

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday, 29 November 2021, 16.45 – 18.45

Tuesday, 30 November 2021, 9.00 – 12.00 and 13.45 – 15.45

Thursday, 9 December 2021, 13.45 – 16.15

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Presentation of the draft report on conservation and management measures applicable in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area (WCPFC)
- ▶ Public Hearing on “Data collection and Recreational Fisheries”
- ▶ Debates on the two INIs: “Toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU” & “Small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives”
- ▶ Debate on the impact of cormorants on EU fisheries & aquaculture
- ▶ Presentation of the 2022 Work programme of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) by Executive Director Susan Steele (9 December)
- ▶ Presentation of the proposal for the Accession to the NPFC Convention (North Pacific Fisheries Commission)

CONTENT

Words from the Chair	page 2
On-going dossiers	page 3
Studies & briefing notes	page 6
Fisheries news	page 7
AC meetings	page 14
International meetings	page 15
Partnership agreements	page 16
Committee on Fisheries	page 19
Calendar of PECH meetings	page 20

AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:
(tbc)

24-25 January 2022

10 February 2022

3 March 2022

16-17 March 2022

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



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Pierre KARLESKIND
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

We have come to the last Committee meetings of 2021 and can proudly look back at a busy and eventful year. Two major legislative files have accompanied us over the past months: the Regulation for the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF) for 2021-27 was successfully negotiated and finally adopted before the summer. The Regulation on Fisheries Control is still being negotiated with the Council, with four trilogue meetings held under the Slovenian Presidency. Another sensitive subject, the "fisheries chapter" in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, with the well-known implementation problems related to the access to waters and the issuing of fishing licences by the UK side, was also at the core of our work and will continue to stay in our focus also for the future.

Two important own-initiative reports will be discussed at this meeting: the 1st report analyses the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the EU strategy for a sustainable "blue economy", the 2nd report looks at the state of the small-scale fisheries sector in the EU and the question of what perspectives we could offer to this socially and economically relevant segment of our fishing fleet.

Also, a very interesting public hearing on "Data collection and recreational fisheries" is on the agenda, which may provide us with valuable inputs for the future assessments of fisheries management plans.

Last but not least, the short December meeting will feature the new Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency in Vigo, who will present us the Agency's work programme for 2022. The cooperation between the EFCA and our Committee has always been excellent and we are very confident that the outstanding working relations will continue over the coming years.

With my best wishes for this end of year,

Pierre KARLESKIND

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area (recast) COM(2021)0434 - C9-0345/2021 2021/0248 (COD) PECH/9/07074	Ilčić	COD	TBC	TBC
Amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 as regards restrictions to the access to Union waters COM(2021)0356 - C9-0254/2021 2021/0176 (COD) PECH/9/06466	Karleskind	COD	TBC	TBC
Conservation and management measures for the conservation of the southern Bluefin tuna COM(2021)0424 - C9-0344/2021 2021/0242 (COD) PECH/9/06972	O'Sullivan	COD	TBC	TBC
Conservation and management measures applicable in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area COM(2021)0198 - C9-0153/2021 2021/0103(COD) PECH/9/05881	Carvalhais	COD	25 January 2022 (tbc)	TBC
Reports adopted in PECH Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Fisheries control COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/9/00323	Aguilera	COD	Next trilogue: 7 December 2021	10/03/2021
Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna , <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> COM(2020)0670 - C9-0336/2020 2020/0302 (COD) PECH/9/04509	Mato	COD Rule 52	25/05/2021	(tbc) (pending Council feedback)
Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the IOTC Area of Competence COM(2021)0113 - C9-0095/2021 2021/0058(COD) PECH/9/05595	Mato	COD	Vote on draft report: 28/10/2021 Vote on the mandate: 30/11/2021	TBC

Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd 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	1st Reading adoption: 28/04/2021
NLE reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
SFPA of the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania COM(2021)0589 - 12208/2021 2021/0300 (NLE) PECH/9/07306	Bilbao Barandica	NLE (with resolution)	TBC	TBC
Protocol to the FPA between the Gabonese Republic and the European Community COM(2021)0247 - 09172/2021 2021/0127(NLE) PECH/9/06113	Bilbao Barandica	NLE	27/10/2021	December
INI reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI	TBC	TBC
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	February 2022 (tbc)	April 2022 (tbc)
Small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives 2021/2056 (INI) PECH/9/06038	Pimenta Lopes	INI	February/March 2022 (tbc)	April/May 2022 (tbc)
Toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors 2021/2188(INI) PECH/9/07281	Carvalhais	INI	February 2022 (tbc)	March I 2022 (tbc)
Striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: the way forward 2021/2189(INI) PECH/9/07284	Aguilera	INI	TBC	TBC

The implementation of art.17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation 2021/2168(INI) PECH/9/07125	Roose	INI	March/April 2022 (tbc)	May 2022
State of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives 2021/2169(INI) PECH/9/07126	Mato	INI	TBC	TBC
Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
2020 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) 2021/2127(DEC) PECH/9/06748	Chair	DEC	February 2022	March 2022
Union framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity (recast) 2021/0213(CNS) PECH/9/07168	TBC	CNS	TBC	TBC

**Note on procedures:*

COD: Ordinary legislative procedure; **INI:** Own-Initiative;

NLE: Non-legislative (consent to international agreements); **DEC:** Discharge; **BUD:** Budget; **CNS:** Consultation

RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

- **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 2018):

CFP and fisheries management

- *The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Italian case (2018)*
- *The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Spanish case (2018)*
- *Landing obligation and choke species in mixed fisheries - North Sea/North-Western Waters/South-Western Waters (2018)*
- *European fisheries - latest developments and future challenges (2019)*
- *Implementation and impact of the key European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) measures on the CFP (2019)*
- *The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems (2020)*
- *Implementation of the current EU fisheries control system by Member States (2014-19) (2020)*
- *Workshop on Electronic technologies in monitoring, control and surveillance of EU fisheries - challenges and opportunities (2021)*

Stocks

- *The European eel: reproductive biology, migration and sustainable management (2018)*
- *Environmental, social and economic sustainability of the European eel management (2019)*

Structural Policy and economics

- *Training of Fishers (2018)*
- *Workshop on the Implementation and Impact of EMFF Measures on the Common Fisheries Policy (2019)*
- *Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018 (2019)*
- *Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture (2021)*

Mission briefings

- *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

Fisheries MEPs approve the renewal of the fisheries partnership with Gabon 27/10/2021

The Committee on Fisheries gave a green light to a new protocol to the existing EU fisheries partnership agreement with Gabon on Wednesday.

With 19 votes in favour, 6 against and 3 abstentions, the Committee on Fisheries backed a five-year long protocol (2021-2026), that sets the necessary details of the implementation of the [EU-Gabon Fisheries Partnership Agreement](#).

It ensures fishing opportunities in Gabonese waters (for 32 000 tonnes of total catches per year) for 27 European (French and Spanish) tuna seiners, 6 pole-and-line tuna vessels and 4 trawlers targeting demersal fish and crustaceans in an exploratory fishery. In return EU would provide financial and technical support (€2.6 million per year) to foster a sustainable fisheries policy in Gabon.

Furthermore, the protocol gives better incentives to fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and enhances EU-Gabon cooperation on sound exploitation of fisheries resources, including through vessels monitoring and the electronic transmission of catch data.

Next steps

The Parliament is expected to endorse the agreement in a final vote in one of the next plenary sessions. The new protocol is provisionally applied for a period of five years from the date of its signature by both parties.

Background

The EU-Gabon fisheries agreement entered into force in 2007 for a period of six years. It was tacitly renewed and is still in force. In February 2021, the European Union and Gabon established a [new protocol](#) to their Fisheries Agreement, after current expired in 2016.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

News - Press service

The EU Fish Market 2021 edition is now online 22/11/2021

“The EU fish market” is a comprehensive analysis of the EU fisheries and aquaculture industry. If you want to discover more about what is produced/exported/imported, when and where, what is consumed, by whom and what the main trends are, then have a look at the EUMOFA yearly report. The publication is available in English, French, Spanish, German and Italian.

Effects of COVID-19 pandemic on EU consumers of fishery and aquaculture products in 2020

From 2019 to 2020, household expenditure on fishery and aquaculture products grew by 17%, which was much higher than the 2.1% inflation rate of prices for these products. The growth trend is confirmed by data on household consumption of fresh fish in the EU’s largest fish consuming countries, which showed an increase of 7% in value and 4% in volume. This increase was most likely the result of closures in the hospitality sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequent increase of “at-home” consumption.

The effects of the pandemic are also apparent from the 2020 data on out-of-home consumption of processed products. The most significant decreases from 2019 figures were registered in the largest countries (e.g. Germany, Spain, France, Italy), which were also the ones where restaurants were closed for longer periods.

Improvement of value of the EU trade balance

Due to decreased imports, the trade deficit in 2020 was 10% or € 2 billion lower than in 2019. Values of EU imports decreased more than 2019 volumes because of the significant decrease of high-value species mainly destined for the hospitality sector, which was part of the shutdowns introduced to control the spread of COVID-19. The volume of exports, on the

other hand, showed a slight growth from 2019 but they decreased by 4% in value: cod accounted for most of the overall value decrease, resulting from decreased exports to China and the UK.

Intra-EU exchanges followed the same trend as extra-EU imports, since they largely consist of northern EU Member States exports of products originating from Norway and Iceland – mostly salmon and cod – to other EU countries.

Decreased supply and apparent consumption from 2018 to 2019

Apparent per capita consumption, estimated at 23.97 kg of live weight of mostly wild-caught products, was almost stable in 2019 compared to 2018. According to EUMOFA estimates, in 2019 the EU citizens consumed, on average, 390 grams less of live weight fishery and aquaculture products than in 2018. The drop was driven by a decrease in catches and, consequently, of the apparent consumption of wild products, especially of herring. The total supply of fisheries and aquaculture products for human consumption (production + imports) totalled 14.53 million tonnes of live weight, which represented a 206.402-tonne decrease from 2018. The drop in catches offset the increases in imports and aquaculture production.

[Download the publication in English, French, Spanish, German or Italian.](#)

Background

EUMOFA is a platform developed by the European Commission that offers information on the European Union fisheries and aquaculture sector. It gives access to the latest industry data, analyses EU market dynamics, and supports business decisions and policy-making. Read more about [EUMOFA](#).

More information

["The EU Fish Market" 2021 edition is now online](#)

EU fleet maintains good profits overall, mainly thanks to sustainable fishing practices and management

18/11/2021

[The 2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet](#) confirms that in 2019, the

fleet maintained overall profitability. The report projects similar profitability levels for 2020, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fleet and fish markets. Due to the rise in fuel prices, a reduction in profits is expected for 2021, but the EU fleet is forecast to end 2021 with positive margins, overall. Sustainable fishing practices are helping to mitigate some of the impacts of the rising fuel prices.

The EU fleets remained profitable overall with a landed value of €6.3 billion, gross profits of €1.2 billion and net profits of €597 million in 2019. The good performance was the result of high average fish prices and the improved status of some important fish stocks. Projections suggest similar profitability levels for 2020.

At the same time, the report shows differences in performance across fleet categories and fishing regions. The large-scale fleet segments registered better economic performance than the small-scale coastal fleet segments. Furthermore, the fleet segments operating in the North-Eastern Atlantic, where most fished stocks are managed at sustainable levels, registered higher economic performance than the fleet segments operating in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, where many stocks still face overfishing.

These results provide evidence that there is a strong link between sustainable fishing, economic performance, better salaries and new job opportunities in our coastal communities. Sustainable fishing practices also promote fuel efficiency, as fleet segments that target sustainably managed fish stocks need less effort (fewer days at sea). This, in turn, results in lower fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions and contributes to greater overall profitability of the EU fleet.

The Annual Economic Reports on the EU Fishing Fleet provide an overview of the structure and economic performance of the 22 coastal EU Member State fishing fleets. It is the result of combined work by economic experts from the [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee of Fisheries](#) (STECF) and the European Commission.

More information

[STECF 21-08 - AER 2021](#)

Results of the third Joint Commission in the framework of the fisheries agreement between the European Union and Morocco

15/11/2021

The third Joint Commission of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco met on November 11 and 12, 2021.

The current Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its implementation protocol, entered into force on July 18, 2019. This new agreement creates a strategic governance framework with Morocco, a key partner of the European Union within the framework of the neighborhood policy. It contributes to the preservation of maritime resources and to the economic and social development of the populations living in the areas affected by the agreement.

During this Joint Commission meeting, the parties reviewed the activity and use of fishing opportunities at the end of the second year of the protocol. The parties also examined the state of play of projects supported by European Union for the Moroccan strategy for the development of the fisheries sector.

In this context the European Union supports, in particular, aquaculture projects for the benefit of young entrepreneurs and fishermen's cooperatives, scientific campaigns to assess certain stocks, safety systems at sea, and improvement of conditions of work and protection of seafarers. These projects thus contribute to job creation, capacity building in the sector and the training and integration of women and young graduates into the job market.

The parties commended the quality of the work carried out for the monitoring of the use of the EU support and the progress of the projects at the end of the second year of the protocol, in a difficult context, marked by the COVID 19 pandemic. In fact, more than 99% of the actions programmed for the second year of the protocol were carried out, for an amount of approximately 20 million euros, despite the constraints of the health crisis.

The Joint Commission also examined the geographical and social distribution of the financial contribution in order to ensure that the agreement benefits the territories concerned, in proportion to the fishing activity of European vessels.

Finally, the parties examined the scientific aspects of the agreement, with a view to preserving fishery resources, and agreed to continue joint scientific work in this direction.

Background

Agreements between the European Union and Morocco in the field of fisheries began more than thirty years ago, in 1988, and have continued to be strengthened in terms of sustainability of resources and socio-economic benefits. .

The current agreement and its implementation protocol, in force since July 2019, strengthen bilateral relations between Morocco and the European Union and, in particular, in the sea fishing sector.

The European Union provides a total financial contribution estimated at € 208m over 4 years (€ 48.1m for the 1st year, € 50.4m for the 2nd and € 55.1m for the 3rd and 4th year) including compensation for access to the fishing zone, support for the Moroccan fishing sector and payment of fees by shipowners. The implementation of the protocol gives access to around 130 vessels flying the flags of 10 member states of the European Union.

Through its support for the Moroccan fishing sector, the European Union contributes, in particular, to the promotion of scientific research, to the development of aquaculture, to the modernization of fishing infrastructures, to the marketing of fishery products, to the economic and social development of coastal communities with a view to sustainable fishing in Morocco.

Commission adopts contingency plan for food supply and food security in times of crisis

12/11/2021

Following the COVID-19 crisis and as announced in the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), the EU intends to step up coordination at European level to ensure citizens do not face food

shortages during crises. The contingency plan adopted today acknowledges the overall resilience of the EU food supply chain, identifies existing shortcomings, and puts forward actions to improve preparedness at EU level. To do this, the Commission will establish a **European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)**, a group of food supply chain experts coordinated by the Commission to exchange data, practices and strengthen coordination.

Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the resilience of the agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture, and food sectors, avoiding that the health crisis also resulted in a food security crisis. To support these sectors, the EU took [exceptional measures](#).

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), for instance, provided tools to counter market imbalances or producers' cash flow issues. Furthermore, to ensure the movement of goods and of essential workers in the single market, the Commission established green lanes and published guidelines that enabled close coordination between Member States for smooth border crossings.

Today's Communication acknowledges that further improvement is needed in some areas to continue to ensure food supply and food security in times of crisis.

The EU contingency plan for food supply and food security

With the growing impact of climate change and environmental degradation on food production, as well as risks related to public health, cyber threats or geopolitical shifts threatening the functioning of the food supply chain, an EU contingency plan for food supply and food security is ever more relevant.

Key to improving EU preparedness, this contingency plan embraces a collaborative approach between all public and private parties being part of the food supply chain. From the private sector, this includes farmers, fishers, aquaculture producers, food processors, traders and retailers as well as transporters and logisticians for instance. EU, national and regional authorities will also be central to this plan.

The plan itself will be rolled out by the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism, to be launched by the Commission.

The EFSCM will rely on a group of experts, combining Member States and some non-EU countries representatives and actors from all stages of the food chain, and a set of rules of procedures governing its functioning. The group will meet periodically, and in the event of a crisis, at very short notice and as frequently as necessary.

It will focus on specific activities and a set of actions to be completed between mid-2022 and 2024:

- foresight, risk assessment and monitoring: improve preparedness by making use of available data (including on weather, climate, markets); further analysis of vulnerabilities and critical infrastructure of the food supply chain;
- coordination, cooperation and communication: sharing information, best practices, national contingency plans; development of recommendations to address crises; coordination and cooperation with the international community.

Background

In May 2020, the Commission adopted the [Farm to Fork](#) and [Biodiversity strategies](#). These two mutually reinforcing strategies were presented as core parts of the [European Green Deal](#) to enable the transition to sustainable food systems and to tackle the key drivers of biodiversity loss.

The Farm to Fork Strategy announced several important initiatives, including the **contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis** and the adoption, by end of 2023, of a **framework legislation for sustainable food systems**, to further accelerate the transition towards a sustainable food system.

New strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

8/11/2021

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted its new 2030 Strategy for the Mediterranean and Black Sea at the end of the 44th annual session on 6 November 2021. An agreement was also reached on an ambitious package of measures translating strategy into concrete actions.

In parallel to the adoption of the new strategy, the implementation process was launched immediately. 35 GFCM recommendations and resolutions translating the objectives and targets of the strategy into concrete actions were adopted at the meeting, with 33 of those tabled by the EU. The recommendations include important measures to improve fisheries management and control in the Adriatic and Black Seas, better protect sensitive species and habitats, and consolidate the monitoring and control framework, including combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities in both the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The new strategy builds on recent achievements, with its five targets, it takes an integrated approach to the complex challenges in the region and the “green transition”. It addresses issues such as the condition of the marine environment and preserving biodiversity in order to provide maximum sustainably yields (MSY). The strategy will also help to consolidate GFCM members’ ability to take strong action against IUU fishing and create a level playing field around both sea basins.

Furthermore, the strategy continues to support local communities and their livelihoods along the value chain, with special focus on small-scale fisheries. There will also be coordinated measures to ensure decent working conditions, support young people and properly recognise the role of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, as well as promote the participatory decision-making process. For aquaculture, the strategy sets the framework for long-term governance and responsible investment. It also promotes new technology

and best practices through the GFCM’s regional knowledge-sharing hubs and aquaculture demonstration centres.

In addition, the **European Union and the MS were granted a Compliance Award**, recognising their commitment to observing and implementing all GFCM decisions and data submission requirements (Category 1 – Full compliance).

Background

The GFCM 2030 Strategy was prepared through a series of high-level events and technical meetings in 2020 and 2021. It was politically endorsed on 9 July 2021 and formally adopted with a GFCM Resolution at the 44th annual session.

In line with the UN Agenda 2030, the strategy covers a ten-year period until 2030. A mid-term review of its objectives and outcomes will assess the progress of its implementation.

The GFCM 2030 Strategy is articulated around five targets. Each target is composed of expected outputs and strategic actions, including an action plan comprised of a set of detailed actions. This action plan will be regularly updated.

The implementation of measures from this plan is already underway, through the decisions adopted at the 44th GFCM annual session. The European Union presented 35 proposals for recommendations and resolutions, 33 of which were adopted. For the remaining two proposals, our regional partners requested more time to assess at technical level, with a view to adopting them at the next annual session in 2022.

The European Union will support the implementation of the strategy with an increased financial grant.

Related links

[High-level meeting: A new vision for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea](#)

[High-level event on advancing the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea \(RPOA-SSF\) in the context of the GFCM 2030 Strategy](#)

[High-level meeting: Building together a new strategy for Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture](#)

[Regional plan of action for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the](#)

Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic, Kattegat and Skagerrak for 2022

3/11/2021

The Commission published its [proposal](#) for the catches of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak. Based on this proposal, EU fisheries ministers will adopt the final fishing opportunities at the Council on 13-14 December 2021, to apply as of 1 January 2022.

The Commission presents a proposal for **23 total allowable catches** (TACs) for the fish stocks managed solely by the EU in the EU waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak. The proposal will be updated after the conclusion of the consultations with the United Kingdom and Norway, and once the regional fisheries management organisations have taken their decisions.

Based on scientific advice delivered by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Commission proposes a **decrease of more than -20% for four stocks**: sole in the Bay of Biscay, sole in the west of Ireland, Norway lobster in Skagerrak and Kattegat; and cod in Kattegat. In Kattegat, the Commission proposes to maintain the ban on cod-targeting fishery and keep the by-catch allowance. This is intended to avoid the choking of the sustainable Norway lobster fishery in the area (meaning that the quota is quickly exhausted), as well as the safeguard measure of increased gear selectivity.

The Commission proposes **increases for five stocks**, including plaice in Kattegat, sole in Kattegat and Skagerrak, megrims in the Iberian waters, anglerfish in the Cantabrian Sea and Norway lobster in parts of the southern Bay of Biscay.

The proposal follows scientific advice very closely, with 100% of the TACs (9 stocks) proposed at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) level, for which there is advice available.

Further details of the proposal

Four TACs are delegated to a Member State (Guiana shrimps to France, two stocks of horse

mackerel to Portugal and one stock of horse mackerel to Spain). A further four stocks are still awaiting scientific advice (two stocks of anchovy and two stocks of Norway lobster), while the TAC for one of the anchovy stocks (anchovy in the Iberian waters) has already been set until June 2022.

The proposal also covers the TACs that will be decided in cooperation with non-EU countries, such as the United Kingdom and Norway, or through [regional fisheries management organisations](#) (RFMOs). International consultations for these stocks are still ongoing and the respective TACs are thus proposed provisionally (as “pm” or *pro memoria*), awaiting the outcome of the negotiations.

Background

Fishing opportunities, or total allowable catches (TACs), are quotas set for most of Europe's commercial fish stocks in order to keep their status healthy or to help them regenerate, while ensuring that EU fishers have healthy fish stocks to rely on for their economic basis. Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), EU Member States are legally bound to manage fish stocks at sustainable levels.

Sustainable fishing has made substantial progress in the EU. In 2020, 62 out of the 78 TACs were set at levels that allows for a healthy future for both the biomass of the fish stocks and the fishers that rely on them, compared to only 5 out of 35 in 2009.

The Commission proposal is based on [scientific advice](#) from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). For stocks with a full scientific assessment, the Commission is proposing fishing levels in line with maximum sustainable yield (MSY) advice. For stocks for which less data is available, the Commission proposal is based on precautionary advice. In cases where ICES advises no catches, the Commission either proposes a small fishing quota for scientific fishery to ensure continued data collection, or limits the fishing to by-catches of the fish stock. In line with the provisions of the CFP and the applicable multiannual management plans, this prevents the creation of “choke” situations, allowing fishers to continue targeting the healthy stocks.

Stakeholders were consulted based on the Commission's annual [Communication Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2022](#).
[Read more](#)

Data collection for fisheries goes online 29/10/2021

A new website for [Regional Coordination Groups](#) (RCGs) is now available! It offers information about the work of the RCGs, including details of their meetings, reports and decisions. The website is funded with support from the [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#) (EMFF).

RCGs are the main hub for regional coordination and cooperation of the different regions contributing to the fisheries [Data Collection Framework](#). They also coordinate their actions with non-EU countries in the same marine region.

RCGs were set up to help develop and implement the methodology, quality assurance and quality control procedures for collecting and processing data used to produce scientific advice. RCGs are made up of experts appointed by Member States, including national correspondents, and the European Commission. Scientific bodies, such as the [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC), [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries](#) (STECF) and [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea](#) (ICES) sometimes participate as observers.

Six different Regional Coordination Groups are currently operating:

- [RCG Baltic](#): Regional Coordination Group for the Baltic area.
- [RCG NANS&EA](#): Regional Coordination Group for the North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic
- [RCG Med&BS](#): Regional Coordination Group for Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- [RCG LP](#): Regional Coordination Group for Large Pelagics.
- [RCG LDF](#): Regional Coordination Group for Long Distance Fisheries.

- [RCG ECON](#): RCG on Economics Issues, pan-regional group that deals with the collection of economic data.

To find out more about the work of the RCGs, visit the new website at: <https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/>.

North-East Atlantic coastal States reach agreement on mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring TACs for 2022

28/10/2021

At a meeting in London, the delegations of the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom reached an agreement on the management measures for mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring in the North East Atlantic for 2022. All three stocks have a total allowable catch (TAC) for 2022 set according to the scientific advice provided by the [International Council for Exploration of the Sea](#) (ICES).

For mackerel, the coastal States agreed to set the TAC for 2022 at 794,920 tonnes. This TAC is in line with ICES advice, following the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach and is 7% lower than the TAC agreed for 2021. For blue whiting, the TAC for 2022 was agreed at 752,736 tonnes (19% lower than for 2021) and for Atlanto-Scandian herring the TAC for 2022 was agreed at 598,588 tonnes (8% lower than for 2021). The agreed TAC levels are in line with the long-term management strategies and follow the ICES MSY advice.

All parties recognised the need to reach an agreement on quota-sharing arrangements for all three stocks and, therefore, agreed to engage in further work on the matter as early as possible.

The delegations also agreed to establish three working groups to analyse and report on the stock and catch distribution of these stocks in the North-East Atlantic.

More information

[Northern agreements](#)

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
NSAC	30/11/2021	virtual	ExCom
LDAC	30/11/2021	virtual	ExCom
NSAC	01/12/2021	virtual	Demersal WG
NSAC	08/12/2021	virtual	MFSD FG
NSAC	12/01/2022	tbc	Ecosystem WG
NSAC	27/01/2022	tbc	ExCom
AAC	08-09/02/2022	virtual	WGs
AAC	10/02/2022	virtual	ExCom
PELAC	02/03/2022	tbc	WG I & II, ExCom
PELAC	21/04/2022	tbc	WG I & II, ExCom

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council ([link](#))
- NS AC: North Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MED AC: Advisory Council for the Mediterranean ([link](#))
- SWW AC: South Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- LD AC: Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BS AC: Baltic Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- AAC: Aquaculture Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MAC: Market Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BIS AC: Black Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- 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			
postponed to 2022	Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean	2 nd meeting of the Preparatory conference / 1 st Meeting of Parties	Republic of Korea
	UN	Informal Consultations – UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries - There will be no physical consultations this year. They are replaced by written procedures and virtual meetings as necessary	New York/written procedures and virtual meetings as necessary
29 November – 7 December	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	Annual meeting	Virtual
16-17 February 2022 (TBC)	Our Ocean Conference		Palau

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

COUNTRY	EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2021		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2021		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 2021 (additional 1-year extension)	Nov.-Dec. 2021	TBD	/	/	/	Adopted on 8 July 2019	Adopted on 11 November 2021	A new agreement and protocol has been initialled by the Parties on 28 July 2021. Adoption by the Commission of its proposals' on 28 September 2021.
	Morocco	17 July 2023	Oct.-Nov. 2021	Morocco	/	/	/	/	/	
	Senegal	17 November 2024	TBD		/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place on 20-21 January 2021. An extraordinary JCM took place on 5 July 2021.
	The Gambia	30 July 2025	Nov.-Dec. 2021	Banjul (tbc)	/	/	/	/	/	
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024			/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place from 30 June until 2 July 2021.
	Greenland	21 April 2025	15-19 Nov. 2021	Brussels	/	/	/	/	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. The last JCM took place on 7 and 8 June 2021. The EP gave its consent on 5 October 2021.

WEST AFRICA	Cape-Verde	19 May 2024	21-22 Oct. 2021	Mindelo	/	/	/	/	/	
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	Autumn 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place by videoconference in October 2020.
	Gabon	28 June 2026	Oct. 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	Adopted on 28 June 2021	The negotiation for a new protocol ended successfully and a new protocol was initialled on 10 February 2021. The Council adopted on 28 June its Decision on signature and provisional application, agreed in principle on its Decision on conclusion and forwarded it to the EP for its consent. The new protocol applies provisionally from 29 June 2021.
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 3 March 2017		The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016.
	Liberia	8 December 2020 - EXPIRED				/	/	Adopted on 25 September 2020		The Protocol expired in December 2020. IUU Yellow card. The last JCM took place by videoconference on 29 June 2021.
	Equatorial Guinea	N/A					/	/	/	The ex-ante evaluation was approved at the end of November 2016.
	São Tomé and Príncipe	18 December 2024	Autumn 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place on 9-10 October 2020.
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			28-29 Sept. 2021	VTC	/	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. The second round took place in October 2018, while the third one took place from 23 to 25 September 2019. An high-level meeting took place in December 2020 to re-launch the negotiations. The fourth round started on 27-28 May 2021. It continued on 17-18 June and 8-9 July 2021.
	Mauritius	7 December 2021	Oct. 2021	TBD	Oct. 2021	TBD	Adopted on 5 August 2021	September 2021 (tbc)	/	The ex-post ex-ante evaluation for the renewal of the Protocol has been finalised in May 2021. The Council is expected to adopt the negotiating mandate on 28 September 2021.

INDIAN OCEAN	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	Nov. 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	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 provisionally 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	Nov. 2021	TBD	Nov. 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)	Beginning 2022		/	/	/	Adopted on 7 July 2020	Nov. 2021 (tbc)	The last JCM took place on 3 March 2021. A new protocol has been initialled by the Parties on 16 July 2021. Adoption by the Commission of its proposals' package expected beginning October 2021.
	Kiribati	15 September 2015 - EXPIRED					/	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	CARVALHO Maria da Graça

COORDINATORS			
EPP	MATO Gabriel	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara	ECR	ILČIĆ Ladislav
Renew	GADE Søren	The Left	PIMENTA LOPES 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	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
GADE Søren	DA	Renew	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	The Left
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	The Left	MARKEY Colm	IE	EPP
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
ILČIĆ Ladislav	HR	ECR	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
JAMET France	FR	ID	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	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
PIMENTA LOPES João	PT	The Left	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	VUOLO Lucia	IT	PPE
RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	ŽDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA
WIESNER Emma	SV	Renew			
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2021

- Thursday, 9 December, 13:45 - 16:15

2022

(tentative calendar, tbc)

- Monday, 24 January, 13:45 - 16:15
- Monday, 24 January, 16:45 - 18:45
- Tuesday, 25 January, 09:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday, 25 January, 13:45 - 15:45
- Thursday, 10 February, 09:00 - 12:00
- Thursday, 3 March, 09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday, 16 March, 09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday, 16 March, 13:45 - 16:15
- Wednesday, 16 March, 16:45 - 18:45
- Thursday, 17 March, 09:00 - 12:00

USEFUL LINKS

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

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