



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NEWSLETTER

October 2017

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European Union

Latest Official Journal Publications

Here are this month's Official Journal **publications** related to fisheries. Legal acts published in the Official Journal are **binding**.

Implementing and Delegated Regulations

- [Commission Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1782 establishing a prohibition of fishing for **bluefin tuna** in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45° W, and Mediterranean by vessels flying the flag of Portugal
- [Commission Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1784 establishing a prohibition of fishing for **plaice** in areas VIIh, VIIj and VIIk by vessels flying the flag of Belgium
- [Commission Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1783 establishing a prohibition of fishing for **mackerel** in areas IIIa and IV; Union waters of IIa, IIIb, IIIc and Subdivisions 22-32 by vessels flying the flag of Belgium
- [Commission Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1785 establishing a prohibition of fishing for **anglerfish** in Norwegian waters of IV by vessels flying the flag of The Netherlands
- [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1957 opening and providing for the administration of Union tariff quotas for certain fish and fishery products originating in **Kosovo**
- [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/1756 repealing Regulation (EU) No 1013/2010 laying down implementing rules on the **Union Fleet Policy** as defined in Chapter III of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) (EU) 2015/242 of 9 October 2014 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the **Advisory Councils** under the Common Fisheries Policy

Decisions

- [Commission Implementing Decision](#) (EU) 2017/1949 of 25 October 2017 repealing implementing Decision 2014/715/EU identifying **Sri Lanka** as a third country that the Commission considers as a non-cooperating third country pursuant to Council Regulation

(EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

- [Commission Decision](#) (2017/C 364/03) notifying the Socialist **Republic of Vietnam** of the possibility of being identified as a non-cooperating third country in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- [Council Decision](#) (EU) 2017/1960 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the **Republic of Mauritius**
- [Decision](#) No 1/2017 of the ESA-EU customs cooperation Committee of 2 October 2017 on a derogation from the rules of origin laid down in Protocol 1 to the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between the **Eastern and Southern Africa States**, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, to take account of the special situation of the Eastern and Southern Africa States with regard to preserved **tuna** and **tuna loins**
- [Decision](#) No 2/2017 of the ESA-EU Customs Cooperation Committee of 2 October 2017 on a derogation from the rules of origin laid down in Protocol 1 to the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between the **Eastern and Southern Africa States**, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, to take account of the special situation of Mauritius with regard to **salted snoek**

Resolutions

- [European Parliament resolution](#) on an EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region
- [European Parliament legislative resolution](#) of 28 October 2015 on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Agreement area

Opinion

- [Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions](#) — International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans

Information

- [Information](#) communicated by Member States regarding closure of fisheries

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:

Regulations

- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/2374 establishing a **discard plan** for certain demersal fisheries in **South-Western waters** (+[Annex](#))
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a **discard plan** for certain demersal fisheries in the **Mediterranean Sea** (+[Annex](#))
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) establishing a **discard plan** for certain demersal and deep sea fisheries in **North-Western waters** for the year 2018 (+[Annex](#))
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) establishing a **discard plan** for certain demersal fisheries in the **North Sea** and in Union waters of ICES division IIa for the year 2018 (+[Annex](#))
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) establishing a de minimis exemption to the **landing obligation** for certain small pelagic fisheries in the **Mediterranean Sea** (+[Annexes](#))
- [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) authorising the use of **alternative T90 trawls** in Baltic Sea fisheries, by way of derogation from Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005
- [Council Regulation](#) fixing for **2018** the **fishing opportunities** for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the **Baltic Sea** and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127
- [Council Regulation](#) on the allocation of **fishing opportunities** under the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the **Republic of Mauritius**
- [European Parliament and Council Regulation](#) amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the **Common Fisheries Policy**
- [European Parliament and Council Regulation](#) laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (**ICCAT**), and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EC) No 1984/2003 and (EC) No 520/2007

Proposals

- [Proposal](#) for a Council **Decision** on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, at the twentieth ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, with regard to a proposal for amending Annex II to the Protocol concerning specially **protected areas and biological diversity** in the **Mediterranean** (+[Annex](#))
- [Proposal](#) for a Council **Decision** fixing for **2018** the **fishing opportunities** for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in **Union waters** and, for Union fishing vessels, in **certain non Union waters** (upon request)
- [Proposal](#) for a **Regulation** of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Decisions *(all available upon request)*

- [Commission Decision](#) on the early **retirement pension** under the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 - claim for damages due to erroneous definition of a fishing vessel
- [Commission Implementing Decision](#) amending Implementing Decision 2013/C 346/02 identifying the third countries that the Commission considers as **non-cooperating third countries** pursuant to Council Reg. (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**, regarding **Belize**
- [Commission Implementing Decision](#) amending Implementing Decision 2013/C 346/02 identifying the third countries that the Commission considers as **non-cooperating third countries** pursuant to Council Reg. (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**, regarding **Guinea**
- [Commission Decision](#) on the 2017 budget appropriations under budget line 11 03 01 for the implementation of the **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Protocol** thereto concluded between the European Union and the **Republic of the Seychelles**

Protocol of the Fishing Partnership Agreement with Republic of Mauritius

- [Protocol](#) setting out the **fishing opportunities and the financial contribution** provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the **Republic of Mauritius**

Position

- [Position of the Council](#) at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable management of **external fishing fleets**, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008

Communications

- [Communication](#) from the EC to the EP pursuant to Article 294(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union concerning the position of the Council on the adoption of 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
- [Communication](#) from the EC to the EP, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank - A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (+[Annex](#))
- [Communication Staff Working Document](#) accompanying the document Communication the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank - A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (+[Annex](#))
- [Report](#) from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 35th Annual Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the EU's Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard activities (2016)
- [Communication Staff Working Document](#) accompanying the document Report from the EC to the Council and the EP on the 35th Annual Report from the EC to the Council and the EP on the EU's Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard activities (2016).



European Commission

Events of the European Commission

► Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities

With a coastline 7 times as long as the US's and 4 times as long as Russia's, the EU's maritime regions are home to almost half the EU's population and account for almost half its GDP. Fisheries and the maritime economy are drivers for jobs and growth in Europe's coastal communities.

On 12-13 October, 300 policymakers and other representatives from the fisheries and maritime sectors met in Tallinn at a conference co-organised by the EC and the Estonian Presidency. They discussed the challenges faced by the coastal communities as well as potential policy responses. They looked at EU financial support for coastal communities, in particular the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Participants also discussed whether and how to adapt the EU's support for the blue economy in the years after 2020. Climate change, sustainable fisheries, and the blue economy were also among some of the topics discussed at the EU-hosted Our Ocean conference in Malta earlier this month, where participants pledged more than EUR 7 billion to solve some of the most pressing issues facing the world's oceans today.

→ Read more [here](#).

Update on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

► Commission warns Vietnam over insufficient action to fight illegal fishing

The EC is continuing its fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing worldwide by warning Vietnam, with a "**yellow card**", about the risk of it being identified as a non-cooperating country. This decision highlights that Vietnam is not doing enough to fight illegal fishing. It identifies shortcomings, such as the lack of an effective sanctioning system to deter IUU fishing activities and a lack of action to address IUU fishing activities conducted by Vietnamese vessels in waters of neighbouring countries. Furthermore, Vietnam has a poor system to control landings of fish that is processed locally before being exported to international markets, including the EU.

→ Read more [here](#).

► **Blue skills development and funding opportunities in the maritime technology sector**

The European Commission announced the 2018 Call for Proposals for the Erasmus+ programme. The 2018 budget is expected to reach EUR 2.7 billion, an increase of over EUR 200 million compared to 2017. Erasmus+ features several actions of relevance to **Blue Economy sectors**, such as strengthening cooperation between industry and education, and promoting adult learning and mobility of students, trainees, volunteers and trainers.

→ Read more [here](#).

► **Sustainable Blue Economy**

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund has launched a new call to foster Sustainable Blue Economy. The call with a total budget of €14.5 million focuses on four areas: Demonstration & market, fighting marine litter, blue networks and restoring ecosystems.

The [Sustainable Blue Economy call](#) focuses on supporting innovation and bringing research results closer to the market. The other objective is to increase capacity building and networking for a sustainable use of our sea basins. The call will support sustainable job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

→ Read more [here](#).

► **Environmental monitoring of wave and tidal devices**

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, EASME, is launching a call for proposals with a view to concluding grant agreements for projects in the field of environmental monitoring of wave and tidal devices.

The general objectives of this call for proposals are:

- To contribute to increasing environmental data on the potential impact of wave and tidal devices;
- To contribute to reducing uncertainty in modelling potential impacts of future wave and tidal devices.

→ Read more [here](#).



European Parliament

European Parliament's plenary session

This month, the EP **adopted** the following **reports**:

► **Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Convention area**

In June 2016, the EC tabled a legislative [proposal](#) for a regulation to cover the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species as well as the management and control of fisheries targeting these stocks in the Atlantic Ocean (including adjacent seas such as the Mediterranean). This proposal aimed to transpose into EU law a number of binding recommendations adopted by the ICCAT, some dating back to 2008. As a contracting party to this regional fisheries management organisation, the EU prepares and participates in the adoption of these recommendations. To become applicable these measures must be enacted in EU law. The EC is also proposing that future ICCAT recommendations for some fisheries management measures should become part of EU law through delegated acts.

In April 2017, the PECH Committee decided to open interinstitutional negotiations with the [report](#) adopted in the committee. In June 2017, the interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a regulation had led to a [compromise](#).

During this plenary session, the EP [adopted](#) a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation, which amended the EC proposal, as recommended by the PECH Committee, as follows:

- **Scope of the Regulation:** EP clarified that the Regulation should also apply to **third country** fishing vessels. Moreover, the measures provided for in the Regulation should apply in addition to those laid down in [Regulation \(EC\) No 1224/2009](#) on controls and [Regulation \(EC\) No 1005/2008](#) on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU regulation).
- **Management plans for North Atlantic swordfish:** Members clarified that management plans should be submitted by the MS to which a quota has been allocated.
- **Blue marlin and white marlin:** the amended text provided that, when their quota is being approached, MS shall ensure that vessels flying their flag release all blue marlin and white marlin that are alive by the time of boarding.

When a MS has exhausted its quota, it shall ensure that the **landings** of blue marlin and white marlin that are dead when brought alongside the vessel are not sold or entered into commerce. Such landings shall not count against that MS's catch limits, provided that such prohibition is clearly explained in the annual report referred to in the Regulation.

For the **recreational fisheries** of blue marlin and white marlin, a minimum conservation size of 251 cm and 168 cm lower jaw fork length shall apply respectively.

- **Breakdown of fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna and swordfish between MS:** the general principle should be that when allocating fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna and swordfish stocks available to them, MS shall use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature.

In addition, they shall: (i) endeavour to distribute national quotas fairly among the various fleet segments giving special consideration to traditional and artisanal fishing; (ii) provide incentives to Union fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact.

- **Implementation of ICCAT recommendations:** the amended text clarified that when implementing those recommendations, the Union and MS should endeavour to promote **coastal fishing activities** and the use of fishing gear and techniques which are **selective** and have a reduced environmental impact, including gear and techniques used in traditional and artisanal fisheries, thereby contributing to a fair standard of living for local economies.
- **Declaration by the EP:** the legislative resolution is accompanied by a declaration in which the EP expresses its concern that the EC is proposing to implement, in 2017, ICCAT Recommendations that date back to 2008.

Apart from the fact that this is challengeable before the Court of Justice, Parliament considered that this leads to **legal uncertainty for operators** and a situation in which the institutions are about to adopt ICCAT recommendations that are obsolete and outdated.

The EP therefore urged the EC to forward any future proposal for transposition of Recommendations from regional fisheries management organisations within **a maximum of six months from the date of their adoption**.

While welcoming the recommendation of ICCAT establishing a **multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish**, EP stressed that this plan would only be successful if efforts were made by neighbouring third countries to efficiently manage this species.

Lastly, it stressed that quotas have to be distributed fairly among operators, taking into account production values and turnover. Quotas illegally fished by driftnets should not count towards the calculation of historic catches and rights.

► Common Fisheries Policy: implementation of the landing obligation

In August 2017, the EC published a [proposal](#) for a Regulation of the EP and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, with a view to **temporarily extending the EC empowerment to adopt discard plans by means of delegated acts for an additional period of three years**, provided that there are no MAPs in place for the sea basins concerned.

In principle, the details of the implementation of the landing obligation are to be defined in regional multi-annual management plans (MAPs) adopted through co-decision. [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013](#) provides that, in the absence of MAPs or management plans, the **EC may adopt discard plans on a temporary basis** and for a period of no more than three years. Experience has demonstrated that the preparation and adoption of multiannual or management plans that include discard plans takes longer than was envisaged. The first EC delegated regulations establishing discard plans entered into force on the 1 January 2015 and are expiring at the end of 2017. To date, only the Baltic MAP is in place, whereas two EC proposals for a MAP for demersals in the North Sea and for small pelagics in the Adriatic are currently under negotiation between the co-legislators.

It is therefore appropriate to set the period for which the EC may adopt discard plans in the absence of multiannual or management plans.

In September 2017, the PECH Committee published their [report](#) on the proposal for a regulation. The report was tabled for plenary 1st reading during this session, and was **adopted**.

PECH Committee's meetings

The PECH Committee, at its meeting of the 9-10th October, discussed the following issues:

► Exchanges of views with the Commission

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

Rapporteur for the opinion: Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)

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

The [draft opinion](#) from the PECH Committee was published in September 2017, and was considered during the meeting. The deadline for amendments was set to the 16/10/2017.

► Report

From the 18th – 22nd September 2017, 5 MEPs (MEPs Mato, Thomas, Millán Mon, Girling, and Bilbao Barandica) were sent on a mission to Japan. A mission report ([go to nº5](#)) from the PECH Committee was published in September 2017 and presented during the meeting.

For more information on the fisheries in Japan a [working document](#) was published in August 2017 by the PECH Committee.

► Public Hearing

A public hearing on “**Super trawlers: destructive or sustainable?**” was organised with the objective to better understand the role of super-trawlers from the point of view of the industry as well as from a small-scale and artisanal perspective, and at the same time to analyse the environmental and ecological aspects of super-trawlers.

With this quite provocative title, representatives of Europêche, LIFE Platform, the Institut de Ciències del Mar discussions, and Greenpeace presented their point of view, which were followed by a discussion with MEPs. No agreement could be found from the divergent point of views expressed.

All presentations made during the public hearing are available [here](#).

► **Workshop**

A workshop based on the study "[Marine recreational and semi-subsistence fishing – its value and its impact on fish stocks](#)" conducted by the Directorate General for Internal Policies Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policies took place during the meeting. The study highlighted a number of recommendations such as the need for data collection of regular tourist marine recreational fishing (MRF), the need to reported all species caught, and the need for MRF to be a sector for development under the CFP with regular data collection.

PECH Committee's publications

- [Draft opinion](#) of the Committee on Fisheries for the Committee on Regional Development on Lagging regions in the EU (2017/2208(INI))
- [Draft European Parliament recommendation for second reading](#) on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008
- [Work document](#) on the optimisation of the value chain in the fishing sector (only in Spanish)
- [Amendments 24 – 35](#) to the Draft report on the Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

European Parliament Think Tank¹

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

► **Aquaculture in the EU**

Aquaculture means the rearing of aquatic animals and the cultivation of aquatic plants and algae. While, at global level, this industry has undergone significant growth for several decades, in the EU, aquaculture production, focused on the farming of fish and shellfish for human consumption, is rather stagnating. Subject to diverse EU policies, such as environmental protection or animal and consumer health, the development of aquaculture largely depends on measures taken by national authorities. The EU CFP requests MS to put in place a strategic plan for sustainable aquaculture, which can be fostered with the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

→ Read it [here](#).

► Marine recreational and semi-subsistence fishing

This study assesses the value and impact on fish stocks of marine recreational and semi-subsistence fisheries in EU. Total economic impact of marine recreational fishing amounts to 10.5 billion euro, supporting almost 100,000 jobs. The impact varies between fish stocks, representing 2-72% of total catch. The marine recreational fisheries are biologically and economically important, so should be included in stock assessment to ensure sustainability, and considered a sector for development alongside commercial fisheries and aquaculture under the CFP.

→ Read it [here](#).

► Fish labelling for consumers

Since the end of 2014, consumers in the EU have had access to better information when buying fishery and aquaculture products. Mandatory labels or markings for retail sale of seafood (including some types of processed seafood) must, in particular, include information on both the commercial and the scientific names of the species, whether it has been fished or farmed, the catch area or country of production, and the fishing gear used.

→ Read it [here](#).

Events

► Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Recreational Fisheries: Sustainable management and benefits

An event on MPAs and Recreational Fisheries was organised in the EP by the Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment Forum, and chaired by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos. The event covered the topics of:

- MPAs in the EU (by IUCN)
- a study on economic benefits of MPAs (by Plymouth Marine Laboratory),
- capacity shortfalls and performance of MPAs (by Cambridge Department of Zoology),
- recreational fishing in MPAs – the USA federal policy (by the National MPAs Center, NOAA),
- the social and community benefits of angling (by Substance),
- a roundtable on recreational fishing in MPAs (with Oceanic®, Deutscher Angelfischerverband, Danmarks Sportfiskerforbund, and the International Forum for Sustainable Underwater Activities),
- and a reaction from the EC on recreational fisheries in Natura 2000 areas by DG Environment.

→ Read more [here](#).



Council of the European Union

AGRIFISH Council meeting

The 3562th meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the EU, took place on the 9th October 2017. Here are the key outcomes of the meeting, in relation to fisheries:

- The Council reached a political agreement on **fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2018 for the ten commercially most important fish stocks in the Baltic Sea**. More information [here](#).
- Ministers exchanged views on the position to be taken by the EU at the **annual consultations** between the **EU and Norway** in the framework of their bilateral fisheries agreement, and at the **annual meeting** of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (**ICCAT**), scheduled for 14-21 November 2017 in Morocco.
- Ministers were informed about the state of implementation of the **European maritime and fisheries fund**.

➔ Find the full outcome of the meeting [here](#).

➔ Find more information on TACs and fishing opportunities [here](#).



Advisory Councils

Aquaculture Advisory Council

► Publications

No recommendation published this month.

► Meetings

The AAC covered the following topics:

- During the WG 2 on Shellfish:
 - Update on the water quality for mollusc farming
 - TTX - v1 rev4 final
 - Update on CEFAS study on oyster virus. EURL for monitoring bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs
 - Update on animal health law
 - Animal and mollusc welfare

Baltic Sea Advisory Council

► Publications

No recommendation published this month.

► Meetings

The BSAC covered the following topics:

- During the [Sub-group on ecosystem based management and:](#)
 - Presentation on the status of seal population in the Baltic Sea
 - Development of BSAC draft recommendations for multiannual management of Baltic salmon
 - Brief presentation of a new project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers to clean up the Nordic Oceans of recreational and commercial fishing gear.

Long Distance Advisory Council

► Publications

The LDAC published the following document:

- [Opinion](#) on Contribution to EU consultation on review of Fisheries Control Systems, Increased Role of the European Fisheries Control Agency in the Implementation of the International Dimension of the CFP

► Meetings

The LDAC covered the following topics:

- **During the WG 1 on Highly Migratory Stocks incl. Tuna and its RFMOs:**
 - Report by EC on work progress in Tuna RFMOs
 - Update on knowledge and management for Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) used for tropical tuna purse seine fisheries
 - FARFISH H2020 project: Case studies for tuna fisheries.
- **During the WG 4 on Fisheries Agreements and Bilateral Relations with Third Countries:**
 - Report from DG MARE on state of play of negotiations and technical meetings held by the EC on behalf of the EU in matters pertaining to bilateral fisheries agreements with third countries. Overview of implementation of SFPAs;
 - The role of fishing agents in Africa and their impact on sustainable fisheries;
 - EU Policy Coherence between Fisheries and Cooperation for Development;
 - Update on FiTI Project (Fairness in International Trade);
 - Collaboration and Partnership between the LDAC and ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT;
 - Other issues requested by members / observers / Secretary

Market Advisory Council

► Publications

No recommendation published this month.

► Meetings

The MAC covered the following topics:

- **During the WG 3 on EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules:**
 - Follow up on Tubs with water for the storage of fresh fish
 - Discussion and consideration of MAC recommendation
 - Overview on Contaminants (Methylmercury, histamine)
 - Cadmium Regulation in China

- Use of crystal Violet in Fish
- Other sanitary issues
- Dual quality of fish fingers in relation with [Commission Notice](#) (29/9/2017)
- Presentation on the project E-FishNet
- **During the ExCom:**
 - Work Programme: review
 - Endorsement of new members of the General Assembly
 - Update decision on the Secretariat
 - Delegated Regulation on the functioning of the Advisory Councils
 - Adoption of drafts put forward in the WGs
 - 20 First year review: best practices and lessons learnt

Mediterranean Advisory Council

► **Publications**

No recommendation published this month.

► **Meetings**

The MEDAC covered the following topics:

- **During the MINOUW project:**
 - Presentation of Minouw results
 - Reducing discard through co-management (Balearic Islands)
 - The use of selective grids in deep water shrimps trawling (Strait of Sicily)
 - Techniques to avoid discard in purse seining, trammel nets and dredges (Portugal)
 - Selvedges and lights to select captures (Tuscany, Western Mediterranean)
 - Circle hooks in longline fishery
- **During the FG Western Mediterranean:**
 - Preparation of a MEDAC Opinion on the basis of the adopted working document on the MAP for the management of demersal fisheries in the Western Mediterranean
 - Presentation on pescaturismo (diversification) by Rafael Mas
- **During the WG 2 on Big pelagics**
 - Briefing on the 2017 Bluefin Tuna campaign
 - Presentation of the results of the large pelagic species according to the results of the ICCAT Scientific Committee meeting, in particular BFT
 - Exchange of views and discussion with an eventual adoption of a MEDAC position paper. Eventual adoption of a position paper to submit at the ExCom.

- **During the WG 4 on Recreational fisheries :**
 - Identification, ecology description and suggestion of solutions to 3 endangered species of inshore waters in different EU Med regions- Conclusions and final report
 - Adoption of the working plan for 2018

North Sea Advisory Council

► **Publications**

The NSAC published the following documents:

- [NSAC Advice](#) regarding Prohibited Species Listing
- [NSAC Advice](#) regarding Managing Fisheries within the Landing Obligation

► **Meetings**

The NSAC addressed the following topics:

- **During the Demersal WG:**
 - Landing Obligation, Development of Choke Mitigation Tool
 - Discardless Update
 - Selectivity and Avoidance
 - Farne Deep's Nephrops Fishery
 - Science Workshop with ICES
 - TAC Workshop
 - NS Multi Annual Plan Update
 - Technical Conservation Regulation Update
 - Review of NSAC advice forward plan

North Western Waters Advisory Council

► **Publications**

The NWWAC published the following documents:

- [Advice](#): Mitigating the risk of whiting choking the demersal Fisheries in the Irish Sea
- [Advice](#): Celtic Sea Haddock: An incentivised data collection scheme to improve the management of the stock in the context of the Landing Obligation
- North Western Waters Choke Species Analysis by the NWW Member States & NWW Advisory Council: Executive Summary ([Full report available on request](#))

► Meetings

The NWWAC covered the following topics:

- **During the Irish Sea benchmark meeting:**
 - ICES – Terms of Reference
 - Workshop on stakeholder input to and parameterization of, ecosystem and food web models in the Irish Sea aimed at a holistic approach to the management of the main fish stocks

Pelagic Advisory Council

► Publications

The PELAC published the following documents:

- [Consultation](#) on fishing opportunities and TACs 2018
- [Proposal](#) for a long-term management strategy for Southern horse mackerel + [EC response](#).

► Meetings

The PELAC covered the following topics:

- **During the WG 1 :**
 - Fishing opportunities 2018: presentation of ICES advice by Carmen Fernandez
 - Adoption of PELAC advice
 - Update on the blue whiting focus group
- **During the WG 2 :**
 - Fishing opportunities 2018: presentation of ICES advice by Carmen Fernandez
 - Adoption of PELAC advice
- **During the GA :**
 - Final report of the year 2016-2017
 - Elections of Chairmen and Executive Committee
- **During the Executive Committee:**
 - Report from the NWW AC meeting on the future functioning of the ACs
 - Advice from Working Group I and II
 - Consultation fishing opportunities
 - MIACO meeting 18-19 January 2017

► Publications

No recommendation published this month.

► Meetings

The SWWAC met in Santiago de Compostela and covered the following topics:

- During the WG Benthic species Areas VIII & IX:
 - Landing obligation 2018
 - Management plan for occitendal waters
 - Stock management and TAC 2018
- During the Traditional WG:
 - Update on legislation
 - Inclusion of decision-making processes and support to artisanal fisheries
- During the Pelagic WG:
 - Landing obligation 2018
 - White and Red tuna fisheries
 - Sardine management
 - Review of certification initiatives: to what extent does responsible behavior lead to better profitability?
- During the Insular WG:
 - Information on the configuration of the CC RUP, opinion on the management of bass in the Canaries, opinion on the removal request of the minimum size
 - Presentation of the multi-annual plan 2018-2021. Integral Management: Resource Sustainability / Fishing Community Development
 - Management of the pink seabream in the Azores.



International events

► Our Ocean Conference

More than six billion euros committed by public and private actors to better manage the 70% of the planet - our oceans – at conference hosted by the European Union in Malta.

Oceans cover more than 70% of the planet. They produce most of the oxygen we breathe and absorb 30% of the carbon we emit. Three billion people world-wide depend on the ocean for their livelihoods. One billion people rely on seafood as their main source of animal protein. But the oceans face a multitude of threats, such as pollution, climate change, overfishing and criminal activities at sea. The Our Ocean conferences are a response to these mounting challenges.

The conference, which took place in Malta on the 5-6th October, addressed the themes of marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and climate change. This year, the European Commission introduced the themes of blue economy and maritime security. Our Ocean engaged participants from around the globe to make significant commitments. With a focus on high-level engagement, partnership and action, the EU continues to drive other international efforts, such as delivery on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) under Agenda 2030. The conference also complements the EU's [international ocean governance initiative](#), which set out an agenda for the future of the oceans around the world, proposing 50 concrete actions.

Find [here](#) the list of commitments presented by the EU and find [here](#) the **selected commitments**.

→ Read the event reports [here](#) and [here](#).

► Our Ocean Youth Summit

The Sustainable Oceans Alliance (SOA) partnered with the EU to co-host the Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit and gave the next generation of political leaders, entrepreneurs and scientists the opportunity to share their fresh perspectives towards protecting and sustaining our ocean.

The theme of this year's summit was based on "**implementing solutions**." Speakers and youth leaders recognize the threats facing our ocean - however, they focused instead on discussing promising solutions and strategies, and developing tools they will use to advance their work in ocean conservation.

The summit ignited a movement pushing for active youth involvement in the conversation regarding the future of our ocean. Through this parallel event to the Our Oceans Conference, SOA was able to provide the next generation a platform to voice their innovative solutions to critical ocean issues.

Youth leaders were granted the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet with heads of state, business representatives, NGOs and other high-level stakeholders to commit to impactful actions for the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans. With break-out sessions, workshops, and interactive speeches from global representatives, youth leaders were given opportunities to gain valuable advice and guidance from ocean experts, develop leadership and networking skills, and collaborate with other ambitious leaders to begin driving their sustainability projects.

➔ Read the press release [here](#).

► **41st Annual Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)**

The 41st Annual Session of GFCM drew to a successful close on 20 October. Decisions adopted in Montenegro are the first concrete outcomes of the Malta "[MedFish4ever](#)" Declaration to improve the state of fish stocks and the economic prospects in the Mediterranean Sea. Commissioner Vella expressed his deep satisfaction with the result, which gives an impetus to "our endeavour to turn around the dire state of the stocks and ensure viable future for fishermen around the Mediterranean and Black Seas. This achievement proves that enhanced cooperation leads to the desired results".

Thanks to the joint efforts of the EC, the Member States and the other riparian countries, the GFCM adopted a set of ambitious measures paramount for the recovery of fish stocks and the protection of vulnerable habitats in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Particularly remarkable are:

- the support for the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Adriatic Sea;
- the management plan for Turbot in the Black Sea;
- the plans for the Red Coral and the Blackspot Seabream;
- the adoption of an international scheme for inspection in the Strait of Sicily;
- the regional Plan of Action to fight Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the implementation of a strategy for sustainable aquaculture.

The EU has also confirmed its commitment to support the efforts of third countries in strengthening capacity building, notably through the Neighbourhood Policy.

➔ Read more [here](#).

► 36th Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

At the start of October, scientists met to review the status and trends of fish stocks regulated by CCAMLR. The Scientific Committee subsequently reviewed the outcomes of that meeting, together with several other specialist working groups responsible for monitoring ecosystems in the Southern Ocean with a focus on krill. The meetings concluded in the last week of October with the Meeting of the Commission, CCAMLR's decision-making body.

Following last year's agreement to form the world's largest marine protected area (MPA) in the Ross Sea region, three major MPA proposals were considered by the Meetings this year. A revised proposal for an MPA in East Antarctica by Australia, France and the EU was the subject of much discussion. A new proposal for an MPA in the Antarctic Peninsula region was also examined and Germany reported on the significant work that had been undertaken during the year to assimilate all available scientific information to support a proposal to be considered at future Meetings for an MPA in the Weddell Sea.

Proponents of these MPA proposals will continue discussions over the next 12 months before they are again considered at next year's annual meetings.

→ Read more [here](#).

► 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12)

The COP12 met from 22-28 October 2017 in the Philippines. Guided by the theme “**Their Future is Our Future: Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People**,” over 1,000 participants, including from 91 parties and many non-parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attended the first CMS COP.

COP12 adopted **54 resolutions**, including the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species. Other resolutions adopted included those on: the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS); the prevention of illegal killing, sustainable boat-based marine wildlife watching; energy and migratory species; community participation and livelihoods; aquatic wild meat; concerted **actions for, among others, the whale shark, mobulid rays, and the European eel**. The COP adopted 34 proposals to amend the Convention's appendices, four of which were subjected to a vote—for the first time in the Convention's history.

→ Read more [here](#).

► 9th Session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) - Sub-committee on Aquaculture

The Ninth session of FAO's COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture brought together 188 delegates from 94 member countries and observers from regional fisheries bodies, international organizations and civil society organizations to review a full agenda of aquaculture-related items. These agenda item included discussion on progress on implementation of the **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**, Aquaculture's role in **Agenda 2030** and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **aquatic genetic resources** for aquaculture development, extension services in aquaculture, aquaculture **certification**, aquaculture **development** and **Blue Growth** in small island developing states (SIDS).

Each session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture includes both recurrent and new agenda items to reflect new opportunities and emerging challenges to the sector. This is especially important to a sector growing as rapidly as aquaculture and with the demand for seafood rising alongside a growing population, those numbers look set to increase. How to manage that growth sustainably, while simultaneously providing a nutritious source of food and creating employment for often vulnerable populations, was a recurrent theme that ran throughout the week's discussions.

To see the short wrap-up film of the Ninth Session of FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, watch [here](#).

➔ Read more [here](#).



Others

► Plastic being ingested by fish and humans

A study led by Matthew Savoca of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has found that when algae grows on tiny bits of plastic in the ocean, it gives off an odor that attracts fish, leading fish to seek it out. The study, "Odors from marine plastic debris induce food search behaviors in a forage fish" was published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B. Savoca additionally explained his findings in layman's terms in an article, "[Bait and switch: Anchovy eat plastic because it smells like prey](#)". He found that fish – in this case, Northern anchovies – not only visually mistake microplastic for food, but also actively seek it out based on the smell it acquires.

→ Read it [here](#).

► EUMOFA Monthly Highlights n° 8/2017

Here the topics covered in this month's EUMOFA:

- **First sales in Europe:** In January–July 2017, first-sales value increased in Latvia and Portugal over January–July 2016. Focus on anchovy and sardine (France, Italy).
- **Producer organisations in Portugal:** In Portugal, producer organisations (POs) operated 43% of all licensed vessels and accounted for 64% of all fish landed in 2016. The purse-seine fishery is the most represented segment, while multispecies vessels are far less grouped in POs.
- **Consumption of animal proteins - The place of fish:** Although consumption of animal protein from meat is growing in the EU, consumption of fish protein, especially from aquaculture, is growing globally, especially in less-developed countries. Acceptance of protein from plants on land and in the sea (e.g. algae) is also increasing.
- **Consumption :** Fresh Octopus in Italy and Portugal.
- **Macroeconomic context:** Compared with August 2016, both food and fish consumer prices increased: 1,7% and 3,7%, respectively. Compared with August 2015, fish and seafood consumer prices increased 7,5%.

→ Read it [here](#).



Upcoming events

Events and meetings in Belgium

6 November: ENVI Committee (Brussels, BE)

6 November: AGRIFISH Council (Brussels, BE)

8 November: Marine Plastics Need European Action by IUCN by the EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development¹ (Brussels, BE)

9 November: EMFF Information Day by the EC (Brussels, BE)

13 November: Stakeholder Consultation on Food from the Oceans by the EC (Brussels, BE)

15 November: Seminar on the EU Landing Obligation: progress to date by the EC (Brussels, BE)

15-17 November: EMODnet Open Sea Lab by EMODnet (Antwerp, BE)

16 November: Workshop on the EU Fisheries Control System by the EC (Brussels, BE)

23 November: Fisheries Crime by the EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development¹ and the Circular Economy and Raw Materials WG (Brussels, BE)

20-21 November: ENVI Committee (Brussels, BE)

21 November: PECH Committee (Brussels, BE)

21 November: The end of the European Organic Label? by the EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development¹ (Brussels, BE)

22 November: Towards circular plastics – How to bridge existing gaps? by the EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development¹ (Brussels, BE)

27-28 November: ENVI Committee (Brussels, BE)

28 November: PECH Committee (Brussels, BE)

28 November: No more plastic & textile fiber waste in our water. Sustainability conference by The Ocean Film Festival (Brussels, BE)

29 November: How can we support indigenous people's sustainable hunt in the Arctic? The initiative of a QR Code for seal skin by the EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development¹ (Brussels, BE)

¹ EBCD Secretariat

International events and meetings

31 October – 4 November: 13th International MEDCOAST Congress on Coastal and Marine Sciences, Engineering, Management & Conservation (MEDCOAST 2017) (Malta)

6-17 November: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change **COP 23** (Bonn, DE). Ocean day on 11/11/17.

7-8 November: Seagriculture 2017 (The Hague, NL)

7-14 November: Consultation on the 2017 **UNGA** Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries (NYC)

7-16 November: **NAFO** Working Group on Ecosystem Science Assessment (Dartmouth, Canada)

13-17 November: 36th annual meeting of **NEAFC** (London, UK)

14-22 November: 25th regular meeting of the Commission of **ICCAT** (Morocco)

16-17 November: Baltic Sea Fisheries 2020 (Simrishamn, SE)

21-22 November: Greening the Ocean Economy by OECD (Paris, FR)

27 November – 1 December: 69th Meeting of the **CITES** Standing Committee (Geneva, CH)

29 November – 1 December: **WOC** Sustainable Ocean Summit (Halifax, Canada)

30 November – 4 December: **IOTC** – 20th Scientific Committee (Mahé, Seychelles)

Meetings of the Advisory Councils

1 November: **NSAC** – Industry & Science Workshop (Copenhagen, DK)

2 November: **NSAC** – TAC Focus Group (Copenhagen, DK)

6 November: **NWWAC** –Focus Group on Sole in area 7d (webex meeting)

7 November: **BSAC** – Executive Committee meeting (Gdynia, PL)

7 November: **MEDAC** – Executive Committee and WG 1 on Demersal LO (Chania, EL)

8 November: **MEDAC** – WG 1 on Post EMFF, GFCM and STECF (Chania, EL)

8 November: **LDAC** – WG 5 on Horizontal issues (Brussels, BE)

13 November: **LDAC** – WG 2 on North Atlantic Fisheries Agreements and RFMOs (London, UK)

23 November: **LDAC** – Executive Committee (Madrid, ES)

28 November: **NWWAC** –Technical measures meeting in the Irish Sea (Dun Laoghaire, IE)