

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – NOVEMBER 2019

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday 11 November (15.00 –18:30) &

Tuesday 12 November (9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30)

Room ASP 1G3 in Brussels

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Vote on the decision to enter into inter-institutional negotiations on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for “early 2nd reading”; vote on the draft recommendation on the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Gambia
- ▶ Public hearing: „Facing the new challenges of the EU fisheries control system“
- ▶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on “The Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing climate”: focus on fisheries
- ▶ European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA): presentation of the Work Programme for 2020 by Pascal Savouret, Executive Director of the EFCA
- ▶ Debate on the 2019 Annual Economic report on the EU Fishing Fleet
- ▶ Consideration of a draft recommendation (with resolution) on the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Guinea-Bissau and exchanges on other Fisheries Partnership Agreements (Mauritania, Senegal)

CONTENT

Words from the Chair	page 2
On-going dossiers	page 3
Studies & briefing notes	page 5
Fisheries news	page 6
AC meetings	page 14
International meetings	page 15
Partnership agreements	page 16
Committee on Fisheries	page 18
Calendar of PECH meetings	page 19

AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:
2-3 December 2019

Next public hearing:
„State of play of the landing obligation: challenges and best practices“ (2 December)

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Chris DAVIES
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear Friends,

Having been granted some remission from Brexit execution I am very pleased to introduce you to the November PECH Committee meeting.

We shall have the chance to discuss what may be a best kept secret - that the European fishing fleet is making record profits. With total revenue of €7.7 billion and gross profit of €2.07 billion this should be an investor's dream, but sadly the picture is not uniform. Finland and Croatia, the present and next holders of the EU presidency, are amongst the minority of member states whose fleets are doing poorly, which must reflect upon the terrible state of fish stocks in the Baltic and Adriatic.

Iceland has been accused of trying to steal mackerel quota, and the management of shared stocks with Norway is still problematic. We shall get an update from the Commission on progress towards achieving sustainable management in the seas we share with these countries, and also find out what is happening in the Indian Ocean where Spanish vessels have been accused of exceeding the authorised catch of already overfished yellowfin tuna.

However, our focus will be on the need to improve the control of fishing activities without which it is impossible to achieve the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and rebuild fish stocks. I hope the hearing we have organised will stimulate thoughts on how to improve the legislative report that we will debate over the coming months, and we shall also hear separately from the executive director of the European Fisheries Control Agency. If anyone knows where bad practices persist it is him!

A number of Fishing Partnership Agreements need our consideration, and we need to decide whether or not to recommend that a trade agreement with Vietnam can be agreed if that country is still tolerating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

So plenty to keep us busy.

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	Millán Mon	COD		1st Reading: 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		1st Reading: 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 (with Resolution)	21/01/2020	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 (with Resolution)	21/01/2020	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	12/11/2019	DECEMBER 2019

Conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community COM(2019)0377 - 2019/0173(NLE) PECH/9/01195	Melo	NLE	21/01/2020	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 14/10/2019
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	03/12/2019	INTA 20/01/2020
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 2018/0356M(NLE) PECH/9/01131		Resolution	03/12/2019	
2018 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) COM(2019)0316 - C9-0080/2019 2019/2085 (DEC) PECH/9/00829	González Casares	DEC	21/01/2020	CONT 20/02/2020

**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](#)

MEPs adopt plan to keep 2020 EU funding for UK in no-deal Brexit scenario

22/10/2019

UK researchers, students and farmers should continue to get EU support in the event of a no-deal Brexit, under provisions adopted by the full house on Tuesday.

Parliament approved a measure to make sure that EU funds for 2020 are fully available if the UK leaves the European Union without a deal. The draft regulation extends to 2020 the contingency plan [approved by the European Parliament on 17 April 2019](#), previously limited to 2019.

The aim is to minimise any negative impact that the UK's withdrawal may have on beneficiaries of EU funding and on the European Union budget in the case of a no-deal scenario. The measure includes programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and agriculture and regional policies.

The proposal would make it possible to continue payments to UK beneficiaries throughout 2020, provided the UK continues to pay its contributions and accepts the necessary controls and audits.

The [draft recommendation](#) endorsing the approval of the proposal, was adopted with 543 votes in favour, 30 against, and 46 abstentions.

Other Brexit-related items

MEPs also voted on the period for granting simplified [fishing authorisations for EU fishing vessels in United Kingdom waters and fishing operations of United Kingdom fishing vessels in European Union waters](#), now extended until 31 December 2020. The report was adopted with 574 votes in favour, 24 against and 2 abstentions. An [additional contingency measure](#), allowing member states directly impacted by Brexit to access financial support from the EU Solidarity Fund (now only meant for natural disasters), was put to the

vote on Thursday, following an agreement in the Regional Development Committee earlier on Monday.

Hearing of Commissioner-designate Virginijus Sinkevičius 03/10/2019

The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and Fisheries Committees questioned Virginijus Sinkevičius, candidate for the Environment and Oceans portfolio.

During his [introductory speech](#), Mr. Sinkevičius listed three priorities for environmental matters: biodiversity, the circular economy and zero pollution. He spoke in favour of working at global level to achieve the equivalent of the Paris climate agreement for biodiversity. He also proposed extending circular economy policies to new sectors, such as textiles, food and the information and communications technology sector. To fight pollution, he announced he will focus on the challenges of hazardous chemicals, endocrine disruptors, as well as the runoff of nutrients, pharmaceuticals and microplastics in water.

Regarding fisheries, he committed to fully implementing the Common Fisheries Policy and its upcoming evaluation. He added that the EU must remain a global leader for sustainable fisheries and ocean governance. He also mentioned the importance of healthy oceans to ensure healthy fish stocks and thriving fishing communities.

MEPs put forward several questions on how EU environmental policies can enhance the role of forests as carbon sinks and biodiversity reservoirs, tackling air pollution from agriculture and industry. Members also questioned the Commissioner-designate on plastic pollution, over-packaging and eco-design.

Fisheries-related questions touched upon the desired reciprocal agreement to access waters & resources in the event of Brexit, employment and youth matters for small fishing communities, multi-annual fishing plans, as well as the future of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

You can watch the video recording of the full hearing [here](#).

Press point

Following the hearing, the Commissioner-designate held a press point outside the meeting room: [watch it here](#).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

Commission proposes financial aid for fishermen affected by the closure of the Eastern Baltic cod fishery

31/10/2019

The Commission adopted a proposal offering support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to fishermen affected by the closure of the Eastern Baltic cod fishery to permanently decommission their fishing vessels.

Eastern cod is one of the key fisheries in the Baltic Sea, but the stock is in very poor shape. At the Council meeting on 14-15 October, fisheries ministers followed a Commission proposal and agreed to reduce fishing possibilities in 2020 to almost zero. While this step is necessary to give the stock a chance to recover, the Commission recognises that it also means severe and unavoidable economic hardship for the fleets and fishing communities traditionally targeting this stock. With today's proposal, the Commission aims to mitigate the economic impact of the closure and extend a helping hand to those fishermen and women who will be hit hardest. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) offers them financial support in this economically difficult situation.

In particular, the proposal allows the affected Member States, under certain conditions, to use some of their unspent EMFF funds to support vessel owners wishing to permanently decommission their vessels targeting Eastern Baltic cod. At the same time, the proposal caps the number of vessels that can fish for Eastern Baltic cod, ensuring that capacity withdrawn from the fleet with EMFF support lowers the pressure on the cod stock and helps it recover over time. The proposal does not increase the EMFF funding per Member State nor the EU's overall budgetary contribution. [Read more](#)

Commission notifies the Republic of Ecuador over the need to step up action to fight illegal fishing

30/10/2019

The European Commission continues its action to fight illegal fishing worldwide by notifying the Republic of Ecuador that it needs to step up its actions (yellow card) in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The decision is based on identified shortcomings about the country's ability to comply with agreed standards under international law of the sea as flag, port and market state. Ecuador is encouraged to step up its actions to ensure that fish entering its market do not stem from IUU fishing. In particular, it should develop an enforcement and sanctioning system to address IUU fishing activities. Moreover, an adequate control of the activity of processing plants – especially those exporting to the EU – is paramount. The Commission has also identified limitations in the fisheries legal framework.

At this stage, the decision does not entail any measures affecting trade. The yellow card is a warning and offers Ecuador the chance to react and take measures to rectify the situation within a reasonable time. The mechanism to address IUU provides that in cases of continued non-compliance countries can ultimately face exclusion of their fish exports from the EU market (red card). The EU stands ready to continue working side by side with Ecuador, including through technical assistance where needed, to implement the necessary reforms. [Read more](#)

North-East Atlantic coastal states reach agreement on mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring quotas for 2020

28/10/2019

Meeting in London over the past two weeks, delegations of the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Russian Federation, reached an agreement on the management measures for mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-

Scandian herring for 2020. All three stocks have a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set at the recommended scientific advice.

Regarding mackerel, the three coastal states parties to the sharing arrangement (EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands) have agreed to set the TAC for 2020 at 922,064 tonnes. This TAC is in line with the scientific advice received from the [International Council for Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#). It corresponds to the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach - i.e the largest catch that can be taken from the stock while maintaining its size. The TAC set for 2020 represents a 41% increase compared to the TAC set in 2019. The three parties have reiterated their strong concerns about the increase of unilateral quotas set particularly by Iceland, but also Greenland and the Russian Federation in 2019 and its impact on the stock. Parties have however reaffirmed their readiness to continue the negotiation of a comprehensive sharing agreement with all coastal and fishing states, in the future.

Regarding blue whiting, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the European Union agreed to set the TAC for 2020 at 1,161,615 tonnes. This TAC is in line with MSY and long-term management strategy approaches, and corresponds to an increase of approximately 2% compared to the TAC set for 2019.

Regarding Atlanto-scandian herring, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, the Russian Federation, and the European Union agreed to set the TAC for 2020 at 525,594 tonnes. This TAC is in line with the long-term management strategy adopted last year, which is more conservative than compared to the MSY approach. It corresponds to a decrease of approximately 11% compared to the TAC set for 2019.

Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2020

24/10/2019

Ahead of the 16-17 December Council meeting on Fisheries, the Commission has today adopted its proposal for fishing opportunities in 2020 for **72 stocks** in the Atlantic and the North Sea: for 32 stocks the fishing quota is either increased or remains the same; for 40 stocks the quota is reduced. The fishing opportunities, or Total Allowable Catches (TACs), are quotas set for most commercial fish stocks in order to keep or restore healthy stocks, while allowing the industry to profit from fishing the highest amount of fish.

In line with the objectives and legal framework of the [Common Fisheries Policy \(CFP\)](#), the Commission is proposing fishing opportunities at “maximum sustainable yield” (MSY) for the stocks with a full scientific assessment, and at “precautionary levels” for other stocks. The proposal follows the advice of the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#). [Read more](#)

EU and the Seychelles conclude negotiations for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement

24/10/2019

On 22 October 2019, the EU and the Seychelles have concluded negotiations for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and a new protocol that will strengthen their cooperation in the fisheries field for the next six years.

The agreement marks a new important milestone of the long-standing bilateral cooperation in fisheries between the EU and Seychelles and of their commitment to promote a sustainable use of marine resources. This is the most important tuna agreement in place for the EU both in financial terms and in terms of fishing opportunities. It will allow the EU fleet (40 tuna purse-seiners and 8 long-liners) to continue fishing in Seychelles waters for a duration of 6 years while continuing to

support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the Seychelles.

Based on a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes, the EU will provide the Seychelles with an annual financial contribution of €5,300,000. A significant part of this contribution, €2,800,000 per year, is specifically earmarked to promote the sustainable management of fisheries in Seychelles, as well as to support the development of small-scale fisheries. For the whole duration of the protocol, the total estimated value, including the EU ship-owners contribution, amounts to €58,200,000, equivalent to €9,700,000 per year. [Read more](#)

EFCA adopts its Work Programme for 2020 with a renewed approach to cooperation

23/10/2019

Subject to the adoption of the European Union (EU) budgetary authority, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) receives EUR 17.6 million for 2020 to safeguard the sustainability of fisheries resources.

The funds will be used to enhance cooperation between EU Member States in the framework of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures of the Common Fisheries Policy. EFCA's work focuses on four strategic areas to ensure a compliant, efficient and uniform implementation of the CFP: operational coordination, risk assessment and data analysis, compliance with international provisions capacity building and support to Coast Guard functions.

Read more

[Press release: EFCA adopts its Work Programme for 2020 and multiannual strategic priorities with a renewed approach to cooperation](#)

EU seeks entry into force of world-wide agreement on safety of fishing vessels

21/10/2019

The EU encourages the ratification of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement on safety of

fishing vessels at the Ministerial Conference on Safe and Legal Fishing hosted by Spain jointly with the International Maritime Organization in Torremolinos, Spain on 21-23 October 2019.

This agreement will contribute to improved ocean governance by putting in place basic international safety requirements for fishing vessels. This will also help to counter illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing as poor safety standards are a hallmark of vessels whose operators under-report catch or fish illegally or minimize costs by all means, infringing law, endangering their crew and compromising the security of their vessel.

The 2012 Cape Town Agreement requires a total of 22 ratifying countries with an aggregate total fishing fleet of 3,600 vessels in order for the agreement to come into force. To date, a total of 11 countries with an aggregate fleet of 2,400 have ratified the convention, including 6 EU countries - Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain.

The European Commission sees an urgent need to establish a global framework. The ratification of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement would create a global level playing field with the following benefits:

- An upgrade of safety for people working on board of fishing vessels and the fishing vessel sector, which has one of the worst fatality records of any industry.
- Supporting the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by establishing international safety standards for fishing vessels.

An opportunity to update the current technical requirements in the Agreement to reflect developments in safety management. [Read more](#)

Save the date: the 2020 European Maritime Day will take place on 14-15 May 2020 in Cork, Ireland

16/10/2019

The 2020 edition of the European Maritime Day (EMD) will take place on 14-15 May 2020 in the City of Cork, Ireland. EMD is the annual two-day event during which

Europe's maritime community meet to network, discuss and forge joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue growth. The opening session will target the "EU Maritime Policy towards 2050" and the plenary session will focus on 'Empowering Future Ocean Leaders'.

This year EMD will be celebrated together with [Ocean Wealth' \(OOW\)](#), Ireland's flagship annual event for the marine sector and will be held back-to-back with the ['SeaFest'](#), Ireland's largest free family-friendly maritime celebration.

More information

[European Maritime Day website](#)

**Euronews OCEAN episode 8:
Protecting life in the Arctic seas
11/10/2019**

Climate change is making Arctic waters more accessible to vessels, raising the controversial prospect of more industrial-scale fishing. In the latest episode of Ocean, Euronews looks at what's being done by the EU to prevent threats to the Arctic ecosystem.

In this episode, Euronews travels to Greenland to see the effects of a warming climate. Among other things, this means longer fishing seasons. As the seas get warmer, new species of fish are finding their way to Greenland's coasts — these include mackerel, herring, Atlantic bluefin tuna and cod. But not everyone is happy as the fishermen say their most profitable catch — halibut — is getting harder to find during the warmer part of the year.

In the future, retreating sea ice and changes in fish stocks could bring commercial fishing fleets into the unprotected international waters around the North Pole. Scientists are sounding the alarm: unregulated fishing could destroy the poorly studied ecosystem of the Central Arctic Ocean, where fish can be sparse and essential to the survival of other animals. In a bid to stave off this imminent threat, the European Union brought Canada, China, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia and the United States

to agree on a [commercial fishing ban](#) in the Arctic high seas for at least 16 years. Together, these parties represent some 75% of global GDP. Under this legally binding agreement, the Central Arctic area will remain off-limits for fishing fleets, at least until scientists confirm that fishing in the region can be done sustainably.

The future of the ban will depend on the findings of the scientific consortium led by Professor Pauline Snoeijs Leijonmalm. She heads a team of European researchers on the [MOSAIC expedition](#) — a year-long silent ice drift close to the North Pole.

Amidst this rapidly evolving context in the Arctic, the European Commission (DG MARE) also organised the EU Arctic Forum on 3-4 October, jointly with the EU's External Action Service (EEAS) and the Swedish Government, to debate the wider strategic agenda facing the Arctic and EU's approach to the region.

Euronews Ocean Episode 8: Protecting life in the Arctic seas can be watched on Euronews TV from 11 October at 20:55 GMT or [online](#).

**Mediterranean and Black Seas:
Commission proposes fishing
opportunities for 2020
08/10/2019**

The Commission adopted its first ever proposal on fishing opportunities covering both the Mediterranean and the Black Seas.

With this proposal, the Commission is delivering on the political commitments made in the [MedFish4Ever](#) and [Sofia Declarations](#) to promote sustainable management of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. It reflects the Commission's efforts and ambition to ensure social and economic viability for the fishermen operating in the region by restoring and maintaining stocks at sustainable levels.

In the Mediterranean Sea, the proposal implements the multiannual management plan for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, adopted in June this year. To that end, a reduction of fishing effort is necessary in 2020 for red mullet, hake, deep-

water rose shrimp, Norway lobster, blue and red shrimp and giant red shrimp.

The proposal also includes additional measures, in line with the decisions of the [General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#). In particular, it introduces a 3 months closure period for eel, catch and fishing effort limits for small pelagics in the Adriatic and a fishing effort limit for demersals in the Adriatic.

In the Black Sea, the Commission proposes catch limits and quota for turbot and sprat. For turbot, the proposal will transpose the EU quota to be decided in the context of the revision of the GFCM turbot multiannual management plan. For sprat, the Commission proposes to maintain the same catch limit as in 2019, namely 11,475 tonnes.

The Commission proposal will be updated after the GFCM annual session (4-8 November 2019) with the figures of those stocks subject to negotiations within that organisation.

At the December Agriculture and Fisheries Council (16-17 December), Member States will set the fishing opportunities for 2020 on the basis of the Commission proposal. [Read more](#)

Traceability of fisheries products: know what you buy!

07/10/2019

On October 10th, in Brussels, a workshop on traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products brings together representatives of the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Council, the European Parliament, the EU Member States and representatives of the Advisory Councils.

Knowing the origin of fish is important so that we have the guarantee that it was legally caught. Accurate information of its capture needs to be passed on from net to plate, which isn't always easy. During this workshop, participants will explore different traceability solutions, such as bar codes and digital systems as well as blockchain technology and standardisation. The results of these discussions will support the on-going revision of the European Commission's proposal for new provisions on traceability within the EU

control regulation, currently under discussion by the co-legislators.

Check out this page after the event to get access to the presentations and read about the outcomes of the workshop.

For more information:

[Agenda of the event](#)

[Control Regulation \(EC\) 1224/2009](#)

[Proposal of new control regulation](#)

[The EU's fisheries control system](#)

Northwest Atlantic: important decisions on conservation and enforcement measures for 2020 **03/10/2019**

The European Union participated in the 41st Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), in Bordeaux, from 23 to 27 September 2019.

All contracting parties focused on ensuring the sustainable management of the key fish stocks in Northwest Atlantic, while maintaining a reasonable predictability for the industry. To this end, the EU took a lead role in finding solutions on important stocks, such as cod, redfish and shrimp in the Flemish Cap, which are of particular importance to the Union.

After nine years of moratorium, the situation of northern shrimp in the Flemish Cap has improved, with an increase in biomass over the last five years. In line with the positive scientific advice, the Commission has agreed to re-open this fishery.

Because of a declining recruitment of the cod stock, the Commission adopted a decrease of the total allowable catch (TAC), complemented by a request to the Scientific Council to review possible technical measures that could further protect and improve the productivity of the stock in the future.

Due to a decline of the redfish stock in the Flemish Cap, the Commission agreed to a progressive decrease in catches by setting lower TACs for 2020 and 2021.

The parties have also agreed on control and enforcement measures, with seven proposals tabled by the EU being adopted. A major step forward is the creation of a dedicated website for all sea and port inspectors. This will allow them to easily exchange information and

design efficient inspection strategies for better fisheries control.

The participants at the annual meeting in Bordeaux have adopted an action plan to maintain NAFO's performance at its highest level and further improve its governance to meet its long-term objectives and challenges.

EUMOFA releases fisheries international trade data **02/10/2019**

EUMOFA launched the world's most comprehensive publicly accessible trade database on fisheries and aquaculture products.

The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA) is a platform developed by the European Commission that offers information on the European Union fisheries and aquaculture sector. It gives access to the latest industry data, analyses EU markets dynamics, and supports business decisions and policy-making.

Through this new dataset bilateral trade information of 68 non-EU countries is publicly available and accessible in all EU 24 official languages. The data covers monthly imported and exported volumes and values for each species traded, by presentation and preservation state, and by partner country.

The international trade data of all EU 28 countries + Norway and Iceland are already available on the website. With this new dataset, EUMOFA becomes the first publicly available service covering import and export of around 100 countries in the world.

Through this new query, users will be able to

- Monitor **international exchanges** of main commercial species
- Analyse trade flows of **raw material and processed products**
- Compare **prices of species** exported/imported in different markets
- Identify **emerging markets, trends and supply sources** to identify potential opportunities
- Compare **market shares with competitors.**

You can now search all the information you need in the new [international trade data section](#).

Data can be also extracted from the [Bulk Download section](#) in CSV format for custom analysis and interpretation.

Marine Regions Forum fills critical gap in ocean governance landscape **01/10/2019**

On 30 September, the European Commission and Germany kicked off the first Marine Regions Forum. Gathering experts from different disciplines, the Forum will bring the much-needed regional perspective into international ocean governance and foster cross-border and interdisciplinary cooperation to achieve healthy, safe and productive seas.

In the EU, regional ocean governance has become a central element of ocean policy making, be it for resource management, environmental protection or sustainable economic development. But in global discussions about the health and future of our ocean, the regional level is still underrepresented. Wrongly so, because coordination of national strategies and actions across borders is indispensable as we are implementing global commitments.

The Marine Regions Forum brings ocean actors and stakeholders together outside formal negotiations and the typical silo-based processes. Given the interconnected nature of many natural and societal challenges, such isolated processes are inadequate to deliver the UN's Agenda 2030, including SDG 14 on Life Below Water.

In Berlin, 200 participants exchanged experiences and discussed common challenges as they try to develop new cross-sectoral solutions to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water. Other parts of the UN's Agenda 2030 were also on their radar, as most of our natural and societal systems are intrinsically interconnected.

The Marine Regional Forum comes very timely, with a full year of "blue" summits ahead of us. The Climate COP25 will take

place just a few months after the very critical IPCC report on oceans and the cryosphere in a changing climate. In June 2020, the UN Ocean conference will assess global progress towards SDG14. And after a successful start, the negotiations on a legally binding agreement for biodiversity in the high seas will hopefully come to a close. Adding the regional dimension ensures that these meeting points will become more than the sum of single national efforts.

The first Marine Regions Forum covers all major ocean governance dilemmas, including ecosystem-based management, climate change mitigation and adaption as well as protection of marine biodiversity. Also the blue economy, for example marine tourism, is on the agenda. The full programme of the meeting is available on the [conference website](#).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

18/11/2019

Baltic Sea: Council agreement on 2020 catch limits

15/10/2019

The Council agreed on next year's **total allowable catches** (TACs) and member states' quotas **for the ten most commercially important fish stocks in the Baltic Sea**. This agreement therefore sets out how much European fishermen will be able to fish and under what conditions.

In line with the latest scientific advice highlighting poor conditions in the Baltic Sea, the Council decided to **decrease fishing opportunities for the majority of fish stocks**. TACs were moderately **increased** only for **herring in the Gulf of Riga**, and were **maintained** for **salmon in the Gulf of Finland**.

Cuts were particularly significant for **cod**, with a **60% decrease** in the **Western part** of the Baltic Sea, and the permission to have **by-catches only in the Eastern part**.

Some courageous decisions had to be taken to preserve the health of the Baltic Sea fish stocks

and the longer term sustainability of fisheries in the area. Today's agreement not only allows for stock recovery, but also helps mitigate the socio-economic effects on EU fishermen.

The agreement in detail

- [Council agreement on 2020 catch limits in the Baltic Sea](#)

Based on a Commission proposal, the agreed quantities take into account the commitment to meet the objectives of the **Common Fisheries Policy** (CFP), including the **achievement of MSY**, as well as **scientific advice** provided in particular by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The provisions of the **multiannual management plan for the Baltic sea** have also been closely followed.

In addition to setting TACs and national quotas on some species, the Council agreed on additional measures on cod stocks such as:

- **stricter limits for recreational fisheries** (bag limitations of five specimens per fisherman per day as a general rule)
- **longer closure periods** in subdivisions 25 and 26 (from 1 May to 31 August), in subdivisions 22-23 (from 1 February to 31 March), and in subdivision 24 (from 1 June to 31 July)

As the large agreed reductions in fishing opportunities will lead to **adverse socio-economic consequences** for affected fisheries, the member states in the Baltic Sea and the Commission emphasised the importance of **ensuring proper management of the crisis**.

Preparatory work conducive to finding swift agreement was carried out at regional level through **BALTFISH**, a body providing a platform for discussion on important fisheries issues in the Baltic Sea, currently under Finland's chairmanship.

Next steps

This item will be formally adopted by the Council by written procedure.

Background

The discussions were based on a Commission proposal with article 43(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) as the legal basis. Under such article, it is for the Council to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities within the framework of the common fisheries policy.

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
MEDAC	12/11/2019	Rome	WG1
NSAC	19/11/2019	London	The first Choke Risk FG
NSAC	20/11/2019	London	Demersal WG
ICES	18-22/11/2019	Madrid	WG on Acoustic and Egg Surveys for Sardine and Anchovy in ICES areas 7, 8 and 9
ICES	19-21/11/2019	Kristiansand, Norway	WG on Fisheries-Induced Evolution
ICES	25-29/11/2019	Bergen	WG on the Integrated Assessments of the Norwegian Sea
ICES	25-27/11/2019	ICES HQ, Copenhagen	Working Group on Shipping Impacts in the Marine Environment
NSAC	27/11/2019	Brussels	Ecosystem WG
LDAC	28/11/2019	Madrid	ExCom
ICES	30/12/2019	tbd	Joint OSPAR/HELCOM/ICES WG on Seabirds
ICES	30/12/2019	tbd	WG DATRAS Governance
ICES	30/12/2019	tbd	WG on International Deep Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys
ICES	30/12/2019	tbd	WG on Operational oceanographic products for fisheries and environment
ICES	31/12/2019	by correspondence	Stock Identification Methods WG
ICES	31/12/2019	by correspondence	WG on Atlantic Fish Larvae and Eggs Surveys

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			
12-15 November	NEAFC	Annual meeting	London, UK
18-22 November	EU-Norway	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019 – Round 1	London, UK
2-6 December	EU-Norway	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019 – Round 2	Bergen, NO
9-10 December (TBC)	EU-Faroe Islands	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019	Torshavn (TBC)

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2019			
12-19 November	UN	Informal consultations on the draft UNGA resolution on Sustainable Fisheries	New York, USA
18-21 November	FAO	International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability	Rome, Italy
20- 26 November	UN	Informal consultations on the draft UNGA resolution on “Oceans and the law of the sea” – Second round	New York, USA
16-25 November	ICCAT	Panel 1 and Annual meeting	Mallorca, Spain
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.	
2-6 December	IOTC	Scientific Committee	Pakistan
5-11 December	WCPFC	Annual meeting	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
16-18 December	Kobe process	Joint tuna RFMO by-catch Working Group meeting	Porto, Portugal

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	/	/	5-7 NOVEMBER 2019	Nouakchott, tbc	n/a	Adopted on 8 July 2019	Q4/2019	The last JCM took place in December 2018. The 1st round of negotiation took place in Brussels 2-4 sept. 2019. The second round is scheduled on 5-7 November 2019 (Nouakchott, tbc).
	Morocco	17 July 2023	18 JULY 2019	Rabat			/	/	/	New agreement and protocol in force since 18 July 2019.
	Senegal	19 November 2019	NOVEMBER 2019	Dakar		Brussels			Q4/2019	Last scientific meeting took place in July 2018. Last JCM took place on 18-19 October, New protocol paraphed on 19 July 2019. Legislative package under preparation by the Commission.
	The Gambia	30 July 2025	NOVEMBER 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. Signature on 31 July 2019.
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024	15-17 OCTOBER 2019	Brussels			/	/	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 and provisional application started from the same date. The first JCM will take place in October 2019 in Brussels.
	Greenland	31 December 2020	NOVEMBER 2019	Brussels	NOV 2019	Brussels	Q4/2019	Q4/2019		Last joint Committee took place in November 2018.
WEST AFRICA	Cape Verde	19 May 2024	DECEMBER 2019	Cabo Verde			/		Adopted on 17 May 2019	The new protocol was signed on 20 May 2019 and applies provisionally. Pending EP consent. No information on Cabo Verde's ratification.
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	OCT - NOV 2019	Brussels			/	/	/	Protocol signed and provisionally applied on 1st August 2018. Pending EP consent. 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	DEC 2019 - JAN 2020	tbd			/	/	OCTOBER 2019	Negotiations concluded on 17 April 2019; new protocol initialled.

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			23-25 SEPT 2019	Nosy Be (Madagascar)	/	/		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. 3rd round scheduled on 23-25 September 2019.
	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. The third JCM will be planned for early next year.
	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			17-20 SEPTEMBER 2019	Brussels		Adopted on 15 July 2019		Last JCM took place in Brussels from 27 February to 1 March 2019, no additional JCM is foreseen. First round of negotiations took place on 19-20 August. The second round took place on 17-20 September. A third round to be fixed.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	5 June 2020	FALL 2019				Q3/2019	OCTOBER 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
	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	CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CORBETT Richard	UK	S&D	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	NI	HIDVÉGHY Balázs	HU	EPP
DAVIES Chris	UK	Renew	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
DE MAN Filip	BE	ID	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
DODDS Diane	UK	NI	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MONTEITH Brian	UK	NI
JAMET France	FR	ID	MUMMERY June Alison	UK	NI
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite	ES	Renew
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
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
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	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

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

2020

- Monday 20 January, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 21 January, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 21 January, 14:30-18:30
- Wednesday 19 February, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 19 February, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 20 February, 9:00-12:30
- Monday 16 March, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 17 March, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 17 March, 14:30-18:30
- Wednesday 29 April, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 29 April, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 30 April, 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](#)