



Committee on Fisheries

The Trawler

TOP NEWS - APRIL 2021

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday, 12 April 2021, 16.45 – 18.45

Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 13.45 – 16.15 & 16.45 – 18.45

ANTALL 6Q1 & VISIOCONFERENCE

Monday, 19 April 2021, 16.45 – 18.45

(Brussels time)

ANTALL 6Q2 & VISIOCONFERENCE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Vote on the draft report "Securing the objectives of the landing obligation"
- ▶ Vote on the draft opinions on "Atlantic maritime strategy" and the "Farm to Fork Strategy"
- ▶ Presentation of the draft report on the "Brexit Adjustment Reserve"
- ▶ Exchange of views on EU-Norway bilateral and trilateral fisheries arrangements
- ▶ State of play in the implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement EU-UK

On-going dossiers page 2 page 5 Studies & briefing notes page 7 Fisheries news AC meetings page 16 International meetings page 17 Partnership agreements page 18 Committee on Fisheries page 21 Calendar of PECH meetings page 22

AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

10 & 25 May 2021

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve COM(2020)0854 2020/0380(COD) PECH/9/05067	Bellamy	COD Rule 57 PECH/REGI & BUDG	10/05/2021	TBC
Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus COM(2020)0670 - C9-0336/2020 2020/0302 (COD) PECH/9/04509	Mato	COD	TBC	TBC
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	16/11/2020	TBC Pending Council GA
Reports adopted in PECH Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean COM(2019)619 - C9-0188/2019 2019/0272(COD) PECH/9/02027	Ferrandino	COD	Trilogue closed on 10/11/2020	TBC
Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd reading)	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
European Maritime Fisheries & Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/9/01216	Mato	COD	Trilogue closed: 03/12/2020 Prov. agreement adopted: 22/02/2021	2nd Reading adoption (tbc)
Fisheries control COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/9/00323	Aguilera	COD	25/01/2021 01/02/2021 05/02/2021	10/03/2021
NLE reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement EU-Greenland COM(2021)0072 2021/0037 (NLE) PECH/9/05416	Karleskind	NLE (with resolution)	TBC	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*	25/05/2021	ТВС
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea 2019/2159 (INI) PECH/9/01967	Hristov	INI*	16-17/06/2021	JULY
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*	25/05/2021	JULY (tbc)
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI*	TBC	ТВС
The future of fisheries in the Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean in the light of the UK's withdrawal from the EU 2021/2016 (INI) PECH/9/05507	Pizarro	INI*	TBC	ТВС
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP 2019/2177 (INI) PECH/9/01993	Gade	INI*	19/04/2021	MAY (tbc)
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	25/05/2021	JUNE (tbc)
Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
Farm to Fork strategy 2020/2260(INI) PECH/9/02601	Bilbao Barandica	INI	19/04/2021	03/06/2021
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 2020/2273(INI) PECH/9/03084	Mato	INI	17-18/03/2021	22/04/2021
Atlantic maritime strategy – Atlantic action plan 2.0 2020/2276(INI) PECH/9/04116	Karleskind	INI	19/04/2021	13/07/2021

_

 $^{^{*}}$ As long as the EP operated in "business continuity mode", Committees were instructed to focus on priority legislative files; INI reports were presented/discussed only from September 2020 onwards.

A European strategy for offshore renewable energy 2021/2012 (INI) PECH/9/05437	Chabaud	INI	TBC	JULY
Budget 2022 of the European Union – Section III – Commission	Chair	BUDG	TBC	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 (workshop)
- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture (study)
- Costs & benefits of fish stock recovery areas as tools for fisheries management and other effective area-based conservation measures (A case study assessment)
- Artificial Intelligence and the fisheries sector, including measures to improve traceability (study)
- Animal welfare of farmed fish (study)

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

CFP and fisheries management

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

Workshop on The discard ban and its impact on the Maximum Sustainable Yield objective on fisheries The discard ban and its impact on the MSY objective - The Bay of Biscay case/The Baltic Sea/The North Sea Options of handling choke species in view of the EU landing obligation - the Baltic plaice example Landing obligation and choke species in mixed fisheries - North Sea/North-Western Waters/South-Western Waters

European fisheries - latest developments and future challenges

Stocks

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

Structural Policy and economics

Markets of fisheries and aquaculture products: The added value chain and the role of promotion, labelling and consumer information - Small-scale fisheries case

Feasibility of measuring socio-economic and environmental impacts of recreational and semi-subsistence fisheries in the EU

Seafood Industry Integration in the EU

The management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions

Sustainable 'blue growth' in the EU and opportunities for small-scale fisheries

Regional ocean governance in Europe: the role of fisheries

"Marine Recreational and Semi-subsistence fishing - its value and its impact on fish stocks" Training of Fishers

Workshop on the Implementation and Impact of EMFF Measures on the Common Fisheries Policy Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018

External dimension

Impact of fisheries partnership agreements in the development of employment in the EU and in third countries Consequences of Brexit for the Common Fisheries Policy

Legal framework for governance

Trade and economic related issues

Resources and fisheries

Mission briefings

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

@ You can access the studies and other documents via this link

FISHERIES NEWS IN BRIEF

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT News - Press service

Parliament urges EU to take drastic action to reduce marine litter 25/03/2021

Boosting recycling in the fisheries sector and substantially cutting the use of plastics are key to clean our seas, say MEPs.

In a report adopted on Thursday by 646 votes in favour, 3 against and 39 abstentions, MEPs stress that marine litter, and especially micro and nano plastic, "poses a serious threat to a number of marine animal species", as well as to fishermen and consumers. They highlight that an average consumer of Mediterranean shellfish ingests around 11 000 fragments of plastic every year. The fishing sector is estimated to lose between 1 and 5% of its revenue because of marine pollution.

Fisheries and aquaculture waste accounts for 27% of marine litter. Therefore, Parliament urges the EU to accelerate the development of a <u>circular economy</u> in this sector by phasing out expanded polystyrene packages and improving marine waste collection and recycling channels. Research on sustainable materials and new designs for fishing gears are also key, MEPs add.

EU action plan to tackle pollution

Only 1.5% of fishing gear is currently recycled in the EU and some gear that is abandoned, lost or discarded at sea "remains active for months or even years". These so-called ghost nets "indiscriminately impact all marine wildlife, including fish stocks", the report alerts. To address this issue, MEPs demand the Commission and member states to adopt the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear.

Parliament also demands an EU action plan to substantially reduce the use of plastics and to tackle the pollution of rivers, water courses and coastlines, highlighting that 80% of marine waste comes from the land. MEPs also call for more research to be carried out on the impact

of marine litter and micro and nano plastic on fishery resources.

Context

Only 1% of the plastic in the ocean is found floating on the surface, whilst most of it ends up in deep-sea. Every day, 730 tonnes of waste are dumped directly into the Mediterranean and every year a further 11 200 tonnes of plastics dumped in the environment find their way into the Mediterranean, affirms the report, based on information from the World Wildlife Fund.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION News - Press service

31 March 2021: D-Day for Maritime Spatial Planning in Europe! 31/03/2021

Competition for maritime space. To some, it could invoke references to the 17th century Anglo-Dutch wars, fighting for control over trade routes, but in fact it is a very topical – though much more civilized – affair today.

As we are developing the blue economy with not just fisheries and trade, but also tourism, aquaculture, offshore energy, blue biotechnology or indeed marine environment protection, we need to find an effective, sustainable and safe way to coordinate all those activities. Not only within a countries' own coastal areas, but across sea basins. And not just today, but over the next decades.

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) does exactly that. It makes sure that conflicts between various sectors are not just solved, but prevented. Where to place underwater cables without hindering shipping, for example? Or how to develop large wind parks while keeping fishing activities profitable? It is a complex puzzle, but with good planning, there is a solution to satisfy everyone!

Introduced in European legislation since 2014, MSP is gradually being rolled out across EU member states with support from the EU. Today, 31 March 2021, is the deadline for member states to develop their national MSP plans and share it, within 3 months, with the

Commission. By next year, a report will be published on the state of play.

A lot has happened since the creation of the EU MSP policy. An Assistance Mechanism was launched in 2016 to provide administrative and technical support to EU countries in implementing the MSP legislation. The European MSP platform was set up, featuring information on existing MSP practices, processes and projects, a question and answer service, technical studies and a focal point service for EU countries. And several EUfunded projects have been rolled out to facilitate cooperation across sectors and countries.

The EU has become the undisputed leader on MSP worldwide, and promotes the practice with third countries, for example through the International MSP Forum. Together with UNESCO-IOC, it has set up #MSPGlobal, which is expected to triple the area of territorial waters that benefit from an effectively implemented MSP system.

The key to the success of EU maritime spatial planning is that it takes a holistic approach. Therefore, quite a-typical for EU law, the legal basis of the EU MSP Directive is not only the common fisheries policy, or environment, or transport policy, but all of that and more. This may sound "legalese", but it is not. It shows that all of those areas are equally important and their interests need to converge. And talking about laws, did you know that the MSP Directive is the only piece of EU legislation for which a game has ever been developed?

Today we want to highlight a few interesting projects and sources of information. Take the opportunity to share your efforts on social media, tagging @EU_MARE on Twitter and EUMaritimeFish on Facebook! Read more

Euronews OCEAN Season 3 Episode 3 - Health

30/03/2021

The blue biotechnology sector is a fascinating niche in the European blue economy. It uses living marine organisms – algae, bacteria, fungi, shellfish – to develop new, sustainable applications for a variety

of sectors, ranging from pharmaceuticals and textiles to chemicals, packaging, fuel and more.

In this Euronews OCEAN episode, we zoom in on what the blue bioeconomy has brought to the healthcare and pharmaceuticals sector. In recent years, marine biotechnology has led to the development of promising new medicines, therapies, diagnostics and vaccines. (Yes, that includes covid-19 vaccines!)

For example, biotechnological breakthroughs have created new medicines for patients suffering from growth diseases, metabolic diseases, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease.

We follow the Sea4Us project and are diving with marine researchers collecting invertebrate samples in the Portuguese Algarve. Our reporter will also visit the Sea4Us lab in Lisbon where they're studying sponges, looking for molecules with anti-pain properties for potential pharmaceutical use.

Finally, we also meet research teams at the CIIMAR centre in Porto. They conduct EU-funded projects studying marine cyanobacteria in the fight against cancer and obesity.

Tune in to Euronews from 30 March @ 20:50 CET – on any platform.

OCEAN is a Euronews magazine in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). Season 3 features monthly 8-minute videos where we highlight fascinating projects and developments related to the ocean and coastal communities.

The first two seasons 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

Sea4Us project website https://sea4us.pt/en/

Register to the virtual European Maritime Day Den Helder, 20-21 May 2021

29/03/2021

European Maritime Day this year is going virtual from Den Helder, The Netherlands on 20 and 21 May 2021. Check the provisional programme, with plenaries on Sustainable Blue Economy and Green Recovery, 20 attracting workshops, 3 pitch stage sessions and many B2B meetings opportunities.

The high-level plenary sessions including inspirational speakers and leadership exchanges, the pitch stages and the 20 stakeholders' workshops of EMD 2021 will be broadcasted from Den Helder "EMD studio", where moderators and key speakers will be connected remotely with other speakers. Registered participants will be able to attend all these sessions via webstreaming. The stakeholders' workshops will be interactive and will run virtually via video conferencing (Zoom or similar tool).

Check the <u>programme</u> and <u>register</u> to <u>participate</u> to any session you are interested in.

Read more on the EMD website

A new sustainable food from the oceans? EU funds HOLOFARM sea cucumber farming

26/03/2021

With a growing demand for sustainable and healthy food, sea cucumbers may just be the next big thing for European aquaculture. Closely related to sea urchins and starfish, they are the marine equivalents of terrestrial earthworms: they rework and reoxygenate the seabed, and feed on the waste produced by other organisms such as oysters.

Asian cultures appreciate the species for its delicate flavour and use it in traditional medicine. International trade in sea cucumbers has been recorded as early as the 18th century! And as the international demand continues to increase, putting pressure on wild stocks, farming sea cucumbers is not just a lucrative

economic opportunity, but also a way to protect marine biodiversity.

The EU-funded project HOLOFARM explores how farming sea cucumbers (try to pronounce: "holothuriculture") in Europe can make a difference. The project is led by Agrocampus Ouest Institute at Rennes in France, an international reference in research on the subject, and involves several French academic and professional partners as well as local stakeholders. However, it is not just a French party. Once the necessary techniques have been developed, sea cucumber farming can be replicated anywhere in European coastal areas where local conditions suit particular species, with production in either dedicated or integrated multi-trophic facilities.

Through controlled production, HOLOFARM wants to improve sustainable sourcing options for markets around the world and relieve pressure on natural stocks. But the project also has a specific micro-economic objective. By enabling diversification towards new species, HOLOFARM aims to make aquaculture producers more resilient to challenges like climate change, diseases and invasive species. Moreover, in multi-trophic aquaculture (e.g. including as well algae and shellfish), sea cucumbers can improve the quality and productivity of the other farmed species.

From an environmental point of view, the HOLOFARM project looks in particular at biodiversity and ecosystem services.

After two periods of natural reproduction in 2019 and 2020 (disturbed by the COVID pandemic), the HOLOFARM team has succeeded in storing brood stock from a natural environment and recorded successful spawning, followed by larval rearing and production in their experimental hatchery. Test growth protocols have been established and trials at sea will be launched as soon as they have administrative approval. Much more research, including on behaviour, diet and mapping of microbial gut flora is ongoing.

The EMFF provides opportunities for research organisations to carry out innovative projects in partnership with companies or professional organisations with which they do not normally collaborate.

A positive side effect of the project is that it has also strengthened the links between research structures, professional organisations and partner companies. The experience has convinced the beneficiary of the value of such collaboration, which could seem complex at first but in the end proves to be very rewarding. **Did you like this story?**

Then also check out the March edition of Euronews Ocean episode on health

Keep informed about the project:

Website: https://www.pole-mer-bretagne-atlantique.com/fr/component/projects/project/2522?fbclid=IwAR1IIdLU6nkJlRiZ33fintrQPllErE37QykJ-ykXFpsVDjX74yXhzI-DU8M
Social

Media: https://www.facebook.com/holofarm.
bzh/

CARBIOTECH extracts OMEGA-3 health supplement from algae, thanks to EU support

26/03/2021

We are in 2017, near the beautiful Galician Costa da Morte, the Coast of Death. Meet Jacobo Bouzada Rodríquez, a chemical engineer freshly graduated from the University of Vigo. Having worked on various marine-related research projects, including for fish processing plants, Jacobo wanted to develop a high-value product from a natural resource that is abundantly present in the area: algae.

In particular, Jacobo has laid his eye on a specific kind of micro-algae. called *Crypthecodinium* cohnii, after discovered that the oil from this seaweed was particularly high in omega-3. The fatty acid, known for its health benefits, is widely used as a supplement in the food and nutraceutical industry. His role, Jacobo reckoned, could be to extract, refine and sell this potent, highly unsaturated omega-3 oil to exactly those companies.

The initiative was quickly welcomed by the <u>Costa da Morte FLAG</u>, the local fisheries action group supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. They saw it as an opportunity to bring not just new life but also diversity to their coastal economy, which relies heavily on fisheries and the canning industry.

With help from the FLAG, Jacobo found a production site in the industrial area of Bértoa (Carballo), close to the supply of the microalgae, and he set up a small company Carbiotech, employing two people.

The FLAG contributed with a grant of 200 000 euro, or 40% of the project costs. But the FLAG did more than just chipping in for the investment. They also introduced him to local fishers and shellfish gatherers who could help identify and collect the micro-algae which he would afterwards cultivate in closed-circuit bioreactors.

To start with, the oil would be sold directly to the pharmaceutical industry for omega-3 capsules and other health supplements. As the project set off, Carbiotech already signed a contract with a multinational for its entire production in the initial years: 1000 litres of oil for year 1, 4000 litres of oil for year 2.

Fast forward to 2021. Carbiotech is still alive and kicking, even after the FLAG project finished in August 2019. Nevertheless, Jacobo and his small team had a bumpy ride and needed to adapt to overcome a number of setbacks. In a few years' time, the market had different shifted to a kind algae, Schizochytrium, and so his production had to follow. Together with the University of Vigo they started new research in order to adapt the cultivation. But then COVID-19 showed its ugly face, locking down the research technicians from the university. Carbiotech didn't surrender, and began to work in its own facilities to carry out the necessary research themselves.

Meanwhile, the cultivation of the new microalgae is well underway. The immediate priority now is to improve the productivity so they can produce at a larger scale, which will increase the profitability of the company.

The company continues to look out for funding to increase and research the production of microalgae in bioreactors and expand its market lines. At a later stage, Carbiotech plans to develop and market this type of product itself.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the March edition of Euronews Ocean episode on health

Keep informed about the project:

Website: Costa da Morte FLAG

No quick fixes for quicksilver - but EU supports innovative solutions with MER-CLUB

26/03/2021

When you think about marine pollution, probably you imagine floating debris such as plastic bottles, straws and bags, or discarded fishing nets trapping marine animals. Maybe you picture an oil spill. But would you think of mercury?

Yet pollution of marine waters by mercury is a critical problem worldwide, with major impacts not just on the environment, but also on human health. Decades of industrial activity, mining and fossil fuel combustion have led to large emissions of this heavy metal into the marine environment. Today's surface marine waters contain three times as much mercury as they should.

And the pollution is there to last. Mercury, also known as quicksilver, persists in the environment – and in organisms living in or near that environment – for extensive periods of time. One of those organisms is, well, us. Humans. People eat fish and shellfish that have mercury in their tissues. Exposure at high levels can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages. Even scarier: high levels of the heavy metal in the bloodstream of babies in the womb or young children may harm their nervous systems, and affect their ability to think and learn.

And there's more bad news. Despite the drastic reduction of mercury emissions in recent years, concentrations in marine fish from different European seas remain the same. This level of persistence shows that avoiding new emissions is not sufficient: we also need to clean up and decontaminate the marine environment. Enter MER-CLUB.

MER-CLUB is an EU-funded project aiming to deliver a mercury clean-up system based on microbial bioremediation. If you wonder: it means they plan to use marine bacteria to get rid of the mercury.

Using recent advances in environmental genomics, cell sorting and mercury tracing, MER-CLUB will first identify the

microorganisms that have the potential for mercury bioremediation. Then it will test their performance in a special clean-up system, based on immobilized bacteria able to operate in dredged marine sediments. That system will afterwards serve as a proof of concept for further development and, hopefully, commercial implementation.

MER-CLUB will carry out its actions in sediments from the Baltic, Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Already within the first five years, the consortium of six international research groups and one company is expected to lead to:

- a patented system and a marketable product
- redesign and optimization of the pilot plant to make it economically viable, and the industrial upscaling of the clean-up system
- affordable technology for *ex* situ decontamination of marine sediments

In the long-term, MER-CLUB hopes to develop a full-fledged, eco-friendly *in situ* bioremediation procedure. This would avoid the large costs involved in dredging the sediments and allowing the ecological restoration of large locations for human activities.

As we are almost going live with the muchanticipated new EU approach to a sustainable blue economy, MER-CLUB is a prime example of how the blue economy can provide innovative solutions and help the EU reach its Green Deal objectives, including biodiversity restoration and zero pollution.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the March edition of Euronews Ocean episode on health

Keep informed about the project:

Website: https://mer-club.eu/

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X atM7puGWEc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9dEh5f L7U8

Social Media: https://twitter.com/mer_club

New action plan will boost organic agriculture and aquaculture in Europe 25/03/2021

The European Commission has published a action plan accelerate to development of the organic sector. The plan will boost the production and consumption of organic products, in order to reach 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030, as well as a significant increase in organic aquaculture, as set in the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. Structured around 23 actions, the plan provides the sector with the right tools and enhances the role of organics in the fight against climate change and sustainable resource management, contributing to healthier and biodiverse ecosystems.

Organic farming, including aquaculture, responds to the growing societal demand for quality food produced at high environmental and animal welfare standards. It can contribute to the protection of nature and help reverse the degradation of ecosystems, and plays an important role in the Green Deal ambition of transitioning to sustainable food production and consumption.

With only 4% of total aquaculture production (2015), organic aquaculture is still in its early stages in Europe. Lately, however, the sector seems to be bursting out of its niche. The EUMOFA EU Fish Market 2020 Edition reports a 20% growth in the consumption of organic aquaculture products over the last 5 years, up to even 48% in the case of France. A substantial part of the demand is met through imports coming from e.g. the UK and Norway. This highlights the growth potential and the business opportunities for EU producers.

The action plan: 3 axis, 23 actions

The action plan for the development of the organic sector puts forward actions structured around three axis:

- boosting consumption while maintaining consumer trust
- increasing production
- improving further the sustainability of the sector

To further boost consumption, the action plan emphasizes the importance of communicating about organic farming and its benefits and includes actions such as EU promotion campaigns or strengthening the fight against fraudulent practices, as well as improving traceability.

In line with the new organic legislation, which will enter into application on 1 January 2022, the European Commission also aims at fostering local and small-scale processing. This is crucial to ensure organised and efficient supply chains for organic products and to make sure that small producers can find an outlet for their production.

The Commission will also support research and innovation, for example to improve animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules.

The final section of the action plan emphasises organic farming's drive to lead by example in the transition to sustainable agriculture and aquaculture. This includes a more efficient use of resources, which remains a challenge for the whole agriculture and aquaculture sector. The Commission will, for example, draft guidelines to minimise the use of plastics and will promote efficient use of water and energy. Read more

EMFF/EMFAF: New executive agency takes over programme management from 1 April

23/03/2021

With the implementation of the new longterm EU budget, some EASME managed programmes are moving to the new **European Climate, Infrastructure Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).** From 1 April, the European Maritime and **Fisheries** Fund (EMFF), the Life Programme, Horizon 2020 **Energy** Efficiency and part of the Horizon 2020 Challenge **'Climate** Societal action. environment, resource efficiency and raw materials will be managed by the new agency.

CINEA has just been established by the European Commission (EU2021/173) and will start its operations on 1 April 2021. CINEA will support the implementation of the European Green Deal by managing relevant Union programmes with a total budget of €52bn over the period of 2021-2027, including

parts of Horizon Europe, LIFE, EMFF, the Climate Innovation Fund, the Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism and parts of the Connecting Europe Facility. Watch this short animation to find out more about the CINEA. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund will be soon replaced by the new European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), an ambitious support package for the implementation of the common fisheries policy (CFP), the Union's maritime policy and the EU's agenda for international ocean governance. The EMFF Unit of EASME will become Sustainable Blue Economy Unit of CINEA.

The funding opportunities will be published in the first half of 2021. Find more information about the current EMFF programme on Fisheries website and on EASME website – and continue to read about EUfunded success stories in this newsletter.

Coast guard cooperation: 3 EU Agencies strengthen cooperation in support of Member States

19/03/2021

An important step is taken in further developing the mandate set out in the 2016 European Border Coast Guard Regulation.

The Commission welcomes the renewed cooperation between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on supporting Member States' coast guards in their activities. The 3 agencies signed yesterday new working a arrangement allowing them to continue working together to support national authorities on safety and security at sea including search and rescue, border management, fisheries control. customs activities, law enforcement and environmental protection. The working arrangement notably covers cooperation on risk analysis and information exchange on threats in the maritime domain as well as compliance with fundamental rights, data protection requirements and access rights.

The first working arrangement between Frontex, the EMSA and the EFCA entered into force in March 2017 for a duration of 4 years. Since 2017, the 3 agencies have been working closely together, exchanging relevant operational information, data from Earth observation instruments and providing state-of-the-art technologies and training for Member States authorities.

More information

European Border Coast Guard Regulation

EU, Norway and the United Kingdom conclude key fisheries arrangements on North Sea

16/03/2021

The trilateral arrangement on jointly managed fisheries stocks in the North Sea for 2021 establishes the total allowable catches (TAC) and quota sharing covering over 636,000 tonnes of fish. In parallel, the EU and Norway have concluded bilateral consultations for the shared stocks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and quota exchanges.

Following the departure of the United Kingdom from the EU, the three parties met for the first time in January this year in a trilateral format to agree on the management of key shared stocks in the North Sea. After two months of negotiations, the three parties signed today an agreement, allowing for the joint management of the following stocks: cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice and herring. The agreement on quotas for 5 out of these 6 stocks have been set at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, in line with the scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). This results in quota reductions in 2021 for saithe (-25%), plaice (-2.3%) and herring (-7.4%), but increases in haddock (+20%) and whiting (+19%). Concerning the North Sea, Skagerrak and Eastern Channel cod stocks, the EU had advocated for a decrease of the total allowable catches by 16.5% for 2021. The negotiations resulted in a 10% decrease (i.e. a TAC of 15,911 tonnes) – a slightly less ambitious outcome than the EU had worked for. The parties agreed to continue implementing a range of additional measures, to protect adult and juvenile cod, such as area closures. The EU will also continue to implement its specific control and inspection programme to further reduce catches of younger stock.

The three parties have also agreed to cooperate on monitoring, control and surveillance, organised in a trilateral setting for the first time.

Today, the EU and Norway also signed three bilateral agreements relating to the quota exchanges and reciprocal access in the North parties Both have renewed arrangement on reciprocal access for the jointly managed stocks in the North Sea. In addition, they agreed that for pelagic stocks the EU will have access to catch its quota of Norwegian Spring spawning herring in Norwegian waters, while in the case of blue whiting there will be reciprocal access to waters of the other party to catch up to 141,648 The other main pillar of this arrangement covers quota exchanges of major economic interest to both sides, including 10,274 tonnes of Arctic cod for the EU and 37,500 tonnes of blue whiting for Norway, among many others.

The second bilateral arrangement relates to the setting of the total allowable catches (TACs) and quota sharing for Skagerrak and Kattegat for cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, pandalus, herring and sprat, as well as the bilateral reciprocal access in the area. Finally, the parties also signed the neighbouring arrangement covering the Swedish fishery in Norwegian waters of the North Sea.

The agreements reached today will enable the much anticipated restart of the EU's fishing operations in Norwegian waters, and viceversa, which had been partially discontinued since 31 December 2020.

For more information

Agreed records for jointly managed fish stocks in the North Sea

Despite the setback at the IOTC Special Session, EU remains strongly committed to a rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna

12/03/2021

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) discussed how to rebuild the yellowfin tuna stock in the Indian Ocean during a special session, which took place from 8 to 12 March.

The EU had asked to such a special meeting to be held to adopt specific measures addressing the situation of the yellowfin tuna stock. The EU's clear objective was to have a revised plan for yellowfin tuna adopted that would effectively reduce the catches of this stock in line with the recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee.

Unfortunately, and to the deep regret of the EU, the IOTC Commission was not able to agree on a new measure during its Special Session this week.

The EU made considerable efforts to find a solution, working closely with a number of other IOTC members. The EU presented three successive proposals to accommodate as much as possible the requests for flexibility raised by different IOTC members while safeguarding the overall objective of reducing catches to sustainable levels in line with the scientific advice. Unfortunately, even a joint proposal by the EU and the Maldives could not gather sufficient support from other parties.

The EU will now redouble its efforts to have IOTC adopt a plan to protect yellowfin tuna during the annual meeting in June.

In the meantime, the EU will continue to respect the current framework provided by the IOTC Resolution 19/01 and the catch limits associated to it, while urging other IOTC members to do the same.

Commission publishes knowledge hub on algae biomass

12/03/2021

The Commission's Joint Research Centre has released a new section on its Knowledge for Policy pages, specifically dedicated to algae. The webpage contains facts and figures about algae biomass production in Europe, including a dashboard with production locations. It also links up to ongoing research projects, recent publications and other useful information.

The term 'algae' covers two things. Either we are talking about single-celled microalgae or bacteria, which are cultivated in open ponds or closed systems – the tubes with bright green fluids that you sometimes see in the science pages. Or it means macroalgae, commonly referred to as seaweeds. Macroalgae can be cultivated in aquaculture systems or harvested from wild stocks. Algae are incredibly versatile. We can use them for food and feed, cosmetics, pharmaceutics, plastics, fertilisers and fuels, and we continue to discover new applications.

No wonder algae biomass production has been on the rise worldwide already since the 1950s. In the EU, however, they still represent a largely untapped resource. In 2016, EU algae biomass production contributed only 0.28% to the global production. But production is picking up and production plants meanwhile present in most EU countries. As a renewable, low-carbon feedstock, with great potential to create new markets and jobs – not in the least in coastal areas – they will play a major role in the sustainable growth ambition of the European Green Deal. Not just for carbon-neutrality, but also biodiversity. circular economy and the Farm to Fork strategy for a sustainable food system.

Worldwide, algae are mainly cultivated. In Europe however, 98% of macroalgae biomass has been harvested from wild stocks in 2016, although aquaculture systems are becoming more common.

Wild harvesting is not without risk though. The abundance of several commercially exploited species in Europe has already decreased in some regions due to excessive harvesting. Also global warming, poor water quality and the introduction of non-native species play a role in their decline. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that algae resources are exploited in a sustainable way.

In 2022, the European Commission will present a strategy on algae to promote their sustainable production and consumption, so keep an eye on our upcoming consultations!

More information

Algae biomass

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

26 April 2021

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
NSAC	13/04/2021	virtual	Demersal WG
MAC	14/04/2021	virtual	ExCom
MEDAC	15-16/04/2021	tbc	WG 1, 3, 5, FG Adriatic
PELAC	20-21/04/2021	virtual	WG 1 and 2, ExCom
NSAC	22/04/2021	virtual	Skagerrak & Kattegat WG
LDAC	22/04/2021	videoconference	WG2
SWW AC	28-29/04/2021	virtual	Traditional fisheries & Pelagics WG
BSAC	06/05/2021	virtual	ExCom meeting with EFCA
MEDAC	06-07/05/2021	tbc	FG Strait of Sicily, FG West Med, WG4 Recreational fishery, WG1
LDAC	11/05/2021	videoconference	ExCom (tbc)
LDAC	12/05/2021	videoconference	GA (tbc)
NSAC	27/05/2021	virtual	ExCom
AAC	01-02/06/2021	tbc	WGs
BSAC	08-09/06/2021	virtual	Joint WG
NWW AC	01/07/2021	virtual	Horizontal WG
NWW AC	02/07/2021	virtual	WG 4 Irish Sea, WG 3 English Channel
NWW AC	05/07/2021	virtual	WG 2 Celtic Sea, WG 1 West of Scotland
PELAC	06-08/07/2021	tbc	WG I, II, ExCom
NWW AC	13/07/2021	virtual	ExCom
AAC	20/07/2021	tbc	ExCom

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council (link)
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council (<u>link</u>)
- 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 (<u>link</u>)
- AAC: Aquaculture Advisory Council (link)
- MAC: Market Advisory Council (link)
- BIS AC: Black Sea Advisory Council (link)
- CC RUP: Outermost Regions 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

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2021			
2-4 May	OECD	Committee for Fisheries (COFI)	virtual
18-21 May	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	14 TH Session of the Compliance Committee	Larnaca, Cyprus
30 May-11 June	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Annual meeting and associated meetings	TBD
31 May-4 June	FAO/EU	Third Meeting of the Parties to the Port State Measures Agreement	Virtual
1-5 June	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)	Annual meeting	Edimburgh, United Kingdom
7-10 June	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	Extraordinary meeting	Virtual
9-10 June	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	High-level meeting on the new strategic cycle, MedFish4Ever initatives and post-Covid response	Greece
14 -18 June	UN	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Ocean and the Law of the Sea – twenty-first meeting	New York
21 – 25 June	UN	Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – thirty-first meeting	New York
21-24 June	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Intersessional meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	Virtual
1-2 July	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	Intersessional meeting of Panel 1 Tropical Tunas	Virtual
5-9 July	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	Annual meeting	Mauritius or virtual (TBC)
12-30 July	International Seabed Authority (Finance WG – Council and Assembly)	Bi annual meeting	Kingston - Jamaica
19-21 July	UN	UN pre-Food System Summit	Roma
21 – 23 July	UN	15 th round of informal consultations of States Parties to the UNFSA	New York

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

		EVINDATION	NEXT COMM MEETING	ITTEE	NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2020-2021		LEGAL PROCESS			
COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	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	LATEST INFORMATION (last JCM, last negotiation round, etc.)
AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	15 November 2021 (additional 1-year extension)	ТВС		2nd week of April	TBD	/	Adopted on 8 July 2019		Six round of negotiations took place since September 2019. During the first round, 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. During the fifth round (July 2020), another 1-year extension of the current protocol was agreed. It was signed on 15 November 2020 and applies provisionally from 16 November 2020. EP gave its consent on 15 December 2020. The 7th round of negotiations is ongoing (first session on 26 February 2021, second session on 18- 19 March in Las Palmas, third session scheduled for the 2nd week of April). The last JCM took place in December 2020.
ED AGI	Morocco	17 July 2023	July 2021	Morocco	/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place in December 2020. The next JCM might take place in October 2021.
MIXED .	Senegal	17 November 2024			/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place on 20-21 January 2021.
	The Gambia	30 July 2025	November 2021	Banjul	/	/	/	/	/	
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024	June 2021	VC	/	/	/	/	/	The first JCM took place in October 2019 in Brussels.
	Greenland	31 December 2020 - EXPIRED	April + November 2021		/	/	/	/	Adopted on 26 March 2021	Following four rounds of negotiations, a new Agreement and Protocol were initialled on 11 January 2021. The Council adopted on 26 March its Decision on signature and provisional application, agreed in principle on its Decision on conclusion and forwarded it to the EP for its consent.

	1	1		1 ~	•	ı		1	1	
	Cape-Verde	19 May 2024	May June 2021	Sao Vincente	/	/	/	/	/	
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	Autumn 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	The last JC took place by VC in October 2020
	Gabon	23 July 2016 - EXPIRED	Mid 2021	ТВС			/	Adopted on 22 October 2015		The negotiation for a new protocol ended susceesfully and a new protocol was initialled on 10 February 2021. Procedures are on-going in view of the signature and conclusion of this new Protocol (planned: May 2021)
FRICA	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 3 March 2017		The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016. Currently under IUU yellow card dialogue, no immediate plans for an SFPA.
WEST AFRICA	Liberia	8 December 2020 - EXPIRED	June 2021	TBD	/	/	Adopted on 25 September 2020			The Protocol expired in December 2020. IUU Yellow card. New negotiations will not start until the yellow card in the framework of the IUU dialogue is withdrawn.
	Equatorial Guinea	N/A					/	/	/	The ex-ante evaluation was approved at the end of November 2016. Dormant Agreement in place with no active protocol; currently no plans to request a new negotiation mandate.
	São Tomé and Principe	18 December 2024	Autumn 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place on 9-10 October 2020.
	Comoros	DENOUNCED	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 3 July 2018.
INDIAN OCEAN	Madagascar	31 December 2018 - EXPIRED		TBD	Spring 2021		/	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. An highlevel meeting took place in December 2020 to relaunch the negotiations.
INDI	Mauritius	7 December 2021	May/June 2021	TBD	May/June 2021	TBD	/	/	/	The ex-post ex-ante evaluation for the renewal of the Protocol should be finalised by first half of April, and will be followed by the preparation of the Commission's recommendation for a Council's mandate.
	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. The last JCM took place in February 2016.

	Seychelles	23 February 2026	3-4 March 2021		/	/	/	/	/	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 applied provisionnally until the EP consent in November 2020. The new SFPA and Protocol came into force on 27 November 2021. The first JCM was held via web-conference on 3-4 March 2021.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	5 June 2020 - Tacitely renewed	June/July 2021	VC	June/July 2021	TBD	/	Adopted on 24 October 2019		The 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. The second round of negotiations will be held back to back with the JCM of the current Agreement.
	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 2021 (1- year extension)			12-16 April	VC	/	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). A one-year extension was agreed in 2020 because of the pandemic restriction preventing the negotiations to take place. The last JCM took place on 3 March 2021.
	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	

Coordinators									
EPP	MATO Gabriel		ID	CONTE Rosanna					
S&D	AGUILERA Clara		ECR	TOMAŠIĆ Ruža					
Renew	GADE Søren Gade		The Left	FERREIRA João					
Greens/EFA	O'SULLIVAN Grace								

COMMITTEE ON FISHE FULL MEMBERS	RIES	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	The Left
CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
CARVALHO Maria da Graça	PT	PPE	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CASANOVA Massimo	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	Greens/EFA	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
FERREIRA João	PT	The Left	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	The Left
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MARKEY Colm	IE	EPP
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	The Left	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
JAMET France	FR	ID	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	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
RUISSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	ŽDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR			
WIESNER Emma	SV	Renew			
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2021

- Monday, 10 May, 13:45 15:45
- > Tuesday, 25 May, 09:00 12:00
- > Tuesday, 25 May, 13:45 18:45
- Wednesday, 16 June, 09:00 12:00
- Wednesday, 16 June, 13:45 15:45
- > Thursday, 17 June, 09:00 12:00

USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries link
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) link
- @ Portuguese Presidency of the Council link
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture link
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea link

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.