



# FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWSLETTER

May 2017

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# European Commission

## ► European Commission adopts action plans to improve Estonian, Belgian and German fisheries control systems

This month the European Commission has adopted 3 actions plans to improve Estonian, Belgian and German fisheries control systems.

The action plans set out how these 3 countries can overcome identified shortcomings in their fisheries control systems, following audit programmes on data management and control system held in 2014 and 2015 (Belgium), and in 2015 and 2016 (Estonia and Germany). The measures and timeline of implementation were agreed together with the authorities of each Member State, in line with the procedure set out in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 on fisheries control.

Under their action plans, these 3 countries will work to improve data management, principally ensuring that catch data are comprehensively collected within the required time limits, validated, cross-checked and applied to ensure effective monitoring and reporting of quota uptake. In addition, Estonia will improve the coordination between the relevant authorities involved in the control of marketing standards and traceability, and ensure that an effective risk-based analysis is applied to ensure inspections are targeted effectively.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

## ► Fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

This month the European Commission has listed Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Comoros as non-cooperating third countries under the EU's regulation to fight and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, while Liberia has been pre-identified.

The decision to issue a red card to the **Comoros** is based on the typical use of its flag as flag of convenience, which means registering a ship in a sovereign state different from that of the ship's owners. Most of the Comorian fleet has no connection to the country and operates in breach of national law, mainly in the waters of West Africa. These vessels have been found to disregard the laws applicable in the national waters they operate in, transhipping fish from one vessel to another, a practice related to the laundering of illegal catches.

Despite receiving a yellow card in October 2015, and despite considerable effort by the European Commission to support this country in addressing the issue, no progress has been made. This red card implies that EU vessels will no longer be allowed to take licences to fish in their waters.

For **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** the decision comes due to the lack of control by the authorities of vessels flying their flag. These vessels operate all over the Atlantic and offload their catches in Trinidad and Tobago (which has already been warned in order to improve control over activities in its ports). Effectively, these vessels elude any control over their activities. This raises the concern that they are involved in illegal practices.

As for Liberia, which has the second biggest shipping registry in the world with over 100 fishing transport vessels registered under this flag, the national fisheries authorities do not have the information or means to control this fleet. This lack of control has been confirmed by the listing of a Liberian vessel on the international "black list" last October. Liberia has taken reform measures including the revision of its fisheries laws, but no tangible progress has followed. The Commission hopes that the pre-identification will raise political awareness and encourage the country to implement the necessary reforms in fisheries governance.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

### ► High control standards in Bluefin tuna fishery for this season 2017

Over recent years, Bluefin tuna have gone from heavy over-exploitation to progressive recovery, thanks to a massive international effort led by the EU. To ensure continued sustainable management of the Bluefin tuna stock, the European Commission is committed to implement, and even go beyond, the international control measures for catches during the 2017 main fishing season.

Based on previous experience and given the particularities of this year's fishing season (such as a 20 percent increase in the quota), a strict control and inspection programme has been put in place. To ensure high control standards, this programme sets concrete priorities and benchmarks. It involves a significant deployment of inspectors, patrol vessels and aircrafts coordinated by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States concerned.

Learn more [here](#).

### ► EU- Cook Islands Fisheries Partnership Agreement enters into force

Information was published in the [Official Journal](#) on the entry into force on 10 May 2017 of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands.

The agreement can be found [here](#).

## ► Announcements from the European Commission

### **European Commission calls all aquaria to join global awareness raising action about marine litter**

The European Commission is calling on aquaria to give their visitors a very vivid idea of how serious the issue is and what each of us can do about it. Any creative approach is welcome.

Participating aquaria will be provided with written material, giving key facts on the issue and proposing actions to citizens to prevent and fight against marine litter.

This action is scheduled to be launched in June.

For more information, please contact: [mare-communication@ec.europa.eu](mailto:mare-communication@ec.europa.eu).

Learn more [here](#).

### **Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's coastal communities**

The European Commission announced that the Estonian Presidency of the EU and the European Commission, will jointly organise a conference on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) on 12-13.10.2017 in Tallinn, Estonia.

This event will represent a unique opportunity for stakeholders wishing to provide their input in the assessment of the EMFF support to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Maritime Policy over the current programming period (2014-2020).

It will also allow them to discuss the current and future challenges of coastal communities, as well as potential policy responses.

For more information, please consult [www.EMFF-now-and-then.eu](http://www.EMFF-now-and-then.eu). Learn more [here](#).

### **European Court of Auditors' special report**

The Commission welcomed the European Court of Auditors' Special Report on the effectiveness of the EU fisheries control system published on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The report can be found [here](#).

### **Ambassadors to the European Union**

On 16 and 31 May respectively the Ambassadors to the European Union of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Principality of Monaco signed on behalf of their respective countries the MedFish4Ever Declaration.

The MedFish4Ever declaration can be found [here](#).

### **EU Green Week**

The EU Green Week 2017 took place from 29 May to 2 June with the theme of 'Green jobs for a greener future'. It focused on how EU environmental policies are creating green jobs and contributing to economic, sustainable and socially responsible growth in the EU. It also highlighted the demand for new types of green skills in many professional sectors.

The EU Green Week is the European Commission's annual opportunity to debate and discuss European environmental policy. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, this key event in the environment policy calendar attracts policymakers, leading environmentalists, stakeholders and other interested parties from across Europe and the globe.

In addition to a high level conference in Brussels, the programme also featured a series of partner events and actions taking place across Europe. As well as being invited to take part in person, stakeholders and the general public were encouraged to become 'virtually' involved by participating in a wide range of on-line and social media activities.



# European Parliament

## ► Plenary

### **15 - 18 May: Plenary in Strasbourg, France**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May, the European Parliament had a joint debate on **the increase in Norwegian duties on agricultural products/recent negotiations on the fish protocol**.

The following questions ([O-000023/2017](#)) for oral answer were asked to the Commission by MEP Bernd Lange (Committee on International Trade) on agricultural products/recent negotiations on the fish trade protocol ([2016/0052\(NLE\)](#)) ([2017/2618\(RSP\)](#)) (B8-0215/2017):

*“Following the imposition of Norwegian ad valorem duties of 277 %, 429 % and 344 % for certain cheeses, lamb and beef in 2013, Parliament considered in its resolution on the increase in Norwegian duties on agricultural products that these increases went against the spirit and the letter of the bilateral agreement with Norway and called on the Commission ‘to work for a mutually satisfactory solution in relation to imports/exports of agricultural products’. Furthermore, Parliament asked the Commission to specify the intended measures should Norway refuse to reverse its decision and to consider proposing further action in the event of a lack of cooperation, with the aim of having the measures withdrawn. Norway has not reversed its decision.*

- What action have the Commission and EEAS taken to find a mutually satisfactory solution?*
- In light of other recently concluded negotiations with Norway, such as the fish trade protocol (2016/0052(NLE)), what precise requirements and measures have the Commission and EEAS taken to address the Norwegian ad valorem duties?*
- Are the Commission and EEAS convinced that the outcome of the separate negotiations is satisfactory?”*

Phil Hogan, Member of the Commission, thanked the Members for raising the issue of the increase of Norwegian duties on agricultural products, and for the very keen interest which this House has shown in it, as evidenced by the resolution that has been adopted. He stated that in order to reflect their concerns, he wanted to assure you and reassure the Committee that the Commission and the EEAS have done all they can to address the situation following the changes in Norwegian duties on certain cheeses, on lamb and beef products, from 1 January 2013. He expressed that the issue has been raised at a number of high-level meetings. In fact, in 2015 the Commission requested the Norwegian authorities to include this issue in the EU-Norway agricultural trade liberalisation negotiations. These negotiations were concluded on 5 April 2017. Under the negotiated agreement, the Norwegian authorities will grant the European Union tariff-free quotas

to compensate for the effects of the duty switch. The Commission is convinced that the deal they reached is beneficial to the European Union.

Mr Hogan stated that the exact size of the compensation was detailed in the information paper that was sent to Mr Lange, and his committee at the beginning of April. The Agreement will formally be submitted to the European Parliament for your consent at a later stage, which he hoped can be forthcoming. With that consent, the Council can then formally conclude the negotiations in order to allow the Agreement to come into force.

As with Norway, another additional protocol was negotiated for fisheries originating in Iceland. Both EEA partners have made conditional their contribution of funds to the last three EEA Financial Mechanisms, upon obtaining temporary fish trade concessions. No other trade concessions or considerations, such as the improved market access for agricultural products or for the solving of the pending trade irritants, have to date been linked with the Financial Mechanism negotiations.

The whole debate can be followed [here](#).

The Committee of Fisheries then voted on the [recommendation](#) on the draft Council decision on conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland.

The text was adopted at a simple majority. The provisional edition of the adopted text can be found [here](#).

### **31 May – 01 June: Plenary in Brussels, Belgium**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, the European Parliament debated on the **High-Level UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference)**.

The following questions ([O-000031/2017](#)) for oral answer were asked to the Commission by MEP Linnéa Engström (Committee of Fisheries) on High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference) ([2017/2653\(RSP\)](#)) (B8-0311/2017)

*“This year (June 2017), there will be a High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference). This is a unique opportunity to engage in an international process to improve global governance of the oceans. The EU has helped several third countries to improve their fisheries management and control through the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing regulation.*

*In this context, the Commission is asked:*

- How is the Commission contributing to the full implementation of the SDG14?*
- How will the EU promote, in the context of the UN Ocean Conference, a comprehensive approach to combating and eliminating IUU fishing activities, and how will it engage in establishing an equitable global governance of the oceans?*

- *Will the Commission (and the VP/HR, who is also involved in ocean governance) take measures to ensure better coordination between the fight against IUU fishing and trade and market policy?"*

Karmenu Vella (Member of the Commission) stated that "the UN conference will allow the European Union to showcase its leadership in making oceans safer, more secure, healthier, and above all, more sustainably managed. These are priorities for the European Union and its Member States, as set out in the joint communication on international ocean governance.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 can be a very strong driver for reinforcing ocean governance. This and other goals under Agenda 2030 are being actively pursued through many of the EU's policies, as we established in our communication in November on the next steps for a sustainable European future.

For example, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to the protection of the marine environment and natural resources. [...] The birds and habitats legislation provides for protection of the EU sea area through a network of marine protected areas - MPAs - as a part of Natura 2000. The European Union is tackling marine litter and pollution at source through its rules on waste management and prevention and port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, as well as through the circular economy. We have also set up a system for ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning in Europe. The EU has revised its common fisheries policy, and many stocks are now recovering as a result.

The EU rules against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing ensure that its Member States implement their international obligations, keep illegally caught fish out of the European market and help us improve fisheries governance in third countries. [...] Mr Vella also emphasised the importance of fighting IUU at the UN Ocean Conference. [...].

Sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, such as biodiversity and fisheries, is also gaining importance in the EU trade and investment policy. For example the EU is including dedicated sustainability provisions in the relevant trade and investment agreements and is also committed to eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies in line with target 6 of SDG 14. And that is why the EU tabled a specific proposal at the WTO last October. [...].

Finally, Mr Vella was pleased to announce that the Member States and Council endorsed a list of clear and concrete voluntary commitments that the EU will present at the UN Ocean Conference next week. These demonstrate the European Union's strong and common endeavours to make SDG 14 happen in practice".

The whole debate can be followed [here](#).

The motion for a resolution further to Question for Oral Answer B8-0311/2017 on the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference) can be found [here](#).

The text was voted on the 1<sup>st</sup> June and adopted at a simple majority. The adopted text can be found [here](#).

## ► Fisheries Committee

The Committee on Fisheries (PECH Committee) met on the 30th of May at the European Parliament for its monthly gathering to discuss current fisheries issues. The meeting started with an exchange of views on the PECH Committee's draft report on the proposal by the European Commission for a Regulation on establishing a multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks.

The PECH committee voted for the adoption of its draft report, and amendments, on its motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries. The draft resolution was adopted by a broad majority.

The PECH committee also voted for the adoption of its draft opinion, and amendments, on the International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs took place. The draft opinion was adopted. This draft opinion is a response to the non-legislative Joint Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions regarding "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans". The indicative plenary sitting date, 1st reading/single reading is the 3rd July 2017.

The PECH Committee considered its draft report on the proposal of the EC for a regulation on the Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures. The rapporteur expressed that this report shares a same goal with the EC: simplification and regionalisation, but underlined that regionalization is not synonym with re-nationalisation.

A rapporteur from the Budget Committee presented the main priorities of the European Union for 2018, which are growth/jobs and safety/security. He then presented a number of requests that the Budget Committee had put forward in their budget guidelines in relation to fisheries. These include for example the importance to pay attention to small-scale fisheries, the need to increase the budget to modernize the tools of the fisheries control policy, and the need for sufficient funds for the implementation the of Fisheries agreements.

Finally, there was an exchange of views with the Commission – DG MARE - on delegated acts and implementing acts. The EC gave an overview on the delegated acts for external fleet and on special derogations for external fleet in NAFO waters to allow them to have special derogations to the landing obligation to ensure that they are in line with NAFO rules.

## ► Events

### Supporting the Implementation of SDG 14 - State of play on the UN Ocean Conference

On the 31st May, the European Parliament Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development" held an event Supporting the Implementation of SDG 14 - State of play on the UN Ocean Conference.

The event was co-hosted by Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP, Chair of the "Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services" Working Group, and Alain Cadec MEP, Chair of the "Fisheries, Aquaculture & Integrated Maritime Policy" Working Group.

The following speakers gave a speech during the event:

- Andreas Papaconstantinou, Head of Unit "Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy", DG MARE, European Commission
- Matjaž Malgaj, Head of Unit "Marine Environment and Water Industry" DG ENV, European Commission
- Kim Friedman, Senior Fishery Resources Officer, Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch, FAO
- David Kerr, Technical Attaché Maritime and Unit Coordinator, Maltese Presidency
- Ulf Björnholm, Head of the UN Environment Brussels Office
- Ivan Lopez, Europêche
- Despina Symons, IUCN

The agenda can found [here](#). The event ended on a discussion and debate with the audience.

## ► Releases

### Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the Committee of Fisheries released a **draft report** on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures.

In its report the rapporteur welcomes the Commission's proposed results-based approach however, underlines the a series of problems such as that both the institutions and the stakeholders welcome simplification and regionalisation, but their visions for these concepts differ greatly, as regards the objective and targets of the technical measures and the 5% tolerance margin for catches under the minimum size as a target, the rapporteur does not share the Commission's focus, ...

See the draft report [here](#).

### International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs

On the 8th May, the Committee for Fisheries released their amendments to the draft report AMENDMENTS 1 - 74 - Draft opinion on International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs.



See the emendments [here](#).

### **Fishing sector in the Mediterranean**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May, the Committee for Fisheries released an **own-initiative report** on the status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean (2016/2079(INI)).

In general terms, here are the goals that the own-initiative report aims at achieving:

- long-term management of resources giving greater sustainability, thanks also to use of more selective fishing gear;
- cooperation with third countries operating in the Mediterranean Sea; – biological recovery periods;
- closure of some areas as nursery areas or for restocking of the overfished stock;
- preferential access to resources for small-scale (artisanal) fleets;
- stepping up of the monitoring of illegal fishing, together with special measures for those breaking the rules and fishing without a licence;
- introduction of quotas for some over-exploited species;
- compliance with minimum size;
- stepping up of the monitoring of the supply chain right through to the fish market, including more exhaustive information for consumers;
- greater involvement of the GFCM and regional fisheries organisations in the decisionmaking process in line with the regionalisation mentioned in the common fisheries policy (CFP)

See the report [here](#).

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

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

#### **Briefing on “Transposing international measures for Atlantic tuna fisheries into EU law”**

On 25 April 2017, the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries adopted its first reading report on a European Commission proposal for a regulation concerning the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species and the management of fisheries targeting these stocks in the Atlantic Ocean (including adjacent seas such as the Mediterranean). The committee also proposed to start negotiations with the Council on this basis.

Read more [here](#).

#### **Briefing on “International Agreements in Progress: Towards a fisheries agreement with Kenya”**

In July 2016, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to begin negotiations, on behalf of the EU, for the conclusion of a fisheries agreement and protocol with Kenya. The

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](#).



negotiations are planned for the coming months. This would be the first ever EU fisheries agreement with Kenya, and would complement the regional network of agreements previously concluded in the western Indian Ocean (Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique, Comoros and Mauritius).

Read more [here](#).

### **Briefing on "Establishing a multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks"**

The overall conclusion is that the IA could have deepened the analysis and perhaps discussed more thoroughly the scope of the plan in terms of areas and stocks specific to the Adriatic Sea. For instance, the potential interaction effect between small and large pelagic species and the interaction effect between fisheries and environmental factors could have been given more attention.

Read more [here](#).



# European Council

## ► AGRIFISH Council

The 3533rd meeting of the Council of the European Union (Agriculture and Fisheries), was held in Brussels on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Here are the key outcomes of the meeting, in relation to fisheries:

### **Technical Measures**

EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella was at the Council in Brussels on Thursday 11 May to discuss with European Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers the proposal on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures.

The Council agreed its position on a proposal for new rules on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. The Council's position aims at modernizing the existing rules on how, where and when fishermen may fish. These cover the taking and landing of fisheries resources, the specifications and operation of fishing gear, and measures to mitigate their impact on sensitive species or areas.

### **The Union's international obligations under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission amendment to regulation 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (8343/17).

The adopted regulation aims to clarify the application of the landing obligation to EU vessels subject to the measures adopted by the regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to which the Union is party. The regulation thus aims to ensure that the Union's rules in this regard are in line with its international obligations and that the Union complies with decisions taken by RFMOs.

More information [here](#).

## ► Releases

### • LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council defining characteristics for fishing vessels (recast). The document can be found [here](#).

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a union framework for collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (RECAST). The document can be found [here](#).

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the structural reform support programme for the period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 1305/2013. The document can be found [here](#).

Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 3 to the EEA Agreement, concerning products referred to in Article 8(3)(b) of the Agreement. The document can be found [here](#).

Council Regulation (EC) No 1801/2006 of 30 November 2006 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The document can be found [here](#).

### • PROPOSALS

Proposal for a Council decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea, and repealing Decision 11724/12. The document can be found [here](#). The annexes to this proposal can be found [here](#).

Proposal for a Council decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the Meeting of the parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and repealing Decision 14404/12. The document can be found [here](#). The annexes to this proposal can be found [here](#).

Proposal for a Council decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and repealing Decision 14405/12. The document can be found [here](#). The annexes to this proposal can be found [here](#).

Proposal for a Council implementing decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/170/EU establishing a list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as regards the Union of the Comoros. The document can be found [here](#).

Proposal for a Council implementing decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/170/EU, establishing a list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as regards Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The document can be found [here](#).



# International

## ► Upcoming event: UN high-level Conference on SDG 14

The UN high-level Conference on SDG 14, one of the most important events this year on oceans, together with the Our Ocean Conference organised by the EU in October in Malta, will be held in New York, June 5-9, with the overarching theme '*Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14*'.

The conference shall adopt a "[Call for Action](#)" - a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration by consensus. Indeed, following the preparatory meeting held in February, a zero draft of the Call for Action was produced and two consultations with parties and stakeholders have taken place. Although significant progress has been made, there are still some issues remaining to be agreed specifically with regard to WTO and UNCLOS. The conference will also adopt reports of the 7 Partnership dialogues to be held and a list of voluntary commitments set out by a range of actors for the implementation of SDG 14.

To note, a delegation MEPs from DG ENV will be participating in the SDG conference. The delegation is composed by the following MEPs:

- José Inacio Faria (EPP - PT) - Chair of the delegation and Rapporteur on the International Ocean Governance report
- Simona Bonafé (S&D -IT) – Rapporteur on the Waste Package (Circular economy) including the marine litter issue
- Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE - FI) - Member of ENVI and Budgets Committees
- Angélique Delahaye (EPP - FR) – Member of ENVI and Agriculture Committees
- Linnea Engström (Greens/EFA - SE)- Member of ENVI and Vice-chair Fisheries Committees
- Marco Affronte (Greens/EFA- IT) - Member of ENVI and Fisheries committees



# Advisory Councils

## ► Market Advisory Council (MAC)

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May, the MAC

## ► North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)

[Discard Plan 2018 Joint Recommendation of the North Western Waters MS Group](#)

[UK response to the NWWAC Opinion on the UK informal consultation on management proposals for 12 MPAs](#)

[NWWAC advice on the Joint Recommendation for 2018](#)

## ► Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)

[LDAC Advice on the requirement for IMO numbers for importing seafood products into the EU market from non-EU vessels](#)

## ► North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)

[EU Technical Conservation Measures: North Sea Advisory Council Advice](#)



## Others

### ► Maintaining a close relationship with the UK and the EU post-Brexit

Faroese fisheries and trade are particularly likely to be affected by Britain leaving the European Union. The Faroese Government wants to ensure a close future relationship both with the UK and the EU after Brexit becomes a reality.

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

### ► Conclusions of the EEA Council on 16 May

EEA cooperation, climate change, energy, trade and brexit were among the issues discussed at the 47th meeting of the EEA Council in Brussel on 16 May. Read the conclusions [here](#).

On fish and fisheries products, the EEA Council welcomed the provisional application of the Protocol on trade in fish and fisheries products between Iceland and the EU as of 1 August 2016 and of the Protocol on trade in fish and fisheries products between Norway and the EU as of 1 September 2016.

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

### ► Discards protest goes to Brussels

Dutch fishermen have taken their outright opposition to the landing obligation to Brussels in a protest that was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May outside the doors of the European Parliament. The EMK (Eendracht Maakt Kracht) group was formed to oppose the discard ban, which is expected to hit Dutch fishermen extremely hard when it enters full force. The fishermen are particularly angered by the requirement to land undersized fish that would otherwise stand a strong chance of survival in the shallow waters where most of their fisheries take place.

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

### ► Deep trouble: how to improve the health of the ocean

The Economist released on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, an article giving an overview of the state of the ocean, and gives three explanation to its poor state: geography, governance and the fact that the ocean is a victim of other, bigger processes, such as the emission of greenhouse gases.

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



# Upcoming Events

## Events and Conferences

- 1 JUNE: “RESTORING FISH ABUNDANCE BY PROTECTING ESSENTIAL FISH HABITATS” IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

More information can be found [here](#).

- 1 JUNE: HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON “SKILLS NEEDS IN AN EVOLVING MARITIME GREEN ECONOMY”, GREEN WEEK IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

More information can be found [here](#).

- 2 JUNE: WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL - STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT 2017 AND SDGS IN HALIFAX, CANADA

More information can be found [here](#).

- 5-9 JUNE: THE OCEAN CONFERENCE IN UNITED NATIONS HQ, NEW-YORK, UNITED NATIONS

More information can be found [here](#).

- 7 JUNE: "SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN THE BLACK SEA" IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

More information can be found [here](#).

- 8 JUNE: WORLD OCEANS DAY, NEW YORK, USA

More information can be found [here](#).

- 8–9 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONGRESS IN SZCZECIN, POLAND

More information can be found [here](#).

- 13-15 JUNE: EU-NORWAY – JOINT OPERATIONAL SEMINAR ON CONTROL IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

- 21 JUNE: “THE BREXIT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY” IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

- 21 JUNE: EP INTERGROUP EVENT ON “PULSE FISHERIES” IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

- 22 JUNE: IV ARVI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF FISHERIES IN VIGO, SPAIN

Registration form can be found [here](#).

- **26-30 JUNE:** WORLD AQUACULTURE 2017 - SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE, NEW FRONTIERS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

More information can be found [here](#).

## **International meetings**

- **1-15 JUNE: NAFO** - SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES IN HALIFAX, CANADA

More information can be found [here](#).

- **5-9 JUNE: STECF** - METHODOLOGY EWG IN THE MED, ARONA, ITALY

More information can be found [here](#).

- **5-9 JUNE: ICCAT** - ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING (INCLUDING STOCK ASSESSMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE) IN MADRID, SPAIN

More information can be found [here](#).

- **6-7 JUNE: NEAFC** – HG WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC REPORTING (ERS) 3 IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

More information can be found [here](#).

- **6-9 JUNE: STECF EXPERT GROUP** – MEETING ON “EVALUATION OF LO JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS” IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

More information can be found [here](#).

- **6-9 JUNE: NASCO** - THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING IN VARBERG, SWEDEN

More information can be found [here](#).

- **6-9 JUNE: STECF EXPERT GROUP** – EVALUATION OF THE MEMBER STATES JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS ON DISCARD PLANS IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Evaluation of landing obligation joint recommendations. More information can be found [here](#).

- **7-8 JUNE: NEAFC** – WORKING GROUP 2 ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

More information can be found [here](#).

- **12-15 JUNE:** PLENARY SESSION IN STRASBOURG, FRANCE

- 12-16 JUNE: **UN** - MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE 1982 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, NEW-YORK, USA

More information can be found [here](#).

- 12-16 JUNE: **ICCAT** - SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION IN MADRID, SPAIN

More information can be found [here](#).

- 14-15 JUNE: **AQUACULTURE UK CONFERENCE 2017** IN STIRLING, SCOTLAND

More information can be found [here](#). Registration form can be found [here](#).

- 19-23 JUNE: **STECF** - FISHERIES DEPENDANT INFORMATION – CLASSIC IN ISPRA, ITALY

More information can be found [here](#).

- 19-23 JUNE: **STECF** - ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE FLEET OF 2017, TBC

- 20-21 JUNE: **NEAFC** – JAGDM (02): JOINT ADVISORY GROUP FOR DATA MANAGEMENT IN LONDON, UK

More information can be found [here](#).

- 21-22 JUNE: **PECH COMMITTEE** IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

- 23-30 JUNE: **SIOFA** - FIRST COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AND FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES IN MAURITIUS

More information can be found [here](#).

- 26 JUNE: **ICCAT** - MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT

More information can be found [here](#).

- 27-28 JUNE: **ICCAT** - MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO FOLLOW UP ON THE SECOND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

More information can be found [here](#).

- 26-30 JUNE: **STECF** MEETING - EVALUATION OF DCF 2016 ANNUAL REPORTS, DATA TRANSMISSION TO END USERS IN 2016 & PREPARATION FOR THE NEW ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL REPORTS AND DATA TRANSMISSION IN GAVIRATE – ITALY

More information can be found [here](#).

- 29-30 JUNE: **ICCAT** - MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS IN MADRID, SPAIN



More information can be found [here](#).

## **Meetings of the Advisory Councils**

- **7-8 JUNE: BALTIC SEA AC** - JOINT WORKING GROUP IN KLAIPEDA, LITHUANIA (TBC)

The meeting will deal with the ICES advice for the Baltic fishery in 2018. More information can be found [here](#). Draft agenda can be found [here](#).

- **13 JUNE: AQUACULTURE AC** - WORKING GROUP 2 IN PARIS, FRANCE
- **13-14 JUNE: NORTH SEA AC** - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PARIS, FRANCE

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

- **22-23 JUNE: AQUACULTURE AC** - WORKING GROUP 1 AND 2 IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
- **29 JUNE: BALTIC SEA AC** - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN AXELTORV, COPENHAGEN

More information can be found [here](#).