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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 Sustainable
Development Goals
(2017/0000(INI))

Rapporteur: Jarosław Wałęsa

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Acknowledges the importance of the Joint Communication entitled ‘International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans’ (SWD(2016)0352), but stresses its generic terms, suitable only for describing general guidelines; regrets the lack of attention to the more concrete actions needed to accomplish the stated goals;
2. Recalls that the fisheries sector has tremendous importance as one of the main human activities carried out in the marine environment, making it an essential element of the Integrated Maritime Policy; points out that fisheries is the sector most affected by the many uses and activities taking place on the seas, such as maritime transport and tourism, urban and coastal development and the exploitations of renewable energies, as well as by environmental problems such as marine pollution and climate change;
3. Notes that the Common Fisheries Policy shall ensure that fishing mortality rates are set at levels that should allow fish stocks to recover above levels that are capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in order to protect marine resources;
4. Notes that the EU regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has made advancements, but that implementation should be improved in order to ensure that no illegal fish enter the EU market;
5. Suggests that Member States and third countries should be more consistent and effective in checks on catch documentation (catch certificates) and consignments, with a view to ensuring that the fish have been caught legally; stresses that the EU should promote and support, in all international spheres, the necessary action to eradicate IUU fishing;
6. Insists that international ocean governance apply the following principles:
 - (a) the need to take a decentralised and regionalised approach, as in fisheries management plans;
 - (b) the need to ensure appropriate involvement of stakeholders and social partners at all stages in fisheries, from the conception to implementation of measures, through advisory councils;
 - (c) the need to carry out environmental and strategic impact assessments;
 - (d) the need to take the lead in strengthening regional fisheries management organisations in order to improve their performance, including through independent bodies to ensure that their recommendations are fully implemented;
7. Notes the utmost importance of ensuring accurate data in the fisheries sector, as an essential prerequisite for the achievement of good ocean governance; stresses that appropriate and realistic financial resources must be provided to guarantee this objective;
8. Urges the Council and the Commission to prepare a sound multiannual financial

framework for the period after 2020, in accordance with the objectives that are to be adopted.