

# The Trawler

## TOP NEWS – JANUARY 2019

### COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Wednesday 23 January (09:30-12:30 & 15:00-18:30)

and Thursday 24 January (09:00-12:30)

in Brussels, Room PHS 5B 001

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Vote on two draft recommendations (with resolutions) to give Parliament's consent to the new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire;
- ▶ Public Hearing on the "Future of Small-Scale Fisheries in the EU";
- ▶ Workshop on the implementation and impact of EMFF measures on the Common Fisheries Policy and the post-2020 EMFF proposal;
- ▶ Exchange of views with Mr. Petre Daea, Romanian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, representing the EU Presidency-in-office.

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### AGENDA

Next Fisheries Committee meeting:  
**Tuesday, 19 February**

Public hearing:  
***"First Assessment of the implementation of the Landing Obligation"***

Presentation of the study by Policy Department B :  
***"The economic impacts of the European eel conservation versus sustainable use"***

## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



*Alain CADEC*  
*Chair of Committee on Fisheries*

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

First of all, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and successful New Year!

The end of the mandate is near and we have a lot of work ahead of us.

This meeting will be the occasion to study the 2018 Economic report on the EU fishing fleet. This report confirms a comforting positive trend and delivers some very interesting conclusions.

True: several big challenges still lie ahead of us. For instance, 25% of the EU fleets still operate with losses and the economic performance of many EU fleets in the Mediterranean region, although profitable, continues to stagnate or show limited improvement.

Also, employment in EU fishing fleets continues to decline and several small-scale fishing fleets continue to underperform.

But if the fleets' economic performances are related to the fishing methods used, this report indicates that profitability stagnates in particular when fleets are dependent on stocks still overfished. On the other hand, fleets that fish stocks in a sustainable way have seen a marked improvement in their profitability over the past years. This positive trend led to increased benefits for fishermen and the fisheries sector and added value for many fishing communities in coastal areas throughout the EU.

It demonstrates that our commitment to sustainability in fisheries is bearing fruits, and motivates us to continue working in this direction.

Alain CADEC

## ONGOING DOSSIERS

Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
<b>Fisheries control</b> COM(2018)368 - <a href="#">2018/0193 (COD)</a> PECH/8/13412	Thomas	COD	TBC	APRIL II 2019
<b>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund</b> COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 <a href="#">2018/0210(COD)</a> PECH/8/13776	Mato	COD	19/02/2019	APRIL I 2019
Proposal for a regulation laying down conservation and control measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the <b>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation</b> COM(2018)0577 - C8-0391/2018 <a href="#">2018/0304(COD)</a> PECH/8/14451	Serrão Santos	COD	10/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
NLE Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session vote
Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b> and the European Community (2018- 2024) COM(2018) 503 final <a href="#">2018/0267 (NLE)</a>	Ferreira	NLE	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b> and the European Community (2018- 2024) <a href="#">2018/0267 M</a> - resolution		Resolution		
Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the <b>Central Arctic Ocean</b> COM(2018)0453 - <a href="#">2018/0239(NLE)</a> PECH/8/13699	Nicolai	NLE	10/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of <b>Morocco</b> <a href="#">2018/0349 (NLE)</a> PECH/8/14749 COM(2018)0678 ( <i>formal referral pending</i> )	Cadec	NLE	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of <b>Morocco</b> <a href="#">2018/0349 M (NLE)</a> - Resolution PECH/8/14935		Resolution	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Reports adopted in PECH awaiting 1st/2nd reading agreements	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Multi-annual plan for fish stocks in the <b>Western Waters</b> and adjacent waters and	Cadec	COD	09/10/2018	FEBRUARY 2019

for fisheries exploiting those stocks, COM(2018)0149 - C8-0126/2018 <a href="#">2018/0074 (COD)</a> PECH/8/12613				
Conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through <b>technical measures</b> COM(2016)0134 final - <a href="#">2016/0074(COD)</a> PECH/8/06008	Mato	COD	21/11/2017	TBC
Establishing multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the <b>Western Mediterranean Sea</b> COM(2018)115 <a href="#">2018/0050(COD)</a> PECH/8/12491	Aguilera Garcia	COD	27/11/2018	Awaiting trilogue
Certain provisions fishing in the <b>GFCM</b> ( <b>General Fisheries Commission for the</b> <b>Mediterranean</b> ) Agreement area COM(2018)0143 - C8 - 0123/2018 <a href="#">2018/0069 (COD)</a> PECH/8/12617	Engström	COD	21/11/2018	Awaiting trilogue
Multiannual recovery plan for <b>Mediterranean swordfish</b> COM(2018)0229 - C8-0162/2018 <a href="#">2018/0109 (COD)</a> PECH/8/12919	Affronte	COD	21/11/2018	Awaiting trilogue
<b>Awaiting Parliament 2nd reading</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Type of procedure</b>	<b>PECH Committee vote</b>	<b>Plenary Session Vote</b>
Multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the <b>Adriatic Sea</b> and the fisheries exploiting those stocks COM(2017)0097 - C8-0095/2017 <a href="#">2017/0043(COD)</a> PECH/8/09349	Tomasic	COD	9/10/2018	13/11/2018
<b>Opinions</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Type of procedure</b>	<b>PECH Committee vote</b>	<b>Vote Lead Committee</b>
Discharge 2017: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) COM(2018)0521 - C8-0348/2018 <a href="#">2018/2197(DEC)</a> PECH/8/14313	Blanco Lopez	DEC	10/01/2019	CONT 20/2/2019
Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU - European Commission COM(2018)0521 - C8-0318/2018 <a href="#">2018/2166(DEC)</a> PECH/8/14096	Cadec	DEC	10/01/2019	CONT 20/2/2019

*\*Note on procedures:*

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

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

## RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

**Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018**

**The European eel: reproductive biology, migration and sustainable management**

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

### **CFP and fisheries management**

*Implementation and impact of the key European Maritime and Fisheries Fund ( EMFF) measures on the CFP*

*The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Italian case*

*The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Spanish case*

*Social and Economic impact of the penalty point system*

*Scientific Advice in Fisheries Management - Introduction to Stock Assessment and Maximum Sustainable Yield Ranges*

*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*

### **Stocks**

*Situation of the clam (Tapes spp) fisheries sector in the EU*

### **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*

### **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](#)

#### **Western Mediterranean: new rules on fishing effort and stocks preservation** **10/01/2019**

A plan to manage fishing efforts and preserve stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea for demersal species, such as shrimps and Norway lobsters, was approved by the Fisheries Committee.

The draft multiannual plan, as approved by the Fisheries Committee on Thursday, aims at ensuring the exploitation of stocks while maintaining its capacity of reproduction. The rules, if agreed with EU Ministers, would apply to commercial and recreational fisheries as well as fish caught unintentionally (by-catch stock).

MEPs agreed that for the first year of implementation of the plan the maximum allowable fishing effort should be reduced by 10% as compared to the fishing days allowed between 2012 and 2017. For the first three years of implementation, the reduction of fishing efforts would be limited to maximum 10% (and 30% for the three years altogether).

If scientific advice shows that the stocks are at risk, additional measures should be taken, particularly suspending fishery for the concerned stock, provided that affected fishermen are given fair compensation. A Commission proposal to eventually introduce total allowable catches (TACs) was rejected by the committee.

#### ***Limits to use of trawls***

MEPs approved a ban on the use of trawls within the 100 m isobath from 1 May to 31 July each year, with derogations depending on the characteristics of coast and fleets. The ban could be extended if necessary according to the best available scientific advice.

The new draft rules also aim to:

- allow Council to set the fishing efforts for concerned member states every

three years, according to the best available annual scientific advice;

- implement co-management fisheries regimes between member states, local fisheries and other stakeholders;
- facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation;
- limit recreational fisheries when their impact on fishing mortality is too great;

Finally, the Commission is asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures three years after the entry into force of the plan.

#### ***Next steps***

The legislative text was adopted with 17 votes in favour, five against and one abstention. It needs now to be confirmed by next week Plenary in Strasbourg, before negotiations with EU Ministers can start.

#### ***Background***

The draft plan covers the western Mediterranean waters along the northern Alboran Sea, the Gulf of Lion and the Tyrrhenian Sea, including the Balearic Islands, Corsica and Sardinia. According to 2015 data, the fishing fleet concerned consists of almost 10 900 vessels from Italy (50%), Spain (39%) and France (11%).

Demersal stocks in this area are six fish and crustacean species: hake, red mullet, deep-water rose shrimp, Norway lobster, blue and red shrimp, and giant red shrimp.

#### **Arctic Ocean: preventing unregulated fishing**

**10/01/2019**

An international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas portion of the central Arctic Ocean received the greenlight from the Fisheries Committee on Thursday.

The objective of the deal is to establish a long-term strategy (16 years) to safeguard healthy marine ecosystems and to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of fish stock



in an area that is roughly 2.8 million square kilometers in size.

The parties involved will have to facilitate scientific cooperation by establishing a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring, two years after the entry into force of the text.

The aim is improving the understanding of the ecosystems in the area to, in particular, determine whether fish stocks can be harvested on a sustainable basis and thus create a data sharing protocol.

Other conservation measures for sustainable management of stocks may be adopted in the future by regional and subregional fisheries management organizations on the basis of the scientific information from the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring, national scientific programs and from other relevant sources.

#### ***Next steps***

The agreement will enter into force 30 days after all parties have deposited their ratification acceptance and approval instruments as well as after Parliament's consent. At the same time, other non-parties are invited to take measures that are consistent with the same objectives.

The legislative text was approved by 22 votes to 1 against. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the 12th of February 2019.

#### ***Background***

Being part of this agreement will help the EU to promote its environmental objectives and give access to scientific information, management measures and all future instruments put in place for that Area.

On 31 March 2016, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, an international agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the delegations from Canada, China, Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia and USA. These negotiations were successfully concluded on 30 November 2017.

## **More restrictive measures to protect swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea**

**21-11-2018**

The transposition into EU law of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations on swordfish conservation was approved by the Fisheries Committee.

The committee approved a proposal to transpose into EU legislation stronger measures to help the recovery of the Mediterranean swordfish as recommended by ICCA. These include a 15-year recovery plan that takes into account the specificities of different types of gear and fishing techniques.

The new rules would allow member states to:

- issue fishing authorisations to fishing vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish that have an record of catches;
- distribute national quotas for fishing opportunities to various fleet segments, with priority to artisanal and traditional fishing;
- ensure that at least 10% of vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish have on board national scientific observers, three years after the entry in force;

Other measures such as quota (10.500 tonnes), the closing period (January to March) and the derogation from the landing obligation were already integrated in EU legislation at an earlier stage.

Other technical measures established by the proposal are:

- achieve a biomass corresponding to a maximum sustainable yield by 2031 with at least 60% probability;
- a minimum size set as less than 100 cm length or less than 11,4 kg of round weight;
- allow 2.500 additional replacement hooks for trips longer than 2 days, being not less than 7 cm of height;
- prohibition of chartering for Union fishing vessels for the fishing of Mediterranean swordfish;
- prohibition of use of driftnets and promotion of circular hooks;

### **Quote**

EP rapporteur Marco Affronte (Greens/EFA, IT) commented after the vote: *“I am very pleased with both the final result (21 votes to 2) and the introduction of my own amendment which says that Member States must commit themselves to redistributing the new quotas among the small fishermen who are not yet allocated, in the interests of greater equity. I believe that our important marine resources must be protected, fished sustainably, and that they must be at the centre of shared growth in the sector and not in the hands of a few. I am also pleased with the introduction of a series of on-board controls, by means of observers, which should ensure that the legislation is properly applied”*.

### **Background**

During the 2016 ICCAT Annual Meeting held in Vilamoura (Portugal), the ICCAT adopted [Recommendation 16-05](#), including a 15-year recovery plan. The recommendation lays down rules for the conservation, management and control of the Mediterranean stock of swordfish aiming to achieve a biomass corresponding to a maximum sustainable yield by 2031 with at least 60% probability of achieving that objective.

This is a crucial step towards better management of a stock in deep distress and towards achieving the overarching objective of the MedFish4Ever Declaration: ensuring the environmental, economic and social sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries for present and future generations.

### **Next steps**

The legislative text was adopted with 23 votes and one abstention. The first reading in plenary is scheduled for the 15th of March 2019.

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

### **[News - Press service](#)**

### **New “OCEAN” magazine on Euronews explores sustainable EU fisheries**

**16/01/2019**

23% of worldwide catches, that is, 30 million tons of fish are thrown overboard every year. In most cases, the fish don't survive. A

wasteful practice that needs to stop and will stop in Europe.

The landing obligation, which compels fishermen to bring to shore all catches, fully entered into force in January. This will end the unsustainable practice of throwing unwanted fish back into the sea.

Researchers have anticipated the market's needs and have been working on creating innovative fishing gears. Fishermen across Europe are investing in selective nets that allow them to better target their fishery and reduce unwanted catches. The landed fish that is not suitable for direct human consumption will not go to waste either. It can be used to produce fish meal, fish oil, pet food, food additives, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

A Euronews team has recently visited fishermen and researchers in Sweden and France and tagged along fishing trips to film their innovations in action. This is the first episode of the brand new TV series [Ocean](#), which premiered on Friday and can be watched online.

### **Commission lifts “yellow card” from Thailand for its actions against illegal fishing**

**08/01/2019**

The European Commission delisted Thailand from the group of "warned countries" as recognition of its progress in tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The Commission acknowledged that Thailand has successfully addressed the shortcomings in its fisheries legal and administrative systems. For this reason it lifted the so-called "yellow card", in place since April 2015, a warning from the EU that the country at the time was not sufficiently tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This decision reverses the first step of a process that could have led to a complete import ban of marine fisheries products into the EU.

Since the yellow card was issued, the Commission and Thailand have engaged in a constructive process of cooperation and dialogue. This has resulted in a major upgrade of the Thai fisheries governance in accordance



with the international commitments of the country.

Thailand has amended its fisheries legal framework in line with international law of the sea instruments. It has reinforced compliance with its obligations as a flag, port, coastal and market State, included clear definitions in its legislation and set up a deterrent regime of sanctions. Moreover, it has reinforced the mechanisms of control of the national fishing fleet and enhanced its monitoring, control and surveillance systems. This includes remote monitoring of fishing activities and a robust scheme of inspections at port.

With these measures, Thai authorities now have all the necessary policies in place to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Thailand plays a central role in the international supply chain for fisheries products. The highly developed Thai processing industry relies on raw materials from the Indian and Pacific Oceans. As party to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization Port States Measures Agreement, Thailand has reinforced controls over landings of foreign fishing vessels in Thai ports and strengthened cooperation with flag States in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The reinforcement of the fisheries legal and administrative systems in Thailand could therefore trigger a multiplier effect in the global sustainability of fisheries resources.

The Commission also recognises the efforts demonstrated by Thailand to tackle human trafficking and to improve labour conditions in the fishing sector. While not part of the bilateral dialogue on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the Commission and the European External Action Service have addressed with Thai authorities the serious human rights abuses and forced labour in the fishing industry. Thailand has recently announced the ratification of the International Labour Organisation's Convention No. 188 on Work in Fishing (C188), the first country in Asia to do so.

The Commission congratulates the Thai Government on this commitment and stands ready to further support Thailand in its

declared ambition to set an example for the region, not least through the EU-Thailand Labour Dialogue.

The Commission will continue to work closely with Thailand to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to promote decent work conditions in the fishing industry.

### ***Background***

The global value of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is estimated at 10-20 billion euros per year. Between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish are caught illegally a year, corresponding to at least 15% of world catches. The EU is the world's biggest importer of fisheries products.

Fighting illegal fishing is part of the EU's commitment to ensure sustainable use of the sea and its resources, under the common fisheries policy. It is also an important pillar of the EU's ocean governance strategy, aiming to improve the international governance of the oceans.

The Commission's Decision is based on the EU's 'Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Regulation', which entered into force in 2010<sup>[1]</sup>. This instrument ensures that only fisheries products that have been certified as legal can access the EU market. The prime objective of the EU's IUU process is to enter into dialogue and offer support to third countries. These dialogues often lead to new, committed partners in the fight against IUU fishing.

Since November 2012 the Commission has been in formal dialogues with 25 third countries (pre-identification or "yellow card"), which have been warned of the need to take effective action to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. When significant progress is observed, the Commission can end the dialogue (lifting the pre-identification status or "green card"). Only a few countries have not shown the necessary commitment to reforms until now. As a result fisheries products caught by vessels from these countries cannot be imported into the EU (identification and listing or "red card").

### **For more information**

- [MEMO on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in general and in Thailand](#)
- [Overview of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing procedures with third countries](#)

**With €5 billion sales and profits doubled, EU aquaculture has fully recovered from downturn**

**03/01/2019**

The 2018 Economic report of the EU Aquaculture Sector shows a strong and growing sector. In 2016, the EU aquaculture sector has produced and sold 1.4 million tonnes of seafood, worth almost €5 billion. Profits of the sector have doubled between 2014 and 2016. Employment figures demonstrate that aquaculture firms are providing more and more stable employment opportunities.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the latest information available on the production, economic value, structure and competitive performance of the aquaculture sector at national and EU levels for the years 2008 to 2016.

The EU aquaculture sector reached 1.4 million tonnes in sales volume and €4.9 billion in value, in 2016. Production has increased by 2.2% yearly between 2014 and 2016 in volume and 3.1% in value. Profit almost doubled over the same period, reaching €0.8 billion total EBIT<sup>[1]</sup> in 2016. This marks a strong recovery from the bad year of 2013 in most of the large aquaculture countries.

The EU is home to some 12,500 aquaculture enterprises, mostly micro-businesses employing less than 10 employees. Employment has remained stable in terms of total employees (73,000) but has significantly expanded in terms of full-time equivalents: from 36,000 in 2013 to almost 44,000 in 2016. This implies that aquaculture firms are providing more stable employment opportunities.

This positive trend is likely to continue. With investment being significantly higher than depreciation, the sector has a positive perception about its future development.

### *Large differences across Member States and subsectors*

The EU aquaculture sector distinguishes three subsectors: marine, shellfish and freshwater production. With €2,731 million in turnover, marine aquaculture is the largest, followed by shellfish (€1,134 million) and freshwater (€1,028 million) production. The main species produced in terms of value are Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout and European seabass.

EU production is dominated by five countries: United Kingdom, France, Greece, Italy and Spain. These countries, each with turnovers between €550 million and €1,100 million, account for roughly 75% of total production volume. At subsector level, this specialisation is even more noticeable.

In the marine sector, the United Kingdom is the main producer of salmon (91% total value), whereas Greece is the main producer of seabream and seabass (47% total value). In the shellfish sector, France produces 86% of the oysters and Spain leads on mussels, covering 45% of the volume. Italy is the main producer of clams (80%).

By far the most frequently farmed freshwater species is trout. Italy (19%), Denmark (17%) and France (14%) are taking the lead. Carp is another important species, especially for Eastern Europe: Poland (24%), Czech Republic (23%) and Hungary (14%).

Also in terms of average wages, there are strong regional differences. The average yearly wage in 2016 was €25,000 per year, corresponding to an annual increase of 3.5% since 2014. However, nominal salaries range from less than €3,000 per year in Bulgaria to about €65,000 a year in the Netherlands or Denmark.

Read the [full report](#)

### **EU and Faroe Islands agree fisheries arrangements for 2019**

**21/12/2018**

In mid-December, the EU and the Faroe Islands signed a fisheries arrangement for 2019. The objective was to maintain the balance of fishing possibilities and the high dependency on fisheries of the Faroe Islands.

This arrangement does not involve joint management of any shared stock - but only provisions for transfers of fishing opportunities and reciprocal access to each other's waters.

The parties agreed to grant reciprocal access to fish 24,690 tonnes of mackerel for 2019 (compared to 30,877 tonnes in 2018). For blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring, the reciprocal access will be respectively 22,500 tonnes and 4,500 tonnes, to be fished in one another's waters (compared to 21,500 tonnes and 4,000 tonnes the previous year).

The agreement signed in Brussels, will ensure continuation of fishing operations for both Parties in each other's waters from 1 January 2019.

For further details, read the [Agreed Records](#)

### EU and Norway reaches agreement on the fisheries arrangements for 2019 20/12/2018

The EU and Norway has signed three fisheries arrangements for 2019 in the framework of the largest fishing agreement in the north of Europe.

Two bilateral arrangements and a neighboring arrangement were signed, following two rounds of negotiations in Bergen (November) and in London (early December). The bilateral arrangements cover the North Sea and the Atlantic, and Skagerrak and Kattegat, whilst the neighbouring arrangement covers the Swedish fishery in Norwegian waters of the North Sea.

The EU and Norway have agreed on quotas for the jointly-managed fish stocks in the North Sea (cod, haddock, plaice, whiting, herring, and saithe) and Skagerrak (cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, shrimp, herring and sprat), as well as exchange of reciprocal fishing possibilities. In the North Sea, for two of the shared stocks, namely saithe and plaice, the jointly agreed total allowable catch (TAC) increased compared to last year. For four other shared stocks (i.e. haddock, whiting, cod, herring), a reduction was necessary to protect the stocks.

The EU and Norway also reached an agreement on quota exchanges. In particular, the EU received over 21,500 tonnes of Arctic cod.

These agreed arrangements will ensure continuation of fishing operations for both Parties in each other's waters from 1 January 2019.

For further details, read the [Agreed Records](#)

### COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

28/01/2019

### 2019 catch limits in the Atlantic and North Sea 17/12/2018

The **Council reached agreement on 2019 catch limits** for the 89 main commercial fish stocks in the area.

As a result of this Council decision, the number of fish **stocks managed at** maximum sustainable yield (**MSY**) **levels will increase next year to 59**. The agreement also foresees solutions for the critical state of **European eel**. The agreement will apply as from 1 January 2019.

- [Council agreement on 2019 fishing quotas in the Atlantic and North Sea \(press release, 18-19/12/2018\)](#)
- [Fishing opportunities: TACs and quotas \(background information\)](#)

### Council adopts 2019 catch limits for Black Sea fisheries

17/12/2018

Next year Bulgarian and Romanian fishermen in the Black Sea will be able to continue fishing at the same levels as in 2018.

The Council adopted a regulation setting the **2019 catch limits** for the commercially most important fish stocks in the **Black Sea**. The regulation affects **Bulgaria** and **Romania**.

In particular, the Council decided to confirm the Commission proposal to **roll-over** the catch limit for **sprat** for Romania and Bulgaria at **11 475t**.

For **turbot**, the Council set a total allowable catch (TAC) fully in line with the level established by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in its recommendation on a multiannual management plan for the whole Black Sea turbot fisheries (**644t**), resulting in an EU TAC of **114t** which is equally shared between Bulgaria and Romania. Fishing will be limited to **180 days per year** and there will be a **complete ban** over a 2-month period (**15 April - 15 June**) to allow for the recovery of turbot. These figures are based on the best available scientific advice coming from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (**STECF**), and comply with the principles of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (**CFP**).

Black Sea stocks exploited by Bulgaria and Romania are shared with **non-EU countries**, e.g. Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia and the Russian Federation. **Until 2017 no TACs** had been decided at regional level between EU and non-EU countries, and every year since 2008, the European Union had been fixing autonomous quotas for turbot and sprat stocks in order to help ensure that the CFP rules were applied.

The interested parties once more recognised the importance of continuing with the implementation of a **robust monitoring, control and surveillance** system in order to achieve sustainable management of fish resources in the Black Sea, and renewed their **commitment to fight against** illegal, unreported and unregulated (**IUU**) **fishing** of turbot in the Black Sea.

#### *Next steps*

The regulation will enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union and will apply as from 1 January 2019.

- [Council regulation fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Black Sea](#)
- [Background](#)

## **Multiannual management plan for Western Waters: provisional agreement confirmed by the Council** **12/12/2018**

The management of fisheries in Western waters will soon benefit from a longer term and more consistent set of rules established jointly by all EU institutions.

EU ambassadors meeting in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (**Coreper**) **confirmed today an agreement** reached on 27 November between the Austrian Presidency of the Council and European Parliament representatives on a **multiannual management plan (MAP) for demersal stocks**, including **deep-sea stocks**, and their fisheries in **Western Waters**.

Thanks to the constructive attitude of the three institution, this agreement could be reached only eight months after the Commission published its initial proposal.

The Western Waters area is a particularly challenging fishing environment as the most important demersal stocks (i.e. those that live at the bottom of the sea) are caught in **mixed fisheries**. As fishermen are not in the position to target a single species and are not allowed to discard catches due to the **landing obligation**, they may find themselves forced to stop fishing stocks subject to total allowable catches (TACs) because they reached the limit allowed for the most limiting stock (**choke species**).

In order to deal with this problem, the agreed MAP incorporates **all relevant stocks** (demersal and deep-sea stocks) **into a single management plan**, thereby guaranteeing a sustainable approach and granting fishermen and member states more flexibility.

The **key target species**, counting for around 95% of landings, will be managed in line with the **maximum sustainable yield** principle which is one of the cornerstones of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, and will have to be fixed within a range of Fmsy values - the fishing mortality consistent with achieving maximum sustainable yield. **By-catches** will be managed according to the **precautionary approach**.

The plan also incorporates **safeguard measures** to restore stocks when they fall below safe biological limits.



Concerning **recreational fisheries**, when scientific advice indicates this could have a significant impact on the fishing mortality of a particular stock, the Council will take it into account and may limit recreational fisheries. While taking into account the specificities of the Western Waters, the agreement follows the principles set in out in the **Baltic and North Sea multiannual plans**, thereby ensuring consistency across sea basins and a level-playing field for all fishermen.

#### *Next steps*

Now that the agreement on the Western Waters MAP has been confirmed by EU ambassadors on behalf of the Council, the regulation will be submitted to the European Parliament for a vote at **first reading**, and will subsequently go back to the Council for adoption.

The new rules will apply on the day after their publication on the Official Journal of the European Union (poss. Spring 2019).

#### *Background*

Western Waters comprise the North Western Waters (ICES subareas 5 (excluding 5a and only Union waters of 5b), 6 and 7) and the South Western Waters (ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 (waters around Azores), and CECAF zones 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0 (waters around Madeira and the Canary Islands)). Seven member states fish in this area with various types of fishing gears, targeting numerous fish and shellfish species.

The new regulation will replace existing single-species multi-annual plans for: (1) herring in west of Scotland, (2) sole in the western Channel, and (3) sole in the Bay of Biscay, as well as the current recovery plans for the northern stock of hake and hake and Norway lobster in the Iberian Peninsula.

- [Management of the EU's fish stocks](#)

#### **Import of fishery products: Council agrees on autonomous EU tariff quotas for the period 2019-2020**

**11/12/2018**

In 2019 and 2020 the EU fish processing industry will continue to **import raw material** for further processing from non-EU countries at **reduced rates** or **duty free**.

The Council today adopted a regulation opening autonomous EU tariff quotas (ATQs)

for certain fishery products for the years **2019** and **2020**, and providing rules for the management of these quotas.

Over the past two decades the EU has become more dependent on imports from third countries to meet its demand for fishery and aquaculture products. This is because these products are either not produced in the EU, or because they are not produced in sufficient quantities for what is the worlds' biggest market in terms of value.

The **ATQ** regulation covers a certain number of **fisheries products** for which, for a limited volume, the duty will be suspended or reduced. Duty and **volume are specific** to each product. Tariff quotas are only granted to those products that are **imported for further processing** in the EU.

The tariff quotas will be managed by the Commission and member states in accordance with the current system of tariff-quota management, which operates on a **first-come-first-served basis**.

#### *Next steps*

The regulation will enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union and will apply from **1 January 2019** to **31 December 2020**.

- [Council regulation opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2019–2020](#)
- [Background](#)

#### **Deep-sea fish stocks: agreement of catch limitations over 2019 and 2020 19/11/2019**

The Council agreed on the **fishing opportunities for certain deep sea stocks** in the EU and international waters in the North-East Atlantic, for **2019** and **2020**.

In view of the vulnerability of deep-sea species to human activity, and in order to prevent their over-exploitation, the Council decided to reduce the TACs for the vast majority of stocks.

- [Deep-sea fish stocks: agreement of catch limitations over 2019 and 2020](#)
- [Details of the final agreement](#)

## MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
BS AC	28/01/2019	Copenhagen	WG - EC proposal for a revised Control Regulation
BS AC	29/01/2019	Copenhagen	ExCom + theme session on eastern Baltic cod
AAC	30-31/01/2019	Paris	WG1, WG2 and WG3
NWW AC	06/02/2019	Dublin	FG Skates and Rays
NS AC	08/02/2019	London	ExCom
SWW AC	13/02/2019	Bilbao	ExCom
MED AC	19/02/2019	Venice	WG1 (future EMFF, TM, revision Control Reg.); WG5 (RPOA on SSF)
MED AC	20/02/2019	Venice	GA; FG West Med + FG Adriatic (Jabuka-Pomo Pit)
MED AC	21/02/2019	Venice	FAIRSEA project: meeting with stakeholders (Croatia and Italy)
PEL AC	28/02/2019	Copenhagen	WG I and 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](#))
- MIRAC: ICES/AC meeting ([link](#))
- **GA:** General Assembly, **ExCom:** Executive Committee, **WG:** Working Group, **FG:** Focus Group



## MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### NORWAY/FAROE ISLANDS/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
<b>2019</b>			
N/A			

### REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
<b>January 2019</b>			
23-27	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	Annual meeting	The Hague, Netherlands
<b>March 2019</b>			
11-15 March	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Technical committee on allocation criteria and Technical committee on performance review	Seychelles
25-29 March	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	Scientific Committee	Japan (tbd)

## FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY	EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	Financial Value	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2019		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2019		LEGAL PROCESS			COMMENTS
			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 2019	59 125 000 €				Q2/2019	Q2/2019		The last JCM took place in December 2018. Joint Scientific Meeting will be held in spring 2019
	Morocco	14 July 2018 - EXPIRED	30 million €							New Agreement and Protocol initialled on 24 July 2018. No provisional application foreseen; Signature decision 28 November ; Signature awaited
	Senegal	19 November 2019	1 738 000 (3rd year)	Brussels	Q1/2019		-	-	-	Last scientific meeting took place in July 2018. Last JCM took place 18-19 October 2018
	Gambia								Q1/2019	New protocol paraphed 19 October 2018
	Guinea Bissau	23 November 2017	9 200 000 EUR						Q1/2019	A negotiation round took place 8-9 October 2018 - Initialled
	Greenland	31 December 2020	16 099 978 €, plus 1 700 000 € financial reserve for additional species.							Last joint Committee took place in November 2018.
WEST AFRICA	Cape Verde	22 December 2018 - EXPIRED	550 000 € (years 1+2); 500 000 € (years 3+4)						Q1/2019	Negotiations concluded on 12 October 2018 ; new protocol initialled
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024	650 000 € 682 000 €							New Protocol signed and provisionally applied on 1st August 2018. Last JC took place 27-28 November 2018
	Gabon	Dormant since July 2016	1 350 000 €		TBD	Libreville				Resuming of negotiation pending political situation.
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol			TBD	TBD				The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016 and mandate adopted on March 2017.
	Liberia	8 December 2020	715 000 € (1st year); 650 000 € (2nd, 3rd and 4th years); 585 000 € (5th year)	2019	Brussels					The Protocol signed and entered into provisional application on 9/12/2015.
	Equatorial Guinea	N.A.	N.A.							The ex-ante evaluation was approved on the end of November 2016.
	São Tomé and Príncipe	23/05/2018 - EXPIRED	710000 € (675000 en fin d'application)							Negotiations 1st round in January 2018. 2nd round in April 2018 and 3rd round in July 2018. Next round to be fixed.

COUNTRY	EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	Financial Value	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2019		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2019		LEGAL PROCESS			COMMENTS
			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	
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	DENOUNCED								The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 03/07/2018.
	Madagascar	31 December 2018	1 566 250 € (2015 & 2016) 1 487 500 € (2017 & 2018)			Q1/2019 tbc	TBD		TBD(depends on the outcome of negotiations)	The current 4-year Protocol expires on 31/12/2018. The evaluation study has been concluded (March 2018) and sent to Council, EP and Madagascar. 2nd round of negotiations took place in October 2018. Next round to be fixed.
	Mauritius		575 000 €	SPRING 2019	TBC					New 4 year protocol signed 8/12/2017 1st JCM held 28/02
	Mozambique	No protocol in force	980 000 €			TBD	TBD			Negotiations for a new Protocol suspended until further notice to enable further reflection by both Parties to narrow divergences. Last Joint Committee Meeting in February 2016. Possible resuming of negotiation to be confirmed
	Seychelles	17 January 2020	5 350 000 €	End 2018/ Begin 2019	SEY			Q2/2019		Last JCM took place in February 2018.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	19 May 2020			SEY		/	Q1/2019		no financial implications for the EU; as access agreement for Seychelles flagged vessels to EU waters
	Tanzania	No Agreement/Protocol				TBC	(TBC)	Adopted on 16 June 2015		This would be a new agreement. A first technical meeting took place in Dar-Es-Salaam 4-6 July 2016. Tanzania did not officially inform COM (partially due to a complex institutional setting) and information available point to various directions but there seems to be an interest in discussing an SFPA with the EU. Date of first round pending confirmation.
	Kenya	No Agreement/Protocol				TBC	(TBC)			This will be a new Agreement. A technical meeting took place 20-21 January 2015. Confirmation of interest by Kenya on 21/03/2016, but date to start negotiation not agreed upon yet.
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13 October 2020	717 500 €	Q1/2019	TBD					The current 4-year Protocol is in force since 14/10/2016. Currently the only SFPA in the Pacific.
	Kiribati	15/09/2015				spring 2019	TBD			No Protocol in force, which expired on 15/09/2015. 3 rounds of negotiations took place the last in November 2017.

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

BUREAU			
<b>Chair</b>	Mr Alain CADEC		
<b>1st Vice-Chair</b>	Ms Linnéa ENGSTRÖM	<b>3rd Vice-Chair</b>	Mr Werner KUHN
<b>2nd Vice-Chair</b>	Mr Jarosław Leszek WAŁĘSA	<b>4th Vice-Chair</b>	Ms Renata BRIANO

COORDINATORS			
<b>EPP</b>	MATO ADROVER Gabriel	<b>ECR</b>	VAN DALEN Peter
<b>S&amp;D</b>	SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	<b>GUE/NGL</b>	FERREIRA João
<b>ALDE</b>	MARINHO E PINTO António	<b>EFDD</b>	tbc
<b>Greens/EFA</b>	ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	<b>ENF</b>	--

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FULL MEMBERS			SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
AFFRONTÉ Marco	IT	Greens/EFA	BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	ALDE
AGUILERA GARCÍA Clara Eugenia	ES	S&D	BLANCO LÓPEZ José	ES	S&D
BRIANO Renata	IT	S&D	CAPUTO Nicola	IT	S&D
CADEC Alain	FR	EPP	CHRISTENSEN Ole	DK	S&D
COBURN David	GB	EFDD	D'AMATO Rosa	IT	EFDD
CORBETT Richard	GB	S&D	ERDOS Norbert	HU	EPP
DODDS Diane	GB	NI	FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D
ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	SE	Greens/EFA	FINCH Raymond	GB	EFDD
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	FLACK John	GB	ECR
GODDYN Sylvie	FR	EFDD	GARDINI Elisabetta	IT	EPP
HUDGHTON Ian	GB	Greens/EFA	GIESEKE Jens	DE	EPP
ITURGAIZ Carlos	ES	EPP	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
KUHN Werner	DE	EPP	HEUBUCH Maria	DE	Greens/EFA
MARINHO E PINTO António	PT	ALDE	HOC Czesław	PL	ECR
MATERA Barbara	IT	PPE	JADOT Yannick	FR	Greens/EFA
MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ES	EPP	KELLY Séan	IE	EPP
NI RIADA Liadh	IE	GUE/NGL	LOPE FONTAGNE Verónica	ES	EPP
NICOLAI Norica	RO	ALDE	MCAPAN Linda	GB	S&D
O'FLYNN Patrick	GB	EFDD	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP
RODUST Ulrike	DE	S&D	MIRANDA Ana	ES	Greens/EFA
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	MOBARIK Nosheena Baroness	GB	ECR
SERNAGIOTTO Remo	IT	ECR	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP
SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	PT	S&D	PAKSAS Rolandas	LT	EFDD
THOMAS Isabelle	FR	S&D	SÂRBU Daciana Octavia	RO	S&D
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	SENRA RODRÍGUEZ María Lidia	ES	GUE/NGL
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	ECR	TORVALDS Nils	FI	ALDE
WAŁĘSA Jarosław Leszek	PL	EPP			

## NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 2019

- Tuesday, 19 February, 9:00-12:30 - 14:30-18:30
- Monday, 25 March (Strasbourg) tbc
- Monday, 8 April, 15:00-18:30
  
- Monday 8 July 2019 - **Constitutive meeting (TBC)**
- Monday 22 July, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 23 July, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 23 July, 14:30-18:30
  
- Wednesday 4 September, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 4 September, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 5 September, 9:00-12:30
  
- Monday 23 September, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 24 September, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 24 September, 14:30-18:30
  
- Wednesday 2 October, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 2 October, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 3 October, 9:00-12:30
  
- Monday 11 November, 15:00-18:30
- Tuesday 12 November, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday 12 November, 14:30-18:30
  
- Wednesday 4 December, 9:00-12:30
- Wednesday 4 December, 14:30-18:30
- Thursday 5 December, 9:00-12:30

### USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [link](#)
- @ Romanian Presidency of the Council [link](#) (1st half of 2019)
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture [link](#)
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [link](#)