, confirms the EU's preference for strong partnerships and international cooperation.

More information

[DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CANADA - Concerning the establishment of an Ocean Partnership \(in French\)](#)

Press release: [EU-Canada Summit: strengthening the rules-based international order](#)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

16/09/2019

No recent news.

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
NWWAC	4/9/2019	Dublin	FG, Advice Drafting Groups
NSAC	4/9/2019	Dublin	Seabass FG
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
NSAC	10/9/2019	remote	Circular Design of Fishing Gear FG
NSAC	16/09/2019	remote	Dogger Bank FG
BSAC	18-19/9/2019	Copenhagen	WG on Ecosystem based management
NSAC	19/09/2019	Brussels	Brexit FG, ExCom and GA
NSAC	20/09/2019	Göteborg	Skagerrak & Kattegat WG
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
PELAC	2/10/2019	Den Haag	WG I and II
PELAC	3/10/2019	Den Haag	GA, ExCom
ICES	7-10/10/2019	Lisbon	WG on Biological Parameters
ICES	7-11/10/2019	Isle of Man	Scallop Assessment WG
ICES	7-11/10/2019	Ancona	WG on Fisheries Benthic Impact and Trade-offs
ICES	8-10/10/2019	ICES HQ	WG on Improving use of Survey Data for Assessment and Advice
ICES	8-10/10/2019	IJmuiden	WG on Crangon Fisheries and Life History
MEDAC	11/10/2019	Ljubljana	WG4
ICES	14-18/10/2019	Rome	WG on Multispecies Assessment Methods
AAC	15/10/2019	Brussels	WG
ICES	21-24/10/2019	Paris	WG on Marine Litter
ICES	22-25/10/2019	Bremerhaven	WG on Surveys on Ichthyoplankton in the North Sea and adjacent Seas (WGSINS)
ICES	28/10/2019-1/11/2019	ICES HQ	WG on Cumulative Effects Assessment Approaches in Management
ICES	28/10/2019-1/11/2019	ICES HQ	WG on Mixed Fisheries Advice
BSAC	29/10/2019	Gdynia	Joint WG
AAC	30/10/2019	Paris	ExCom
LDAC	30/10/2019	Brussels	WG1, WG4, ExCom
LDAC	31/10/2019	Brussels	WG5

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			
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
November	EU-Norway	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019 – Round 1	(tbc)
December	EU-Norway	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019 – Round 2	(tbc)
December (tbc)	EU-Faroe Islands	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019	(tbc)

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2019			
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
1- 4 October	UN	Informal consultations on the draft resolutions on "Oceans and the law of the sea" – First round	New York, USA
TBD	Bering Sea Convention	Annual meeting	Virtual
9-17 October	Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	The European Commission does not intend to attend the 2019 annual meeting of the Extended Commission of the CCSBT, or any of its subsidiary bodies, unless any issue of special and direct interest for the EU is on the agenda of the meetings.	
21 October –1 November	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	Annual meeting and Scientific Committee and other subsidiary bodies	Hobart, Australia
23-25 October	FAO	4th meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO ad hoc working group on IUU fishing	Torremolinos
25-26 October	Our Ocean	6th Our Ocean Conference	Oslo, Norway
4-8 November	GFCM	Annual meeting	Rhodes
12- 19 November	UN	Informal consultations on the draft UNGA resolution on Sustainable Fisheries	New York, USA
20- 26 November	UN	Informal consultations on the draft UNGA resolution on "Oceans and the law of the sea" – Second round	New York, USA

18-25 November	ICCAT	Annual meeting	Spain, Mallorca (tbc)
25-28 November	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)	The European Commission does not intend to attend the 2019 annual meeting of the SEAFO Commission, or any of its subsidiary bodies, unless any issue of special and direct interest for the EU is on the agenda of the meetings.	
5-11 December	WCPFC	Annual meeting	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
16-18 December	OECD COFI	124th OECD COFI meeting	Paris
16-18 December	Kobe process	Joint t-RMFO meeting on shark bycatch	Porto, Portugal
2-6 December	IOTC	Scientific Committee	Pakistan

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	HIDVÉGHI 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
DODDS Diane	UK	NI	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MONTEITH Brian	UK	NI
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MUMMERY June Alison	UK	NI
JAMET France	FR	ID	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite	ES	Renew
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA
Baroness MOBARIK Nosheena	UK	ECR	RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2019

- 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

- Monday 2 December, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 3 December, 9:00-12:30

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](#)