



# Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter

**APRIL 2017**



# CONTENTS

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European Commission.....	3
European Parliament.....	4
Advisory Councils .....	7
Upcoming Events .....	7



# European Commission

## ► A new Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritius

A new Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius has been signed in Port-Louis on 26 April. It sets the conditions to allow EU tuna fishing vessels to fish in Mauritius waters for a period of 4 years, in a transparent and regulated environment.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## ► Communication is the key to integrate consumer expectations into the supply chain

At the opening day of the Seafood Expo in Brussels (25-27 April) – the world's largest seafood industry event – the European Commission hosted a debate on how to integrate consumer habits, demands and expectations into the supply chain and policy-making.

Learn more [HERE](#)

## ► Respect of fishing rules has improved in the past years, but more needs to be done to achieve full compliance, reveals a Commission evaluation on the fisheries control regime

**The European Commission has published its evaluation of the fisheries control regulation.**

The report shows that Member States have generally implemented the main obligations set by this regulation, which remains a key instrument to deliver the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). However, the Commission concluded that many MS are yet to fully implement it. As a consequence, uneven situations emerged within the EU.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## ► EU Maritime Ministers to sign declaration to boost sustainable blue economy

EU Maritime Ministers will sign today a Declaration on Blue Growth, reaffirming their political commitment to further grow EU's sustainable blue economy.

The Declaration will be adopted at [the Informal Ministerial Conference on Blue growth, Ocean Governance in the EU and the Mediterranean, Innovation and Nautical Tourism](#), co-chaired by Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella today in Malta.

Learn more [HERE](#).



## European Parliament

### ► [Plenary](#)

#### **Adoption of the Characteristics for fishing vessels**

On 4<sup>th</sup> April, the European Parliament adopted the Report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council defining characteristics for fishing vessels.

#### **Adoption of the Management of fishing fleets in the outermost regions**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April the European Parliament adopted the report on the Management of fishing fleets in the outermost regions

All documents can be found [here](#)

### ► [Fisheries Committee](#)

All documents can be found [here](#)

Adoption of

- **Mediterranean: Improving the situation of its fishing sector**

Among others, the following topics were discussed:

**Hearing: 'State of play of the implementation of the landing obligation and the distribution of quotas by Member States':** On Monday 24 April 2017, the Committee on Fisheries held a hearing on the "State of play of the implementation of the landing obligation and allocation of quotas by the Member States", where different experts assessed the state of

play of the implementation of landing obligation and discussed some possible trials and solutions developed by different stakeholders over the last few years.

**Exchange of views with Per Sandberg, Norwegian Minister of Fisheries:** Mr Sandberg spoke in detail about a variety of topics. He highlighted the relevance of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform and welcomed the EU's landing obligation, which together will help ensure sustainability. He spoke of the importance of fighting all types of fisheries crime at an international level. Mr Sandberg also highlighted the relevance of Aquaculture and how this sector is also struggling with some environmental challenges. As for Brexit, the Minister expressed his wish for strong cooperation between the UK, the EU and Norway.

Find speech [here](#)

**Exchange of views with the Commission on the implementation of ICCAT recommendations:** The proposal to transpose the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations to EU law was approved by Fisheries committee on Tuesday. MEPs ask to apply the new law also to third country vessels operating in EU waters and add a special provision for swordfish and tuna quotas and small-scale fishing. The objective of the proposal is to transpose into EU law the conservation, control and enforcement measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The aim of the proposal is to transpose 28 ICCAT recommendations. The legislative resolution will need to take now plenary's green light (in May) before interinstitutional talks can begin.

**Exchange of views with João Aguiar Machado, Director-General of DG MARE:** MEPs raised issues and questions with regards to various topics, to which the Director-general responded. Firstly, the current situation with Norway in relation to Snow Crab, and the actions being taken by the Commission. Secondly the Brexit issue in terms of negotiations and on the possible consequences of it towards this year's TACs & Quota negotiations. MEPs also stressed the importance of taking on board scientific technical advice and the need for more rapid processes when transposing laws, such as ICCAT. The Director-general reassured MEPs that steps were being taken regarding Norway and that Brexit was a priority but that it would not affect the upcoming TAC negotiations.

**Mediterranean: Improving the situation of its fishing sector:** The need to protect small-scale fisheries with a low environmental impact and to improve data collection in the Mediterranean basin and tackle illegal and unreported fishing are some of the key proposals in a non-binding resolution adopted by Fisheries Committee on Tuesday. MEPs stress that efforts should be made to ensure that more incentives and preferential access to coastal fishing areas are given to the small-scale (artisanal and traditional) fleet when those are more selective and have a lower impact. They suggest developing an EU funded common database with comprehensive and reliable data on fisheries resources and establishing a network of experts and research institutions covering different domains of fisheries science. MEPs stress that in the Mediterranean basin there is still an extensive problem of illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing. The impact, characteristics and scale of IUU fishing are currently not sufficiently assessed, as their appraisal varies among

the different countries concerned in the Mediterranean. Inspection procedures should be harmonised throughout the Mediterranean basin in view of the widely varying inspection and penalty procedures applied, says the adopted text. The non-legislative resolution-adopted by 18 votes to 1 against with 1 abstention- will be put to the plenary vote in May.

**Multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks:** several MEPs discussed the best way forward in regards the Adriatic Sea. There were suggestions for the allocation of TACs and Quotas. Many stressed their concerns for people working in the industry and the social impact of new policies, urging for assessment and solutions for this to be proposed.

**International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs:** MEPs discussed the importance of the Oceans and all they offer. They highlighted some of the main threats, mainly Illegal fishing and how the implementation of IUU should be monitored more closely. Some MEPs also urged the Commission to support the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI).

### ► European Parliament Think Tank<sup>1</sup>

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

#### **Managing Outermost Regions' fishing fleets**

An own-initiative report on the management of the fishing fleets in the Outermost Regions is scheduled to be voted during the April II plenary session. The report looks into the possibilities of modernising the Outermost Regions' fleets, while ensuring sustainable fishing in these regions.

Read more [HERE](#).

#### **Research for PECH Committee - Small scale fisheries and “Blue Growth” in the EU**

This study presents an overview of Blue Growth emerging industries and investigates the linkages with the traditional maritime activity of fisheries with emphasis on small-scale fisheries. Positive synergies are investigated as well as possible opportunities (and threats) that Blue Growth can or should offer to small-scale fisheries and coastal communities in the context of economic growth, employment and innovation.

Read more [HERE](#).

### ► OTHERS

<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

## Ocean Literacy for All

**Gesine Meissner MEP, Chair of the Intergroup**, welcomed participants by highlighting the importance of the Valletta Declaration on EU Blue Economy and stating that the Intergroup reacted by providing its own Declaration. The document, which was read during the event, aims to further underline the role that seas and oceans play in the future of the EU, in terms of development, employment, energy, well-being and climate change. It was also remarked the need for a European Parliament Committee MARE, in order to have in the Parliament a body equivalent to DG MARE

See report [here](#)



## Advisory Councils

### ► [North Western Waters Advisory Council \(NWWAC\)](#)

**Response to the NWW MS request for advice on the Joint Recommendation for 2018**

Read it [here](#).



## OTHERS

### ► [Seafood from the High North – sustaining and enhancing the EU market](#)

Over 100 people attended the seminar, which focused on the market conditions for seafood consumption in Europe, and the prospects for diversification and growth of seafood imports to the EU from the Northeast Atlantic and Barents Sea regions. Trade in seafood is vital for the economies of fisheries dependent nations and coastal communities in the High North, including the Faroe Islands and North Norway. The EU market is key in this regard. Some 29% of the total volume of seafood imports to the EU comes from the Faroes and Norway today.

**Read the whole press release [here](#).**

## ► Norwegian Ocean Strategy launched in Brussels

We need to expand and lift the global dialogue on ocean affairs by sharing experiences and expertise, especially with the EU - our largest seafood market, said Sandberg in his introductory remarks.

The EU took 67% of Norwegian seafood exports in 2016, making Norway its top supplier.

Presented in Norway earlier this year, the ocean strategy contains a number of concrete measures for creating jobs and growth in the blue economy, in addition to securing Norway's position as a world-leading maritime nation.

Read the whole press release [here](#) and the Strategy [here](#).



1. MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING 16-17 MAY 2017 (FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SANDRA SANMARTIN SECRETARY@MARKETAC.EU)
2. "SMART DATA COLLECTION FOR THE FUTURE MONITORING OF THE SEA" 17 MAY 2017 (LINK HERE)
3. EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2017, "THE FUTURE OF OUR SEAS 18-19 MAY 2017 (LINK HERE)
4. 6TH GLOBAL SUMMIT ON AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES 25-26 MAY 2017 (LINK HERE)
5. HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON "SKILLS NEEDS IN AN EVOLVING MARITIME GREEN ECONOMY" 31 MAY 2017 (LINK HERE)