



The Trawler

TOP NEWS – NOVEMBER 2015

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday, 9 November, 15:00 - 18:30 and
Tuesday, 10 November, 9:00 - 12:30 and 15:00 - 18:30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 1E2

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hearing on "The new external dimension of the Reformed CFP"
- ▶ Adoption of an own initiative report "A new CFP: structure for technical measures and multiannual plans"
- ▶ Consideration of draft report on "Multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean"
- ▶ Exchange of views with the Director-General of DG MARE on current fisheries and maritime affairs files
- ▶ Exchange of views (*IN CAMERA*) with the Commission on the pre-identification of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in new countries

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AGENDA

Next Fisheries Committee meeting

Monday, 7 December , 15h00-18h30

Last Fisheries Committee meeting of 2015:

Thursday, 10 December, 9h00-12h30



FURTHER INFORMATION

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [link](#)
- @ Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council [link](#)
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture [link](#)
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [link](#)

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Alain CADEC
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

At our next committee meeting we will welcome for the first exchange of views the new Director General of DG MARE, Joao Aguiar Machado. This will be a good opportunity to discuss the progress of the main dossiers. Members of our committee will have the possibility to question him about the implementation of the new common fisheries policy, particularly on the landing obligation. Mr. Machado will also touch upon the upcoming Commission proposal on technical measures and the preparation of multi-annual management plans. I hope it will also provide us with information on other topics important to our Committee, for example the fight against IUU fishing, the recast regulation on data collection, revision of the control regulation, the renewal of fisheries agreement with Mauritania as well as the external dimension of the CFP. I hope that this exchange of views will be another showcase of fruitful cooperation between our committee and DG MARE.

Alain CADEC

ONGOING DOSSIERS

Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Prohibition on driftnet fisheries 2014/0138(COD)	Briano	COD	TBC	TBC
Multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean 2015/0096(COD)	Mato	COD	10/12/2015	JAN 2016
Collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. Recast 2015/0133(COD)	Affronte	COD	17-18/02/2016	MAR 2016
EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 01/01/2016-31/12/2020. Protocol 2015/0152(NLE)	Affronte	NLE	21-22/03/2016	APR I 2016
EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol 2015/0224(NLE)	Wałęsa	NLE	18-19/04/2016	APR I 2016
EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution for a period of four years. Protocol 2015/0229(NLE)	Mato	NLE	18-19/04/2015	APR I 2016
Innovation and diversification in non-industrial coastal fishing in regions dependent on fishing 2015/2090(INI)	Tomašić	INI	10/12/2015	JAN 2016
Common rules with a view to the application of the external dimension of the CFP, including fisheries agreements 2015/2091(INI)	Engström	INI	10/12/2015	JAN 2016
New CFP: structure for technical measures and multiannual plans 2015/2092(INI)	Mato	INI	9-10/11/2015	DEC II
How to make fisheries controls in Europe uniform 2015/2093(INI)	Thomas	INI	18-19/04/2016	MAY II 2016
Fisheries aspects within the international agreement on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 2015/2109(INI)	Nicolai	INI	14/01/2016	MAR 2016
Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Commission au Fond
2014 discharge: EU general budget, European Commission 2015/2154(DEC)	Ferreira	DEC	14/01/2016	CONT 22/03/2016
2014 discharge: EU general budget, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) 2015/2183(DEC)	Blanco López	DEC	14/01/2016	CONT 23/03/2016

EU/Morocco Agreement: protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products and amending the EC/Morocco Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement 2015/0203(NLE)	Van Dalen	NLE	14/01/2016	INTA (TBC)
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**Note on procedures:*

COD: Ordinary legislative procedure; **CNS:** Consultation; **INI:** Own-Initiative;

NLE: Non-legislative (incl. consent to international agreements); **DEC:** Discharge; **BUD:** Budget

RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

- *Social and Economic impact of the penalty point system*
- *The discard ban and its impact on the MSY objective - A regional challenge*
- *Socioeconomic role and environmental impact of recreational, subsistence, small-scale and other fisheries in European union*
- *Integration in the fisheries industry*
- *Situation of the clam (*Tapes spp*) fisheries sector in the EU*
- *Sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) fisheries: resource assessment and social and economic situation*
- *Markets of fisheries and aquaculture products: The added value chain and the role of promotion, labelling and consumer information*
- *Impact of fisheries partnership agreements in the development of employment in the EU and in third countries*
- *Handling of and possible solutions for "choke species" within the reformed CFP - example of plaice in the Baltic Sea*

PUBLISHED:

- *Fisheries in Reunion*
- *A new technical measures framework for the new CFP (Workshop)*
- *Fisheries management and the Arctic in the context of climate change*
- *The landing obligation and its implications on the control of fisheries*
- *Pelagic fisheries and the canning industry in Outermost Regions*
- *Future of Almadraba sector. Traditional and sustainable tuna fishing methods in the EU*
- *Small scale fisheries and the zero discard target*
- *Criteria for allocating access to fishing in the EU*
- *Alternative solutions for driftnet fisheries*
- *Long-term economic and ecologic impact of larger sustainable aquaculture*
- *Sea bass stocks and conservation measures in the EU*
- *IUU fishing and sanctions in the EU*
- *The conflict between static gear and mobile gear in inshore fisheries*
- *Deep sea fishing*
- *The obligation to land all catches - consequences for the Mediterranean*
- *Characteristics of multi-specific fisheries in the EU*
- *Best practice on the use of rights based management to reduce discards in mixed fisheries*
- *Fisheries in Germany (delegation 2014)*
- *Prospects for the development of tourism activities related to fishing*
- *Inland fisheries and the CFP*
- *Infringement procedures and imposed sanctions throughout the EU*
- *The use of FADs in tuna fisheries*
- *The impact of oil and gas drilling accidents on EU fisheries*
- *Summary of the implementation of EU Regulation 1967/2006*
- *Fisheries cooperation with Iceland and Norway*
- *Compliance of imports of fisheries and aquaculture products with EU legislation*
- *Women in fisheries: a European perspective*
- *Global fisheries subsidies*
- *Profitability of the EU fishing fleet*
- *Fuel subsidies in the EU*
- *Data deficient fisheries in EU waters*
- *Between fisheries and bird conservation: the cormorant conflict*
- *Fisheries in Ireland/ Canary Islands/Denmark/Japan (delegations 2013)*
- *An adapted CFP reform for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (workshop with 3 notes)*
- *Establishment of fish stock recovery areas*
- *Application of the system of derogation to the rules of origin of fisheries products in Papua New Guinea and Fiji*
- *Excess fishing capacity in the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy*
- *The role of China in world fisheries*
- *The small-scale coastal fleet in the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy*
- *Rights-based fisheries management in Iceland*
- *Fisheries in Brittany/Iceland/Veneto (delegations 2012)*
- *Does overfishing promote algal blooms?*
- *Regime shifts in marine ecosystems (workshop with 4 notes)*
- *Perspectives for the new European Fisheries Fund*
- *Characteristics of small-scale coastal fisheries in Europe*
- *The North Sea brown shrimp fisheries*
- *Industrial fisheries in the Baltic Sea*
- *Fisheries in Portugal/Poland/Bulgaria/Seychelles (delegations 2011)*
- *Fisheries in the Black Sea*
- *Interaction of seals and fish stocks (workshop with 4 notes)*
- *Natura 2000 and the Common Fisheries Policy*

- *Real-time closures of fisheries*
- *Long-term impact of different fishing methods on the ecosystem in the Kattegat and Öresund*
- *Fisheries in the Basque Country/Sicily/Sweden/Mauritania (delegations 2010)*

@ You can access the studies and other documents via this [link](#)

FISHERIES NEWS IN BRIEF

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

[News - Press service](#)

Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 22-23/10/2015

Ministers reached a political agreement on **fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea** which fixed for **2016** the maximum quantities of fish which can be caught for the commercially most important stocks in the Baltic Sea. The quantities of fish from specific stocks that can be caught take into account available scientific advice and provisions introduced by the recently reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), such as the **landing obligation** and **maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**.

The Council was also briefed on **EU-Norway annual consultations** in the framework of their bilateral fisheries agreement. The main concerns expressed by member states covered the management arrangements for the **jointly-managed fish stocks** and the exchange of **reciprocal fishing possibilities** in EU and Norwegian waters.

[Press release](#)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission adopts measures to better manage waters (14/10/2015)

The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) has adopted several measures to help it manage North-East Atlantic waters more effectively, following the results of an independent performance review carried out at its request. The decisions were taken at an extraordinary NEAFC meeting in London from 5 to 7 October 2015.

NEAFC agreed to establish a Working Group on Allocation Criteria, which should help to address the contentious issue of how to share pelagic fish stocks that straddle several zones in the North-East Atlantic.

The parties agreed to allot some time at their annual meeting in November to develop recommendations on a framework for future coastal state negotiations on migratory

pelagic stocks and redfish stocks in the North-East Atlantic.

NEAFC also agreed on several structural changes, including to its permanent committees.

NEAFC brings together the EU, Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation.

Shaping ocean governance: global engagement in EU consultation (15/10/2015)

The Commission's international public consultation on how the EU could contribute to achieving better international governance of oceans and seas to the benefit of sustainable blue growth is now closed. The EU is a global frontrunner in the development of sustainable ocean-based economies through its robust set of environmental rules, reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its global fight against illegal fishing.

The Commission received views from over 90 governments, public bodies, NGOs, industry representatives, academics and other stakeholders within and outside of Europe. They represent all levels, from sub-national and national to European and international. In addition, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella has travelled from Portugal to [Ireland](#), [Washington](#), [Malta](#), [Norway](#), [Alaska](#), [Chile](#), [Spain](#) and [China](#) to collect views, as international discussion on the topic is mounting due to the increasing use of marine resources.

Commissioner Vella remarked: *"Governance gaps exist when it comes to managing our oceans sustainably. This puts our marine resources and environments at risk. Better managed oceans are healthier oceans – and healthy oceans are the basis for blue growth and a thriving ocean economy. I am convinced that the responses we have received will allow us to make solid proposals that further build on the existing cooperation and dialogue with our international partners."* International rules and structures for managing the oceans exist, but they are not always applied effectively and coherently. For instance, it is estimated that some 300 UN-related agencies and associated accords, including the UN Convention on the Law of

the Sea (UNCLOS), are involved in governing the oceans: from territorial waters to the high seas, and from fish stock management to access to minerals on the seabed beyond the continental shelf.

The Commission is now analysing the contributions received. Based on the views gathered, it will launch an initiative on international ocean governance next year.

More information

- [Ocean governance webpage](#)
- [International Ocean Governance](#)
- [The EU and international ocean governance](#)

Joint Committee under the current EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement Protocol meets in Brussels (19/10/2015)

On 14-16 October 2015, the Joint Committee under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement Protocol met in Brussels, issuing a number of recommendations and taking note of the conclusions of its first meeting which update the status of the fish stocks with the latest scientific information.

Parties assessed the first year of implementation of both the fishing activity carried out under the current Protocol and the financial support given to develop and strengthen the fisheries sector. The use of the fishing possibilities was satisfactory for both the EU and Morocco and the absorption rate of the sectoral support funds has reached 72%.

Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the results, in particular with the achievements of the sectoral support that has been implemented in full accordance with their common objectives and expectations.

A number of clarifications were introduced and agreed upon on technical issues, aiming to ensure more efficient fishing operations while respecting the principle of sustainability. These discussions will ensure the successful continuation of the Protocol.

South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) steps up efforts to become fully operational (19/10/2015)

The members of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) held an extraordinary meeting in Brussels (12 - 16

October 2015) in which they agreed on a number of important administrative and financial issues, including the Rules of Procedures, the Terms of Reference for subsidiary bodies, as well as the roadmap and the procedures for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary.

Important progress has also been achieved on the financial regulation of SIOFA. The final revision and approval of these documents will be done in the next meeting in June 2016 in La Reunion, where SIOFA will be based.

The European Commission has welcomed the outcome of the meeting which affirmed that SIOFA will become a fully operational Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) within the next year. Well-functioning RFMOs are key to ensure an effective [governance of the oceans](#).

SIOFA is a non-tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) which completes the coverage of RFMOs in the Indian Ocean. The objectives of SIOFA are to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources through cooperation and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries, taking into account the needs of its members and in particular the least-developed and small island states. The SIOFA Area of Competence covers the high seas between eastern Africa and Western Australia. SIOFA is adjacent to the [Convention Area of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources](#) (CCAMLR) in the south, the [South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation](#) (SPRFMO) Convention Area in the east and the [South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation](#) (SEAFO) Convention Area to the west.

At present, the members of SIOFA are: Australia, Cook Islands, the EU, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mauritius and Seychelles.

More information

- [South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement \(SIOFA\)](#)

Joint press release between EU and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture on cooperation on fisheries (22/10/2015)

[Press release](#)

Joint conclusion of High Level Dialogue on Integrated Approach to Ocean Affairs

(22/10/2015)

Joint conclusion of High Level Dialogue on Integrated Approach to Ocean Affairs between Wang Hong, Administrator of State Oceanic Administration of People's Republic of China and Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Wang Hong, Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China, and Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries met and held the High Level Dialogue on an integrated approach to Ocean Affairs in Beijing on 13th October 2015.

Administrator Wang Hong expressed his warm welcome to Commissioner Vella and his delegation and highlighted the existing close cooperative relation between China and European Union on ocean affairs.

Administrator Wang Hong and Commissioner Karmenu Vella used this High Level Dialogue, their first since each took up their respective positions overseeing maritime affairs in China and European Union, to inform each other on the latest developments in their respective domestic ocean policy. Commissioner Vella presented the objectives of the EU's Blue Growth policy which aims to support smart sustainable growth in the maritime economy while ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources. Administrator Wang presented the core concepts and development of Blue Economy in China which constitute four basic approaches aiming at achieving integrated and simultaneous development of economy, society and environment.

Administrator Wang Hong and Commissioner Karmenu Vella reaffirmed their interest in reinforcing their concrete cooperation on ocean affairs between China and EU and discussed how global ocean governance can be improved.

Administrator Wang and Commissioner Vella agreed that their services would develop an action plan for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on an integrated approach to ocean affairs that was concluded between the European Commission and the People's Republic of China in 2010. This Plan of Action would

constitute a step forward in further developing a partnership between the EU and China in ocean affairs.

Administrator Wang and Commissioner Vella emphasised that better ocean governance is one of their top priorities. Commissioner Vella has therefore launched a public consultation on ocean governance with a view to look at whether the existing international instruments and processes offer the right governance framework to address today's challenges.

Fisheries discard ban: Commission adopts plan for North Sea

(22/10/2015)

Today the Commission adopted a plan to reduce the wasteful practice of discarding – throwing overboard unwanted fish – in the North Sea.

This discard plan concerns demersal fisheries, i.e. fish that feed on or near the sea bottom, and is a temporary measure to phase out discarding and gradually put in place the landing obligation, a key component of the EU's reformed Common Fisheries Policy. It follows similar plans for demersal species in the Atlantic earlier this month.

[Discarding](#) constitutes a substantial waste of resources that threatens the sustainable exploitation and economic viability of fisheries. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations estimates that over 7 million tonnes - 8 % of the total global fish catches - are discarded yearly.

The discard plan adopted today determines which demersal fisheries in the North Sea will be subject to the [landing obligation](#), while also setting out certain exemptions. The first group of exemptions, so-called de minimis exemptions, allows discarding a small percentage of catches in fisheries where increasing the selectivity is difficult or where handling costs are disproportionately high. The second, so-called survivability exemption allows discarding species that have a high chance of surviving.

All exemptions have been set taking into account available scientific advice and following discussions with scientific advisory body [STECF](#). Certain exemptions will be reassessed in 2016 taking into account additional supporting information from Member States.

The discard plans will apply from 1 January 2016 for one year, once final adoption takes place. Other discard plans will have to be

adopted for 2017 to bring additional fisheries under the landing obligation.

Background:

The reformed [CFP](#) aims to make EU fisheries more sustainable. Between 2015 and 2019, EU fishermen will therefore gradually be required to land all fish they catch.

The CFP entails several provisions to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation. They include specific flexibility mechanisms that should be implemented through comprehensive multiannual plans, or, in the absence of multiannual plans, through so-called discard plans. Discard plans are envisaged as a temporary measure with a maximum duration of three years. They are developed as joint recommendations agreed by Member States from the same region or sea basin, in this case Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.

Today's discard plan is not the first to be adopted: in October 2014 the Commission adopted discard plans for pelagic and industrial fisheries in all EU waters and for fisheries for cod in the Baltic. These plans have been applied since 1 January 2015. On 12 October 2015 [two discard plans](#) for demersal species in the Atlantic followed.

More information

- [Discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea and in Union waters of ICES Division IIa](#)
- [Annex](#)

EU agrees Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement with the Cook Islands (23/10/2015)

The EU and the Cook Islands have reached agreement on a Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and a Fisheries Protocol during negotiations held in Brussels on 19-21 October.

The Protocol will allow four purse seiners to fish in the Cook Islands' waters for the next four years. This agreement will expand the area of operations for the EU fleet in the western and central Pacific Ocean, the

world's most important tuna fishing grounds providing more than half of the global tuna catch. In exchange to this access, the Cook Islands will receive a financial contribution. Fishing opportunities under other EU agreements in the Pacific have traditionally been very well utilised.

This is the first SFPA negotiated by the EU and the Cook Islands, whose history of co-operation and partnership started in June 2000, in the framework of the [ACP-EU Partnership Agreement](#) (Cotonu Agreement). EU fishing vessels operating in the Cook Islands fishery waters will be subject to national laws and to conservation and management measures adopted within the [Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission](#). In line with those measures the Cook Islands have declared a maximum allowable catch for their EEZ and made it available to foreign fleets in the absence of domestic vessels. The fishing opportunities for the EU under the new SFPA will remain within that ceiling.

In addition to paying for fishing access, the EU will grant money to support the Cook Islands in implementing their fisheries and maritime policy. Cook Islands fishing communities will benefit directly from this additional support.

The texts agreed during a first round of negotiations in July 2013 have been refined to strengthen provisions related to catch recording and reporting, as well as provisions dealing with the monitoring, control and surveillance of the activities of the EU fleet.

Tuna is a key resource for the social and economic well-being of Pacific nations and their people. In line with the EU's reformed Common Fisheries Policy, the conclusion of this SFPA allows both parties to initiate a dialogue on fisheries governance and to encourage sustainable and responsible fishing. It will also reinforce cooperation between the two parties, especially in their fight against [illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing](#).

SFPAs – ensuring environmentally and economically sustainable fishing in third countries (26/10/2015)

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) last week published the results of an audit looking into certain EU's fisheries

agreements with non-EU countries. The Commission considers this audit exercise as a positive opportunity for improving the framework of the EU's bilateral relations with third countries in the field of fisheries.

The auditors found that the agreements were generally well managed, but expressed a number of reservations. Many have already been recognised by the Commission and have been anticipated and addressed through the reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy in 2013/2014, which has led to substantial improvements in the bilateral agreements concluded since then and which are not subject of the ECA's audit.

The Commission's overall concern is to ensure that fisheries are both economically and environmentally sustainable in the long term and are cost-effective. Thus the Commission strives to ensure that each SFPAs makes use of the best available scientific advice and delivers value for money. When this was not achievable, the Commission has suspended negotiations. Furthermore, the Commission's new agreements include provisions to improve implementation and monitoring, while at the same time strengthening the governance of the fisheries concerned.

In the case of highly migratory species such as tuna, it is impossible to anticipate the level of catches. Catches may not always attain the negotiated quantities for climatic and environmental reasons. However the negotiated quantities take into consideration the historic catches and the estimated availability of resources. In that context, it should be highlighted that the price paid by the EU is above all the outcome of a negotiation aiming at getting access to a certain fishing zone and thus contributing to supporting third countries' efforts in favour of the sustainable management of their fisheries and the development of the sector. The total EU financial contribution also depends on other factors such as the evolution of market prices, the operational facilities and conditions offered to EU vessels by coastal States, the trends in the development of the fleet as well as the willingness that third countries demonstrate to improve the governance of their fisheries.

With the aim of decreasing the public spending on the access part of these SFPAs, one of the main improvements to be highlighted is that in the newly negotiated

Protocol, the cost of access borne by the EU has decreased while the financial contribution supported by the ship-owners has steadily increased to let the private sector assume the major share of the financial risk of these fishing activities.

Regarding the perceived data discrepancies, it should be noted that they mostly relate to provisional data that require verification and validation by scientific institutes, which are then provided to the EU and to the partner country. This results in final data which are consistent and reliable.

Improvements introduced by the CFP reform include standardising the methodology used for evaluating Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs), achieving greater consistency with other EU policies such as development policy, carrying out more sophisticated monitoring and verification of catches through IT tools and scientific verification, and monitoring financial support for the local fisheries sector more closely, which has led to a suspension of payments on a number of occasions. As a result, SFPAs have been recognised by most stakeholders and other EU institutions as an attractive tool regulating the activity of the EU external fleet in a highly regulated and transparent manner.

EU adopts 523.4m EUR investment package for the Greek fisheries and aquaculture sectors (27/10/2015)

The European Commission has adopted a key investment package for the Greek maritime, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The roughly 523.4m EUR available for the period 2014-2020 include more than 388m EUR of EU funds.

Welcoming the adoption, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella stressed:

"With this investment package for fisheries and aquaculture in Greece, the Commission can help deliver projects with long-term benefits. Greece's has a world-renowned maritime tradition. With good spatial planning and an integrated strategy, its vast coastline can be a fundamental part of the country's economic recovery. We want to give a jobs boost to Greek fishermen, fish farmers and their communities."

The adopted operational programme (OP) is in line with the priorities of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and Integrated Maritime policy. It aims at enhancing environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, and competitive fisheries and aquaculture as well as promoting blue growth and maritime skills in Greece.

In particular, funds will support projects that improve the livelihood of Greek fishing communities – for instance by improving infrastructure or by offering new professional development opportunities. Funding will also help limit the impact of fishing on the marine environment and enhance biodiversity by balancing fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities. Given the importance of the aquaculture sector in Greece, special focus will be placed on the promotion of economically and environmentally sustainable techniques.

Background

Total public contribution: € 523.4 million

Total EMFF contribution: € 388.7 million

The main focus for the Greek Fisheries Operational Programme (OP) is on:

- Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries: €186.2 million
- Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture: €89.8 million
- Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy: €92.1 million
- Increasing employment and territorial cohesion: €54.1 million
- Fostering marketing and processing: €78.3 million
- Implementing the Integrated Maritime Policy: €5.9 million
- Technical assistance: €17 million.

More information:

- [Summary of the OP](#)
- [Fact sheet](#)

Commission greenlights fisheries and aquaculture investment package of € 710.5 million for Poland (28/10/2015)

The European Commission has adopted a €710.5 million investment package for the Polish fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the 2014-2020 period, including €531.2 million of EU investments.

The adopted programme is well aligned with the priorities of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the EU's reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). As a result, funds will go to three main areas: supporting the CFP objectives to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are or become more environmentally sustainable; boosting the development of aquaculture; and improving livelihoods in local communities that depend on fishing and aquaculture, by creating jobs and alternative sources of income as set out in strategies developed by fisheries local action groups.

The programme will also contribute to improving the competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors by fostering marketing and processing. Finally, funds will support improvements in the management of fisheries control and data collection activities.

Background

- Financial information

Total OP budget: EUR 710 509 513

Total EU contribution: EUR 531 219 456

- Funding priorities

The OP will focus on the following priorities:

- promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture: €201.7 million
- promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries: : €130.2 million
- increasing employment and territorial cohesion: €79.7 million
- fostering marketing and processing: €61.6 million
- fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy: €23.6 million
- implementing the Integrated Maritime Policy: €2.5 million
- technical assistance: €31.9 million

More information

[European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – Operational Programme for Poland](#)

Antarctica: No agreement on establishing Marine Protected Areas in CCAMLR meeting

(03/11/2015)

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has not been able to reach an agreement on the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Antarctica at its 34th Annual Meeting held in Hobart, Australia, from 19 to 30 October 2015.

CCAMLR members were unable to reach necessary consensus on any of the proposals submitted by the EU, Australia, France (on behalf of its overseas territories), New Zealand and the United States for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Antarctica. One major issue of differentiation among CCAMLR Members was the duration of MPAs; nevertheless the European Commission welcomes the increasing number of nations supporting these proposals.

A step forward has been the setting of the Total Allowable Catch for species such as toothfish and krill in line with scientific advice and the reinforcement of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). However, it is regrettable that the review of monitoring, surveillance and control measures did not fulfil initial expectations in the absence of a consensus.

Another positive element is that CCAMLR has reconfirmed that it remains dedicated to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In this context a pilot project using satellite surveillance in the convention area is still ongoing. Furthermore, CCAMLR members agreed to initiate coordinated efforts regarding climate change.

The next CCAMLR meeting will be held from 17 October to 28 October in 2016 in Hobart, Australia.

More information on CCAMLR

- [CCAMLR website](#)

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

RAC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE	Main issues
MED AC	09-10/11/2015	Malta	ExCom, Seminar, Focus Group	Multi-annual plans - GSA 7 and 17
NS AC	10/11/2015	Hamburg	WG	Demersal
NS AC	11/11/2015	Hamburg	Focus Group	Monitoring and control
NS AC	13/11/2015	Goteborg	WG	Skaggerak & Kattegat
BS AC	18/11/2015	Copenhagen	ExCom	Administrative issues and technical measures in the Baltic
LD AC	25/11/2015	Madrid	ExCom	Administrative and financial matters; amendment of the statutes and rules of procedure

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council ([link](#))
- NS AC: North Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MED AC: Advisory Council for the Mediterranean ([link](#))
- SWW AC: South Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- LD AC: Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BS AC: Baltic Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MIRAC: ICES/AC meeting ([link](#))
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NORWAY/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
November 2015			
09-13	NEAFC annual meeting	Multilateral	London
16-20	EU/Norway Annual Consultations round I	Bilateral	Copenhagen
30-11/04-12	EU/Norway Annual Consultations round II	Bilateral	Bergen, Norway
December 2015			
08-09	EU/Faroe Annual Consultation	Bilateral	Faroe Islands

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
November 2015			
03-06	GFCM	Sub-regional Group on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea	Burgas, Bulgaria
10-17	United Nations General Assembly	Sustainable Fisheries Resolution	New York, USA
18-24	United Nations General Assembly	Oceans and Law of the Sea Resolution	New York, USA
09-16	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)	Annual Meeting	Malta
23-28	GFCM	WG on Stock Assessment of Demersal Species and WG on Stock Assessment on Small Pelagic Species	Rome, Italy
30-04	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)	12 th Annual Session Meeting	Namibia
December 2015			
03-08	Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	Annual Meeting	Bali, Indonesia
January 2016			
19-20	GFCM	Intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee	Roma
21-29	SPRFMO	SPRFMO-Annual Meeting and Scientific Committee Meeting	Valdivia, Chile
February 2016			
15-19	CMS	Meeting of the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sharks under the Convention on Migratory Species (MOS2)	San José, Costa Rica

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2015	
			Date	Location	Date	Location
MIXED AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	15/12/2014	FEB-MAR 2016	tbd	tbd	tbd
	Morocco	14/07/2018	12-14/10/2015	Brussels		
	Senegal	19/11/2019	1st quarter 2016	Brussels		
	Guinea Bissau	23/11/2017	23/11/2015 (tbc)	Brussels		
	Greenland	31/12/2015	24-27/11/2015	Brussels		
WEST AFRICA	Cape-Verde	22/12/2018	MAR 2016	Praia		
	Ivory Coast	30/06/2018	DEC 2015 (tbc)	Brussels		
	Gabon	23/07/2016	NOV 2015	tbd	18-20/11/2015	Malte(tbc)
	Liberia	<i>No agreement/ protocol in force</i>	FEB-MAR 2016	tbd		
	São Tomé and Príncipe	23/05/2018		Brussels		
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	31/12/2016	MAR 2016 (tbc)	Comoros or Brussels (tbc)	MAR 2016 (tbc)	Comoros or Brussels (tbc)
	Madagascar	31/12/2018	End of 2015 or most likely beginning of 2016	Brussels		
	Mauritius	27/01/2017	Early 2016	Mauritius	Early 2016	Mauritius
	Mozambique	<i>No protocol in force</i>	3rd quarter 2015	Maputo		
	Seychelles	17/01/2020	Extraordinary JCM DEC 2015	Victoria		
	Mayotte (Access agreement Seychelles flagged vessels in EU waters)	19/05/2020	JCM March 2016	Victoria		
	Kenya	<i>No Agreement/ Protocol</i>				
Tanzania	<i>No Agreement/ Protocol</i>	2016	Dar es Salam	4th quarter 2015 (tbd)	Tanzania	
PACIFIC	Kiribati	15/09/2015	9/9/2015	Madrid	9-11/09/2015	Madrid
	Cook Islands	<i>No Agreement/ Protocol in place yet</i>			19-21/10/2015 (tbc)	Bruxelles

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

BUREAU			
Chair	Mr Alain CADEC		
1st Vice-Chair	Ms Linnéa ENGSTROM	3rd Vice-Chair	Mr Werner KUHN
2nd Vice-Chair	Mr Jarosław Leszek WAŁĘSA	4th Vice-Chair	Mrs Renata BRIANO

COORDINATORS			
EPP	MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ECR	VAN DALEN Peter
S&D	RODUST Ulrike	GUE/NGL	FERREIRA João
ALDE	MARINHO E PINTO António	EFDD	FINCH Raymond
Greens/EFA	ENGSTROM Linnéa		

AFFRONTE Marco	IT	EFDD	BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	ALDE
AGUILERA GARCÍA Clara Eugenia	ES	S&D	BLANCO LÓPEZ José	ES	S&D
BRIANO Renata	IT	S&D	CHRISTENSEN Ole	DK	S&D
CADEC Alain	FR	EPP	DUNCAN Ian	GB	ECR
COBURN David	GB	EFDD	GIESEKE Jens	DE	EPP
CORBETT Richard	GB	S&D	GRÓBARCZYK Marek Józef	PL	ECR
DODDS Diane	ENJ	NI	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
ENGSTROM Linnéa	SE	Greens/EFA	HEUBUCH Maria	DE	Greens/EFA
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	HOOKEM Mike	GB	EFDD
FINCH Raymond	GB	EFDD	JADOT Yannick	FR	Greens/EFA
HUDGHTON Ian	GB	Greens/EFA	LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica	ES	EPP
ITURGAIZ Angulo	ES	EPP	MCAVAN Linda	GB	S&D
KUHN Werner	DE	EPP	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP
LE PEN Jean-Marie	FR	NI	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP
MARINHO E PINTO António	PT	ALDE	PAKSAS Rolandas	LT	EFDD
MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ES	EPP	PITTELLA Gianni	IT	S&D
NI RIADA Liadh	IE	GUE/NGL	PLENKOVIĆ Andrej	HR	EPP
NICOLAI Norica	RO	ALDE	SÂRBU Daciana Octavia	RO	S&D
RODUST Ulrike	DE	S&D	SASSOLI David-Maria	IT	S&D
SERNAGIOTTO Remo	IT	EPP	SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP
SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	PT	S&D	SENRA RODRÍGUEZ María Lidia	ES	GUE/NGL
THOMAS Isabelle	FR	S&D	TORVALDS Nils	SV	ALDE
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR			
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	ECR			
WAŁĘSA Jarosław Leszek	PL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2015

- Monday, 7 December, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 10 December, 9h00-12h30

2016

- Thursday, 14 January, 9h00-12h30
- Wednesday, 17 February, 9h00-12h30
- Wednesday, 17 February, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 18 February, 9h00-12h30

- Monday, 21 March, 15h00-18h30
- Tuesday, 22 March, 9h00-12h30
- Tuesday, 22 March, 15h00-18h30

- Monday, 18 April, 15h00-18h30
- Tuesday, 19 April, 9h00-12h30
- Tuesday, 19 April, 15h00-18h30

- Wednesday, 15 June, 9h00-12h30
- Wednesday, 15 June, 15h00-18h30
- Thursday, 16 June, 9h00-12h30