



Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter

MARCH 2017



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European Commission

► European Commission secures 10-year pledge to save Mediterranean fish stocks

On the 30 March the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration was signed by the Mediterranean ministerial representatives setting out a detailed work programme for the next 10 years. The Declaration is the result of a Commission-led process setting clear objectives for the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries.

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

► Calling all small-scale fishermen!

The European Commission has recently published a leaflet targeted to small-scale coastal fishermen. It highlights the benefits that can be found through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to help support small-scale fishermen in their activities as well as contribute to the development of fishing communities.

Learn more [HERE](#)

► Commission presents first ever multi-annual fisheries plan in the Mediterranean

On the 6 March the Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs presented to Ministers at the AGRIFISH Council the Adriatic Sea multi-annual plan for small pelagic fisheries, namely for anchovy and sardines. This is the third multi-annual plan that the Commission has put forward since the reform of the CFP and it is also the first ever in the Mediterranean.

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

► International

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.

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



European Parliament

► [Plenary](#)

Adoption of the Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector

On 16 March, the European Parliament adopted the Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector.

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

► [Fisheries Committee](#)

Adoption of

- **The management of the fishing fleets in the Outermost Regions**
- **Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union**

Among others, the following topics were discussed:

1. **Multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks.** Ulrike Rodust (rapporteur) stressed that the four main topics of the report are flexibility, operational instructions, scientific advice, and interaction with third countries. The report applies similar approaches found in the Baltic Plan, which was welcomed by the Commission. The deadline for amendments is 12 April.
2. **The role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries.** Renata Briano (rapporteur) highlighted that by promoting fisheries-related tourism additional economic opportunities may arise for the small-scale fisheries sector. The aim of the own-initiative report is to further examine the topic and the possibilities for providing such complementary activities to fisheries.

3. **Exchange of views on Brexit.** The discussion highlighted the importance of fisheries in the upcoming negotiations recalling that the Committee should further address Brexit in the coming months. Concern was raised on how Brexit will affect the Member States and the fishing fleets. The need to maintain a common management and cooperation was stressed.
4. **Public hearing on the management of fishing activities in Natura 2000 areas.** Elisa Roller, Head of Unit D3 DG MARE, European Commission highlighted that fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment have been slow in emerging for different reasons (environmental impacts, lengthy consultation with stakeholders, etc.) also recalling the need for further work in the Mediterranean and Atlantic seabasins. Dr. Torsten Schulze, Thünen Institute of Sea fisheries outlined that political discussion and decisions are needed in many cases as management must be in consensus with conservation goals based on scientific knowledge balancing ecological, economic and social objectives. Susana Sainz-Trápaga, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of Catalonia highlighted the case of red coral, which is in Catalonia at risk for extinction calling for a 20-year fishing moratoria to protect the species. Fred Bloor, President of the European Anglers Alliance highlighted that anglers must have a recognised role in the next CFP calling for the need to be included throughout the process in order to help achieve the goals. Armand Quentel, Chair of the Environment Commission of the Brittany Fisheries Regional Committee outlined fisheries management on maerl beds highlighting that fishermen can be proactive habitat administrators managing stocks and the environment. The presentations can be found [here](#).
5. **Exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, on the structured dialogue.** With regards to the CFP the Commissioner highlighted the importance of adopting multiannual management plans with the Baltic plan adopted last summer and the Commission proposal for a North Sea mixed-fishery plan currently being discussed by the Committee and the Council. The Commission recently adopted its proposal for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic, the first plan for the Mediterranean. In the course of 2017, the Commission will propose further management plans for the Western waters and for the Western Mediterranean. The latest economic report on the EU fishing fleets shows that they are generally doing well generating much higher revenues in the last years. The concern of the possible effect of choke species was raised underlining that the CFP allows Member States to change national quota allocations or introduce enhanced technical measures to reduce unwanted catches. Financial support is also available under the EMFF to reduce unwanted catches or to find new markets for them. Another tool mentioned is that of interspecies flexibility which can address future choke situations stressing the need for Member States to use the tools available. The proposal on technical measures was mentioned underlining the need for simpler rules and regionalisation. With regards to shaping international ocean governance the Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance was emphasised welcoming the Parliament's decision to prepare an own-initiative report on the Communication. The Commission will host the fourth Our Ocean

Conference on 5 & 6 October in Malta putting more emphasis on the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean. The thematic scope will also be broadened by integrating the blue economy and maritime security into the themes. Further, following the Joint Communication on an integrated EU Policy for the Arctic the Commission will organise a high level event in Finland on 15-16 June to showcase the progress on its implementation. With regards to the new Mediterranean Partnership on the sustainable blue economy engagement from all coastal states was welcomed. Concluding, the file on sustainable management of the external fleet was raised emphasising the need for the EU to act responsibly outside its own waters. It was said that the EU should aim to announce agreement on the proposal at the UN Ocean Conference in June.

► European Parliament Think Tank¹

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

Defining fishing vessels' characteristics

One dimension of the EU common fisheries policy consists of managing the European fishing fleet and its overall fishing capacity. Rules on the conservation of fisheries resources may vary depending on the features of fishing vessels. During its April I plenary, the Parliament is expected to vote at first reading on a proposal to recast the rules regarding technical characteristics of fishing vessels.

Read more **HERE**.

Multiannual plan for small pelagic fish stocks in the Adriatic Sea

Author: Jean Weissenberger

The European Commission tabled, on 24 February 2017, a proposal for a regulation establishing a multiannual plan to manage fisheries of small pelagic fish stocks (anchovy and sardine) in the Adriatic Sea. These stocks, which are in a poor state, are exploited mainly by Italian and Croatian fishing vessels. The European Parliament (EP) will now begin to examine this proposal. Multiannual fisheries management plans are essential tools for the sustainable exploitation of marine resources, offering notably better predictability over time on fishing mortality levels to be used by the Council when deciding on annual fishing possibilities. They also set a framework for improved cooperation between the Member States concerned at sea regional level. The first multiannual plan after the last reform of the common fisheries policy in 2013, supposed to serve as a prototype and which covers some stocks in the Baltic sea, was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in July 2016. Another plan proposal, concerning North Sea stocks, is currently under discussion in the EP. This new plan for small pelagic stocks would, in addition, represent a

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](#).

major shift in fisheries management in the Adriatic Sea, by framing a system of setting allowable catches in this part of the Mediterranean and making it endure over time. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Read more [HERE](#).

Research for PECH Committee - The Management of Fishing Fleets in Outermost Regions

Author: Marcus Breuer

The Committee on Fisheries (PECH) has requested scientific input contributing to its work on an Own Initiative Report on The Management of Fishing Fleets in Outermost Regions (2016/2016 INI). This Briefing summarizes the main elements of a study prepared for PECH Committee with the same title. Outermost Regions (ORs) of the European Union are affected by handicaps deserving implementation of specific measures. The commissioned study aims at establishing the extent to which fleet management rules adopted under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) take sufficiently account of the specificities of the fishing sector in Outermost Regions, and at identifying relevant measures that could support the development of the sector in these regions. ORs fishing fleets are mostly composed of small-scale vessels targeting inshore and offshore resources. Over the past decade, modernisation of ORs fishing fleets has been unevenly achieved across regions. Under the current CFP, ORs fleets are subject to the same management measures than those applied to all Union fleets. Nevertheless, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) takes into account ORs specific handicaps through increased intensity of public aid and a specific compensation scheme of additional costs. Several options are discussed to support the ORs fleet modernisation, including a derogatory regime for fleet management and a revision of capacity ceilings.

Read more [HERE](#).



Advisory Councils

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

NSAC Advice Ref. 08-1617 Implementation of the Landing Obligation; implications for Cod, Plaice, Saithe and Whiting in 2018

Read it [here](#).

NSAC Advice Ref.07-1617 Matters arising from application of Articles 11 and 18 of the CFP

Read it [here](#).

► **North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)**

Technical Conservation Framework Regulation for fisheries- Letter addressed to MEP Gabriel Mato

Read it [here](#).



1. [BLUEMED – A Basin of Research and Innovation for Sustainable Growth, 18-19 April 2017, \(Link HERE\).](#)
2. [International Conference Maritime Spatial Planning, Ecosystem Approach and Supporting Information Systems, 24-28 April 2017, \(Link HERE\).](#)
3. [European Tuna Conference 2017 Venue Change, 24 April 2017, \(Link HERE\).](#)
4. [Seafood Expo, 25-27 April 2017, \(Link HERE\).](#)
5. [Getting consumers on board - Integrating consumer expectations in the supply chain, 25 April 2017\(Link HERE\).](#)
6. [Ocean Literacy for All, 25 April 2017\(Link HERE\).](#)
7. [Scottish Inshore Fisheries Conference 2017, 27 April 2017\(Link HERE\).](#)
8. [Seafood from the High North - sustaining and enhancing the EU market, 27 April 2017\(Link HERE\).](#)