

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2020

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Tuesday 22 September, from 9:00 to 12:30

SPINELLI 1G3 & VISIOCONFERENCE

Monday 28 September, from 17:45 to 18:45

ANTALL 6Q1 & VISIOCONFERENCE

Thursday 1 October 2020, from 9:00 to 11:00

SPINELLI 1G3 & VISIOCONFERENCE

(Brussels time)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Adoption of the PECH opinion on General budget of the European Union 2021
- ▶ Adoption of the reports on SFPA between the EU and Senegal and the Seychelles
- ▶ Debate with the Commission on the 2021 fishing opportunities for fish stocks in the Baltic Sea and on the new approach to the “Atlantic maritime strategy - Atlantic action plan 2.0”
- ▶ Debate with the Commission on “More sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021” and on IATTC transposition measures

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:
12 October and 26-27 October 2020

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



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Pierre KARLESKIND
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

In the upcoming meetings we are about to adopt the PECH Committee budget opinion and related budgetary amendments to the General Budget of the EU for 2021.

This budget is of particular importance, since not only will it be the first one to be implemented under the new MFF, but also because it comes in a context of serious economic instability for the fishing and aquaculture sectors, which are affected at the same time by the Covid-19 crisis and by the uncertainties linked to Brexit. Considering this, the budget amounts proposed by the European Commission are well below the needs: a 13.5% drop in commitments compared to 2020 would not allow the sector to comply with the new EMFF objectives and deal with the additional challenges mentioned before.

The new EMFF will have to support the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and stay in line with the new objectives of the Union, in particular those established in the Green Deal. That alone should have justified a substantial increase in the budget. On top of that, it also needs to address the consequences of the massive drop in demand for seafood throughout Europe and any new demand shocks linked to the health crisis. Concerning Brexit, only a few months away from the end of the transition period, fishers are still in the dark. We clearly welcome the creation of a "Brexit Adjustment Fund", as decided by the European Council: we need however to make sure that the fisheries sector also benefits from it, and that the funds can be made available quickly, with simple and flexible allocation procedures.

Pierre KARLESKIND

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
<p>Proposal for a Regulation laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention area and amending Council Regulation (EU) No 520/2007</p> <p>COM(2020)0308 - C9-0203/2020 2020/0139 (COD) PECH/9/03503</p>	Ferreira	COD	TBC	TBC
<p>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</p> <p>COM(2020)0215 - C9-0157/2020 2020/0095(COD) PECH/9/03131</p>	Carvalhais	COD	2/12/2020	JANUARY 2021
<p>Fisheries control</p> <p>COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/9/00323</p>	Aguilera	COD	2-3/12/2020	TBC
Reports adopted in PECH awaiting 1st reading agreements	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
<p>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</p> <p>COM(2019)0564 - C9-0161/2019 2019/0246 (COD) PECH/9/01787</p>	Herbst	COD	23/04/2020	Next trilogue: 22/09/2020
<p>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</p> <p>COM(2019)619 - C9-0188/2019 2019/0272(COD) PECH/9/02027</p>	Ferrandino	COD	3/09/2020	Next trilogue: TBC
Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd reading)	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
<p>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund</p> <p>COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/8/13776</p>	Mato	COD	Next trilogue: 24/09/2020	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)	28/09-1/102020	October II 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)	28/09-1/102020	October II 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*	12/10/2020	November 2020
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)	Gade	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.

PECH/9/01993				
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	TBC	TBC
Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
2019 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) 2020/2169(DEC) PECH/9/03898	Karleskind (Chair)	DEC	TBC	TBC
2021 Budgetary procedure 2020/1998 (BUD) PECH/9/03442	Karleskind (Chair)	BUDG	28/9-01/10/2020	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	Melo	NLE	12/10/2020	26/10/2020
Farm to Fork strategy PECH/9/02601	Bilbao Barandica	INI	TBC	TBC
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 PECH/9/03084	Mato	INI	TBC	TBC
A New Industrial Strategy for Europe 2020/2076 (INI) PECH/9/03143	Karleskind (Chair)	INI	written procedure	1/10/2020

**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:

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

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

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture (study)

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

CFP and fisheries management

Implementation of the current EU fisheries control system by Member States (2014-19)

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 COMMISSION

News - Press service

Baltic Sea: Commission adopts report on multiannual plan

14/09/2020

Ahead of this autumn's negotiations on fishing opportunities for 2021, the Commission has adopted a report taking stock of the multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea.

Overall, the Commission considers that the MAP has been helpful in implementing the common fisheries policy, notably for setting fishing opportunities, although the Baltic Sea also faces wider challenges that affect ecosystems and fisheries.

Long-term trends that predate the MAP have a substantial impact on the evolution of the marine environment and the fish stocks in the Baltic Sea. The MAP's implementation has decreased fishing pressure since 2016 and contributed to a moderately positive development in fisheries over the past years. Other environmental pressures beyond fisheries are having substantial effects on the health of certain stocks.

Overall, the Commission considers that the MAP has been helpful in implementing the common fisheries policy, notably for setting fishing opportunities. The MAP has made it easier to put in place flanking measures to help stocks recover, and without the MAP, quotas likely would have been set at a higher level. At the same time, the MAP has enabled flexibility for healthy stocks by allowing the use of the upper F_{MSY} range to buffer severe reductions in quotas. Thanks to the MAP, all fisheries are now either managed in line with maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or measures are put in place to bring them back to MSY. Altogether, it provides a basis for the long-term profitability of the fishing industry.

At the 'Our Baltic' conference hosted by Commissioner Sinkevicius on 28 September, decision-makers and experts will address the

challenge of long-term sustainability in the Baltic Sea.

More information

[First report on the implementation of the multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks](#)

[Multi-annual plans](#)

[Fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2021: improving long-term sustainability of stocks](#)

[Our Baltic Conference](#)

Coronavirus response: Cypriot aquaculture and fisheries sectors benefit from additional EMFF support

09/09/2020

Following the coronavirus outbreak with its sudden and unprecedented impact on fisheries and aquaculture, the European Commission took rapid action to help the sectors, including amendments to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

As a result, Cyprus has modified its operational programme and reallocated €1.6 million of public funds to compensate companies for financial loss caused by the outbreak.

The fisheries sectors received €445,500 to compensate economic losses from the cessation of fishing activity. Of 275 applications submitted, 251 were approved, mostly for small-scale coastal fishing vessels and multipurpose vessels. The share of small-scale fisheries was significant, as this sector includes self-employed businesses who could use the funds to substitute their salaries.

Aquaculture farmers who are economically affected by the coronavirus outbreak will receive approximately €1.2 million. In total, 15 proposals were submitted, with twelve approved and three still under review. In particular, aquaculture enterprises received compensation for some of the fixed costs related to production and sales in the period from March to December 2020.

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has put the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sectors

under substantial pressure. Many fishermen and women, producers, and processors were forced to suspend or severely reduce their activities. The additional support will deliver a significant boost to the sectors, allowing for a gradual return to normal operations without having to lay off personnel, decrease salaries or implement substantial budget cuts.

More information

[Coronavirus response: Fisheries and aquaculture](#)

Have your say on the EU mission for healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters

01/09/2020

Do you care about our oceans and seas and got a great idea how to support them? Then maybe the EU missions' call for ideas is just for you!

Inspired by the Apollo 11 mission to put a man on the moon, the European research and innovation missions aim to deliver solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. This includes protecting and restoring the health of our oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters.

The Commission is designing and creating these missions together with input from European citizens. This will ensure that the missions meet their expectations and needs. As part of this process, we have launched an [interactive pilot platform](#) so that anyone can put forward their own ideas and vote for the ones they like best. The opportunity to submit proposals will be open until 6 September, and voting will remain open until 14 September. So check it out now!

The results of the call for ideas will be presented at the online '[European Research & Innovation Days](#)' (22-24 September 2020).

The selected missions will be announced at the end of 2020 and launched in 2021.

Aims of mission for healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters

A mission in the area of healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters will be a powerful tool to raise awareness of their importance among citizens and help develop solutions on a range of issues.

These include

- systemic solutions for the prevention, reduction, mitigation and removal of marine pollution including plastics
- transition to a circular and blue economy
- adaption to and mitigation of pollution and climate change in the ocean
- sustainable use and management of ocean resources
- development of new materials including biodegradable plastic substitutes, new feed and food
- urban, coastal and maritime spatial planning
- ocean governance
- ocean economics applied to maritime activities

More information

[EU missions' call for ideas](#)

[Video: Share your ideas](#)

[Video: Let's fulfil our EU missions](#)

[Mission area: healthy oceans, seas coastal and inland waters](#)

[EU missions – oceans](#)

Coronavirus response: Romanian aquaculture farmers benefit from additional EMFF support

01/09/2020

Following the unprecedented outbreak of the coronavirus, the European Commission has taken swift action to protect the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from severe shocks by introducing specific measures, including amendments to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Subsequently, Romania has modified its operational programme and has allocated €5 million of public support to compensate aquaculture companies for financial loss caused by the coronavirus outbreak. To ensure sufficient funds, Romania reallocated €1.8 million from other areas of the programme.

It is expected that over 160 aquaculture farms who are economically affected by the coronavirus, will benefit from the income support scheme. The farmers may use the granted compensations to cover their temporary losses. This ensures that they can

continue their activities. Thus, the scheme will help mitigate shocks to the entire sector by avoiding downsizing measures such as staff reduction and suspension of activity. The compensations will be based on the average income from sales in the last three years. The minimum support will be €15 000.

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has put the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sectors under substantial pressure. Many fishermen and -women, producers, and processors have been forced to suspend or severely reduce their activities. The closure of sales venues, markets, outlets, and distribution channels has seen a substantial drop in prices and volumes.

Euronews Ocean season 2, episode 7: What's wrong with eastern Baltic cod? 01/09/2020

The pandemic isn't the only problem for Polish fishermen: for months, their vessels couldn't leave port due to the ongoing ban on catching cod. What's wrong with the most popular white fish in Europe? In this episode, we visit Kolobrzeg, a Polish port city traditionally relying on eastern Baltic cod.

We meet local fishers, processors and shipbuilders to learn firsthand how the cod emergency impacts their work. Next, we talk to DTU Aqua scientists in Denmark, presenting current understanding of the complex environmental drivers of high cod mortality in the Baltic, and explaining why fishing restrictions are a necessary measure to ensure sustainability of the sea and long-term future of fisheries.

Tune in to Euronews from 1 September @ 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](#).

Fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2021: improving long-term sustainability of stocks

28/08/2020

The Commission has adopted its proposal for fishing opportunities 2021 for the Baltic Sea.

Eastern Baltic cod

Q: Why does the Commission propose to maintain all accompanying measures, and in addition, further reduce the by-catch total allowable catches, which is already very low in 2020?

It has been known for several years that Eastern Baltic cod was not doing well. In 2019, scientists discovered that the stock was actually in a worse state than expected and warned that this fish stock had been below safe biological limits for several years. It is expected to stay at such low depleted levels at least in the medium term even without any fishing. The Commission therefore invited Member States in early 2019 to take action. Some did, others did not. As the stock is widely distributed in the Baltic Sea and as all Member States of the Baltic Sea participate in the fishery, the Commission decided to take action at EU-level and adopted in July 2019 emergency measures prohibiting for the rest of 2019, fishing for cod in the most concerned areas with some derogations.

For 2020, scientists advised to totally stop any catches of cod. As many fisheries have at least some by-catches of cod, a total fishing ban would have led to "choke" situations. On the other hand, there could no longer be targeted fisheries on cod and by-catches of cod of course needed to be drastically limited. The Commission therefore proposed and the Council agreed to establish a very limiting total allowable catches (hereafter TAC) which can only be used for by-catches of cod in order to avoid that other fisheries in the Baltic Sea have to be stopped entirely. As the scientists had

unfortunately not been in a position to provide on time a figure for those by-catches that cannot be avoided in other fisheries, the TAC was set based on an estimation made by the Commission.

As expected, for 2021 the scientist advise a continued stop for all catches of cod. In addition, the scientists provided different scenarios and related figures for by-catches of cod in other fisheries. The Commission has taken those figures as a basis for its proposal and estimates that the scenario of 20% cod by-catches on average in other fisheries is a reasonable one given the dire situation of the eastern Baltic cod stock. [Read more](#)

Mediterranean and Black Seas: Commission proposes fishing opportunities for 2021

17/08/2020

The Commission adopted a proposal for fishing opportunities for 2021 in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas.

With this proposal, the Commission is delivering on the political commitments made in the MedFish4Ever and the Sofia Declarations to promote sustainable management of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. It reflects the Commission's ambition for sustainable fisheries.

The proposal implements the multiannual management plan for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, by continuing to reduce the fishing effort in the area.

It also includes measures for eel, red coral, dolphinfish, small pelagic species and demersal stocks in the Adriatic, deep water red shrimps stocks in the Ionian Sea, Levant Sea and the Strait of Sicily, in line with the decisions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

In the Black Sea, catch limits and quotas are proposed for turbot and sprat. For turbot, the proposal will transpose the EU quota 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 2020.

The Member States are expected to decide on the proposal at the November Agriculture and Fisheries Council. The regulation is to be applied as of 1 January 2021.

Background

The Commission promotes an enhanced multilateral approach and cooperation to fisheries management in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. A new governance was established following the adoption of the Malta "[MedFish4ever](#)" and [Sofia Declarations](#).

The multiannual management plan for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean adopted in June 2019 introduced a fishing effort regime for trawlers intended to achieve an overall reduction of up to 40% in five years. A 10% reduction has already been implemented in 2020, the first year of implementation of the MAP.

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean is a regional fisheries management organisation competent for the conservation and management of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Over the last three years, the GFCM has adopted the impressive number of 40 conservation, management and control measures, at the proposal of the European Union. Out of these, 15 measures were adopted in 2019 alone. They include ground-breaking management measures. For instance, a management plan for eel in the Mediterranean Sea and emergency measures for 2019-2021 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea, adopted in 2018 and the management plan for demersal stocks in the Adriatic, adopted in 2019, which addresses the alarming state of key stocks, in particular hake. Other iconic species are now covered by management plans, with the adoption of management plans for red coral, blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea, deep water red shrimps in the Strait of Sicily, Ionian and Levant Seas, as well as dolphinfish under fish aggregating devices (FADs).

In 2017 the GFCM adopted a multiannual management plan for turbot in the Black Sea, introducing management and control measures to be implemented for the first time at regional level. The multiannual plan was subsequently reviewed at the GFCM 2019 annual session,

where a new quota allocation has been agreed upon by contracting parties.

More information

[Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#)

Coronavirus response: additional EMFF support available to Bulgarian fisheries and aquaculture sectors

29/07/2020

Following the unprecedented outbreak of the coronavirus, the European Commission has taken rapid action to protect the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from severe shocks by introducing specific measures, including amendments to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Subsequently, Bulgaria has modified its Operational Programme and has reallocated €6.6 million of public support to compensate companies for financial loss caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The additional financial support is expected to lead to positive results, improving the lives of people across the entire sector, and preventing bankruptcies, closures, downsizing, and employment reduction.

The fisheries sector will receive €763 835 to compensate for economic losses from cessation of fishing activities. Over 100 fishermen and women will benefit from this support and the number is expected to increase further. The maximum grant amounts to €40 876 per fishing vessel, including compensation for the crew. This support covers both smaller and bigger operators, making it possible to keep family businesses running and saving jobs.

Aquaculture farmers who are economically affected by the coronavirus outbreak will receive €4 027 769, while the processing sector will get €1 835 167. Support is available for the purchase of goods, raw materials, and supplies related to the company's activities, along with storage and personnel costs. The maximum grant amount for a single project is €40 876.

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has put the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sectors

under substantial pressure. Many fishermen and women, producers, and processors have been forced to suspend or severely reduce their activities. The closure of sales venues, markets, outlets and distribution channels has seen a substantial drop in prices and volumes.

Euronews Ocean season 2, episode 6: Recreational fisheries

28/07/2020

With many Covid-19 restrictions lifted, millions of Europe's anglers can finally go fishing again. It's a popular hobby, bringing billions of euros to Europe's coastal economies. But there is a catch. Critics say unrestricted fishing threatens vulnerable species and can interfere with other marine sectors. How can they find common ground?

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.

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Atlantic action plan 2.0: A revamped maritime strategy to foster a sustainable blue economy and the EU Green Deal

23/07/2020

The European Commission has adopted an updated action plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Atlantic area, covering France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

At a time of social and economic uncertainty, the EU is preparing the next generation of EU-

funded programmes to foster economic recovery. The revamped action plan will give new impetus to the Atlantic maritime strategy and will strengthen the participating countries' recovery efforts. It will contribute to the European Green Deal, a socially inclusive model of sustainable development and job creation, while safeguarding marine and coastal environments and securing a healthy ocean.

Focusing on offsetting the adverse socio-economic impact of the crisis, the new action plan proposes concrete actions for the development of the blue economy in the Atlantic, addressing challenges, such as:

- The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development of renewable energy - by supporting research and investment in marine renewable energy (going beyond offshore wind) for which the Atlantic has a huge potential;
- The fight against marine pollution - by promoting green shipping and coordinating actions against marine litter;
- The creation of new jobs - by addressing the skills gaps in the blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU training centres and businesses;
- The adaptation to climate change - by improving coastal observation and designing and promoting cost effective coastal protection measures.

The action plan also has a strong international dimension in The Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance including USA, and Canada, Brazil and South Africa. The participating Member States may decide, in consultation with the European Commission, to expand the membership of the Atlantic strategy to any interested state.

The action plan will reinforce cooperation among the participating countries and include coastal regions and stakeholders. A solid monitoring framework will measure progress and impact.

The main sources of funding will be European Structural and Investment Funds, including the future territorial cooperation programme in the Atlantic area and the European Maritime and

Fisheries Fund (EMFF). In addition to the national and regional funding, the action plan will also rely on sources such as Horizon Europe, Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE programme and innovative financial instruments managed by the European Investment Bank, such as the InvestEU programme for decarbonisation and the circular economy.

Background

The Commission adopted the [Atlantic maritime strategy](#) in 2011 in response to repeated calls for more ambitious, open and effective cooperation in the Atlantic Ocean area. The strategy identified the challenges and opportunities facing the region, grouping them under five thematic headings:

- implementing the ecosystem approach
- reducing Europe's carbon footprint
- sustainable exploration of the natural resources on the sea floor
- responding to threats and emergencies
- socially inclusive growth.

In 2013, the European Commission introduced an [Atlantic action plan](#) to implement the strategy. This plan provided a framework for dynamic project development at local, regional and national levels, as advocated in the Atlantic maritime strategy.

The original action plan showed tangible results through 1,200 new maritime projects primarily targeting environmental protection, improved connectivity and social inclusion in the Atlantic area. Together, these projects represent investments of nearly €6 billion.

The new strategy has been prepared based on a broad consultation and a mid-term review published in 2018.

More information

[Atlantic action plan - infographic](#)
[A new approach to the Atlantic maritime strategy - Atlantic action plan 2.0](#)
[Staff working document accompanying the communication](#)

Arctic policy: EU launches consultation on the future approach

20/07/2020

The European Commission and the European External Action Service have

jointly launched a public consultation on the way forward for the European Union's Arctic policy.

The consultation will enable a broad reflection on the EU's Arctic policy in the face of new challenges and opportunities, including the EU's ambitions under the [European Green Deal](#). The consultation seeks input on the strengths and shortfalls of the existing policy, with a view to possibly preparing an updated approach.

The consultation will help to re-examine the role of the EU in Arctic affairs, revise the three priorities of the current Joint Communication on An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic, and identify possible new policy areas to be developed.

Fighting climate change and its impacts and protecting the environment are key objectives for the region. Promoting sustainable development in the Arctic to the benefit of those who live there, including indigenous peoples, is another priority for the EU. Therefore, it is essential that we continue improving our knowledge of the changes happening in the Arctic region and identifying sustainable responses. Science, innovation and strong support for multilateral cooperation underpin the EU's approach to the Arctic.

[Have your say until 10 November 2020](#)

[Press release: Arctic policy: EU opens consultation on the future approach](#)

Commissioner Sinkevičius announces more transparency on its proposals for fishing opportunities

16/07/2020

The Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius announced that the Commission would increase transparency in the negotiating process on the annual fishing opportunities (or total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas).

In the future, all elements of the Commission documents complementing the proposals on fishing opportunities, such as “non-papers”, will be made public when they are transmitted to the Council. Non-papers on fishing opportunities complement the initial

Commission proposals by translating new scientific advice or the results of international negotiations, which were not yet available when the initial proposal was adopted. This will make the negotiating process more transparent from the Commission's side.

The announcement was made during a meeting, which the Commissioner hosted with a group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Pew Charitable Trusts, Fisheries Secretariat, Oceana, Seas at Risk, Coalition Clean Baltic, WWF, Our Fish and ENT.

What's next for the future of our ocean? EU launches consultation on international ocean governance

15/07/2020

The European Commission and the European External Action Service have launched a targeted consultation to assess development needs and options for the EU's international ocean governance agenda.

Ocean governance concerns the international and regional processes, agreements, rules and institutions that allow the international community to coordinate and work together for conservation and sustainable use at sea, where challenges cannot be tackled by one country alone.

The consultation aims to identify relevant actions in light of today's challenges and opportunities to deliver global sustainability objectives for oceans in particular the Sustainable Development Goal on the oceans (SDG14) under the 2030 Agenda in support of the [European Green Deal](#).

Background

The European Commission and the European External Action Service adopted the international ocean governance agenda in 2016 to promote an effective and coherent EU contribution towards healthy, clean, secure, safe and sustainably managed oceans. The agenda identified 50 actions to improve the international framework, reduce pressures, facilitate a sustainable blue economy, and strengthen international ocean research and data.

A progress report published in March 2019 confirmed timely delivery of most actions and confirmed the agenda's value for concerted and targeted EU action. In light of the growing scientific evidence that further action is needed to tackle ocean challenges including climate change and the rapid loss of marine biodiversity, EU Member States expressed their support to follow-up and further develop the international ocean governance agenda in the [Council Conclusions on Oceans and Seas](#) adopted in November 2019.

The consultation will help to:

1. re-examine the EU's role in strengthening international ocean governance;
2. re-examine the three priorities of the current agenda and its goals and actions; and
3. identify new policy areas or actions to tackle existing or emerging challenges

Stakeholders within and beyond Europe including public authorities, international organisations, NGOs, financial institutions, academic, scientific, social and economic partners are encouraged to participate.

The consultation complements the [International Ocean Governance Forum](#), launched with a virtual event on 22-24 April 2020, to support follow-up and development of the agenda. The next meeting of the forum will take place in Brussels, 14-16 December 2020.

[Have your say until 15 October 2020](#)

Sustainable fisheries: Cooperation with Mauritania continues

09/07/2020

The EU is actively promoting sustainable fisheries around the world. In this context, the EU has on 7 July extended the protocol to the existing Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for one year.

The protocol promotes responsible fishing and sustainable management of fishing resources, including enhanced transparency measures. The extension ensures continuity in cooperation and further progress towards sustainable fishing.

The fisheries partnership agreement with Mauritania is the biggest mixed agreement for the EU both in financial terms and in terms of fishing opportunities. Under the current framework with Mauritania, the EU fleet is authorized to fish in Mauritanian waters for shrimp, demersal fish, tuna and small pelagics, up to around 287,000 tonnes per year. In addition to the fees paid by the European fleet, the EU pays a financial contribution of €61,625,000 per year, including over €4,000,000 to support the fisheries policy in Mauritania, in particular the improvement of research and fisheries governance.

Despite intentions to agree a new protocol, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the initial planning for the negotiations. The parties considered a one-year extension of the current protocols to be the most pragmatic approach to avoid interruption in the activity of Union fishing vessels in Mauritanian waters. The extensions will be on the same terms as the current ones, with identical fishing opportunities for EU vessels as well as identical financial contributions from both the European Union and the ship-owners. Meanwhile, negotiations for a new agreement and protocol will continue with a view to the adoption of a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement, before the expiration of the agreed extension.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

21-22 September 2020

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
BS AC	21-22/9/2020	virtual	Ecosystem based WG
MAC	22-23/09/2020	TBC	ExCom, WGs
NWW AC	24/09/2020	virtual	GA
BIS AC	29/09/2020	Constanta	WG5
MED AC	29/09/2020	virtual	WG2, FG equal opportunities
MED AC	30/09/2020	virtual	WG1, FG Adriatic
BIS AC	30/09/2020	Constanta	ExCom
AAC	07/10/2020	virtual	WG
SWW AC	07/10/2020	virtual	Pelagic and traditional WG
PEL AC	07/10/2020	TBC	WG I and II
PEL AC	08/10/2020	TBC	GA and ExCom
NS AC	08/10/2020	TBC	Ecosystem WG
AAC	09/10/2020	virtual	ExCom
BS AC	27/10/2020	virtual	ExCom

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council ([link](#))
- NS AC: North Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MEDAC: 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**: FocusGroup

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			
08-09/10/2020	NEAFC	PECMAS	TBD
10-13/11/2020	NEAFC	NEAFC Annual Meeting 2020	Video conference (TBC)

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2020			
4-12 October (TBC) Postponed to 2021	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Dialogue on the ocean and climate change during the UN Climate Change meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB52)	Bonn, Germany
<i>5-6 October postponed to October 2021</i>	GFCM	<i>Ministerial Conference on Black Sea fisheries</i>	<i>Georgia (TBC)</i>
12-15 October	Extended Commission for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	Compliance Committee and Annual meeting	VC
26-30 October Postponed to 21-27 September 2021	Intergovernmental Global Conference on Aquaculture	Aquaculture for food and sustainable development	Shanghai
26 October – 6 November	Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Marine Resources (CCAMLR)	Annual meeting	VC
<i>2-6 November postponed to May 2021</i>	GFCM	<i>Annual Session</i>	<i>Tirana, Albania</i>
2-6 November 2020	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Annual meeting	VC
9-17 November	UN	Informal Consultations on the UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries	New York
10-13 November	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)	Annual Meeting	Video conference (TBC)
Mid-November (TBD)	OECD	Committee for Fisheries (COFI)	Paris
18-24 November	UN	Second round of Informal Consultations on the UNGA Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea	TBD
Postponed to 2021	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	Annual meeting	TBD

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		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, the third one in December 2019 (Brussels) and the fourth one in February 2020 (Nouakchott). During the fifth round in July 2020 (videoconference), another 1-year extension of the current protocol was agreed.
	Morocco	17 July 2023	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 applied provisionally. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol in June 2020. The first JCM took place in October 2019 in Brussels.

	Greenland	31 December 2020			suspended on 9 July 2020	/		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. The third round took place from 9 to 10 June 2020 (videoconference). The fourth round of negotiations was suspended on 9 July 2020.
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 applied provisionally. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol in 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			15 September 2020	Video conference	/		Adopted on 22 October 2015	Negotiations resumed in June and July 2020 (4th round).
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol					/		Adopted on 3 March 2017	The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016.
	Liberia	8 December 2020			/	/				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 June 2020 (videoconference).
	Equatorial Guinea	N/A								The ex-ante evaluation was approved at the end of November 2016.
	São Tomé and Príncipe	18 December 2024	Q3 2020	TBD	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 24 October 2019	The negotiations were concluded on 17 April 2019 and the new protocol was initialled. The new protocol was signed on 19 December 2019 and applies provisionally pending EP consent. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol in June 2020. Last JCM took place on 17-18 March 2020 in Brussels.

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.
	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 SFPA 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		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 SFPA with the EU.
	Kenya	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 18 July 2016		
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13 October 2020			TBD		/	Adopted on 7 July 2020		The current protocol is in force since 14 October 2016. Currently the only SFPA in the Pacific. Last JCM took place in Rarotonga from 20 to 22 February 2019. Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation finalised. The first round of negotiations took place on 16 July 2020 (videoconference).
	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. A one-year extension was agreed upon in July 2020. 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

- Monday 28 September, 17:45-18:45
- Thursday 1 October, 09:00-11:00

- Monday 12 October, 13:45-15:45
- Monday 12 October, 16:45-18:15

- Monday 26 October, 16:45-18:45
- Tuesday 27 October, 09:00-11:00
- Tuesday 27 October, 13:45-15:45

- Monday 16 November, 14:45-16:45
- Monday 16 November, 16:45-18:45

- Wednesday 2 December, 09:00-12:30
- Wednesday 2 December, 13:45-15:45
- Thursday 3 December, 09:00-12:30

USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [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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