

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014



The end of the Greek Presidency

Interview with Kathryn Stack (Europeche)

Horizon 2020

Euroshell

Upcoming Events

This month marks the end of the Greek Presidency and the start of the Italian. All in all, a successful presidency with the closing of files of great importance, such as the European Maritime Fisheries Fund, the Maritime Spatial Planning and the bilateral agreement between the Council and the European Parliament on the multi-annual management plans. Now, the Italian Presidency will be called upon to tackle issues like the Omnibus regulation, that will adapt the current technical framework to the discard ban, which will enter into force January 2015; the ban on driftnets and the TACs and quotas for 2015.

This said, in this month's edition, you will have the opportunity to read an article on the main achievements of the Greek Presidency, an interview with Kathryn Stack, the new managing Director of Europeche and read an article about the Horizon 2020 funding program and its structure.

Enjoy the reading and with best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Despina Symons'.

Despina Symons
Director, EBCD

The end of the Greek Presidency



With the start of this month comes the closure of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the start of the Italian Presidency.

A 6 month period packed with fisheries issues, it was the first Presidency with the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in place. Many issues had been left unsolved such as the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the multi-annual management plans, something that the Hellenic Presidency was called upon to solve.

On these, you can read below an interview with an official from the Hellenic Presidency on its main achievements and the possible next steps from the Italian Presidency.

Main Achievements of the Hellenic Presidency:

The main achievements of the Hellenic Presidency have been the adoption of the Regulation for the EMFF, the work of the “Task Force” on the multiannual fisheries management plans and the establishment of the Council position on the “Omnibus” regulation for the

implementation of the landing obligation (discard ban). In detail:

It was important to reach an agreement on the EMFF and have a timely adoption of the regulation, in order for the Member States to be able to submit their Operational Programs in 2014. The Fund will finance projects to implement the new reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and provide financial support to fishermen, fish farmers and coastal communities to adapt to the changed rules. The Fund will also finance projects to boost 'blue' growth and jobs under the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

As regards the “Omnibus regulation”, the Commission proposal aims to facilitate the upcoming implementation of the discard ban, as agreed in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform context. This proposal represents a temporary and urgently needed solution, which needs to be adopted by the end of this year. It consists of a series of amendments to a number of regulations establishing fisheries technical measures and control rules. It was necessary to advance the file as much as possible, since the landing obligation already enters into force 1st of January 2015. During the Hellenic Presidency, the Council established its position with a view to starting negotiations with the European Parliament in the second half of this year, aiming for the adoption of the regulation by the end of 2014.

The Multi-annual Management Plans are key tools for the management of fisheries resources, therefore it was important to advance the work under the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Task Force mandated by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission to discuss a practical way forward for

the development of Multi-annual Fisheries Management Plans under the reformed CFP, has submitted a report, which contains recommendations on the core elements that should appear in Multiannual Plans, depending on the level of complexity of the fisheries concerned.

Next steps of the Italian Presidency:

The Italian Presidency will have to deal with the establishment of the TAC and quotas for 2015, for the Atlantic/North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea and for the deep sea species. In addition the Presidency will have to start negotiations with the European Parliament on the "Omnibus" regulation aiming for an adoption of the regulation by the end of 2014. Another important issue will be the preparation of the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2014.

Interview with Kathryn Stack (Europêche)

After being appointed as the new managing director of Europêche, Kathryn Stack gave an interview to EB CD.



What are your main expectations from Europêche, as an association of fishing enterprises?

Europêche is the biggest representative body for fishermen in the European Union. Our main aim is to ensure that the vital knowledge and experience of the fishermen forms part of the decision making process. It is also important to highlight that there are different pillars of sustainability; environmental, social and economic. All three need to be taken into account for any legislation to be workable and Europêche is instrumental in this process.

What are your main expectations from the new EU Parliament on fisheries related issues, as well from the new PECH committee?

The 8th European Parliament has taken shape and a new Fisheries Committee has been elected with a lot of new faces. I am confident the new committee will be just as proactive and committed to sustainable fishing as the previous committee. However, there are still many challenges we have to overcome with implementing the new reform in a way that is flexible and practical for the sector. A new Italian Presidency and eventually a new Commission will also have their own priorities. With the blue economy representing over 5.4 million jobs in the EU, these future decision makers will have a lot of responsibility in forging future fisheries policy which ensures both a diverse marine environment and a sustainable sector.

Which issues do you believe will preoccupy the fisheries sector in the upcoming months that will need to be resolved as soon as possible?

The first phase of the discard ban for pelagics, industrial, salmon and Baltic Sea fisheries will begin on 1st January 2015. The Omnibus Regulation is required to align the technical and control measures to ensure there is no contradictory legislation in place regarding the discarding of fish. Not only does this important regulation have to be debated, amended, voted on and agreed with the Council in a matter of months but the sector will have virtually no time to adjust to the new rules in place. It is clear that there are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding *how* the discard ban will work in practice e.g treating and storing fish, choke species and electronic monitoring. Conflicting legislation is certainly not wanted but we must also allow those affected by such drastic changes to be able to digest the rules and implement them appropriately.

The proposed ban on driftnets will also be shortly coming to the Parliament for debate. Whilst Europêche agrees with closing possible legislative loopholes in order to protect potential unauthorised catches, a blanket ban is disproportionate and unfair to those practising legal driftnet fishing. A lack of enforcement is also discriminatory against those Member States who already have a driftnet ban. The current legislation should be tightened and applied on a regional level, targeting those fisheries which need enhanced monitoring and enforcement. Poor driftnet data and the costs of enforcing the rules should not be a reason to opt for a precautionary yet disproportionate approach.

Horizon 2020



The new research programme

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the new research and innovation programme of the European Union from 2014 to 2020¹, picking up from the previous funding scheme, 7th Framework Programme (FP7). It has a budget of nearly 80 billion euros to fund science, industrial entrepreneurship and to tackle societal problems. The idea behind this funding instrument is to take the science and implement it in the market, thus driving economic growth and creating more jobs, while preserving the world's resources.

One of the differences with the previous scheme is its global approach. Meaning it will fund joint programs with third countries, such as Canada, the United States and others. Also, non-EU countries will be invited to contribute in the H2020 program. This is the case of Norway, Iceland and Faroe Islands, whose companies and researchers will be allowed to take part in the H2020 calls, while their national administrations inject funds in the program (the agreement with the Faroe Islands still needs to be approved by Ministers' Council and is expected to be adopted after the summer break). It

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

should be noted that Norway is very active in fields such as the environment, oceans, climate change, energy research and food safety.

Structure of H2020

The Horizon 2020 programme is divided into 3 main pillars:

- Sustainable Food Security; promoting sustainable food production systems, safe food and healthy diets and global drivers of food security
- Blue Growth; promoting sustainable exploitation of the diversity of marine life, new offshore challenges, ocean observation technologies/systems and socio-economic dimension/engagement with society
- Innovative, Sustainable and Inclusive Bio-economy; promoting sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable and competitive bio-based industries and cross-cutting actions covering all the activities

The H2020 is divided in 2-year periods, with the first one already closed (2014-2015 calls) and the new one opening up towards the end of this year (2016-2017 calls).

Fisheries and marine issues , an integral part of the H2020

Fisheries, aquaculture and marine activities play an important role in the first two pillars.

In regards to the Sustainable Food security pillar, for the year 2014-2015, gradual elimination of discards in European Fisheries, diseases related challenges faced by European aquatic animals and an eco-system based approach for European

aquaculture, were the activities funded by the H2020 program.

The second pillar, the objective of which is to unlock the potential of aquatic living resources and promote the Blue Growth strategy; a strategy to support sustainable growth and innovation, fisheries and aquaculture are key drivers. In that regard, for the year 2014-2015, the activities funded were:

- The sustainable exploitation of the diversity of marine life,
- The competitiveness of the seafood market,
- The support of Small-Medium Sized enterprises (SMEs), promoting the blue growth initiative,
- Ocean Literacy,
- Transatlantic Ocean Cooperation research Alliance (a funding scheme in collaboration with the United States and Canada),
- A Programming Initiative on "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans"

Euroshell



On Tuesday 27th of May, the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) and Euroshell, a EU-Funded FP7 project, in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee, organised a stakeholder meeting at the European Economic and Social Committee, to present the results of the Euroshell project and discuss the ***"Future of the European Shellfish Sector"***.

You can find reports and other documents related to the event [here](#).

Upcoming EVENTS

July 2014			
01-03 Jul	EP	EP Plenary	Strasbourg, France
01 Jul		Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	
03 Jul	NWW AC	Executive Committee and Focus Groups	Edinburgh (Scotland)
07 Jul	EP	Fisheries Committee- Constitutive meeting	Brussels, Belgium
7-11 Jul	CITES	65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, CIGG	Geneva, Switzerland
10 Jul	Pelagic AC	Executive Committee meeting	Den Haag, Netherlands
14-17 Jul	EP	EP Plenary	Strasbourg, France
14 Jul	EU Council	Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers' Council	Brussels, Belgium
22 Jul	EP	Fisheries Committee	Brussels, Belgium