

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – JUNE 2020

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thursday, 25 June, 11:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 15:30

(Brussels time)

ANTALL 4Q2 & VISIOCONFERENCE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Debate on the amendments of Fisheries Control
- ▶ Presentation by the Commission of the Budget 2021
- ▶ Presentation by the Commission on the amending regulation laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:
2-3 September 2020 (tbc)

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



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Pierre KARLESKIND
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

In our last Committee meeting before the summer break our attention will be focused in particular on the key legislative file of "Fisheries control", for which over 1.000 amendments have been tabled by our Members and more are to come from opinion-giving committees. A fair and effective control regime is essential to ensure that EU fisheries are managed in a sustainable manner, which in turn may guarantee the long-term viability of the fisheries sector and safeguard the livelihoods of our fishers and coastal communities. We look forward to extensive and fruitful debates. Finding the compromises needed to build a common ground will be a challenging but essential exercise, in order to proceed to vote on this important file in the autumn.

Another subject - more overarching - will be in the spotlight over the next weeks: the negotiations on the revised Multiannual Financial Framework and the 2021 EU Budget. This has become an even more complex endeavour since the recent adoption by the Commission of the "EU Recovery Plan" proposal. The fisheries budget and the funds earmarked for our dedicated EMFF fund are traditionally only a tiny slice of the pie, but as every year we will elaborate our budget opinion to underline our position that the budget line for fisheries must not be cut and the funding must be targeted on priorities and reach those stakeholders that need it most.

My best wishes for an enjoyable summer break!

Pierre KARLESKIND

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Amending the Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation COM(2020)0215 - C9-0157/2020 2020/0095(COD) PECH/9/03131	Carvalhais	COD	TBC	TBC
Fisheries control COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/9/00323	Aguilera	COD	12/10/2020	TBC
Multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EU) No 2017/2107, (EU) No 2019/[NAFO], (EU) No 1936/2001, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 COM(2019)619 - C9-0188/2019 2019/0272(COD) PECH/9/02027	Ferrandino	COD	2-3/09/2020	TBC
Reports adopted in PECH awaiting 1st reading agreements	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Introduction of capacity limits for Eastern Baltic cod , data collection and control measures in the Baltic Sea, and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod COM(2019)0564 - C9-0161/2019 2019/0246 (COD) PECH/9/01787	Herbst	COD	23/04/2020	Next trilogue: 06/07/2020
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	Next trilogue: tbc	1st Reading adoption 04/04/2019
NLE reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union 13484/2019 - COM(2019)0473 - C9-0178/2019 - 2019/0226(NLE) PECH/9/01701	Bilbao Barandica	NLE (with Resolution)	28/09/2020	TBC

Conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles COM(2020)0002 - 2020/0002(NLE) PECH/9/02217	Roose	NLE (with Resolution)	2-3/09/2020	TBC
INI reports*	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems 2019/2158 (INI) PECH/9/01965	Van Dalen	INI*	TBC	TBC
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea 2019/2159 (INI) PECH/9/01967	Hristov	INI*	TBC	TBC
The impact on fisheries of marine litter 2019/2160 (INI) PECH/9/01968	Chabaud	INI*	TBC	TBC
Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities 2019/2161 (INI) PECH/9/01969	Pizarro	INI*	TBC	TBC
More fish in the seas? Measures to promote stock recovery above MSY, including fish recovery areas and marine protected areas 2019/2162 (INI) PECH/9/01971	Roose	INI*	TBC	TBC
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI*	TBC	TBC
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP 2019/2177 (INI) PECH/9/01993	Gade	INI*	TBC	TBC
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	TBC	TBC

* As long as the EP operates in "business continuity mode", Committees are instructed to focus on priority legislative files; INI reports will most likely be presented/discussed from September onwards.

Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
2021 Budgetary procedure PECH/XXXX	Karleskind (Chair)	BUDG	28/9/2020	TBC
Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications 2020/0089 (NLE) PECH/9/03099	Hristov	NLE	TBC	TBC
Farm to Fork strategy PECH/9/02601	TBC	INI	TBC	TBC
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 PECH/9/03084	TBC	INI	TBC	TBC
A New Industrial Strategy for Europe 2020/2076 (INI) PECH/9/03143	Karleskind (Chair)	INI	TCB	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:

Electronic technologies in monitoring, control and surveillance of EU fisheries - challenges and opportunities (work shop)

The CFP infringement procedures and imposed sanctions in the EU (study)

The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems (study)

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

Work shop 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 give green light to the new fisheries partnership with Cape Verde

18/06/2020

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of a new protocol implementing the EU fisheries agreement with the Republic of Cape Verde.

The protocol was approved with 510 votes in favour, 127 against and 51 abstentions. MEPs also adopted an accompanying resolution with 587 votes in favour, 50 against and 51 abstentions.

The protocol covers a period of five years and foresees fishing opportunities for a maximum of 69 EU vessels (28 freezer tuna seiners, 27 surface longliners and 14 pole-and-line tuna vessels from Spain, Portugal and France.) to fish in Cabo Verde waters. The fishing opportunities are set based on the best available scientific advice and following the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The yearly financial contribution allocated to the new protocol is EUR 750 000. This total is broken down into an annual amount of EUR 400 000 for access to the fishing area and EUR 350 000 for the implementation of the national strategy for sustainable fisheries, notably through measures aiming at reinforcing control and surveillance capacities and supporting local fishing communities. Additional fishing authorisation fees payable by ship owners are estimated at EUR 600 000 per year.

The reference tonnage is fixed at 8 000 tonnes per year (increased from 5 000 tonnes during the previous protocol).

Background

The fisheries agreement with Cape Verde is part of the network of EU agreements with west-African coastal states, among which the neighbouring Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. The first agreement, dating back to 1990, was replaced in 2007 and tacitly renewed every five years.

The latest [2014-2018 protocol](#) expired on 22 December 2018. An [evaluation study](#) recommended its renewal. The new protocol, covering the period 2019-2024, has applied provisionally following its signature on 20 May 2019.

Parliament backs updated conditions for the fisheries partnership with Guinea-Bissau

18/06/2020

MEPs gave their final approval to the conclusion of a new implementing protocol to the existing EU fisheries partnership agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024).

The protocol was approved with 537 votes in favour, 64 against and 87 abstentions. MEPs also adopted an accompanying resolution (620 votes in favour, 44 against and 24 abstentions) setting out recommendations to the Commission, such as supporting the creation of landing and processing infrastructure, and improving coordination with EU development funding for Guinea-Bissau.

The new five-year [protocol](#) was agreed on 15 November 2018 and has applied provisionally since its signature on 15 June 2019. The protocol provides [fishing opportunities](#) for freezer trawlers from Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy, fishing for shrimps, demersal fish and cephalopods. It also covers vessels from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Spain and Portugal fishing for small pelagic fish (which were not included in the previous protocol). These opportunities are based on fishing effort limits during the first two years, whereas from the third year, the protocol introduces a system of total allowable catches (TACs).

Tuna opportunities are allocated to 28 seiners and longliners, and 13 pole-and-line vessels, from Spain, France and Portugal.

The protocol defines an annual EU contribution of €15.6 million (increased from €9.2 million for the previous protocol), of which around three quarters (11.6 million) represent access rights. The remaining €4 million are dedicated to supporting Guinea-Bissau's fisheries sector and its blue economy,

in particular by strengthening the control of fishing activities, data collection and research, and supporting small scale fishing. In addition to the EU contribution, vessel owners are estimated to pay €4 million annually via authorisation fees.

Background

The fisheries agreement with Guinea-Bissau, one of the first ever concluded by the EU, dates back to 1980, was replaced in [2008](#) by the current agreement. The Agreement is part of a network of [tuna agreements](#) in West Africa and is one of only three multi-species agreements in the region (the others being with Morocco and with Mauritania). A series of implementing protocols have provided EU access rights over time, except for the period April 2012–October 2014, when the EU suspended the adoption of a new protocol after a military coup in Guinea-Bissau until constitutional order was restored.

MEPs approve the renewal of the fisheries partnership with São Tomé and Príncipe

18/06/2020

Parliament adopted the renewed protocol to the existing EU fisheries partnership agreement with the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The text was approved with 589 votes in favour, 51 against and 48 abstentions.

The new five-year [protocol](#) was agreed on 17 April 2019, and has applied provisionally since its signature on 19 December 2019. The protocol is particularly important for EU fishing activities in the southern part of the Gulf of Guinea, as the other agreements with the neighbouring Gabon and Equatorial Guinea are dormant (they currently have no protocol in place). The new protocol provides [fishing opportunities](#) for up to 28 purse seiners (16 from Spain and 12 from France) and 6 surface longliners (5 from Spain and one from Portugal), fishing tuna and tuna-like species equivalent to a reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes per year.

The protocol defines an annual EU contribution of €840 000, of which €400 000 represent access rights to São Tomean waters.

The remaining €440 000 are dedicated to supporting sustainable management of resources and the development of local fisheries, in particular by improving the monitoring and control of fishing activities, fisheries research and the quality of fisheries products, supporting small scale fishing and aquaculture, and strengthening international cooperation.

The protocol provides fishing opportunities on the basis of the best available scientific advice and following the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It also enables the EU and São Tomé and Príncipe to work more closely on promoting sound exploitation of fisheries resources in São Tomé and Príncipe waters and to support efforts by São Tomé and Príncipe to develop its fisheries sector, in the interests of both parties.

Moreover, MEPs recognise the fight against IUU fishing as a priority for the EU. In this regard, the EU must substantially enhance its action against IUU fishing by ensuring proper control of fishing activities of EU vessels and other fleets operating in the waters of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Background

First concluded in [1984](#), it was replaced by the current [fisheries partnership agreement](#) in July 2007, then tacitly renewed every four years. Successive implementing protocols have ensured fishing opportunities for EU vessels, in exchange for a financial contribution. The previous protocol, covering the 2014-2018 period, expired on 22 May 2018.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

News - Press service

Sustainable fisheries: Commission takes stock of the progress in the implementation of the EU's common fisheries policy and launches consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2021

17/06/2020

The Commission adopted its annual communication taking stock of the implementation of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and launched a public consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2021.

The communication reaffirms the Commission's commitment to environmentally sustainable and economically viable fisheries, a key component of both the biodiversity and farm-to-fork strategies. Progress made under the common fisheries policy demonstrates that sustainability is both attainable and economically viable.

Member States, Advisory Councils, the fishing industry, non-governmental organisations, and interested citizens are invited to take part in a [public consultation](#) and express their views on the fishing opportunities for 2021.

More information

[Public consultation on fishing opportunities for 2021 under the common fisheries policy](#)

[Sustainable fisheries: Commission takes stock of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and launches consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2021](#)

[Questions and Answers on the Commission's evaluation of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and Fishing Opportunities for 2021](#)

Wild seabass: new report on the market trends of one of Europe's top fish

15/06/2020

For many small vessels in the EU, seabass represents more than 10% of landing value, peaking at 50% in the Netherlands and 40% in France, according to a new report released today by the European Commission and the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA).

These fleets, mainly passive gears and hooks and liners, are profitable and can value their catch at the highest price. Seabass caught with hooks and line can reach the price of up to 35€/kg on the French market – the largest market for wild seabass in Europe.

The report highlights the main market trends for wild seabass in Europe, including the fleets' economic dependency on seabass, the

impact of recreational fisheries, as well as the significant market segmentation depending on production methods (wild-caught or farmed), size of the catch and type of gear used.

Read the findings of the report on EUMOFA website:

[Commercial and recreational fisheries for wild seabass in the Atlantic](#)

[Pêche commerciale et récréative du bar sauvage dans l'Atlantique](#)

More information

Fact sheet: [Seabass - Market trends of one of Europe's top fish](#)

[How is the EU protecting sea bass?](#)

Seaweed gastronomy: EU and Alga4Food brings algae to Portuguese dinner tables

12/06/2020

In a world where food resources are becoming scarce, conventional agriculture faces challenges in feeding 7 billion people and fish resources are under pressure, algae are one promising route to an affordable global food supply at low environmental costs. But whereas seaweed and other algae are a popular ingredient in Asian cuisine, European consumption and production of this green gold of the sea could use a major boost.

It is against this backdrop that the EU has provided financial support to the Alga4Food, among other projects. Since 2017, the Alga4Food aims to explore the benefits of edible macro algae (seaweed) from the Portuguese coast and promotes their use in Portuguese family cooking.

The Alga4Food team brings the worlds of science and gastronomy together. They first analysed different types of seaweed to understand their flavour and nutritional value, and find the best ways to conserve them. Next, the team developed suggestions for their culinary use. They looked at similarities between seaweeds and traditional Portuguese foodstuffs like cabbage, sea cucumbers and goose barnacles, and suggested which kinds of seaweed might work as substitutes for these ingredients in traditional dishes.

The recipes all look delicious – you can find them in the [two cookbooks on Alga4food website](#). The project has also resulted in a series of seminars and cookery demonstrations.

The project was supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), in particular for the acquisition of new analytical equipment, the development of new food products and their evaluation via sensory analysis. The funding also allowed establishing a multidisciplinary partnership between the chemistry department at the Universidade Nova in Lisbon; CIIMAR – the Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research; associations of fishers and gatherers of shellfish; the University of Aveiro; the University of Coimbra; and the company NMT, which specialises in technology and innovation.

2020 is the last year of the project and many of the tasks are being finalized. However, because seaweeds are seasonal and the harvest period has unfortunately coincided with the peak of the corona crisis, final results might only be available later.

Keep informed about the project:

Website: <https://alga4food.wixsite.com/page>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/alga4food/>

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the June [Euronews OCEAN](#) episode on seaweed farming in the Netherlands.

Learn more about the EU's view on algae as part of a sustainable diet:

[A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system instead of just farm to fork](#)

2020 Blue Economy Report: Blue sectors contribute to the recovery and pave way for EU Green Deal

11/06/2020

The European Commission published “[The EU Blue Economy Report 2020](#)”, providing an overview of the performance of the EU economic sectors related to oceans and the coastal environment. With a turnover of €750 billion in 2018, the EU blue economy is in

good health. There were also 5 million people working in the blue economy sector in 2018, representing a significant increase of 11.6% compared to the year before. Although sectors such as coastal and marine tourism, as well as fisheries and aquaculture are severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the blue economy as a whole presents a huge potential in terms of its contribution to a green recovery. While the marine environment is typically associated with traditional activities such as fishing or transport, it houses an increasing number of emerging, innovative sectors including marine renewable energy. The EU, world leader in ocean energy technology, is on track to produce up to 35% of its electricity from offshore sources by 2050.

For the first time, the report addresses the environmental dimension of the blue economy in detail, thereby also contributing to achieving environmental objectives. With a decrease of 29% of CO₂ per unit of gross value added between 2009 and 2017, fisheries and aquaculture growth is firmly decoupled from greenhouse gas production. Moreover, the report stresses the correlation between sustainable fishing and positive economic performance.

Greening is also ongoing in other sectors. Fuelled by the International Maritime Organisation's 2020 sulphur cap, maritime transport is looking increasingly towards less carbon-intensive energy sources. In addition, a network of “green ports” is reducing the ecological footprint of these economically important hubs between the ocean and the mainland.

The report also looks at the economic value of several ecosystem services provided by the ocean, including habitats for marine life, carbon sequestration, and processes that influence climate change and biodiversity.

Blue jobs

With 5 million people employed in 2018, the number of jobs in the EU blue economy has increased by 11.6% from the previous year. This growth was mainly driven by the coastal tourism sector. Jobs in the offshore wind energy sector have multiplied nine-fold in less than 10 years.

These figures illustrate that the EU Blue Economy has overcome the devastating impact

of the economic and financial crisis of 2008. As the current coronavirus crisis has an impact on all economic sectors, including the blue economy, the European Commission has taken [strong measures](#) early on to protect the EU economy, including the various sectors of the blue economy.

Background

The EU supports the blue economy through various instruments. The European Fund for Strategic Investments has invested over €1.4 billion in offshore wind projects and offered substantial support to other parts of the blue economy, including port development and clean shipping.

The BlueInvest Platform of the European Commission and the European Investment Fund has provided grants of €22 million in 2019 and €20 million in 2020, to innovative, starting blue economy entrepreneurs. In addition, a new BlueInvest Fund was created in 2020. Also the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is financing a series of blue economy projects.

For More information

[Blue Economy Report](#)

[Blue economy indicators online dashboard](#)

[European Commission – Maritime Affairs – blue economy](#)

[BlueInvest](#)

Euronews OCEAN season 2, episode 5: Why don't we farm more seaweed?

09/06/2020

It can be healthy and delicious, and we know that Asian countries produce one hundred times more of it than Europe — though their methods aren't always eco-friendly. Can we catch up while keeping algae aquaculture sustainable? In this episode of Ocean, we'll follow European algae from farm to fork, meeting Dutch pioneers of seaweed farming as they work to make this business competitive and eco-friendly.

Tune in to Euronews from 9 June @ 20:50 CET – on any platform.

OCEAN is a Euronews magazine in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). Season 2 features monthly 8-minute videos

where we highlight fascinating projects and developments related to the ocean and coastal communities.

The first season featured episodes on marine protected areas, small-scale fisheries, ocean energy, aquaculture, IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries and more. Missed one? [Check them out on Euronews website!](#) You will also find some nice extras about these topics.

Feel free to share on social media, tagging [@EU_MARE](#) and [@euronews](#) and using the hashtag [#oceanEU](#).

More information on this episode's topic
[A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system](#)
[Ocean - Euronews](#)

EU tops up fisheries fund by €500 million to help recovery

02/06/2020

In a press conference, Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, explained the Commission's decision to increase the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) with €500 million. The additional funding is part of the Recovery Package and follows earlier EU support measures to alleviate the immediate socio-economic impact on the sector. The Commission will work closely with EU countries to ensure that the additional funding contributes to a swift recovery, in line with the European Green Deal and the ambitions of the common fisheries policy.

For many coastal communities, who strongly rely on fisheries for their livelihoods, the social-economic impact of the coronavirus crisis was – and still is – dramatic. Businesses suffered severe losses because of the lockdown and the disruption of the European seafood market. With measures including support for temporary cessation, storage aid and temporary state aid, the Commission had swiftly taken actions to avoid a worst-case scenario.

Now that economic activity is slowly picking up again, the Commission is moving to a second phase of action, which is to support the recovery. Last week, the Commission

presented the Recovery Instrument, consisting of new financing raised on the financial markets (Next Generation EU) as well as a reinforced long-term budget for 2021-2027. As part of the proposal, the EMFF budget is strengthened with an additional €500 million. This is an increase of more than 8% compared to the budget initially proposed for the EMFF in 2018.

This additional money will feed Member States' programmes for 2021-2024, frontloading financial support in the crucial first years of recovery. Member States will have to channel this investment to the objectives of the European recovery plan. The Commission will work closely with them during the preparation of the future generation of EMFF programmes.

With the recovery plan, the Commission wants to repair the short-term damage from the crisis by investing in a sustainable, inclusive and fair future for Europe. In this respect, investment supported by the EMFF should strengthen the resilience of the sector and contribute to the European Green Deal, including the 2030 Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork strategies, as well as the circular economy. Moreover, all EMFF funding should continue to promote the achievement of the economic, social and environmental objectives of the common fisheries policy.

More information

[Questions and Answers on the EU budget: the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy](#)
[Recovery plan for Europe](#)
[European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)

Towards a sustainable EU food system **20/05/2020**

The European Commission has adopted a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system and a Biodiversity Strategy to bring nature back into our lives. The strategies are mutually reinforcing, bringing together nature, fishers, farmers, business and consumers to jointly work towards a competitively sustainable future in line with the European Green Deal.

Under the Farm to Fork initiative, forthcoming strategic guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture will provide direction to increase the sector's sustainability and competitiveness. They should also guide the sector towards a 50% reduction of antimicrobials use as well as the increase in organic aquaculture production. The Commission also plans a separate strategy for the development of algae production and use in the EU. Moreover, the strategy reiterates the need for full implementation of the common fisheries policy, stressing in particular the efforts still to be undertaken in the Mediterranean. A number of measures, including financial instruments, will be available to support European fishers and aquaculture producers in driving the necessary transition. All initiatives announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy will be subject to further discussion and consultation with the stakeholders.

The Biodiversity Strategy aims to strengthen the protection of marine ecosystems and to restore them to achieve "good environmental status," through the expansion of protected areas and the establishment of strictly protected areas for habitats and fish stocks recovery. The strategy stresses the need for an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities at sea. This means addressing the overexploitation of fishing stocks to or under Maximum Sustainable Yield levels (i.e. a level that will allow a healthy future for the fish stock's biomass); eliminating bycatch, or at least reducing it to non-dangerous levels, in order to protect sea mammals, turtles and birds, especially those that are threatened with extinction or in bad status; and tackling practices that damage the seabed.

More information

[Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system](#)
[Biodiversity Strategy to bring nature back into our lives.](#)
Press release: [Reinforcing Europe's resilience: halting biodiversity loss and building a healthy and sustainable food system](#)

Cancellation of European Maritime Day 2020

20/05/2020

20 May is European Maritime Day. Every year the EU organises the EMD conference around that date. It is one of the highlights of the maritime calendar, with up to 1,500 stakeholders joining as we celebrate the blue economy.

This year, the Commission had planned another great edition, together with Cork, the host city of EMD 2020. And together with maritime stakeholders, people and organisations who had registered in huge numbers.

Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus and social distancing rules, the organisers - European Commission, the Irish government, and Cork City Council - have taken the collective decision to cancel the event altogether.

The Commission would like to thank all stakeholders and organisers for the work and enthusiasm they have put into this event over the past months and regrets that it was not possible to take advantage of the warm welcome and hospitality prepared by the Irish partners of EMD 2020 and hopes that the possibility for the City of Cork to host the EMD will arise at some time in the future.

As Europe emerges from this crisis, the blue economy with its tremendous potential for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth can help the economic recovery in coastal areas and beyond.

Oceans of Learning Campaign'

In recognition of European Maritime Day and World Oceans Day on 8th June, the Irish Marine Institute will be celebrating our seas, our world's shared ocean and our connection to the sea through its 'Oceans of Learning Campaign'. Over the next 10 weeks, the Marine Institute and its partners, will share news and offer online interactive activities, videos and downloadable resources. The campaign will raise awareness of the importance of our oceans through topics that were to be covered by EMD - from the food from our ocean, our changing ocean climate, ports and shipping, to our diverse marine biodiversity – and will promote the importance

of collaboration – locally, nationally and internationally.

More info: [#OceansOfLearning](#)

Euronews OCEAN season 2, episode 4: COVID-19 – weathering a new kind of storm

19/05/2020

European fishermen and women are weathering a new kind of storm. With fish markets and seafood restaurants shut down, supply chains broken and many large vessels staying in port, thousands of jobs are at risk. So, what are the fishermen doing, and how's the EU helping to keep the sector afloat?

In this month's episode of our Ocean series, we visit the locked-down Côte d'Azur to meet blue economy professionals overcoming the corona crisis — from fishing boats and aquaculture sites to processing factories and seafood restaurants. We'll see them finding new ways to provide fish to their customers and salaries to their workers, and talk to EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius about Europe's role in helping out the sector.

Tune in to Euronews from 19 May @ 20:50 CET – on any platform.

OCEAN is a Euronews magazine in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). Season 2 features monthly 8-minute videos where we highlight fascinating projects and developments related to the ocean and coastal communities.

The first season featured episodes on marine protected areas, small-scale fisheries, ocean energy, aquaculture, IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries and more. Missed one? [Check them out on Euronews website!](#) You will also find some nice extras about these topics.

Feel free to share on social media, tagging [@EU_MARE](#) and [@euronews](#) and using the hashtag [#oceanEU](#).

More information on this episode's topic [Coronavirus response: Fisheries and aquaculture](#)
[Ocean - Euronews](#)

**International trade data: EUMOFA
webinar video and presentation
available**

18/05/2020

The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture products (EUMOFA) has released the video recording and other material from its webinar on international trade data.

A video recording of the webinar with English, French and Spanish subtitles is now available on the [EUMOFA website](#). The collection also includes the presentation and the summary of discussions with replies to questions raised during the seminar.

The webinar focused on how to extract import and export volumes, values and prices of each species traded by the nearly one hundred countries covered by EUMOFA, the world's most comprehensive and publicly accessible trade database on fisheries and aquaculture products. It also included tips on how to use the database to view trade flows between countries and understand market phenomena.

Visit the [EUMOFA website](#) for more information on the webinar and the EUMOFA international trade database.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

TBC

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
NWW AC	7-8/07/2020	Ghent	WGs & ExCom
PELAC	09/07/2020	Remote meeting	WG I and II
NSAC	09/07/2020	Remote meeting	Brown Shrimp FG
PELAC	10/07/2020	Remote meeting	ExCom
NSAC	02/09/2020	TBC	Skagerrak & Kattegat WG
AAC	08/09/2020	Brussels	GA
MAC	22-23/09/2020	TBC	ExCom, WGs

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](#))
- MAC: Market Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BIS AC: Black Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

NORWAY/FAROE ISLANDS/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2020			
02-04/09/2020 (TBC)	NAFMC	North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers Conference 2020	Iceland
15-17/09/2020	NEAFC	PECMAC (2)	London
18/09/2020	NEAFC	WG Statistics	London
08-09/10/2020	NEAFC	PECMAS	London
12-30/10/2020 (TBC)	Coastal States	Coastal States consultations on Mackerel, Blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian Herring and Redfish	London
09/11/2020	NEAFC	Head of Delegations (1)	London

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2020			
5-9 July	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	Annual meeting	La Réunion
13-17 July (postponed to 2021)	FAO	34th meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries	Rome
3-14 August (TBC)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	Annual meeting	La Jolla, USA
17-18 August (postponed to 7- 8 December 2020)	Palau	Our Ocean Conference	Palau
14-16 September	Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean	Meeting of the Preparatory Conference	South Korea
21-25 September (TBC)	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	Annual meeting	Halifax, Canada
30 September – 2 October	UN	Informal Consultations on the UNGA Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea	New York

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

COUNTRY	EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2020		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2019-2020		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 2020 (1-year extension)		Brussels	TBD			/	Adopted on 8 July 2019	Q3 2020	The last JCM took place in December 2018. The first round of negotiation took place from 2 to 4 September 2019 in Brussels, during which a 1-year extension of the current protocol was agreed. This extension was signed on 13 November 2019 and applies provisionally from 16 November 2019. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the extension on 13 May 2020. The second round took place in November 2019 in Nouakchott and the third one in February 2020.
	Morocco	17 July 2023	September/October 2020	Brussels	/	/	/	/	/	/	New agreement and protocol in force since 18 July 2019.
	Senegal	17 November 2024	TBD	Brussels	/	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 14 November 2019	Last scientific meeting took place in July 2018. Last JCM took place on 18-19 October 2019, New protocol initialled on 19 July 2019. The new protocol was signed on 18 November 2019 and applies provisionally pending EP consent.
	The Gambia	30 July 2025	Q4 2020	Brussels	/	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 25 June 2019	Negotiations concluded on 19 October 2018. The new protocol was signed on 31 July 2019. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the SFPA and protocol in December 2019.
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024	Q3 2020	Bissau	/	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 6 June 2019	Negotiations concluded on 15 November 2018. The new protocol was signed on 15 June 2019 and applies provisionally. EP gave its consent on 17 June 2020. The first JCM took place in October 2019 in Brussels.

	Greenland	31 December 2020			9-10 June 30 June-1 July	Video-conference	/	Adopted on 9 December 2019		Last JCM took place in November 2019. The first round of negotiations took place from 15 to 17 January 2020 in Copenhagen. The second round took place from 4 to 6 March 2020 in Brussels.
WEST AFRICA	Cape-Verde	19 May 2024	Q4 2020	TBD	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 17 May 2019	The new protocol was signed on 20 May 2019 and applies provisionally. EP gave its consent on 17 June 2020. Cabo Verde ratified the protocol on 28 October 2019.
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	TBD	Brussels	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 26 July 2018	The new protocol was signed on 1 August 2018 and applied provisionally. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol in February 2019. Last JCM took place on 27-28 November 2018.
	Gabon	23 July 2016 - EXPIRED			TBD		/	Adopted on 22 October 2015		Resumption of negotiation to take place in 2020.
	Ghana	No Agreement/ Protocol					/	Adopted on 3 March 2017		The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016.
	Liberia	8 December 2020	17-18 June 2020	Video-conference	/	/				The protocol was signed on 9 December 2015 and applied provisionally. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol in May 2016. 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	18 December 2024				/	/	/	/	Adopted on 24 October 2019
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	DENOUNCED	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 3 July 2018.
	Madagascar	31 December 2018 - EXPIRED			TBD		/	Adopted on 4 June 2018		The evaluation study has been concluded (March 2018). The first round of negotiations took place from 24 to 27 July 2018 in Brussels (together with a JCM). The second round took place in October 2018, while the third one took place from 23 to 25 September 2019. The fourth round scheduled from 20 to 22 January 2020 in Brussels has been postponed at the request of Madagascar.

INDIAN OCEAN	Mauritius	7 December 2021	TBD		/	/	/	/	Adopted on 23 October 2017	The current protocol was signed on 8 December 2017. The first JCM was held in February/March 2018 in Port Louis. The second JCM was held in Brussels from 25 to 27 February 2019.
	Mozambique	31 January 2015 - EXPIRED					/	Adopted on 12 June 2014	/	Negotiations for a new protocol suspended until further notice to enable further reflection by both Parties to narrow divergences. Last JCM took place in February 2016.
	Seychelles	23 February 2026	Q3 2020	Seychelles	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 20 February 2020	Last JCM took place in Brussels from 27 February to 1 March 2019. Negotiations concluded in October 2019 with the initialling of the new SFPAs and protocol. Both agreement and protocol were signed on 24 February 2020 and apply provisionally pending EP consent.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	5 June 2020			Q3 2020	TBD	/	Adopted on 24 October 2019	Q2 2020	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. The first round of negotiations took place from 14 to 16 January 2020 in Mamoudzou.
	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 SFPAs with the EU.
	Kenya	No Agreement/ Protocol					/	Adopted on 18 July 2016		
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13 October 2020			TBD		June 2020			The current protocol is in force since 14 October 2016. Currently the only SFPAs in the Pacific. Last JCM took place in Rarotonga from 20 to 22 February 2019. Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation finalised.
	Kiribati	15 September 2015 - EXPIRED			TBD		/	Adopted on 26 January 2015		Three 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	KARLESKIND Pierre		
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	MATO Gabriel	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara	ECR	TOMASIC Ruža
Renew	GADE Søren Gade	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
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	BOMPARD Manuel	FR	GUE/NGL
CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
CASANOVA Massimo	IT	ID	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HIDVEGHI Balázs	HU	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	NI	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
FEDERLEY Fredrick	SV	Renew	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	HUIEMA Jan	NL	Renew
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	GUE/NGL
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL	LAGOS Ioannis	EL	NI
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
JAMET France	FR	ID	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
MATIC Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
MILLAN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	RAFALSKA Elżbieta	PL	ECR
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
TOMASIC Ruža	HR	ECR	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP	ZDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2020

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

- Monday 28 September, 15:00-18:30

- Monday 12 October, 15:00-18:30

- Monday 26 October, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 27 October, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 27 October, 14:30-18:30

- Monday 16 November, 15:00-18:30

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

USEFUL LINKS

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

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