



Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter

February 2017



CONTENTS

European Commission	3
COMMISSION ADOPTS NEW REGULATION ON EU FLEET REGISTER	3
COMMISSION PROPOSES MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN FOR SMALL PELAGIC STOCKS IN THE ADRIATIC.....	3
DG MARE PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE “OUR OCEAN” CONFERENCE.....	4
INTERNATIONAL.....	4
European Parliament	6
FISHERIES PLENARY.....	6
FISHERIES COMMITTEE	6
CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE.....	7
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK.....	8
Advisory Councils	9
NORTH SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL (NSAC).....	9
International	9
UN ENVIRONMENT-EC WORKSHOP ON AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OCEAN-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
GOALS.....	9
PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE UN CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF SDG 14.....	10
WORLD OCEAN SUMMIT 2017.....	10
IASS, FAO AND UNDP HIGHLIGHT RESOURCES TO PROTECT GLOBAL COMMONS.....	10
WORLD BANK.....	11
Upcoming Events	12



European Commission

► Commission adopts new regulation on EU Fleet Register

Updates to the European Union's fleet register will soon be available in real time, following the adoption of a new regulation by the European Commission on 6 February. The regulation makes it easier for EU member states to update the fleet register, while giving the Commission the necessary tools to crosscheck the data that member states submit.

Learn more [HERE](#).

► Commission proposes multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic

On 24 February, the Commission adopted a proposal for a multi-annual plan for the management of small pelagic stocks (anchovy, sardine, mackerel and horse-mackerel) in the Adriatic.

Read the full press release [HERE](#).

► DG MARE preparatory meeting on the “Our Ocean” Conference

On 14 February, DG MARE organized a preparatory meeting with Advisory Councils' representatives for the organization of “Our Ocean” Conference that will take place in Malta on 5-6 October 2017.

The objective of this conference is to raise awareness of the need for protecting our oceans and put it in the EU political agenda resulting to specific actions and commitments made.

As the previous ones, Our Ocean conference will tackle the 4 main themes of as the last editions: Marine Protected Areas; Marine pollution; Sustainable fisheries and the impacts of climate change on the ocean.

DG MARE proposed to the Advisory Council and other stakeholders to prepare ocean governance-related commitments. These commitments must focus on specific thematic issues such as food security, climate change, issues related to sustainability, etc. Some of the participants highlighted the need of including social protection of fishermen as well as coastal communities in any ocean-related policies.

The next meeting with DG MARE will be held in April.

Malta's Schools Love Our Ocean

Speaking of the future, the European Commission, under the initiative of Commissioner Karmenu Vella and in collaboration with the Maltese Ministry of Education, will organise a school project "Malta's Schools Love Our Ocean". Our motivation to protect the future of our oceans is the next generation. To keep that motivation going we need them involved. And the best way to make ocean champions of future generations is to help them discover what is at stake.

Learn more [HERE](#).

► [International](#)

Ex ante evaluation of a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Ghana

This report provides an ex ante evaluation of a possible Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and Protocol1 between the European Union (EU) and Republic of Ghana. The EU distant-water fishing fleets have been targeting tropical tunas in the Gulf of Guinea since the 1950s, today catching about 10 % of their global tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean. Although the EU has never concluded a fisheries agreement with Ghana, the EU fleet have been fishing in Ghana's waters under private licences since 2007.

The tropical tunas of the Atlantic are highly migratory and widely distributed, targeted by fishing vessels both within coastal state exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and on the high seas in order to follow the migration of the tuna. Ghana has recently expressed an interest in concluding an agreement with the EU, following the lifting of a pre-identification as a non-cooperating country on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing issues in 2015.

Find more [HERE](#).

Stakeholder conference on the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean, 2 February 2017, Barcelona, Spain

The event is organized by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and aims to discuss and exchange their views on the challenges and emerging opportunities for sustainable investment and job creation in the blue economy of the western Mediterranean.

More than 200 participants and 70 panelists from the western Mediterranean countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania) confirmed their presence at the event. A plenary and six thematic sessions will focus on different maritime sectors: research and innovation, coast guard cooperation, sustainable growth, governance, maritime transport, training institutes and tourism.

The outcomes of the conference will be used to complete the assessment of the feasibility and will be an added value to the possible sea-basin based initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean.

Read more [HERE](#).

EU voices concern as IATTC fails to adopt robust tuna conservation measures

The EU is concerned by IATTC's failure to adopt a robust, science-based conservation measure for tropical tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. A last-minute agreement reached last week applies a catch limit for certain fisheries in 2017, but falls short of what is needed to guarantee long-term sustainable management of tuna stocks. Moreover, despite EU support for a plan to reduce fleet overcapacity in the region, capacity continues to increase.

Read more [HERE](#).

European Maritime Day 2017 in Poole!

The **European Maritime Day** (EMD) is the annual meeting point for Europe's community of maritime professionals to come together, exchange knowledge and forge the partnerships needed for joint action. It was created in 2008 by the EU institutions in order to provide a forum for people from different areas of the ocean economy, from the world of science, from public government and administration to showcase their activities, learn from each other, discuss cross-cutting issues and develop joint visions.

[Registration](#) and [booking of stands](#) are now open !

Learn more about the EMD 2017 [HERE](#).

A consumer's story: habits and hallmarks of the fish market in the EU – By DG MARE, February 2017

Good news for the industry: a study of consumer habits across the EU reveals that fish and seafood are commonly found on the tables of three quarters of Europeans. The findings give interesting insights into consumer preferences and behaviour, and provide useful indicators of how the market could be expanded and diversified in what is the world's biggest market for seafood.

In 2015, EU consumers spent €54 billion on seafood and consumed, on average, 25.5 kg per head. But what are the preferences and habits of consumers in this key market? What drives their purchases? And does the market deliver on their expectations? These are the questions that the study recently published by the European Commission tries to answer.

Learn more [HERE](#).



European Parliament

► Fisheries Plenary

Adoption of the draft Council decision on the SFPA between the EU and the Cook Islands

On 14 February, the European Parliament adopted the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

You can find the text adopted [HERE](#).

Adoption of the new FAR at the Plenary

The new regulation which would clarify the authorisation procedure of EU vessels fishing outside the EU and extend the licensing system to include also private agreements between EU companies and third countries was backed by the plenary on 2 February. Parliament will now enter into negotiations with the Council in order to reach an early first-reading agreement. The issue is far from being finished.

[Read full press release here.](#)

► Fisheries Committee

Adoption of

- **Characteristics for fishing vessels (recast)**
- **Sustainable management of external fishing fleets**
- **2015 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)**

Among others, the following topics were discussed:

1. **"Hearing: 'Information on the state and development of the biomass of fish stocks managed by the CFP'"** during which the Commission stated the difficulties of calculating the Bmsy as it does not depend only on fishing activities but environmental fluctuations.
2. **Exchange of views on the fishing of swordfish in the Mediterranean.** The EC informed the Parliament that the allocation agreed gives the EU 70% of resources.

3. **Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).** Gabriel Mato (rapporteur) stressed three important issues to be taken into account: 1. Transshipment at sea has to be banned: the lack of transparency leads to IUU. 2. Concerns about the recent decisions on swordfish and the possibility of increase the quotas for bluefin tuna. 3. The designation of quotas at national level, the promotion of more selective gears and the delegated acts are also the issues of amendments in his report.
4. **Exchange of views following the Court of Justice judgment on the agreement between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco.** The Legal Services presented briefly the abovementioned case. In conclusion the agreement is against international law and cannot be apply to Western Sahara. There are two appeals on the same legal basis on the fisheries partnership agreement of 2013 with Morocco, and the Western Sahara Campaign- UK which affects agricultural products as well. The Court will now have the opportunity to rule directly on the validity of these instruments. The rule is still under analysis.
5. **Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans.** The EU is a leader on ocean governance. The communication makes the link with maritime policy, fisheries policy and action against illegal fishing. Ocean Governance is an integral part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified conservation and sustainable use of oceans as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14) and as part of a highly inter-connected agenda.

► Conference on International Ocean Governance

On 30 January, the European Parliament Intergroup "Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal areas" organized a conference on ocean governance to tackle implementing issues, the implications for stakeholders and their collaboration with the EU institutions. Commissioner Vella presented the joint communication on international ocean governance adopted last November. His presentation was followed by a statement made by the rapporteur on the future initiative report on ocean governance, Mr Jose Inácio FARIA, MEP and Member of the Intergroup.

This event was also attended by other Mrs Gesine Meissner, Mrs Ulrike Rodust, Mrs Sofia Ribeiro, Mr Tonino Picula, Mr Ricardo Serrão Santos, Mr Marco Affronte, Mr Gabriel Mato, Mr Tiemo Wölken and Mr Francisco José Millan Mon and Mr Carlos Zorrinho, who will be involved in the parliamentary work. This was also the opportunity for the participating experts to have an exchange of views on the ocean governance communication with the MEPs and the Commissioner. Other invited expert speakers included Alexander Müller from Think Tank TMG, representatives from WWF, University of Aveiro (Portugal), UNEP, Seas at Risk, Europêche and other stakeholders.

You can learn more about this conference [HERE](#).

Important dates

Next Fisheries Committee: 22-23 March 2017
Next European Parliament Plenary: 1 March 2017

► European Parliament Think Tank¹

Following you will find the latest fisheries-related briefings, studies and fact sheets published this month:

EU fisheries agreement with the Cook Islands (07.02.2017)

Author: Irina POPESCU

The EU fisheries agreement with the Cook Islands and its implementation protocol, signed in October 2016, allow EU vessels to fish in this country's waters for the first time. Parliament's consent, requested for their conclusion, will be subject to a plenary vote planned for the February II session.

Read it [HERE](#).

Overhauling fisheries technical measures (20.02.2017)

Author: Jean WEISSENBARGER

Technical measures in fisheries govern the different fishing practices that can be used to catch fish, as well as the areas and seasons for fishing. Aimed at limiting unwanted catches or at reducing the impacts of fishing on nature, EU technical measures in fisheries have, over time, developed into a complex set of prescriptive measures, which do not fully achieve their objectives. The European Commission finalised, on 11 March 2016, a long-awaited proposal to overhaul a number of existing rules and to establish a new legislative framework in this domain. It would provide measures of general application in all seas, and would also set a new approach on governance and delegation of powers for the development of regional approaches. The Commission estimates that this new regulation would contribute to reaching CFP objectives, notably on delivering maximum sustainable yield for fish stocks, with positive socio-economic and environmental impacts. The Parliament's Committee on Fisheries is to vote on its report on the proposed new framework before the summer. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. To view the earlier edition of this briefing, please see: PE 579.102, 18 March 2016.

Read more [HERE](#).

¹ The European Parliamentary Research Service is the European Parliament's in-house research department and Think Tank. Its mission is to assist Members in their parliamentary work by providing them with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues relating to the European Union. It is also designed to increase Members and EP committees' capacity to scrutinise and oversee the European Commission and other EU executive bodies.

More information [HERE](#).



Advisory Councils

► [North Sea Advisory Council \(NSAC\)](#)

NSAC Advice 05-1617 Brief Commentary on the EU Technical Conservation Regulation

The NSAC Executive Committee has published the following advice; “**05-1617 Brief Commentary on the EU Technical Conservation Regulation**”. The advice was approved by a written procedure on 17th February 2017.

The advice has been sent to:

DG-MARE European Commission; Presidency of the Scheveningen High Level Group; Members of the European Parliament PECH Committee and their assistants / researchers.

A copy of the advice is available on the NSAC website;
<http://www.nsrac.org/advice/approved/advice-and-opinions-nov-2016-oct-2017/>

The next Technical Regulation Focus Group will take place in Paris on 2 March.
See the agenda [HERE](#).

The Executive Committee in The Hague on 9 March.
See the agenda [HERE](#).



International

► [UN Environment-EC Workshop on area-based management and regional cooperation for the implementation of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals](#)

The workshop was held in Brussels on 9-10 February 2017. It focused on the possible contribution of area-based management and regional cooperation to SDG 14. The objectives of the conference were:

1. To share lessons learnt and experiences on core elements that enable area-based management, policy interactions and institutional arrangements relevant to the implementation of Ocean-related SDGs at national and regional levels;
2. To identify additional experiences that may be used for the UNEP-EC project purposes;
3. To discuss factors that enable area-based management, policy interactions and institutional arrangements and barriers that prevents their adoption by national and regional bodies;
4. To formulate and agree on a set of conclusions and recommendations on effective use of area-based management and policy interactions and institutional cooperation for Ocean related SDG that would be further elaborated in a form of guidance for policy-makers.

► **Preparatory Meeting for the UN Conference in support of SDG 14**

The Preparatory Meeting for the Ocean Conference: Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) convened at UN Headquarters in New York, from 15-16 February 2017, with side events taking place from 14-16 February. The Ocean Conference will take place in New York, from 5-9 June 2017.

You can learn more about the meeting [HERE](#).

UN Member States, UN agencies and stakeholders discussed the proposed themes for seven partnership dialogues that will convene during the Conference, as well as elements for the "Call for Action". A zero draft of the "Call for Action" will be published early March and consultations will begin on 7 March.

Read more [HERE](#).

► **World Ocean Summit 2017**

The fourth World Ocean Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia, on February 22nd-24th 2017. It brought a critical eye to the vital issue of how to finance a sustainable ocean economy. The aim was to mobilise a new discussion on how capital and the private sector can drive scalable, sustainable investment in the ocean.

Learn more about it [HERE](#). You can also check [this video](#) about the World Ocean Summit 2017.

► **The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), FAO and UNDP Highlight Resources to Protect Global Commons**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam have produced a guide and animated film that offer

“strategic guidance and inspiration” for the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forest resources. Also with an emphasis on the global commons, a tranche of projects under the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Ecosystem and Biodiversity (EBD) portfolio were approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2016, with the aim of optimizing conservation and development benefits from protected areas for countries.

Learn more [HERE](#).

► [ABNJ Workshop, Rome](#)

GEF Project

► [World Bank](#)

The Sunken Billions Revisited: Progress and Challenges in Global Marine Fisheries

The report examines the mismatch between global fishing efforts and catches and makes the case for investing in the recovery of fish stocks. Fishing less, and better, could generate an additional \$83 billion each year for the fisheries sector, creating a much-needed revenue stream in developing countries and improving global food security.

Read more [HERE](#).



1. [Workshop on Biological Input to Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment \(WKBEBCA\), 1-2 March 2017, HaV, Gothenburg, Sweden \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
2. [Baltic Sea Future Congress, 6-7 March 2017, Stockholm, Sweden \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
3. [Discardless Stakeholders Workshop, 6-10 March 2017, the FAO, Rome, Italy \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
4. [Third Session of the Preparatory Committee on BBNJ, 27 March – 7 April 2017, New York, USA \(link \[HERE\]\(#\) and more information \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
5. [12th North Atlantic Seafood Forum, 7-9 March, Bergen, Norway \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
6. [BSAC-BALTFISH-EFCA Workshop on Landing Obligation \(internal\), 9 March 2017, Radisson Blue Hotel, Hamburg, Germany \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
7. [2nd International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning, 15-17 March 2017, Paris, France \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
8. [10th International Forum on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing, 16-17 March, London, UK \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
9. [Workshop on Scoping Stakeholders on Production of Operational Guidance on Assessment of benthic pressure and impact from bottom fishing \(WKBENTH\), 23 March, Copenhagen, Denmark \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
10. [The state and development of the biomass of fish stocks managed by the CFP, 27 February, Public Hearing of the Fisheries Committee, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
11. [Workshop to evaluate trade-offs between the impact on seafloor habitats and provisions of catch/value, 28-31 March, Copenhagen, Denmark \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)
12. [5th Euro-Global Summit on Aquaculture & Fisheries, 30-31 March, Madrid, Spain \(Link \[HERE\]\(#\)\).](#)