



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWSLETTER

July 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EUROPEAN UNION3

EUROPEAN COMMISSION.....6

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT9

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION15

ADVISORY COUNCILS.....16

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.....21

BREXIT25

UPCOMING EVENTS27





European Union

Latest Official Journal Publications

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

Implementing and Delegated Regulations

- [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1345 of 18 July 2017 operating deductions from **fishing quotas** available for certain stocks in 2017 on account of overfishing in the previous years.
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1180 of 24 February 2017 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/118 establishing fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the **North Sea**.
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1181 of 2 March 2017 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/117 establishing fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the **Baltic Sea** and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1778.
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1352 of 18 April 2017 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations under the International Convention for the Conservation of the **Atlantic Tunas** and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest **Atlantic Fisheries**.

Decisions and Implementing Decisions

- [Council Implementing Decision](#) (EU) 2017/1333 of 11 July 2017 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**.
- [Council Implementing Decision](#) (EU) 2017/1332 of 11 July 2017 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**.

- [Commission Decision](#) (EU) 2017/1373 of 24 July 2017 approving, on behalf of the EU, an amendment to the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the **Fisheries Partnership Agreement** between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Notice

- [Notice](#) of initiation of a partial interim review of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of certain **rainbow trout** originating in Turkey.

Action

- [Action](#) brought on 26 April 2017 - António Conde & Companhia vs the EC. The applicant claims that the Court should declare that the EC has failed to act in application of Article 14(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1386/2007 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation by requesting Portugal to submit to it a list of Portuguese-flagged vessels authorised to fish in the NAFO Regulatory Area for the season 2017 which excludes the fishing vessel CALVÃO, with the consequence that it has failed to forward a list including that vessel to the NAFO Secretariat. The applicant claims that the Court should order the EC to pay the costs.

Latest proposals, communications & other instruments

Here are this month's proposals, communication, staff working documents, decision and opinion from the European Commission, Council of the European Union and European Parliament:

Proposals

- Proposal for a [Council Regulation](#) amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127 as regards certain fishing opportunities + [Annex](#).
- Proposal for a [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008.
- Proposal for a [Commission Regulation](#) (EU) .../... of XXX amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls on fishery products caught by vessels flying the flag of a Member State and introduced into Union after being transferred in third countries and establishing a model health certificate for those products + [Annex](#).

- Proposal for a [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) .../... of 05.7.2017 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/2374 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters + [Annex](#).
- Proposal for a [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) .../... of 13.7.2017 correcting certain language versions of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/2250 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea and in Union waters of ICES Division IIa.

Communication

- [Communication from the Commission](#) on the State of Play of the Common Fisheries Policy and Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2018.

Decision

- [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 (*Access to the documents upon requests*).

Opinion

- [Commission opinion](#) on the draft Single Programming Document for 2018-2020 of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

Staff working documents

- [Commission staff working document](#) accompanying the Communication from the Commission - Consultation on the state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2018.
- [Commission staff working document](#) ex-post evaluation of the European Fisheries Funds 2007-2013 + [Executive summary](#).
- [Joint staff working document](#) Second report on the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan.



European Commission

Latest Public Consultations

This month, the European Commission has opened 3 public consultations:

- [Implementation of the Atlantic action plan](#) (until **22/09/2017**).

The aim of the consultation is to gather input for the mid-term review of the Atlantic action plan, assessing the latter against the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** is EU action still necessary?
- **Effectiveness:** have the objectives been met?
- **Efficiency:** how efficient is the implementation process and its governance structure?
- **EU added-value:** can similar changes have been achieved at national/regional level, or did EU action clearly provide added-value?

A second aim is to seek views on the issues that may need to be reviewed.

- [Investigating options for reducing releases to the environment of microplastics](#) (until **16/10/2017**).

The aim of this consultation is to collect the views of stakeholders and citizens with regard to the policy options to reduce microplastics entering the marine environment.

The objectives of the consultation are:

- Informing and enabling feedback, giving the possibility to a broad range of stakeholders to provide views, feedback and perceptions on the concern around microplastics emissions and possible options for reduction;
- Gathering information and data that cannot be found through desk research and additional sources of evidence as regards to the sources and policy options for the reduction of microplastics emissions.

- [Fishing opportunities for 2018 under the common fisheries policy](#) (until **15/09/2017**).

The contributions received, as well as the outcome of the seminar on the state of the stocks and the economics of fishing fleets that will take place in September, will feed into the European Commission's proposals on fishing opportunities for 2018.

► **Commission sets outs principles for 2018 fishing opportunities**

The Commission has adopted its annual consultative Communication in preparation of the setting of 2018 fishing opportunities later in the year, which also contains a first state of play of the implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In this public consultation, the Commission asks for the views of Member States, the Advisory Councils, the fishing industry and Non-Governmental Organisations, interested citizens and organisations. The Commission will take the stakeholder input into account when preparing its proposals on fishing opportunities for 2018 and in the context of the future implementation of the CFP. A Questions & Answers from the Commission on the fishing opportunities in 2018 can be found [here](#).

→ Read more [here](#).

► **Key elements of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement**

After intense and constructive negotiating rounds and several meetings at technical and political levels, the EU and Japan have reached a political agreement in principle on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which will boost trade in goods and services as well as create opportunities for investment.

Regarding **fisheries**, [...] import quotas will no longer be applied and all tariffs will be eliminated on both sides, meaning better prices for EU consumers and big export opportunities for EU industry. [...]

Regarding **whaling**, [...] the EU has banned all imports of whale products for more than 35 years, and this will not change with the EPA. The EU and its Member States are committed to the conservation and protection of whales and have consistently expressed strong reservations about whaling for scientific purposes. When it comes to the announced EPA, it will include a chapter on sustainable development which will provide for an additional platform to foster dialogue and joint work between the EU and Japan on environmental issues of relevance in a trade context. [...]

→ Read the press release [here](#).

► **Present and future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund support to small-scale coastal fisheries through FLAGs**

A new report on EU support to small-scale coastal fisheries by Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) was published this month. The report states that calls for greater levels of support to Small-

Scale Coastal Fisheries (SSCF) have been on the rise but it appears that Member States and stakeholders are not taking full advantage of the numerous existing funding possibilities under the EMFF in favour of SSCF. FLAGs are one of the possibilities offered by the EMFF to reach out to SSCF and, in practice, the SSCF sector is the natural partner of most FLAGs. Still the extent to which FLAGs have been supporting SSCF is unclear.

This report aims to provide an indication of the level of support provided by FLAGs to SSCF. It is based on a survey which has been carried out among FLAGs from both the EFF and EMFF periods.

→ Learn more [here](#).

► **2017 Black Sea Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy**

The European Commission and the Georgian Ministries of Economy and Sustainable Development and of Environment and Natural Resources Protection will host the "4th Black Sea Stakeholder Conference" in Batumi, Georgia on 15 September 2017.

→ Learn more [here](#).

► **EUMOFA Monthly Highlights**

In this month highlight you can read about first sales in Europe, with a focus on crab (France, Norway, UK), on octopus (France, Italy, Portugal), and on cuttlefish (France, Italy, Portugal, UK).

The chapter Global supply focuses on various resources, fisheries, certifications, the canned tuna sector and trade. The case studies are on fisheries in Vietnam and on fish wholesale in Spain. The consumption chapter focuses on Shrimp Crangon spp. in the Netherlands. Lastly, the Macroeconomic context concentrates on marine fuel, food and fish prices, exchange rates and EU economic overview.

→ Read the report [here](#).

► **World aquariums stand up for Our Ocean**

Monaco's iconic Oceanographic Museum was the suitable stage, when on 27 July, the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella launched the global campaign "World Aquariums Against Marine Litter" together with HSH Albert II, Prince of Monaco, and in the presence of the Executive Director of UN Environment, Mr Erik Solheim, and the CEO of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Mr Doug Cress. Aquariums across the world filled one of their exhibitions with plastic to show the global reality of marine litter.

→ Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).





European Parliament

European Parliament's Plenary Session

► The role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries

The [own-initiative report](#) on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries (rapporteur: MEP Renata Briano) adopted by the PECH Committee was [adopted](#) during the EP plenary on the 15th June 2017.

► Whale hunting in Norway

The [oral question](#) on whale hunting in Norway submitted to the EC on the 22nd June 2017 by numerous MEPs on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety was discussed.

During the discussion, the EC stated that it will continue to take a strong position on this subject, and to work with each international partners to engage with Norway towards decisions more consistent with the EU approach and leading to better conservation of whales worldwide. The EC also announced that it will present in September a **proposal** for a **Council decision** establishing the **position to be adopted** on behalf of the EU at the next 3 meetings of the IWC, including related inter-sessional meetings in actions. This proposal might also be the basis for further EU bilateral action towards whaling countries. All **MEPs** that took part to discussion expressed a strong will to take further measures to **protect whales**.

European Parliament's Committees

Committee on Fisheries

The PECH Committee, at its meeting of the 12th July, discussed the following issues:

► Votes

- **Sustainable management of external fishing fleet**

The [provisional agreement](#) resulting from inter-institutional negotiations was **adopted** by a broad majority. 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**. The various **authorisation procedures are improved** to limit the administrative burden, increase legal certainty, ensure equal treatment between internal and external fleets, and shorten the time of response to applicants.

- **Multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks**

The [draft report](#) and its proposed [amendment](#) was **adopted**. The mandate to enter into inter-institutional negotiations, which was **rejected**. The report will go to the plenary for adoption.

► Exchanges of views

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

The [draft opinion](#) released in June 2017 from the PECH Committee for the Budget Committee on the general budget of the EU for the financial year 2018 was discussed.

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

The main delegated acts that are to come were discussed. Focus was put on the Delegated Regulation modifying Council and Parliament Regulation on the distribution of the funds under the direct management objectives of the Integrated Maritime Policy and CFP, and the Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the CFP.

- **With the Estonia's presidency taking over from Malta July 1st**

Estonia's Environment Minister, Siim Valmar Kiisler, outlined the Estonian presidency priorities regarding fisheries. He expressed that Estonia is committed to work hard on sustainable fish stocks and oceans management. The Presidency will ensure the implementation of the CFP, strive to find a fair balance between insuring the sustainability of fish stocks and the promotion of livelihoods for fishermen.

► Public hearing

A public hearing took place on the topic of **"the role of the Advisory Councils in the new 'regionalised CFP'"**. The objective was for PECH Committee Members to listen to different presentations from various experts on the subject. The Hearing included presentations from members from the EC DG MARE, the Mediterranean Advisory Council, the Comité national des

pêches maritimes et des élevages marins, and Seas at Risk. The presentations given can all be found [here](#).

► **Report**

The report of the PECH Committee's mission to Madeira (for the report click [here](#) and go to n°13), on 22-25th May 2017, was presented by MEP Jaroslaw Walesa (EPP, PL). The PECH Committee had, among others, meetings with the Regional Secretary of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Regional Government of Madeira, the Regional Director of Fisheries, the President of the Regional Parliament of Madeira and the President of the Regional Government of Madeira.

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee) at its meeting of the 10-11th July reported back on its mission to the 71st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC71) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The document can be found [here](#), under n°10.

Publications

► **ENVI Committee publications**

Here are this month's publications by the ENVI Committee related to fisheries:

- [Amendments 1-90](#) from the ENVI Committee (draft position in the form of amendment) on the EC [proposal](#) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks.
- [Amendments 1-27](#) from the ENVI Committee (draft position in the form of amendment) on the EC [proposal](#) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO).
- [Amendments 1-267](#) from the ENVI Committee on the [draft report](#) from the ENVI Committee on International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs, following the 2016 EC's [Joint Communication](#) to the European Parliament, the

Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans.

- [Mission report](#) following the European Parliament delegation to the 71st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, UK, 03-07 July 2017.

► **EU Action to Combat Marine Litter**

This report summarises 4 presentations by experts and discussions which took place at the workshop 'EU Action to Combat Marine Litter' held on 3rd May 2017 in the EP in Brussels. The aim was to provide background information to the ENVI Committee's Members and contribute to their understanding of the need to tackle marine litter and the challenges involved.

➔ Read the whole report [here](#).

European Parliament Think Tank¹

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

► **Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights – July 2017**

The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events. In this publication, focus is put on Sustainable and competitive fisheries for Blue Growth, and Common Fisheries Policy and BREXIT.

➔ Read it [here](#).

► **New rules for managing the EU external fishing fleet (4th edition)**

Following trilogue negotiations, the EP Plenary voted and adopted a revised system of issuing and managing fishing authorisations, intended to improve monitoring and transparency of the EU external fishing fleet. The new legislation will replace the current 'Fishing Authorisations Regulation', and will cover all EU vessels fishing outside EU waters, as well as third-country vessels fishing in EU waters. The current scope of the authorisation system would be extended to include practices poorly monitored so far, such as private agreements between EU companies and third countries and abusive reflagging operations. Member States would authorise fishing vessels using common eligibility criteria, complemented by specific conditions depending on the nature of the

authorisation. Part of the electronic fishing authorisations register would for the first time be publicly accessible.

→ Read it [here](#).

► A maritime strategy for Africa

Harnessing the oceans' resources in a sustainable manner is the 'new frontier of the African renaissance', according to the African Union (AU). This 'blue growth' will only materialise if the oceans' health and security at sea are restored. For this purpose, the AU has designed an ambitious maritime strategy, but disagreements among the African states are hampering its realisation. The EU could support this strategy, provided cooperation goes beyond security and migration aspects.

→ Read it [here](#).

► Sources of EU funding for tourism-related activities

There is no specific EU fund dedicated to tourism as such. However, although not strictly focused on tourism, a number of EU funds may help to boost its prospects and address its challenges. Regarding fisheries, the EMFF supports among others the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and the creation of jobs.

→ Read it [here](#).

► Pacific

The EU is the Pacific region's fourth trading partner, although the volume of trade is small in both absolute and relative terms. The EU is currently negotiating free trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand, which are important trading partners. The EU has partnerships in the region with the 15 Pacific Independent Island Countries, focused on development, fisheries and climate change, four Overseas Countries and Territories, and the Pacific Islands Forum.

→ Read it [here](#).

► 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF): Mid-term revision

The MFF sets the maximum level of resources for each major category of EU spending for the years 2014-2020. Based on the compulsory mid-term review of the MFF, the EC proposes to modify the flexibility provisions and special instruments of the MFF Regulation. The aim is to increase the capacity of the EU budget to address unforeseen events and new priorities. In 2017, the Council reached agreement on a text that strengthens some special instruments. The EP has now to decide whether to approve the compromise.

→ Read it [here](#).

► **Environmental Status of EU marine waters**

On the 10th of July, a conference on “**Ensuring Good Environmental Status of EU marine waters through efficient monitoring programmes**” was organised in the EP on the [SMS Project](#) (Sensing toxicants in Marine waters makes Sense using biosensors), hosted by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos. This event was connected with the development of SMS, an FP7 European funded research project. The project presented its research results related to monitoring seawater chemical and ecological status in real time and in situ. The event also demonstrated innovative methodologies to detect, identify and measure emerging pollutants. A [EuroGOOS](#) science officer delivered a talk at the event which highlighted the current gaps in the delivery of biogeochemical in situ measurements and related technological needs. EuroGOOS also highlighted the role of the H2020 [COLUMBUS project](#) on knowledge transfer. Other speakers also included members from the EC DG Environment, DG Research, and [Mecator Ocean](#).

► **Incidental catches of seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles in fishing gears**

On the 11th of July, BirdLife, ClientEarth, EIA, Seas at Risk, WDC and WWF co-organised a conference on “**What’s the Catch? How to stop incidental catches of seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles in fishing gears**” hosted by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos.

Presentations by scientists working on seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles, fishing representatives, and EU decision makers were given.

The speakers underlined that eliminating incidental catches ensures that we can sustain the integrity of the ocean ecosystem. In some cases, Europe is falling behind many other countries such as South Africa and Namibia, where incidental catches of seabirds have been reduced by more than 90%. It's about time that the EU gets serious about this issue.

► **EU Fishing sector presents a training tool for risk prevention and safety at sea in the EP**

On the 12th July, the European fishing sector, represented by a consortium of fisheries organisations, together with the MEP Mr Millán Mon, co-hosted a reception on “**Safety at sea in the fisheries sector**” in the EP. The event brought together a wide range of fisheries stakeholders, including representatives of EU Institutions, industry and civil society with the aim to present and disseminate the results of the EU project called ‘SAFEFISHING’, aimed at promoting best safety practices at work and reducing the accident rate in the fishing sector.



Council of the European Union

AGRIFISH Council meeting

The 3556th meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the EU, was held on the 17-18th July 2017. Here are the key outcomes of the meeting, in relation to fisheries.

The meeting started with a presentation of the **Estonian presidency's work programme and priorities** in the areas of agriculture and fisheries, with **multi-annual management plans** and **technical measures** in the field of fisheries.

The Commission then presented to the Council its communication on the state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and consultation on **fishing opportunities for 2018**, and the Council had a first debate on these fishing opportunities.

Member states generally welcomed the communication and the progress achieved on a number of stocks. They stressed the importance of better communicating on these achievements and the need to acknowledge the **specificities of the different regions and fisheries**.

The Commission communication on fishing opportunities kick-starts the annual exercise of fixing total allowable catches (TACs) and national quotas for the following year. TACs for the Baltic Sea will be set in October; TACs and quotas for the Black Sea and all other Union fleet in December 2017.

➔ The full outcome of the meeting can be found [here](#).



Advisory Councils

Joint Advisory Councils

[The EC replied](#) to the the [joint LDAC-MAC-MEDAC opinion](#) of the 9th June 2017 on improving implementation of the **EU Regulation to fight** against illegal, unreported and unregulated (**IUU**) fishing.

As a reminder, the **Joint opinion** submitted to the EC a list of requests and suggestions, such as to:

- secure additional human resources in order to ensure a more rapid and effective delivery of the aforementioned IT system;
- ensure that the assessments carried out by the EC with Member States on implementation issues take the form of a routine audit programme of Member State control procedures;
- continue collaboration with EFCA to encourage harmonized application of a risk management approach across the Member States, through these guidelines.
- disclose the action plans provided to third countries during the carding process, following publication of the pre-identification decision in the EU's Official Journal.

In their reply, **the EC** stated, inter alia, that:

- when it comes to the EFCA, it took note of ACs suggestions and will continue their collaboration to encourage a harmonised application of risk management approach across Member States;
- with regard to dialogues with third countries, the EC reiterated that their dialogues are conducted in the spirit of trust and confidentiality while most information is made available in publicly available.
- It has taken note of the ACs request to have updated positive vessel lists. In this context the EC and the ACs should consider if the Global Record of Fishing Vessels developed to fight IUU fishing could play a role.

Aquaculture Advisory Council

► **Meetings**

Now well established, the AAC Executive committee met on the 6th July. The main issues discussed during the meeting were the update of the draft budget 2018 as well as the update and state of play of the working groups of the AAC.

Baltic Sea Advisory Council

► **Publications**

The BSAC published the following recommendations / documents:

- [Letter from the BSAC chair](#) to the Danish BALFISH presidency about the transparency of BALTFISH activities;
- [Letter from the BSAC chair to DG Mare](#) on BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2018;
- [BSAC recommendations](#) for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2018;
- BSAC recommendations on technical measures for the demersal fishery:
 - [Letter from the BSAC chair to the BALTFISH Presidency](#);
 - [Recommendations from the BSAC](#).

Long Distance Advisory Council

► **Publications**

The LDAC published the following document:

- [Proposal](#) for the EC: Request for advice to ICES on status of deepwater stocks in EU & NEAFC Regulation area.

► Meetings

The NSAC **Demersal Working Group** met in Edinburgh and addressed the following topics:

- Presentation of ICES advice 2017 ([document](#) and [summary](#))
- Improving Communications with ICES
- Landing Obligation ([document](#))
- NS MAP, further analysis and advice? ([document](#))
- Review of NSAC advice forward plan ([document](#))
- European Court of Auditors Report: EU Fisheries Control ([document](#))
- Eel Management ([document](#))
- Public Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2018 under the CFP

The NSAC **landing obligation focus group** met in London and covered the following topics:

- Report of meeting 19th May, 2017 ([document](#))
- Terms of Reference ([document](#))
- Draft Advice ([document](#))

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

► Publications

The NSAC published the following advice:

- [NSAC Response to the Multi-Annual Plan for the North Sea](#). The advice concludes that:
 - whilst the North Sea MAP would have been an opportunity to transition from a single species to a multi-species based management system, the legislative bodies appear to have fallen short of this approach. However, the NSAC urges legislators to reflect on those principles when finalising the MAP. This will help overcome shortcomings of previous fisheries legislation and increase the prospect of a workable and successful NS MAP.
 - Although the drafting process on the NS MAP is advanced, the NSAC recommends that the legislative parties use the opportunity the trilogue process presents to evaluate elements of the plan in light of the guiding principles presented in this advice.

North-Western Waters Advisory Council

► Meetings

The NWWAC **Executive Committee** and **WGs** met in Edinburgh and covered the following topics:

- Presentation of ICES advice, EC policy paper, Data from the Wheelhouse (more information on ICES' presentation can be found [here](#))
- WGs 1-2-3-4, and presentation of the evaluation of the EC control Regulation (more information can be found here for working group [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) and [4](#), and [here](#) for the presentation of the evaluation)
- Executive committee (more information can be found [here](#))
- Horizontal working group – landing obligation (more information can be found [here](#))

► Publications

The NWWAC published the following document:

- Letter from DG MARE concerning the [Special request to ICES from the EC for an advice on European eel](#). In the letter, the EC asks to hear ACs views on possible ways forward to take more effective management measures to help improve the situation of this important stock. The EC would also welcome an assessment on how such measures could affect the fishermen engaged in the eel fishery.

Mediterranean Advisory Council

► Publications

The MEDAC published the following document:

- The [EC Reply to MEDAC's advice letter on the proposal for a multi-annual plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic and the role of MEDAC](#).

Pelagic Advisory Council

► Meetings

The PelAC **Executive Committee** and **WGs** met in The Hague and the following main topics were discussed:

→ During the ExCOM:

- Work program and budget 2017-2018
- General elections in October 2017
- Commission consultation on fishing opportunities
- Commission presentation on the evaluation of the control regulation and the control report by the European Court of Auditors.

→ During WG 1:

- Fishing opportunities 2017: presentation of ICES advice (North Sea autumn spawning herring and Western Baltic spring spawning herring).

→ During WG 2:

- Fishing opportunities 2017: presentation of ICES advice (Celtic Sea herring, Irish Sea herring, and Herring in area 6a and 7bc);
- Adoption of Pelagic AC advice: Celtic Sea herring and Irish Sea herring;
- Herring in 6a and 7bc: update from the EC on the proposed rebuilding plan;
- Southern horse mackerel: presentation of a draft management strategy;
- Presentation by EFCA on the gramme size project.

More information on WG 1 and 2 can be found [here](#), and on the ExCOM [here](#).

► Publications

The NSAC published the following document:

- A letter to DG MARE on [Wanted vs unwanted catch for North Sea horse mackerel](#), which advises against a quota top-up for North Sea horse mackerel based on discard data.
- [A response from ICES](#) to the [letter](#) from the PelAC on the Editorial rights to stakeholder information in ICES advices. As a reminder, the **PelAC** was wondering if ICES retains the right to edit information submitted by stakeholders for information in the ICES advice sheets. **ICES** replied that the Advice Drafting Groups are requested to include information only if considered in the assessment or the development of the advice. The section is not meant as a forum to advocate for a particular position on an issue but to provide objective information relevant to the assessment and advice.



International events

► PrepCom 4 on Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

The 4th session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) convened from 10-21 July 2017, at UN Headquarters in New York. This was the **last session** scheduled by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), which was expected to **finalise** substantive **recommendations** on the elements of a **draft text** of an **international legally binding instrument** (ILBI) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (**BBNJ**), so that the UNGA could decide **whether to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC)** to elaborate the **text of the agreement**.

The session continued consideration of the scope of an ILBI and its relationship with other instruments, guiding approaches and principles, marine genetic resources, measures such as area-based management tools (including MPAs), environmental impact assessments, and capacity building and marine technology transfer.

The Chair's indicative **suggestions** were to assist the PrepCom in developing recommendations to the UNGA and a streamlined non-paper on elements of a draft text of an ILBI. **Several delegations**, such as The EU, Norway, Iceland, and Canada, expressed **appreciation** for the Chair's indicative suggestions. However, The Russian Federation stated that **another PrepCom session would be needed** to reach agreement. The US stated that it **will only take a decision** on convening an IGC **after the PrepCom process is concluded**. Canada and The Republic of Korea stressed that the indicative suggestions **need to be further considered**, noting the need to clarify that the elements listed are not formally agreed and that the structure is indicative; a **hybrid approach** needs to be fleshed out; and a **degree of flexibility** should be maintained in the recommendations to the GA. The Republic of Korea also emphasized that the ILBI should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments, and **should strike a balance between conservation and sustainable use**, taking into account all legitimate interests.

Norway highlighted that the recommendations should establish the **necessary confidence** in the process to move to the next stage, and **ensure** that the **different options remain open for discussion at an IGC**.

Main substantive and procedural recommendations:

- Proposition to **endorse a non-exclusive list of elements** for further consideration. Suggestion should be made **without prejudice** to the positions of states during future negotiations.
- If **issues** on which no consensus has been reached are to be included, they should be captured in a **separate section**.
- **The Russian Federation** stressed that the **revised draft** reflects the views of only one group of states and does **not** strike the **appropriate balance** and, in its current form, **is not acceptable**. **The US** acknowledged that “a very large number” of his concerns have been addressed, but underscored the **need** for further **revisions before it could join consensus**.
- Multiple MS called for convening an **IGC in 2018**, Mexico and PSIDS stating that the IGC should have **at least four two-weeklong rounds of negotiations in 2018 and 2019**. **IUCN** warned against delayed action to protect the oceans and **welcomed** the overwhelming majority **supporting an IGC in 2018**.
- Multiple MS emphasized that the **PrepCom does not have a mandate to recommend** convening an IGC. **The Russian Federation** emphasized the significant level of disagreement on the Chair’s indicative suggestions, and **opposed suggestions to move forward to an IGC**, calling for additional sessions of the PrepCom.

Main statements regarding institutional arrangements:

- **The US**, supported by **Norway** and **Iceland**, proposed referring to “possible” institutional arrangements.
- **CARICOM** underscored the need to examine **existing institutions** as part of the ILBI institutional arrangements to increase coherence.
- **The Russian Federation** emphasized that institutional arrangements should be considered and requested deletion of these sections, **preferring strengthening existing bodies including regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)**.

Main statements regarding decision-making Body:

- **Monaco, Norway, Canada** and **Greenpeace** supported a conference of the parties (COP) as a decision-making body, with **the EU** expressing willingness to list its tentative competencies, and highlighting cost-effectiveness and utilization of existing institutions. **Canada** preferred broader reference to a **COP’s functions**.
- **Norway** stressed that the forum should also allow for **coordination and information sharing**.
- **The EU** requested eliminating reference to establishing **subsidiary bodies** “as necessary.”

- Preferring the use of existing mechanisms, Australia and New Zealand suggested “a **mechanism of cooperation with relevant regional and sectoral bodies.**”

Amidst **diverging views** among a wide majority and a minority of countries as to whether the PrepCom had exhausted all efforts to reach consensus and **whether** it could **recommend** that the **GA convene an IGC**, the PrepCom **outcome** was eventually **adopted** by consensus, following informal and closed-door negotiations, and includes:

- Non-exclusive elements of a **draft ILBI text** that generated convergence among most delegations;
- A **list of main issues** on which there is divergence of views;
- A **recommendation to the UNGA** to take a decision, as soon as possible, on the convening of an **IGC**.

Most delegations considered that the PrepCom had completed its mandate, although a few cautioned against prejudging the General Assembly's decision on convening an IGC.

➔ A more detailed report of the session is available [here](#).

► 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The 2017 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place from 10-19 July 2017, at UN Headquarters in New York. The meeting **focused** on the theme of “***Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.***”, for the first time, the HLPF focused on **reviewing the implementation** of a subset of six Goals: SDGs 1 (no poverty); 2 (zero hunger); 3 (good health and well-being); 5 (gender equality); 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); and **SDG 14 on Oceans** (life below water).

Here are the key statements regarding the review of the implementation of SDG 14:

- UNGA President called for implementation of the workplan of the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, collective responsibility to restore the health of oceans; and political momentum.
- Calling on donor countries to meet their special commitments to SIDS, a representer of the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, also Co-President of the Ocean Conference, said the Conference reflected an innovative North-South partnership model that could be used for other SDGs.
- A representer of the Prime Minister of Fiji, Co-President of the Ocean Conference, highlighted the high number of voluntary commitments from the Conference that cover all

ten SDG 14 targets, limited capacity of SIDS to address threats to oceans, and the need to follow-up on conference outcomes.

- UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs said UN Oceans could play an important role in SDG 14 implementation if sustainable funding is assured.
- Providing statistics related to SDG 14, Min Yongyi, DESA, said recent gains in MPAs are being jeopardized by climate change, overfishing, and marine pollution.

In the discussion, participants addressed, inter alia: national strategies for implementing SDG 14; the importance of the ongoing discussions on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the role of research and scientific knowledge for decision-making on marine and coastal resources; the empowerment of local communities; and the importance of the legal framework provided by the UNCLOS, including the delimitation of maritime zones.

➔ **A more detailed summary of the discussion is available [here](#).**



Brexit

After UK's government announced this month the **withdrawal from the London fisheries convention** and claimed **leaving EU fisheries policy** will be good for environment, a succession of statements were made, mostly concerning the impact of such decision on other Member States fishing activities. Here is this month's press review on this topic:

► **UK to 'take back control' of waters after exiting fishing convention**

This month Michael Gove announced withdrawal from London fisheries convention and claimed leaving EU fisheries policy will be good for environment. Indeed, the government announced its withdrawal from an arrangement that allows other countries to fish in British waters.

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

► **UK likely to need enhanced fisheries enforcement to 'protect' waters**

UK fisheries sector chiefs have noted the need for improvements to monitoring and enforcement measures, should the UK restrict all access to its waters. According to the chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation, the UK is relatively short on enforcement vessels and the UK should look at the Norwegian example on this. Moreover, Bertie Armstrong, head of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), said he had been told in conversation by an EU international negotiator, "if you restrict access to your waters but give some, then all the European fishing nations will do is to enter your water for ten minutes, and misreport all the fish into their own waters that they've caught there". Furthermore, several NGO's have expressed their concerns that unilateralism, from either side, (by UK or EU) could threaten sustainability.

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

► **French fishermen fear supply shortfall if UK takes back waters**

French fishermen fear they could lose access to waters which currently provide large quantities of their fish, should Brexit see the UK take back control of its waters. In Boulogne-Sur-Mer for example, 70% of the fish caught come from English waters. Eric Gosselin, CEO of Maritime Co-operatives believes that closure of UK waters would take away about 75% of these catches.

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

► **Are fisheries the first casualty in a Brexit split between Ireland and the UK?**

So far, the UK has shown their preference for hard Brexit by announcing its intention:

- To withdraw from the customs union, which would mean they would be free to negotiate their own trade deals with individual countries
- To distance themselves from the oversight of the EU in relation to citizens' rights, and
- To leave the London Fisheries Convention 1964.

This will pose a problem for Ireland, where on average 34% of landings come from UK waters. Although, taking back control may be seen as having positive consequences by the UK Government, they cannot ignore that for 70% of their seafood exports, they rely on the EU.

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

► **Brexit “not all plain sailing” – academics warn**

Two leading academics have suggested that the UK's hand in Brexit fishing negotiations, was not as strong as some people make out. The EU has also published three studies, concerning impacts of Brexit on the Common Fisheries Policy. The two academics argue that “Since many of the important stocks are shared and straddle maritime boundaries, the UK and its future fisheries neighbours will be obliged to prepare new fisheries agreements which set a Total Allowable Catch (TACs)”. The estimate that the potential UK catch arising from the threatened post-Brexit exclusion of EU vessels from UK waters could increase by as much as 671,000 tonnes may not be all that accurate. The fear is the current UK quota of these Norwegian stocks could be lost in a post-Brexit scenario, as the UK would no longer be part of the EU-Norway bilateral agreement. Furthermore, the UK exports 66% of its wild caught seafood to 27 EU states, so UK fishers have a strong interest in maintaining tariff-free access to that market.

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



Upcoming events

European events and meetings

► AUGUST

15-18 August: Aquanor (Trondheim, NO)

27 August – 1 September: World Water Week (Stockholm, SE)

31 August – 1 September: BALTFISH Forum and High Level Group (Copenhagen, DK)

► SEPTEMBER

5 – 6 September: EU-Norway – Consultation on technical measures in Skagerrak (Gothenburg, SE)

6 – 7 September: NEAFC – Working Group on Deep Sea Species (London, UK)

7 September: EU-Norway – Consultation on long term Management Strategies (Gothenburg, SE)

7 - 8 September: Oceans meeting (Lisbon, PT)

7 - 8 September: Protection of the Black Sea Ecosystems and the sustainable management of maritime activities (PROMARE) 2017 (RO)

10 - 13 September: World Seafood Congress (Reykjavik, IS)

11 – 15 September: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Stock assessments in the Black Sea 2017 (Ispra, IT)

12 - 13 September: EMODnet Sea-basins Checkpoint Methods Workshop (Brussels, BE)

13 – 15 September: The Icelandic Fisheries Exhibition and Awards (IS)

14 September: 2nd Icelandic Fisheries Conference (IS)

15 September: Stakeholder conference on blue economy in the Black Sea (Batumi, GE)

18 - 19 September: International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and Implementation (Barcelona, ES)

18 – 22 September: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Balance / Capacity (CY)

20 September: EFCA Advisory Board (Vigo, ES)

20 - 22 September: Coast – Management and protection of the coast and the sea (Ferrara, IT)

23 – 29 September: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Stock assessments in the Mediterranean Sea 2017 (Croatia)

25 - 26 September: Fisheries Crime Symposium (Vienna, AT)

25 - 29 September: Copernicus Marine Week (Brussels, BE)

25 - 29 September: European Marine Biology Symposium (Piran, SI)

26 September: Copernicus Marine Service: An EU asset for sustainable oceans (Brussels, BE)

26 September: State of Fish Stocks and the Economics of Fishing Fleets (Brussels, BE)

26 – 28 September: NEAFC – Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (London, UK)

29 September: NEAFC – Working Group on Fisheries Statistics (London, UK)

September or October: : Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Long term management of skates and rays (TBC)

International events and meetings

► **AUGUST**

7-18 August: 23rd Annual Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) (Jamaica)

9-17 August: Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission – 13th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (Cook Islands)

27 August: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna - Informal Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Meeting (Indonesia)

28 August – 1 September: Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee (Korea)

28 August – 2 September: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna – 22nd Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (Indonesia)

29 August – 2 September: 8th International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference (San Diego, USA)

► **SEPTEMBER**

4 - 8 September: 4th International Maritime Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4) (Chile)

4 - 8 September: 48th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders meeting (Samoa)

4 – 9 September: FAO - Fish Trade Subcommittee (Korea)

5 - 6 September: UNGA High-level Meeting on UN-Habitat (NYC, USA)

12 – 25 September: 72nd Session of the UNGA (NYC, USA)

15 – 16 September: NAFO – Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (TBD)

18 - 19 September: 5th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) (NYC, USA)

18 - 21 September: ICES Annual Science Conference 2017 (Fort Lauderdale, USA)

18 – 22 September: NAFO – 39th Annual meeting (Canada)

Meetings of the Advisory Councils

► **SEPTEMBER**

13 - 15 September: NWWAC – General Assembly and AGM, Focus Group and Executive Committee (Dublin, IE)

25 – 26 September: AAC – General Assembly, Executive Committee, and Working Group 1&2 (Brussels, BE)

25 – 26 September: MAC – General Assembly and Working Group 1&2 (Brussels, BE)

September: BSAC - Executive Committee and sub-group on ecosystem based management (tbc)