

# The Trawler

## TOP NEWS – NOVEMBER 2016

### COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Wednesday, 9 November, 9:00 - 12:30 and 15:00 - 18:30

Thursday, 10 November, 9:00 - 12:30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS) 5B001

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Public hearing on "Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): valuing marine biodiversity and ecosystems for the Blue Economy"
- ▶ Adoption of a long-term plan for cod stocks (early 2nd Reading)
- ▶ Adoption of a recommendation on the EU-Norway agreement on access to fishing in the Skagerrak
- ▶ Consideration of draft report on the characteristics of the fishing vessels
- ▶ Exchange of views on 2017 TACs and quotas for fish stocks in the Baltic Sea

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### AGENDA

#### Next Fisheries Committee meetings:

Monday, 5 December, 15:00-18:30

#### 2017

Wednesday, 25 January, 15h00-18h30 and

Thursday, 26 January, 9h00-12h30

## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



*Alain CADEC*  
*Chair of Committee on Fisheries*

Dear colleagues,

At the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries, we will hold a public hearing on “Marine protected areas: valuing marine biodiversity and ecosystems for the blue economy”. This will provide a great forum for the members of our Committee to exchange their views with different experts and stakeholders on how to harmonize interests in protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystems with further development of the blue economy.

Marine protected areas play an increasingly important role in the preservation of the marine environment. They are indispensable in planning of maritime space. However, we also must strive to ensure a balance between environmental protection and human activities at sea. This public hearing will provide our committee members with an excellent opportunity to discuss the role of marine protected areas in the context of sustainable management of fisheries.

At the same time, the traditional maritime activities such as fishing, aquaculture, shipping and the extraction of natural resources are competing for fragile maritime space with relatively new activities such as offshore energy and others. It is essential to ensure a high level of coordination between different economic activities and stakeholders in the maritime space and find ways to accommodate their often-conflicting interests.

Alain CADEC

## ONGOING DOSSIERS

Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Sustainable management of external fishing fleets <a href="#">2015/0289(COD)</a>	Engström	COD	05/12/2016	FEB I 2017
Conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures <a href="#">2016/0074(COD)</a>	Mato	COD	22-23/03/2017	MAY I 2017
Characteristics for fishing vessels. Recast <a href="#">2016/0145 (COD)</a>	Kuhn	COD	05/12/2016	FEB II 2017
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area <a href="#">2016/0187(COD)</a>	Mato	COD	30/05/2017	JUL 2017
Multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks <a href="#">2016/0238(COD)</a>	Rodust	COD	21-22/06/2017	OCT II 2017
EU/Cook Islands Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and implementation Protocol <a href="#">2016/0077(NLE)</a>	Ferreira	NLE	25-26/01/2017	FEB II 2017
EU/Norway Agreement: reciprocal access to fishing in the Skagerrak for vessels flying the flag of Denmark, Norway and Sweden <a href="#">2016/0192(NLE)</a>	Dohrmann	NLE	9-10/11/2016	DEC 2016
Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions <a href="#">2016/2016(INI)</a>	Rodust	INI	22-23/03/2017	APR II 2017
The role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries <a href="#">2016/2035(INI)</a>	Briano	INI	24-25/04/2017	MAY II 2017
Status of fish stocks and socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean <a href="#">2016/2079 (INI)</a>	Affronte	INI	22-23/03/2017	APR I 2017
Reports adopted in PECH awaiting 1st/2nd reading agreements	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Fishing in the North-East Atlantic: specific conditions to fishing for deep-sea stocks, provisions for fishing in international waters <a href="#">2012/0179(COD)</a>	Thomas	COD	05/12/2016	DEC 2016
Long-term plan for cod stocks and the fisheries exploiting those stocks: management <a href="#">2012/0236(COD)</a>	Dodds	COD	09/11/2016	NOV I 2016
Collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. Recast <a href="#">2015/0133(COD)</a>	Affronte	COD	05/12/2016 (tbc)	DEC 2016 (tbc)

Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Commission au Fond
An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic <a href="#">JOIN(2016)0021 final</a>	Wałęsa	INI	05/12/2016	AFET (24/01/2017)
Discharge 2015: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) <a href="#">2016/2181(DEC)</a>	Engström	DEC	25-26/01/2017	CONT (23/03/2017)
2015 discharge: EU general budget, European Commission <a href="#">2016/2151(DEC)</a>	Cadec	DEC	25-26/01/2017	CONT (22/03/2017)
Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union <a href="#">2016/0282(COD)</a>	Iturgaiz	COD	TBC	BUDG (tbc)

*\*Note on procedures:*

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

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

## DELEGATED AND IMPLEMENTING ACTS

Procedure	Legal basis	Delegated act	Deadline to object / request an extension
C(2016) 6272 final	Regulation (EU) n° 1380/2013 - Articles 15 (6) and Regulation (EC) No 850/98 - Articles 18a	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 4.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea and in Union waters of ICES Division IIa	<b>04.12.2016</b> Briefing note available  Corrigendum requested
C(2016)6444 final	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Article 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3)	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 12.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters	<b>12.12.2016</b> Briefing note available
C(2016)6439 final	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Article 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3)	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 12.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in North-Western waters	<b>12.12.2016</b> Briefing note available
C(2016)6482 final	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Articles 15(1)(d) and 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3) Regulation No 1967/2006 - Article 15a and 29a	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 13.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for mollusc bivalve Venus spp. in the Italian territorial waters	<b>13.12.2016</b> Briefing note available
C(2016)6500 final	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Article 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3)	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 14.10.2016 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1394/2014 establishing a discard plan for certain pelagic fisheries in South-Western waters	<b>14.12.2016</b> Briefing note available
(2016)6606 final	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Articles 15(1)(d) and 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3) Regulation No 1967/2006 - Article 15a and 29a	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 20.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea	<b>20.12.2016</b> Briefing note available
C(2016)6618 final		Commission Delegated Regulation	<b>20.12.2016</b>

	Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 - Articles 15(1)(d) and 15(6) and Articles 18(1) and (3) Regulation No 1967/2006 - Article 15a and 29a	(EU) .../... of 20.10.2016 establishing a discard plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea	Briefing note available
C(2016) 5549 final	Regulation (EU) n° 1380/2013 - Articles 11(2) and 18(1) (3)	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 5.9.2016 establishing fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the North Sea	<b>05.01.2017</b> Briefing note available Extension of the deadline from 05.11.2016 to 05.01.2017

# RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

## REQUESTED:

- **Regional ocean governance in Europe: the role of fisheries**
- **Sustainable blue growth in the EU and opportunities for small-scale fisheries**
- **The management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions**

## PUBLISHED (SINCE 2014):

### **CFP and fisheries management**

- *Seafood Industry Integration in the EU*
- *Socioeconomic role and environmental impact of recreational, subsistence, small-scale and other fisheries in European Union*
- *Impact of fisheries partnership agreements in the development of employment in the EU and in Third countries*
- *Markets of fisheries and aquaculture products: The added value chain and the role of promotion, labelling and consumer information*
- *The discard ban and its impact on the MSY objective on Fisheries*
- *Options of handling choke species in view of the EU landing obligation - the Baltic plaice example*
- *Social and Economic impact of the penalty point system*
- *A new technical measures framework for the new CFP (Workshop)*
- *The landing obligation and its implications on the control of fisheries*
- *The obligation to land all catches - consequences for the Mediterranean*
- *Future of the "Almadraba" sector. Traditional and sustainable tuna fishing methods in the EU*
- *Small scale fisheries and the zero discard target*
- *Best practice on the use of rights based management to reduce discards in mixed fisheries*
- *Infringement procedures and imposed sanctions throughout the EU*
- *Criteria for allocating access to fishing in the EU*
- *Alternative solutions for driftnet fisheries*
- *The conflict between static gear and mobile gear in inshore fisheries*
- *Inland fisheries and the CFP*
- *IUU fishing and sanctions in the EU*

### **Ecologic Impact**

- *Sardine fisheries: resource assessment and social and economic situation*
- *Long-term economic and ecologic impact of larger sustainable aquaculture*
- *The impact of oil and gas drilling accidents on EU fisheries*
- *The use of FADs in tuna fisheries*

### **Stocks**

- *Situation of the clam (*Tapes spp*) fisheries sector in the EU*
- *Pelagic fisheries and the canning industry in Outermost Regions*
- *Sea bass stocks and conservation measures in the EU*
- *Characteristics of multi-specific fisheries in the EU*

### **Structural Policy**

- *Prospects for the development of tourism activities related to fishing*

### **External dimension**

- *Fisheries management and the Arctic in the context of climate change*

### **Mission briefings**

- *Fisheries in Thailand (mission 2016)*
- *Fisheries in Norway (mission 2016)*
- *Fisheries in Poland (mission 2016)*
- *Fisheries in Galicia (mission 2016)*
- *Fisheries in Azores/Réunion (missions 2015)*
- *Fisheries in Germany (delegation 2014)*

@ You can access the studies and other documents via this [link](#)

# FISHERIES NEWS IN BRIEF

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[News - Press service](#)

### MEPs ask for uniform fair treatment for EU fishermen

(25/10/2016)

EU fisheries rules should be applied uniformly to all EU fishermen, so that they are treated fairly, say MEPs in a resolution voted on Tuesday. Inspection procedures, e.g. for net mesh sizes and catches, should be standardized, as should penalties for infringements, it says. Introducing an EU “core curriculum” for training all fisheries inspectors, and using compatible real-time communication technologies EU wide, would also help improve fairness, it adds.

The non-legislative resolution, approved by 581 votes to 59, with 48 abstentions comes ahead of the upcoming revision of the Control System Council Regulation expected in 2017.

“The same legislation currently seems to be applied differently from country to country. This raises the question of how effective the legislation is and how credible the EU is. Legislation should apply to everybody and it is not acceptable that it does not apply equally to everyone”, said rapporteur Isabelle Thomas (S&D, FR).

#### **Controls and sanctions**

MEPs say huge differences in national control methods and disparities between inspection sites result in “discriminatory” controls, as some countries do checks at every stage, from fishing gear to the consumer’s plate, whereas others check only certain links in the chain. Sanctions also vary across the EU, as for the same infringement, an administrative penalty may be imposed in one country but a penal one in another.

Parliament recommends expanding checks to cover the entire production chain, assigning responsibility for control at sea to a single administrative body in each country so as to prevent overlaps, and standardising sanctions. MEPs say they prefer economic sanctions, including temporary suspensions of fishing activity, to penal ones.

#### **Training and technologies**

MEPs note that member states do not have the

same training standards and call on the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and national training bodies to introduce a uniform European “core curriculum” for training fisheries inspectors.

New monitoring and real-time information transmission and communication technologies are essential for maritime surveillance and should be made technically compatible across all EU countries, says the text.

### EP delegation expresses appreciation for Thailand's efforts against IUU fishing

(04-11-2016)

A delegation of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament visited Bangkok over the past week in order to obtain a first-hand experience of Thailand's achievements in fighting against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and in protecting migrant workers employed by the fishing fleet.

The five-member delegation headed by the First Vice-Chair Linnéa Engström (Greens) with Gabriel Mato (EPP), Ulrike Rodust (S&D), Ricardo Serrao Santos (S&D) and Izaskun Bilbao (ALDE) had a number of high-level meetings with Government Ministers and relevant Thai authorities which spared no effort to welcome the EP delegation and present the newly adopted legislation and enforcement measures.

Members expressed their appreciation for the open and frank exchanges with their counterparts and the constructive cooperation. A number of significant improvements in the Thai fisheries legislation could undoubtedly improve Thailand's ability to tackle and deter IUU fishing activities in its waters. The Members also witnessed new monitoring, inspection and control infrastructures and facilities such as the CCCIF in Bangkok and the Port-in Port-out Control Center in Samutsakorn, which together with the new infrastructure in place can positively impact Thailand's ability to comply with its international obligations in the fight against IUU fishing.

On the other hand, the regularisation and protection of migrant workers illegally employed in fisheries still needs additional efforts to be deployed in order to successfully tackle this problem. The delegation was given the opportunity to visit a protection center for victims



of trafficking in persons north of Bangkok and met with a number of NGOs actively engaged in Thailand in rescuing and assisting such victims.

Field visits and meetings with stakeholders, such as seafood processing companies and fishermen associations, provided the Members with first-hand information on the challenges and constraints of the Thai fisheries and aquaculture sector.

"For Thailand and the EU it is paramount to continue with this open and constructive dialogue in order to successfully address the global challenges posed by illegal fishing, human trafficking and the exploitation of workers in the fishing industry. The reform of the Thai fisheries legislation and the creation of performing monitoring and control structures go in the right direction and we strongly encourage Thailand to continue on this path", Members pointed out.

## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION News - Press service

### **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** **(10-11/10/2016)**

The Council reached a political agreement on the **fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2017**.

After a day-long negotiation, ministers unanimously agreed on the maximum quantity of fish that EU fishermen will be allowed to catch next year out of the ten main commercial stocks in the Baltic Sea, a quantity also referred to as the "Total Allowable Catch" (TAC).

The quantities were agreed taking into account the commitment to the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, including the achievement of **maximum sustainable yield** (MSY), the principles of the **multiannual fisheries management plan for the Baltic sea**, and **scientific advice**, in particular advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Ministers also exchanged views on the **annual consultations** between the **EU and Norway** in the framework of their bilateral fisheries agreement. The main concerns expressed by member states covered the management arrangements for the **jointly-managed fish stocks** and the exchange of **reciprocal fishing possibilities** in EU and Norwegian waters.

[Full press release](#)

### **Upcoming meeting:** **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** **(14/11/2016)** [LINK](#)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION News - Press service

### **Baltic Sea: sustainable fishing quotas set for 2017** **(11/10/2016)**

The EU fisheries ministers have agreed on next year's fishing limits (TACs) for ten fish stocks of the Baltic Sea. These TACs were the first to be set in accordance with the long-term management plan for the Baltic basin that had recently been adopted by the Council and the European Parliament.

The agreement includes an increase in catches for herring (except in the Gulf of Riga), plaice, and salmon (except in the Gulf of Finland) in line with the Commission proposal. Ministers also decided for a smaller increase for sprat and for no increase for salmon in the main basin. These increases were made possible by the industry's efforts of previous years.

Moreover the following reductions were also agreed on: -25% for Eastern cod, -56% for Western cod, -11% for herring in the Gulf of Riga and -20% for salmon in the Gulf of Finland.

The cod stocks, and especially the Western stock, are deteriorating fast. To let them recover as quickly as possible, the Commission had proposed to reduce the current quota by 88%. However, as Member States agreed to complement quota reductions for Western cod by a comprehensive set of other conservation measures, such as the extension of the fisheries closure period from 6 to 8 weeks and limitations to daily catches by recreational anglers during the closure, the Commission is satisfied that the reductions agreed are consistent with both scientific advice and the multiannual management plan for the Baltic Sea. All the TACs agreed are in line with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, with the principles of the multiannual management plan for the Baltic sea, and with scientific advice, in particular the advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).



## Discards phase-out: New landing obligations adopted for the Atlantic and the North Sea (14/10/2016)

This month the Commission adopted three Delegated Regulations establishing discard plans for certain demersal fisheries and one for pelagic fishery. Discard plans are a temporary measure facilitating the phase-out of discards and the phase-in of a new region-specific style of fisheries management.

The new plans concern certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea and Union waters of ICES Division IIa, demersal fisheries in North-Western waters and South-Western waters of the Atlantic as well as pelagic fisheries in South Western Atlantic waters.

Discard plans help to achieve one of the key objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, which is the progressive elimination of discards in all EU fisheries. The Policy also seeks to decentralize management and empower national governments so that rules are customized to the specific characteristics of each sea area and fishery. The countries around a sea basin can design together the rules that will allow that basin to achieve the goals of the new Common Fisheries Policy. This is why the new discard plans are based on the joint recommendations developed by the EU countries having a direct interest in the relevant regions or basins.

The progressive elimination of discards started at the very beginning of 2015 with new landing rules for pelagic and industrial fisheries in all EU waters and for cod fisheries in the Baltic Sea. This year we have been continuing with fish species that feed on or near the sea bottom, also known as demersal. Landing obligations for some demersal fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean and of the North Sea have been in force since 1 January 2016, but these new discard plans, which will apply as from 1 January 2017, widen the scope further.

Discard plans provide for two types of exemptions. The first group of exceptions, called *de minimis* exemptions, allows operators to discard a small percentage of catches in those fisheries where increasing selectivity is either too difficult or too expensive. The second group, the so-called survivability exemptions, allows operators to throw back specimen that have a high chance of surviving, as is the case for

instance of Norway lobster. These exceptions were examined by the EU's scientific advisory body, i.e. the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries ([STECF](#)).

The demersal discard plans are set to last until the end of 2018, after which they should be replaced by multiannual plans.

## New discard plans adopted for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (20/10/2016)

The Commission has adopted two Delegated Regulations establishing discard plans for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea. Discarding is the practice of returning unwanted catches to the sea, either dead or alive, either because they are too small, the fisherman has no quota, or because of certain catch composition rules.

The new Common Fisheries Policy does away with the wasteful practice of discarding through the introduction of a [landing obligation](#). Discard plans are a temporary measure designed to gradually phase-out discards and to put in place the landing obligation.

In the Mediterranean Sea, as of 1 January 2017 the landing obligation will be compulsory for demersal species that define the fisheries and that are subject to a minimum conservation reference size as defined in the "Mediterranean Regulation (Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006). The fisheries targeting hake, red mullet, common sole and deep water rose shrimp in certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea are subject to this provision. The new plan establishes detailed rules for the implementation of the landing obligation in these fisheries, including different levels of "de minimis" exemptions depending on the area and fishing gear used. Under this exemption, operators can discard a small percentage of unwanted catches, given that the costs of their handling would be disproportionate.

The plan also stipulates a number of survivability exemptions, allowing operators to throw back specimen that have a high chance of surviving (for example for sole caught with beam trawls and for scallop, carpet clams and venus shells caught with mechanized dredges). The survivability exemptions last for one year, and Member States are to transmit additional scientific data in the course of 2017 for possible renewal.

These exceptions were examined by the EU's scientific advisory body, i.e. the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). All the provisions of the discard plan stem from the joint recommendations drawn up by the Member States concerned namely Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia, after consultation of the [Mediterranean Sea Advisory Council](#).

As far as the Black Sea is concerned, as of 1 January 2017 the landing obligation will be compulsory for turbot fisheries. The plan adopted for this fishery is based on a joint recommendation transmitted by Romania and Bulgaria and assessed by the STECF. It has a duration of three years and foresees a one-year survivability exemption for turbot caught with bottom set gillnets. Romania and Bulgaria are to send additional data in the course of 2017, based on which the survivability exemption may be prolonged in the coming years.

### Progress made on EU – Morocco Fisheries Partnership (20/10/2016)

On 18-20 October the 3rd Joint Committee under the 2014 – 2018 EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement Protocol met in Rabat. The Parties assessed the second year of implementation of the protocol: both the fishing activity carried out by the EU fleet and the implementation of the EU support to the Moroccan fisheries sector were reviewed.

The outcome was positive on both counts. The use of the available fishing possibilities was satisfactory for both the EU and Morocco and as much as 74% of the sectorial support funds has been absorbed and directed towards the common objectives.

Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the good progress of the Protocol. They also agreed on and introduced a number of new measures that will make fishing operations more efficient and improve compliance with the mandatory landings. The Parties feel confident that the Protocol will continue to be successful for the rest of its duration.

### Commission negotiates mackerel quota increases in North-east Atlantic for 2017 (21/10/2016)

On 19 October in Clonakilty, Ireland, the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands reached an agreement on the quotas for mackerel fisheries allowed in 2017. This agreement is part of the five-year arrangement for mackerel agreed by the Parties for the period from 2014 to 2018.

In line with the long-term management strategy adopted in 2015, the Parties recommend for 2017 a total catch limitation of 1,020,996 tonnes for the mackerel fishery in the North-East Atlantic. The EU will benefit from a quota of 503,245 tonnes. The Parties also set aside a Coastal State and NEAFC reserve equivalent to 15.6% of the total TAC, to provide for new adherents to the Arrangement such as Iceland and Greenland.

In addition to the three-Party Arrangement, a bilateral arrangement was also concluded between the EU and Norway. This contains provisions for the mackerel fishery in Norwegian and EU waters in the course of 2017.

#### TACs and quotas for 2017

In accordance with the 2014-2018 Mackerel Arrangement, the Delegations agreed to the following arrangement on the quota shares for 2017 (Tonnes):

European Union:	503,245
Faroe Islands:	128,655
Norway:	229,821
Other Coastal States and fishing Parties:	159,275
<b>TOTAL TAC:</b>	<b>1,054,000</b>

### Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2017 (27/10/2016)

In preparation for the December Fisheries Council, where Member States will negotiate fishing quotas in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2017, the Commission is presenting its proposal for healthy and sustainable stocks.

The Commission is presenting its proposal on fishing quotas for next year in the Atlantic and the North Sea. This is the annual scheme for the amount of fish which can be caught by European Union fishermen from the main commercial fish

stocks next year, also referred to as Total Allowable Catches (TACs). On the basis of the scientific advice received, the Commission proposes to maintain or increase the current fishing quotas for 42 stocks which are in good health, and reduce catches for 28 stocks which are faring poorly.

Later this autumn the Commission will also propose some additional quotas, the so-called 'quota top-ups', for the fisheries that fall under the [landing obligation](#) in 2017. These extra quotas are granted on account of the fact that fishermen can no longer discard the fish caught unintentionally but have to land it. The allowed quota is therefore increased to facilitate the transition to the new system of no discards. The exact top-ups per fishery will be determined on the basis of scientific advice expected in mid-November and of the quantities that need to be landed according to the regional discard plans.

The proposal covers stocks managed by the EU alone and stocks managed with third countries, such as Norway, or through [Regional Fisheries Management Organisations](#) (RFMOs) across the world's oceans. International negotiations for many of the stocks concerned are still ongoing and some stocks are awaiting scientific advice. For these, the figures will be included at a later stage, once the negotiations with third countries and within RFMOs have taken place.

Today's proposal will be submitted for discussion and adoption by the Ministers of the Member States at the Fisheries Council in December, to be applied as from 1 January 2017.

### ***Details of the proposal***

The Commission's objective, under the reformed [Common Fisheries Policy](#), is to have all stocks fished sustainably by respecting the Maximum Sustainable Yield of a fishery. Fishing at [Maximum Sustainable Yield](#) (MSY) levels allows the fishing industry to take the highest amount of fish from the sea while keeping fish stocks healthy. The Commission proposes maximum fishing levels on the basis of scientific advice received from the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea](#) (ICES). This year, ICES advice was given for 34 stocks.

### ***Stocks at sustainable levels***

For some EU stocks already at MSY, such as **anglerfish** in Southern Waters, **common sole** in the Skagerrak/Kattegat and **sole** in the Western Channel, the Commission proposes to raise the

TACs. Increases are also proposed for **Norway lobster** in the Kattegat/Skagerrak, **horse mackerel** in Atlantic Iberian waters and **haddock** in the Irish Sea and Celtic Sea. The continued growth of the Northern **hake** stock also justifies a new substantial increase in the TAC.

### ***Stocks fished unsustainably***

At the same time, some stocks still give reasons for concern - for example **cod** stocks continue to decline in West of Ireland, in the Celtic Sea, in the Bay of Biscay and in Atlantic Iberian Waters. **Sole** in the Irish Sea is very vulnerable. The advice for **whiting** in the West of Scotland is for zero catches and decreases are proposed for **megrims** and **pollack** in the Celtic and Irish seas. In the Kattegat a reduction for **plaice** is proposed. The scientific advice for **sea bass** is also very alarming. The Commission has included in its proposal actions for managing **sea bass** in 2017. These management measures would allow some fishing possibilities to the small-scale fishermen that depend on this stock, but take into account that ICES advises to cut the overall landings of sea bass.

### ***Stocks for which scientific data are lacking***

For cases where data are not sufficient to properly estimate the stock's size, the Commission proposal follows the advice of ICES, i.e. cuts or increases of a maximum of 20%. Following a common statement in 2012, 26 data-limited stocks were set at a lower TAC but maintained for 5 years. For 2 of these stocks, updated scientific advice demonstrates that the stocks have declined further and an additional TAC reduction is now needed. This concerns sprat in the Channel and plaice in the Celtic sea and South-West of Ireland.

**For more information:** [LINK](#)

## MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

RAC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE	Main issues
MED AC	9/11/2016	Rome	ExCom	
NS AC	9/11/2016	Copenhagen	WG	Demersal
BS AC	15/11/2016	Copenhagen	ExCom	
LD AC	15/11/2016	London	WG2	North Atlantic Stocks, Fisheries Agreements and RFMOs (NAFO / NEAFC)
NWW AC	16/11/2016	Dublin	FG	Skates and Rays
LD AC	23/11/2016	Madrid	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](#))
- MIRAC: ICES/AC meeting ([link](#))
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

## MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### NORWAY/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
<b>November 2016</b>			
8-10/11/2016	EU-Norway Consultations for 2017 – round 1	Bilateral	Copenhagen
14-18/11/2016	NEAFC – Annual Meeting	Multilateral	London
28/11-2/12/2016	EU-Norway Consultations for 2017 – round 2	Bilateral	Bergen, Norway
21-25/11/2016	Coastal State consultations	Multilateral	Poss. London
<b>December 2016</b>			
06-07/12/2016	EU-Faroe Islands Consultations for 2017	Bilateral	Brussels

### REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
<b>November 2016</b>			
7-15/11/2016	United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	Resolution Sustainable Fisheries	New York, USA
14-21/11/2016	Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)	Annual Meeting	Vilamoura, Portugal
16-22/11/2016	United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	Oceans and Law of the Sea Resolution	New York, USA
28/11-2/12/2016	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)	Annual Meeting	
<b>December 2016</b>			
5-9/12/2016	Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	Annual meeting	Fidji

<b>January 2017</b>			
14 - 22/01/2017	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	Technical and compliance committee and Annual Meeting	Adelaide
<b>February 2017</b>			
<b>March 2017</b>			
TBD	EU+GFCM	Ministerial Conference on sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean	Malta
TBC	UN: Informal consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement		
27/03 - 7/04/2017	UN	BBNJ: Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction: Third session	New York

## FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST	
			Date	Location	Date	Location
MIXED AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	15/11/2019	15-17/11/2016 extraordinary JC	Nouakchott		
	Morocco	14/07/2018	Second half 2017	Bruxelles		
	Senegal	19/11/2019	Q1 2017	Dakar		
	Guinea Bissau	23/11/2017			Q1 2017	TBC
	Greenland	31/12/2020	21-25/11/2016	Brussels		
WEST AFRICA	Cape Verde	22/12/2018	MAR/APR 2017			
	Ivory Coast	30/06/2018	NOV/DEC 2016 (TBC)	Abidjan		
	Gabon	23/07/2016	End 2016/early 2017 (TBC)		End 2016/ early 2017 (TBC)	Libreville
	Ghana	N.A.			1st half 2017 (TBC)	TBC
	Liberia	8/12/2020	MAY 2017 (TBC)	Brussels		
	Equatorial Guinea	N.A.				
	São Tomé and Príncipe	23/05/2018				
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	31/12/2016				
	Madagascar	31/12/2018	JAN/FEB 2017			
	Mauritius	21/01/2017			Q4 2016 (TBC)	Brussels
	Mozambique	<i>No protocol in force</i>			End 2016/ early 2017 (TBC)	TBD
	Seychelles	17/01/2020	DEC 2016 (TBC) extraordinary JC	Seychelles		
	Mayotte (Access agreement for Seychelles flagged vessels in EU waters)	19/05/2020	JUN 2017	Seychelles		
	Tanzania	<i>No agreement / protocol</i>			Q4 2016 (TBC)	Brussels (TBC)
	Kenya	<i>No agreement / protocol</i>			Q4 2016	
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	<i>New Agreement/ Protocol initialled</i>	Q4 2016 (TBC)	Rarotonga		



## 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>	Mrs Renata BRIANO

COORDINATORS			
<b>EPP</b>	MATO ADROVER Gabriel	<b>ECR</b>	VAN DALEN Peter
<b>S&amp;D</b>	RODUST Ulrike	<b>GUE/NGL</b>	FERREIRA João
<b>ALDE</b>	MARINHO E PINTO António	<b>EFDD</b>	FINCH Raymond
<b>Greens/EFA</b>	ENGSTRÖM Linnéa		

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FULL MEMBERS			COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
AFFRONTE Marco	IT	EFDD	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	DOHRMANN Jørn	DK	ECR
CORBETT Richard	GB	S&D	DUNCAN Ian	GB	ECR
DODDS Diane	GB	NI	GIESEKE Jens	DE	EPP
ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	SE	Greens/EFA	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	HEUBUCH Maria	DE	Greens/EFA
FINCH Raymond	GB	EFDD	HOC Czesław	PL	ECR
HUDGHTON Ian	GB	Greens/EFA	HOOKEM Mike	GB	EFDD
ITURGAIZ Angulo	ES	EPP	JADOT Yannick	FR	Greens/EFA
KUHN Werner	DE	EPP	LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica	ES	EPP
LE PEN Jean-Marie	FR	NI	MCAVAN Linda	GB	S&D
MARINHO E PINTO António	PT	ALDE	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP
MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ES	EPP	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP
NI RIADA Liadh	IE	GUE/NGL	PAKSAS Rolandas	LT	EFDD
NICOLAI Norica	RO	ALDE	PEDICINI Piernicola	IT	EFDD
RODUST Ulrike	DE	S&D	SÂRBU Daciana Octavia	RO	S&D
SERNAGIOTTO Remo	IT	ECR	SASSOLI David-Maria	IT	S&D
SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	PT	S&D	SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP
THOMAS Isabelle	FR	S&D	SENRA RODRÍGUEZ María Lidia	ES	GUE/NGL
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	TORVALDS Nils	FI	ALDE
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	ECR			
WAŁĘSA Jarosław Leszek	PL	EPP			



## NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 2016

- Monday, 5 December, 15:00-18:30

### 2017

- Wednesday, 25 January, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 26 January, 9h00-12h30
  
- Monday, 27 February, 15h00-18h30
- Tuesday, 28 February, 9h00-12h30
  
- Wednesday, 22 March, 9h00-12h30
- Wednesday, 22 March, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 23 March, 9h00-12h30
  
- Monday, 24 April, 15h00-18h30
- Tuesday, 25 April, 9h00-12h30
- Tuesday, 25 April, 15h00-18h30
  
- Tuesday, 30 May, 15h00-18h30
  
- Wednesday, 21 June, 9h00-12h30
- Wednesday, 21 June, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 22 June, 9h00-12h30

### USEFUL LINKS

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