



# **FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWSLETTER**

**June 2017**

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# European Commission

## Latest Documents

The European Commission has published 2 delegated Regulation proposals:

- [COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION](#) (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the distribution of funds under direct management among objectives of the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. [Annex](#) to the Commission delegated Regulation.
- [COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION](#) (EU) .../... amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy.

The European Commission has published 3 decisions related to fisheries (access to the documents upon requests):

- [C\(2017\)4451/F1](#): COMMISSION DECISION granting fishing authorisation to 8 vessels flying the flag of Norway
- [C\(2017\)4576/F1](#): COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 8642 approving the operational programme "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for Portugal" for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in Portugal CCI 2014PT14MFOP001
- [C\(2017\)3916/F1](#): COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending decision C(2016) 8317 of 14 December 2016 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2017 in the framework of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the use of the operational technical assistance, serving as financing decision

## Official Journal Publications

Here are this month's Official Journal publications related to fisheries:

- [Information](#) communicated by Member States regarding closure of fisheries for Spain of saithe in areas VI; EU and int. waters of Vb, XII, XIV.

- [COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION](#) (EU) 2017/968 of 8 June 2017 granting Cape Verde a temporary derogation from the rules on preferential origin laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446, in respect of prepared or preserved mackerel fillets and prepared or preserved frigate tuna or frigate mackerel fillets.
- [COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION](#) (EU) 2017/967 of 8 June 2017 granting Cape Verde a temporary derogation from the rules on preferential origin laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446, in respect of prepared or preserved fillets of tuna.
- [REGULATION](#) (EU) 2017/1130 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 June 2017 defining characteristics for fishing vessels (recast).
- [INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS](#) Information on the entry into force of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of the Seychelles on access for fishing vessels flying the flag of the Seychelles to waters and marine biological resources of Mayotte, under the jurisdiction of the European Union

## Press Releases

### ► [NASCO continues efforts to understand and tackle the poor conservation status of Atlantic salmon stocks](#)

The 34th annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) took place in Sweden, from 6 to 9 June and discussed new initiatives to better understand the threats and conservation challenges facing the Atlantic salmon, while improving the implementation of already adopted conservation and management measures and guidelines. Other key issues addressed during the meeting included the effectiveness of restocking programmes in supporting the conservation of Atlantic salmon stocks; actions aimed at eradicating the parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*; potential improvements in the management of mixed stock fisheries; actions for monitoring and controlling commercial, as well as recreational and subsistence fisheries.

➔ Learn more [here](#).

### ► [Bluefin tuna fishing season 2017](#)

The Bluefin tuna fishing season in the Western and Central Mediterranean Sea and in the Adriatic Sea came to a close on 21 June for purse seiners, 3 days before the official closure on 24 June. Thanks to the implementation of an international recovery plan and to the efforts of fishermen, catch limits for Bluefin tuna were increased in 2017, as the stock showed continued signs of recovery.

The EC considers that the 2017 campaign ran smoothly and notes that inspections on European vessels did not reveal systemic illegal activities. The EC was equally pleased to confirm that, for the first year, all European operators are using the electronic catch documentation system for Bluefin

tuna (the Bluefin Catch Document or eBCD) developed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

→ Learn more [here](#).

### ► New public consultation for reducing releases of microplastics

The EC has launching a consultation to collect the views of stakeholders and citizens with regard to the policy options to reduce microplastics entering the marine environment.

→ Find the consultation [here](#).

### ► EUMOFA publications

EUMOFA Monthly Highlights was published in June and covers various topics such as: first sales in Europe and focus on clam and brill, EU trade in 2016, mussels in the EU: In 2015, and consumption of fresh dab.

→ Find the monthly highlight [here](#).

EUMOFA has also published 2 reports on Price structure in the supply chain on canned tuna in Spain and canned sardine in Portugal.

→ Find the 2 reports [here](#).

## Events

### ► Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

On the 19th of June, **DG DEVCO** organised a conference on "The Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) - Sustainable Management of Atlantic Tropical Tuna".

During the conference, progress on AOTTP was summarised, a future workplan elucidated, and awareness raising and capacity building activities presented.

Here are the speakers that made a presentation during the event:

- Leonard Mizzi (Head of Unit, DG DEVCO, Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition)
- Anders Jessen (Head of Unit, DG MARE, Unit Regional Fisheries Management Organisations)
- Miguel Neves dos Santos (Assistant Executive Secretary, ICCAT)
- Doug Beare (AOTTP Coordinator)

Broadcast of the event [here](#).



# European Parliament

## Plenary

### ► Status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean

In June 2016, the EC released a communication entitled '[Consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2017 under the Common Fisheries Policy](#)', in which it maintained that overfishing remains prevalent in the Mediterranean and that urgent measures are needed to reverse this situation. Following this communication, the PECH Committee adopted [an own-initiative report](#) by Marco AFFRONTI on the status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean. This report was adopted by the plenary on by a broad majority.

## Committee on Fisheries

The Committee on Fisheries (PECH Committee) met on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at the EP for its monthly gathering to discuss current fisheries issues. Here are the topics covered this meeting.

### ► Vote

- **Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas**

The PECH committee voted on the provisional agreement resulting from inter-institutional negotiations, and its annexe, and they were both **adopted** by a broad majority.

### ► Exchanges of views

The PECH Committee had first exchanges of view on the following topics:

- **The multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks**

The legislative [proposal](#) by the EC of February 2017 for a Regulation of establishing a multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, together with an [impact assessment](#) and an executive summary of the [impact assessment](#).



- **The management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)**

The legislative [proposal](#) by the EC for a Regulation laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) was discussed.

- **The general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018**

In preparation of the 2018 Draft Budget, a [report](#) "Statement of estimates of the European Commission" was released by the EC in May 2017. A [draft opinion](#) from the PECH Committee for the Budget Committee was released in June 2017 on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018.

- **The next multiannual financial framework (MFF): preparing the EP's position on the MFF post-2020**

As foreseen by Art.25 of the [MFF Regulation](#) (2014-2020), the EC should present a new multiannual financial framework (MFF) proposal before 01.01.2018. In this context, BUDG Committee requested an own-initiative report to prepare the EP position on the new financial framework post-2020. The drafting of this EP position was attributed to MEP Aguilera.

- **With the Commission on delegated acts and implementing acts**

The PECH Committee mainly had an exchange of views on the Regulation modifying Council and Parliament Regulation on the distribution of the funds under the direct management objectives of the Integrated Maritime Policy and CFP.

### ► [Exchanges of views with representatives](#)

A representative of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) presented the initiative, and a representative of the Court of Auditors gave a presentation of their Special Report on the system of fisheries controls. Both presentations were followed by exchange of views.

### ► [Workshop](#)

A workshop focused on **the consequence of the Brexit on the CFP** was held. The objective was to present and discuss the three studies conducted by the Directorate General for Internal Policies Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policies on the following topics: the legal framework for governance, the trade and economic related issues, and resources and fisheries.

### ► [Public hearing](#)

A public hearing took place on the topic of **"fish consumption in Europe: new forms of nutrition education"**. The main aim of this hearing was to make consumers aware of the current situation of stocks on the market in order for them to make a responsible choice when buying fish, and to contribute to the restocking of the most threatened species, while ensuring the health and well-being of the consumer. Various experts in the field reported on the measures and instruments that will enable consume to buy fish species which are less well known but less exploited.

## Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee) met on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at the European Parliament at its monthly gathering and an [oral question](#) from ENVI Committee on whale hunting was voted and **adopted**.

### Publications

A [report](#) of the EP on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries was published on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Rapporteur: Renata Briano.

### Press Releases

#### ► [Proposals to improve the situation of its fishing sector in the Mediterranean](#)

Protecting small-scale fisheries, improving data collection and tackling illegal and unreported fishing in the Mediterranean basin could improve the situation of its fishing sector.

Read full press release [here](#).

#### ► [Agreement on the new authorisation system for EU external fishing fleet](#)

The new law to streamline fishing authorisations for EU vessels fishing outside Union waters was agreed with the Council on Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> June).

Read full press release [here](#).

### Events

#### ► [Essential fish habitats](#)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, [Oceana](#) organised an event on “**Restoring fish abundance by protecting essential fish habitats**”. The event was hosted by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos and took place in the context of Oceana's efforts to [#StopOverfishing](#) in Europe.

The topics covered during the event were:

- State of implementation of Art. 8 of the Common Fisheries Policy by Elisa Roller (DG MARE, Head of Unit D.3 CFP Policy Development and Coordination);
- Essential Fish Habitat in the North Sea by Josianne Gatt Støttrup (DTU Aqua / Chair of ICES Working Group on the Value of Coastal Habitats for Exploited Species (WGVHES));
- Essential Fish Habitat network in Mediterranean region by Alain Jeudy de Grissac (GFCM);
- Conclusions & Final remarks by Lasse Gustavsson (Oceana Europe Executive Director).

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



## ► Fish Welfare

On the 15th of June, the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals organised an event on “**Fish Welfare: Current situation and future direction**”. The event was hosted by MEPs Sirpa Pietikäinen and Anja Hazekamp.

The topics covered during the event were:

- Current situation and future direction by Douglas Waley (Fish Welfare Programme Leader, Eurogroup for Animals)
- The legal and policy context for fish welfare in the EU by MEP Anja Hazekamp ((GUE/NGL, NL), EP Fisheries Committee)
- Why fish welfare matters by Dos Winkel (Director of the Sea First Foundation)

Broadcast of the event [here](#).

## ► Pulse gear

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development organised an event on “**Pulse gear: A more sustainable alternative for traditional beam trawling?**”. The event was hosted by MEPs Ricardo Serrão Santos and Peter van Dalen. The meeting provided the opportunity to hear from the scientists about the pulse technique, the research programme and the control and enforcement arrangements.

The speakers that gave a presentation were:

- Pim Visser (VisNed: Pulse fisheries- stakeholder cooperation)
- Harmen Klein Wolthuis (HFK Engineering)
- Hans Polet (Flanders Marine Institute)
- Elisa Roller (EC, DG MARE, Unit CFP and Structural Support, Policy Development & Coordination)
- Björn Stockhausen (Seas at Risk)
- Michel Kaiser (Chair of the International Scientific Advisory Council for Pulse Research)
- Bryan O’Riordan (LIFE - low impact fishers of Europe).

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

## ► WORKSHOP “Responsible and sustainable Tuna Fisheries”

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June, the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU together held a Workshop on how new technologies can improve the transparency of the tropical tuna Fishery, thus achieving a more sustainable and responsible fishing.

WWF and OPAGAC presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both organisations showing the collaboration NGOs-Industry is not only positive but needed.

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

Here are the latest fisheries-related briefings, studies and fact sheets published this month:

### ► Research for PECH Committee – Common Fisheries Policy and BREXIT

This is the reference document of the Workshop on “Common Fisheries Policy and BREXIT” of 21th June 2017, organised by the Committee on Fisheries (COMPECH) and the Policy Department B (PECH Research) of the European Parliament. It is structured in three parts: 1. Legal framework for governance 2. Trade and economic related issues 3. Resources and fisheries.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “European fisheries in figure”

The tables below show basic statistical data in several areas relating to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), namely: the fishing fleets of the Member States in 2014, the situation of employment in the fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sectors in 2011, the supply balance of fisheries and aquaculture products in 2012, the consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products in 2012, and the resource allocations of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund from 2014 to 2020.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “The Integrated Maritime Policy”

The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) is a holistic approach to all sea-related EU policies. Based on the idea that the Union can draw higher returns from seas and oceans with less impact on the environment by coordinating its policies, the IMP encompasses fields as diverse as fisheries and aquaculture, shipping and seaports, marine environment, marine research, offshore energy, shipbuilding and sea-related industries, maritime surveillance, maritime and coastal tourism, employment, development of coastal regions, and external relations in maritime affairs.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “European aquaculture”

European aquaculture is stagnating by contrast with increasing rates of aquaculture production at world level. To try to dampen this trend, the Commission published two communications with strategies for developing European aquaculture, one in 2002 and another in 2009. The 2002 strategy failed to increase European production, while the global economic crisis has hit the aquaculture market and industry. This led to the publication in 2013 of a third Commission communication, aimed at achieving the sustainable development of EU aquaculture and proposing strategic guidelines.

→ Read it [here](#).

<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](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “International fisheries relations”

With the aim of promoting legal, environmental, economic and social governance frameworks for sustainable fisheries, of gaining access to key fishing areas of the world or of promoting monitoring, control and surveillance schemes to combat illegal fishing, the European Union has concluded more than 20 international fisheries agreements. The European Union concludes bilateral agreements such as sustainable fisheries partnerships, or multilateral agreements such as agreements with regional fisheries management organisations and international conventions.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “Producer organisations and the Common Market Organisation in fisheries products”

The Common Market Organisation (CMO) in fisheries and aquaculture products was the first component of the CFP. Its scope for action in the face of the recent crisis in the fisheries sector was seen as limited, given the nature of its intervention mechanisms and the scarce funding allocated to them, leading to a comprehensive reform laying down the new groundwork for the CMO and the entire CFP as of 2014. The revised CMO improves market surveillance and food safety and consumer information, fostering the development of regional product commercialisation.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “Fisheries structural assistance”

Initially funded by the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), the European fisheries policy was funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) for 2007-2013, and is presently funded by the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), worth EUR 6.4 billion over 2014-2020. The EMFF supports fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing, supports coastal communities in diversifying their economies and finances projects to create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “Fisheries control and enforcement”

Fisheries control and enforcement aims to ensure the correct application of regulations regarding fisheries and to impose compliance with these rules where necessary. In this respect, competences and responsibilities are shared among MS, the EC and the operators. MS which do not comply with these rules can have infringement proceedings taken out against them.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “Fisheries resource conservation”

Fisheries resource conservation is based on the need to ensure environmentally sustainable exploitation of those resources and the long-term viability of the sector. With a view to achieving this objective, the European Union has adopted legislation governing access to EU waters, the allocation and use of resources, total allowable catches, fishing effort limitation and other technical measures.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► EU Fact sheet on “The Common Fisheries Policy: origins and development”

A CFP was first formulated in the Treaty of Rome. Initially linked to the Common Agricultural Policy, over time it has gradually become more independent. The primary goal of the CFP, as revised in 2002, is to ensure sustainable fisheries and guarantee incomes and stable jobs for fishermen. Several changes to the fisheries policy were introduced in the Treaty of Lisbon. In 2013 the Council and Parliament reached agreement on a new CFP, for the long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainability of fishing and aquaculture activities.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► At a Glance on “South Pacific fisheries management measures: Transposition into EU law”

The European Union is a contracting party to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and therefore the binding conservation and management measures adopted by this organisation must be enacted into EU law. The European Parliament is currently considering the Commission's proposal on the first transposition of SPRFMO measures.

→ Read it [here](#).

### ► Briefing on “European Maritime and Fisheries Fund”

The €6 396.6 million European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the smallest of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the 2014-2020 period, but it is the major financial tool supporting the EU CFP. Slightly less than half of the Fund is dedicated to promoting sustainable fisheries and to fostering sustainable aquaculture. Another significant share contributes to proper implementation of the CFP, particularly for data collection and science-based needs, and control and enforcement of rules. A small part of the EMFF is also aimed at supporting an integrated maritime policy (IMP) for the EU.

→ Read it [here](#).



# European Council

## AGRIFISH Council

The 3534<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the European Union, was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Here are the key outcomes of the meeting, in relation to fisheries. The full outcome of the meeting can be found [here](#).

### ► Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CCBSP)

The Council adopted a decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the EU, at the annual Conference of the Parties to the CCBSP. The CCBSP aims to establish an international regime for conservation, management and optimum utilisation of pollock resources in the convention area, restore and maintain the pollock resources in the Bering Sea at levels which will permit their maximum sustainable yield and favour cooperation in the gathering and examining of factual information concerning pollock and other living marine resources. EU is not a contracting party to the convention.

### ► Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

The Council adopted a decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the EU, at the meetings of the parties to the SIOFA. SIOFA is an inter-governmental agreement which aims to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the SIOFA area through cooperation among the contracting parties. It also aims to promote the sustainable development of fisheries, taking into account the needs of developing states bordering the area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing states. To date, SIOFA has been ratified by Australia, the Cook Islands, the European Union, France on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

### ► South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

The Council adopted a decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the EU, at the annual meeting of the Commission of the SPRFMO. The SPRFMO is an inter-governmental organisation that is committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the South Pacific Ocean and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur. The SPRFMO convention applies to the high seas of the South Pacific, covering about a fourth of the Earth's high seas areas. Currently, the main commercial resources fished in the SPRFMO area are jack mackerel and jumbo flying squid in the Southeast Pacific and, to a much lesser degree, deep-sea species often associated with seamounts in the Southwest Pacific. The SPRFMO Commission has currently 15 Members, including the EU.

## Press Releases

### ► New EU rules on sustainable management of external fishing fleets

After long dialogues between the Council, the Commission and the Parliament, a political agreement was reached on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, between the Council and the European Parliament on new rules for the sustainable management of external fishing fleets. The agreed regulation will modernise the regime of authorisations for fishing vessels and will apply to all EU vessels fishing outside EU waters, and to third-country vessels fishing in EU waters.

Karmenu Vella stated on this agreement that it “shows that the EU is a responsible and major global actor ensuring sustainable fishing by EU fleets beyond EU waters”.

➔ Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

➔ Find [here](#) the EP legislative resolution of 2 February 2017 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets.

A [provision agreement](#) from the PECH Committee resulting from interinstitutional negotiations was published on the 26th June.

### ► Council conclusions on blue growth

The Council adopted conclusions on support for the sustainable development of European marine and maritime economies. It recalls the vital role of oceans for life on earth, economic growth, employment and innovation and highlights that oceans and seas are facing increasing pressures and should be protected from the adverse consequences of climate change.

➔ Read more [here](#).

## Legislative acts and other instruments

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. Find the document [here](#).

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. Find the document [here](#).

## Announcements

### ► European Maritime Day 2020-2024

The Council of the European Union has announced the European Maritime Day (EMD) host cities for the period 2020-2024: **Cork**, Ireland (EMD 2020); **Den Helder**, The Netherlands (EMD 2021); **Ravenna**, Italy (EMD 2022); **Brest**, France (EMD 2023); and **Svendborg**, Denmark (EMD 2024).

➔ Learn more [here](#).





# Advisory Councils

## Joint opinions

- A [joint opinion](#) from LDAC-MAC-MedAC was released on “Improving implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing”;
- A [joint opinion](#) from MAC-MEDAC was released on the “Delegated Act functioning ACs”.

## Aquaculture Advisory Council

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, the AAC met in Paris for its Working Group 2 (Shellfish), and in Brussels for its Working Group 1 (FinFish) and 3 (Horizontal issues).

## Baltic Sea Advisory Council

On the 7-8<sup>th</sup> of June, the BSAC met for a joint Working Group to deal with the ICES advice for the Baltic fishery in 2018. More information can be found [here](#). Agenda can be found [here](#).

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, the BSAC met for an Executive Committee. More information can be found [here](#).

## Long Distance Advisory Council

LDAC published:

- A [press note](#) on “FarFish - Improving knowledge and management of EU fisheries outside Europe, while contributing to sustainability and long-term profitability”.

## North Sea Advisory Council

On the 13-14<sup>th</sup> of June, the NSAC had an Executive Committee and a General Assembly. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

NSAC published:

- An [advice](#) to response to the Multi-Annual Plan for the North Sea.

## North-Western Waters Advisory Council

NWWAC published:

- A [letter](#) to the EC on Data collection for Brown Crab;
- A [feedback](#) on the EC Draft delegated act on the functioning of the ACs.

## Mediterranean Advisory Council

MedAC published:

- A [letter](#) to Director General Joao Aguiar Machado on the role of the MEDAC;
- An [opinion](#) on the socioeconomic situation of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean Sea;
- A [letter-request](#) of the organization of ad hoc meetings with Scientific Institutes. STECF sent a [reply](#) to this letter-request.

## Pelagic Advisory Council

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June the Pelagic AC organised a workshop on minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) with representatives from the fishing industry, NGOs, scientists and Member States. More information on this workshop can be found [here](#).

## South-Western Waters Advisory Council

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, the SWWAC had an Executive Committee and a General Assembly.



# International

## Events

### ► The high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

The high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) was held from 5-9 June 2017, at UN Headquarters in New York, co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden. The EU was represented by the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella.

The conference aimed to: identify ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14; build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of SDG 14; involve all relevant stakeholders; share experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of SDG 14; and contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by providing an input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The conference was largely considered a success in building momentum for the implementation of SDG 14, as a central rather than isolated component of the 2030 Agenda. It produced three outcomes: an intergovernmentally agreed Call for Action; a registry of voluntary commitments; and key messages from the partnership dialogues:

- The **Call for Action** reconfirms the commitment of UN Member States to the implementation of SDG 14 within the context of the 2030 Agenda, and to mobilize resources in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.
- The registration of 1328 **voluntary commitments** by governments and other stakeholders was celebrated as a major achievement. The voluntary commitments cover a wide range of topics, from creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) and action on plastic and other marine debris, to funding for scientific research and capacity-building activities.
- The **partnership dialogues** were instrumental in facilitating knowledge and experience sharing between conference participants, and clarifying inter-linkages between SDG 14 and the other goals.

➔ Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



# Others

## ► The Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved in all countries - including Europe

The Sustainable Development Goals commits all countries to make an effort both at home and abroad. The EU and its 28 member states have an important responsibility to achieve the global goals, said Prime Minister Erna Solberg in Brussels 7 June. Sustainable development was on the agenda when Ms. Erna Solberg, [held a speech](#) and took part in a panel debate in the European Parliament in Brussels 7 June.

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

## ► Fisheries reform for Faroes

The government of the Faroe Islands has introduced a bill to parliament to reform fisheries policies, promote sustainability and change the way fishing licenses are administered.

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

## ► Michael Gove champions Scottish Brexit consultation

Scottish fishermen will be consulted as the new Fisheries Bill is developed ahead of Brexit, Environment Secretary Michael Gove pledged ahead of his first visit to Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

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

## ► Big fish in big trouble in Europe

A new [study by an international team of scientists, published in Nature Ecology & Evolution](#), warns that many large fish species, including many of the sharks and rays of Europe, are threatened with extinction. Confirming the findings of previous studies, the scientists highlight regional differences in fish stock status in Europe and point to overfishing in the Mediterranean.

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



# Upcoming events

## Events and Conferences

- ▶ **10 JULY:** [Event](#) on Ensuring Good Environmental Status of EU marine waters through efficient monitoring programmes (Brussels, BE)
- ▶ **10-19 JULY:** UN High-level Political [Forum](#) on Sustainable Development (NYC)
- ▶ **12 JULY:** [Public hearing](#) on the role of ACs in the new regionalised CFP (Brussels, BE)
- ▶ **12 JULY:** [Event](#) on the Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector (Brussels, BE)
- ▶ **12-14 JULY:** [High-Level event](#) on A New Era of Blue Enlightenment (Lisbon, PT)

## Meetings of the Advisory Councils

- ▶ **4-6 JULY:** NWWAC – [WG 1-2-3-4, horizontal WG, Executive committee](#) (Edinburgh, UK)
- ▶ **6 JULY:** AAC – Executive Committee (Brussels, BE)
- ▶ **11-12 JULY:** PelAC – [WG 1-2](#) and [Executive Committee](#) (Den Haag, NL)
- ▶ **13 JULY:** NSAC – [Demersal WG](#) (Edinburgh, UK)

## International meetings

- ▶ **10-13 JULY:** IOTC - 7th [Working Party](#) on Neritic Tunas (Maldives)
- ▶ **10-14 JULY:** CCAMLR - [Working Group](#) on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (Argentina)
- ▶ **10-14 JULY:** NAFO Working Group on [By-catches, discards and selectivity](#), on [Risk-Based Management Strategies](#), on [Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management](#) (Canada)
- ▶ **10-14 JULY:** STEFC - Summer [plenary meeting](#) (Brussels)

- ▶ **10-21 JULY:** 4th session of the [Preparatory Committee](#) for the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ PrepCom 4) (NYC)
- ▶ **11-13 JULY:** Common Oceans (ABNJ) Tuna Project - 4<sup>th</sup> [Steering Committee](#) (Rome)
- ▶ **17-28 JULY:** 92<sup>nd</sup> [Annual Meeting](#) of the Inter-Amercan Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) (Mexico)
- ▶ **31 JULY – 4 AUGUST:** Legal & Technical [Commission](#) of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) (Kingston, Jamaica)