



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies

Committee on Fisheries

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES DURING THE 9th PARLIAMENTARY TERM (2019-2024)



Foreword by the Chair

Dear all,

I have the pleasure to share with you the PECH Committee's "Activity report" for the past legislative term. With enthusiasm, passion and perseverance we managed to achieve quite a lot during this mandate. Fisheries being one of the most integrated of Union policies, our Committee is always kept busy, with its fair share of political challenges and strong national identities.

The EU is the world's largest market for fisheries and aquaculture products. These sectors have demonstrated resilience in the face of recent disruptive political and economic shocks such as Brexit, COVID-19, the Russian invasion of Ukraine or the spike of fuel prices. The overall increase in imports from third countries in recent years and the attitude of some flags on the global seas have added to the uncertainty: What does the future hold for fisheries and aquaculture products?

The Committee on Fisheries needs to continue its work, notably on the Common Fisheries Policies or the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to shape the years to come.

All the best,
Pierre Karleskind



Abstract

In the **9th Parliamentary term**, the **Committee on Fisheries (PECH)** held a total of **81 meetings** and dealt with **95 files** concerning all aspects of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**, adopting **22 legislative reports (COD)**, **20 own-initiative reports (INI)**, **36 opinions** and **17 recommendations** giving **consent** to international agreements in the field of fisheries.

In an effort to reach out to stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the PECH Committee organised **23 public hearings and 15 fact-finding missions**, both in the EU and in Third countries. Missions to non-EU countries usually focused on the implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements or on the coordination of efforts in the global fight against **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**.

On the scrutiny side, **66 Delegated acts (DAs)** and **96 implementing acts** were assessed, with only one DA rejected. A majority of DAs were proposals for **discard plans** aimed at mitigating the impact of the **CFP landing obligation**, which remains a politically controversial issue.

After five years of debates and intense political negotiations, the revision of the **Fisheries Control Regulation** finally came to a conclusion with the adoption of the final report in the EP Plenary of November 2023. Fisheries Control was by far the PECH Committee's **most important legislative file** of the 9th term and the last missing legislative element for the full implementation of the new CFP framework, in force since 2014.

Throughout the 9th term, many debates in PECH focused on the question of how to ensure a **fair balance between environmental and socio-economic aspects** in the CFP implementation. How to **foster sustainable fishing and seafood production**, while minimising the impact on marine ecosystems? How to **maintain employment** in the fishing sector and its **economic viability**, so as to make jobs in fisheries attractive for the young generation? On all this, positions may differ, depending on Members' political affiliations, as could be experienced in many topical debates. Fisheries and aquaculture also play a strategic role in achieving the goals of the **European Green Deal**, and this also led to several targeted PECH contributions.

The **Brexit** - which materialised on **1st February 2020** - was another subject of high political profile that occupied the PECH Committee throughout the 9th legislative term. The management of fish stocks in the **North Sea and north Atlantic** changed dramatically, a reason for including a substantial chapter on fisheries in the **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)**. The **TCA implementation** and problems in the **bilateral or trilateral management of fisheries** in these waters were high on the agenda in a large number of PECH meetings.

In 2021 the new **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)** began a new cycle of funding. With a budget of **EUR 6.108 billion**,

for 2012-2027 the fund supports the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and its fulfilment of European Green Deal objectives.

With regard to the **CFP external dimension**, the number of **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements** (SFPA) treated by the Committee on Fisheries has increased from 15 to 17 - mostly **tuna agreements** (12). Two SFPAs (Senegal and Morocco) turned out to be particularly complicated and politically sensitive for different reasons, mostly still unresolved. At the end of the 9th term, 10 tuna protocols and 3 mixed protocols are in force. The economically most significant agreements are still those with **Mauritania, Morocco, Guinea-Bissau** and **Greenland** (mixed fisheries).

The role of the EU in the global fight against **illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing** has grown substantially over the past term, with PECH Committee following very closely all developments related to the **"yellow"** and **"red" card procedures** issued by the Commission under the 2008 IUU Regulation, with regular debriefing sessions and fact-finding missions.

Looking at the broader picture, the **COVID-19 pandemic** left a historic mark on economic activities and civil society as a whole. Not surprisingly, it also heavily affected the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector. Parliament's overall work was also affected, even though the **EU legislative activity never stopped throughout the pandemic**. Covid-related restrictions had a strong impact on the PECH Committee from an organisational perspective, as for two years (2020/2021) meetings, votes and hearings had to be moved online or held in a hybrid format and missions were cancelled.

Finally, the Russian war of aggression against **Ukraine** also had a significant economic backlash on the fisheries sector, as in 2022 it triggered rising fuel prices and a spike in inflation, further burdening a fisheries sector still fragile, as it was recovering from the Covid impact.

April 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Background	9
1.1	Committee on Fisheries: Origins and Competences	9
1.2	Substance and objectives of the CFP	11
2	Management of Fisheries Resources	13
2.1	Conservation measures	13
2.2	Multiannual Plans	16
2.3	Environmental measures	17
3	Fisheries Control	19
4	The CFP External Dimension	23
4.1	Global Fisheries Governance	24
4.2	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPA)	26
4.3	The Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO)	32
4.4	Combatting IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing	37
5	Brexit and Fisheries	43
5.1	General overview	43
5.2	Pre-Brexit period in fisheries	46
5.3	Transition period - towards a new relationship	46
5.4	Post-2021: Implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement ..	47
6	Structural Policy in Fisheries & Aquaculture	51
7	Delegation of Powers to the Commission	54
7.1	Background	54
7.2	DAs on Landing Obligation	56
7.3	DAs on Technical Measures	59
7.4	Other Delegated Acts (RFMO, EMFAF, Marine environment)	60
8	EU Budget Issues	63
9	Integrated Maritime Policy	65
10	Exceptional Events	67
10.1	Covid-19 pandemic	67
10.2	Impact of the war in Ukraine on fisheries	68
	ANNEX 1 - Composition of the PECH Committee	70
	ANNEX 2 - Statistics on Committee activities	74
	ANNEX 3 - Oral Questions in Plenary	82
	ANNEX 4 - Public Hearings & Exchanges	83
	ANNEX 5 - Missions & Delegations	85
	ANNEX 6 - Studies & Workshops	86
	ANNEX 7 - External speakers invited to meetings	87
	REFERENCES for Inter-Institutional Agreements	94
	GLOSSARY	94

1 Background

1.1 Committee on Fisheries: Origins and Competences

The **Committee on Fisheries** was created on 21 July 1994 at the constituent sitting of the 4th legislative term (1994-1999). Prior to that date, matters related to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) were dealt with by a Working Group and subsequently by a Subcommittee within the Committee on Agriculture.

The **entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009** involved major changes and greater responsibility for the Committee on Fisheries, which was called upon to take decisions in the context of the **ordinary legislative procedure** (ex “codecision” procedure) on matters that are crucial for the CFP. While the ordinary legislative procedure applies to almost all fisheries decisions¹, some issues, such as fixing and allocating of fishing opportunities (TAC and quotas), fall under the exclusive powers of the Council.

During the 9th Parliamentary term the powers of the Committee on Fisheries remained **unchanged** compared to the previous term. In some cases, issues related to marine biological resources, marine spatial planning and animal welfare led in some cases to **conflicts of attribution** with other Committees, requiring occasionally an enhanced cooperation under Rule 57 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

COMPETENCES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Parliament’s Rules of Procedure (Annex VI, point XIV) state that the competences of the Committee on Fisheries are the following:

1. the operation and development of the Common Fisheries Policy and its management;
2. the conservation of fishery resources, the management of fisheries and fleets exploiting such resources and marine and applied fisheries research;
3. the common organisation of the market in fishery and aquaculture products and the processing and marketing thereof;
4. structural policy in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including the financial instruments and funds for fisheries guidance to support these sectors;
5. the integrated maritime policy as regards fishing activities;
6. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, Regional Fisheries Organisations and the implementation of international obligations in the field of fisheries.

The oversight of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) located in Vigo, Spain also falls under the responsibilities of PECH Committee.

In February 2020, in the aftermath of Brexit, the number of **Members** of the Committee on Fisheries **increased from 27 to 28**. This adjustment had become necessary so that the committee could mirror the composition of the Plenary, following a number of changes in PECH Members’ affiliation to political groups.

¹ Article 43 of the TFEU

The Committee on Fisheries adopted a considerable number of **legislative and non-legislative reports, opinions and recommendations**.

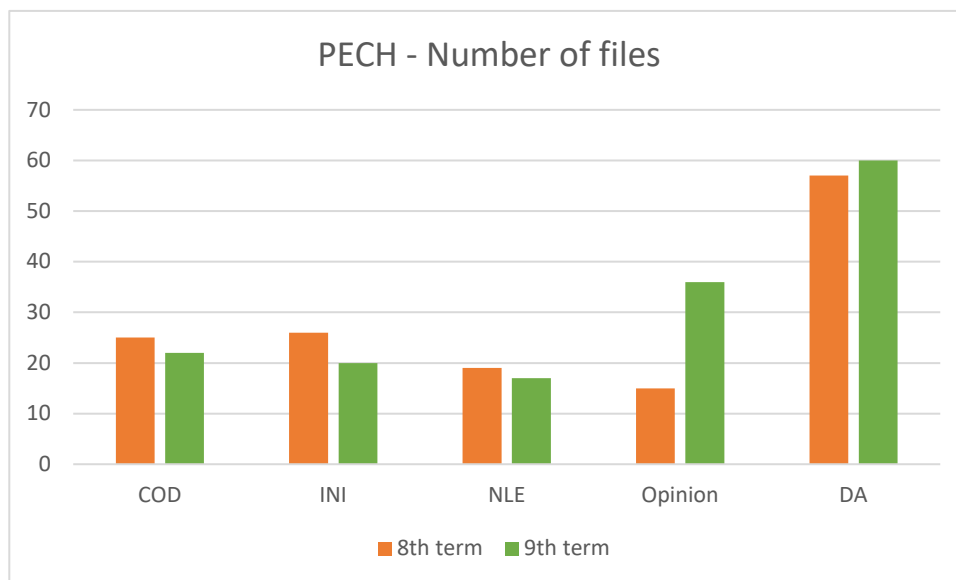
Other committee activities were:

- adoption of **oral questions** and **motions for resolution** (Annex 3);
- organisation of **public hearings** (Annex 4);
- organisation of **missions and delegation visits** both within the EU and to non-EU countries (Annex 5);
- participation, **as observers within the official EU Delegation**, in the annual meetings of **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** and other international meetings.

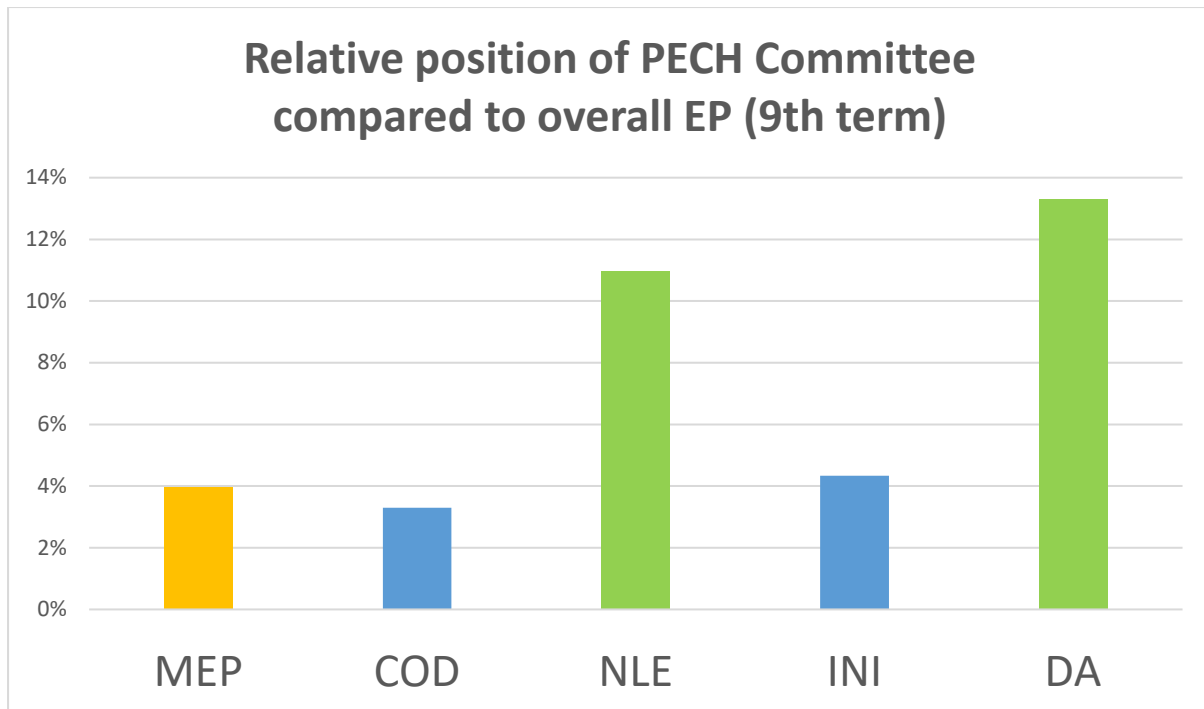
The organisation of hearings within PECH Committee meetings offered a major platform for debate, where stakeholders selected by the different political groups could voice their concerns and exchange with Members. The Committee missions to various fisheries regions offered Members an opportunity for first-hand experiences, but also to tie multiple contacts with representatives of the local fishing and aquaculture communities, as well as with national and regional authorities.

For specific issues, through own-initiative reports, questions to the Commission or motions for resolutions in plenary, the Committee and its Members were consistently active with regard to all issues related to the fisheries industry and the marine environment. This role of the Committee on Fisheries has been a constant ever since its creation, and has been particularly visible over the 9th legislative term.

The consistently high number of **codecision** files (COD) is normal, considering that fisheries are regulated by an **EU common policy**. **Consent** files (NLE), on the other hand, come up regularly due to the expiration of the protocols to Fisheries Agreements, as part of **the external dimension of the CFP**. The case of **delegated acts** as part of the committee's scrutiny activity is more **complex**: both activities have been elaborated more in detail in a dedicated chapter.



Compared to the 8th Parliamentary term, the number of legislative and non-legislative files treated in PECH Committee in the 9th term remained stable, with **22 COD** (compared to 25), **20 INIs** (26), **17 NLE** consent procedures (19) and **36 opinions** (15). Delegated acts (**DA**) also remained stable at around 60.



In comparative terms, it can be noted that although being a smaller and “neutralized” committee with **only 28 full Members (= 4% of the total MEPs)**, the PECH Committee dealt with a sizeable proportion of Parliament’s legislative work. While **Codecision files (COD)** and **Own-Initiative reports (INI)** were in line with its size, PECH figures are **substantially higher** for **Non-Legislative Enactments (NLE: 11%)** and, in particular, for **Delegated acts (DA: 13%)**.

In this context, it’s worth pointing out the role of **Non-Legislative Enactments** in the **CFP external dimension**: due to the many Fisheries Agreements, PECH is the **third committee by number of NLE files** behind the International Trade (INTA) and Civil Liberties (LIBE) Committees.

The increasing role of **Delegated acts** in PECH is due to the possibility of modifying the Basic act **more swiftly** than using a codecision procedure. In fact, comparing the 8th and 9th terms, the increase in the use of DAs runs in parallel with the decrease of COD procedures.

Also concerning Delegated acts, the **problem of late notification** by the Commission of measures to enter into force on 1st January of the following year had been a serious concern in the past. DAs were frequently notified to the EP in October/November, meaning that an extension of the EP’s 2-months scrutiny period would have delayed their entry into force, potentially harming fishing operations. Such late notifications reduce the margins of manoeuvre for PECH Members for proper scrutiny work, but the problem has become **less acute in the 9th term**, following reiterated calls by Members to have earlier DA notifications in the second half of the year.

1.2 Substance and objectives of the CFP

The existence of the Common Fisheries Policy is based on the fact that **marine biological resources are a natural, renewable, movable and common property and belong to our common heritage**. Fish do not recognise borders, their sustainable exploitation requiring a joint management.

Fisheries are a **common policy**, meaning that common rules are adopted at EU level and applied in all Member States. Since the creation of the CFP in 1983², there have been substantial developments in all areas of this Community policy.

The TFEU³ provides the Union with **exclusive competence** concerning "the conservation of marine biological resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)", while other fisheries policy issues fall under **shared competence** with Member States.

Substantial changes to the fisheries policy were introduced in the **Treaty of Lisbon** (2009) and in **2013** the Council and the Parliament finally reached an agreement on a **new Common Fisheries Policy framework, the "CFP Basic Regulation"** (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of 11 December 2013) which entered into force on **1st January 2014**.

This Regulation now establishes the **objectives of the CFP**, stating that the CFP shall ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities remain **environmentally sustainable** in the long term and managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving **economic, social and employment benefits**, and of contributing to the **availability of food supplies**. In this perspective, the CFP shall base its decision on the **best available scientific advice** and apply the **precautionary approach to fisheries management**: this aiming to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the **maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**.

Compared with the whole of the EU economy, the EU fisheries sector represents less than **0.2% of total EU employment**. Although the contribution of the fisheries sector to Member States' gross domestic product is in general small, it is of major importance in employment terms in coastal regions, where alternative sources of jobs are often minimal.

The total number of **full time jobs in the EU fisheries sector** (including catching, aquaculture and processing) is approximatively 227.000. The catching segment accounts for somewhat over 92.000 (41%), processing for 94.707 (41%) and aquaculture for nearly 40.000 jobs (18%). Employment in the fishing sector tends to be concentrated in a handful of countries (Spain, Italy, France, Portugal and Greece).

Over the past years the **capacity of the EU fishing fleet** has continued to decline in terms of both tonnage and engine power. For example, the number of **EU fishing vessels in February 2024 was 70.151** (including outermost regions), that is 10.670 less than in July 2013 for the 27 Member States that now make up the EU⁴.

² Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/83 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources

³ Articles 3 and 4 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

⁴ See detailed figures: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fleet-europa/stat_glimpse_en

2 Management of Fisheries Resources

- The PECH Committee dealt with **12 files** concerning the management of fishery resources in the 9th Parliamentary term: **six codecision files** and **six own-initiative reports**, as detailed below.
- Fisheries resources conservation measures are the **core of CFP**: they are based on the need to ensure **sustainable exploitation of these resources and the long-term viability of the fishing industry**. Fisheries management is based **on data and scientific advice**, and on **control measures** to ensure that rules are applied fairly to and complied with by all fishers.
- Fisheries management can take the form of rules on **access to waters, fishing effort controls** (limiting fishing capacity or vessel usage), **technical measures** (regulating fishing gear usage and closure of fishing areas). Output controls mainly consist of limiting the amount of fish from a particular fishery, in particular through **TACs**, as adopted by the Council for the different sea basins.

2.1 Conservation measures

In the 9th Parliamentary term, the PECH Committee took a position on a number of matters closely linked to the protection and conservation of fishery resources in the context of responsible fishing and respecting the principles of sustainability. These reports, sometimes accompanied by hearings, related to management and recovery plans, access to Union waters, technical measures and other instruments to promote sustainable fishing and to protect the marine ecosystem.

The EP dealt with **12 files concerning the conservation of fishery resources**, in the form of **six codecision files** (including three on Multiannual Plans) and **six own-initiative reports**.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013, as regards restrictions to the access to Union waters	COD Report 2021/0176(COD) COM(2021)0356 A9-0206/2022 T9-0395/2022 Regulation 2022/2495	Pierre Karleskind (Renew)	Completed COM 05/07/2021 ATTR 01/09/2021 COMM 12/07/2022 PLEN 22/11/2022 CSL 06/12/2022
Certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area (recast)	COD Report 2021/0248(COD) COM(2021)0434 A9-0136/2022 T9-0274/2023 Regulation 2023/2124	Ladislav Iličić (ECR)	Completed COM 23/04/2021 ATTR 27/09/2021 COMM 25/04/2022 PLEN 12/07/2023 CSL 18/09/2023

**LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE
MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES**

Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Proposal for a regulation laying down conservation and management measures for the conservation of the southern Bluefin tuna	COD Report 2021/0242(COD) COM(2021)0424 A9-0134/2022 T9-0026/2023 Regulation 2023/675	Grace O'Sullivan (Greens/EFA)	Completed COM 28/07/2021 ATTR 01/09/2021 COMM 25/04/2022 PLEN 02/02/2023 CSL 21/02/2023

(*) **COM**: Commission proposal date || **ATTR**: Report attribution date || **COMM**: Committee Vote Date || **PLEN**: Plenary Vote Date || **CSL**: Council decision date

The report on **restrictions to the access to Union waters** extended a derogation established in the CFP Basic Regulation governing **access of fishing vessels to Member States' territorial waters (12 nautical mile zone)**. The restrictions put in place by Member States based on this derogation have reduced fishing pressure in the most biologically sensitive areas and have contributed to economic stability for small-scale coastal activities. A similar derogation for waters up to 100 nautical miles from the baselines of the Union's **outermost regions** allows the Member States concerned to restrict fishing to vessels registered in the ports of those territories.

As these derogations would have expired on 31 December 2022, the PECH Committee agreed to the Commission proposal to **extend the derogation period for a further 10 years**, to ensure continuity of the current protection measures.

The report on implementing provisions for fishing in the **GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area** was a recast of a regulation with the same title from 2011. The proposal contained mainly a codification of unchanged provisions of earlier acts.

**OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE
MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES**

Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
More fish in the seas? Measures to promote stock recovery above MSY, including fish recovery areas and marine protected areas	INI Report 2019/2162(INI) A9-0264/2020 T9-0017/2021	Caroline Roose (Greens/EFA)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 03/12/2020 PLEN 21/01/2021
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP	INI Report 2019/2177 (INI) A9-0147/2021 T9-0227/2021	Soren Gade (Renew)	Completed ATTR 20/02/2020 COMM 27/04/2021 PLEN 18/05/2021
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea	INI Report 2019/2159 (INI) A9-0170/2021 T9-0307/2021	Ivo Hristov (S&D)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 10/05/2021 PLEN 23/06/2021
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps	INI Report 2019/2178 (INI) A9-0225/2021 T9-0408/2021	Raffaele Stancanelli (ECR)	Completed ATTR 20/02/2020 COMM 16/06/2021 PLEN 06/10/2021

OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
The implementation of Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation	INI Report 2021/2168(INI) A9-0152/2022 T9-0226/2022	Caroline Roose (Greens/EFA)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 11/05/2022 PLEN 07/06/2022
Co-management of fisheries in the EU and the contribution of the fisheries sector for the implementation of management measures	INI Report 2022/2003(INI) A9-0119/2023 T9-0132/2023	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed ATTR 30/11/2021 COMM 28/03/2023 PLEN 09/05/2023
The state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives	INI Report 2021/2169(INI) A9-0357/2023 T9-0045/2024	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 24/10/2023 PLEN 18/01/2024
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

Several **own-initiative reports** dealt with issues related to the management of fisheries resources. The 2013 reform of the CFP introduced great novelties in the policy of conservation of fishery resources, of which the most important - and still politically very controversial - has been the **landing obligation**. This measure has had a strong impact on different aspects of fishing activity, and to limit this impact, a new instrument - so-called "**discard plans**" - were created.

The report on "**Securing the objectives of the landing obligation**" was accompanied by a public hearing. The report affirms the importance of reducing discards and minimising unwanted catches, but at the same time highlights the major challenge for EU fisheries management, especially in mixed fisheries.

Regarding the report on "**More fish in the seas? Measures to promote stock recovery above MSY, including fish recovery areas and marine protected areas**", the EP called on the Commission and the Member States to strengthen scientific coverage of the state of fish stocks and the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management as well as improving selectivity and survival rates of non-target species. It further made recommendations to expand the network of marine protected areas and to improve their management.

The **implementation report on the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives** was also accompanied by a hearing. It aimed at providing a political guidance on future reviews of the CFP, with reference to the 2022 Commission report on the functioning of the policy. The report focuses on the implementation of the current CFP, whether its objectives and tools are still relevant to tackle current and future challenges and on whether certain aspects should be reformed, reviewed, adapted or improved.

In addition, several transposition files of **conservation measures issued by different Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** were adopted, as well as a number of **Delegated acts** on the **landing obligation, discard plans** and **specific conservation and technical measures** (see dedicated chapters on "External Dimension" and "Delegated Acts").

2.2 Multiannual Plans

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE CONSERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES - MULTIANNUAL PLANS			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Establishing a catch documentation programme for Bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010	COD Report 2020/0302(COD) COM(2020)0670 A9-0272/2021 T9-0227/2021 Regulation 2023/2833	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed COM 27/10/2020 ATTR 10/05/2021 COMM 21/11/2023 PLEN 21/11/2023 CSL 08/12/2023
Amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Regulation (EU) .../2022 establishing a multiannual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean	COD Report 2022/0111(COD) COM(2022)0171 A9-0301/2023 Regulation 2024/897	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed COM 21/04/2022 ATTR 11/05/2022 COMM 24/10/2023 PLEN 06/02/2024 CSL 26/02/2024
Multiannual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EU) No 2017/2107, (EU) No 2019/[NAFO], (EU) No 1936/2001, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627	COD Report 2019/0272(COD) COM(2019)0619 A9-0243/2023 T9-0297/2023 Regulation 2023/2053	Giuseppe Ferrandino & Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed COM 28/11/2019 ATTR 11/05/2022 COMM 03/09/2020 PLEN 12/09/2023 CSL 13/09/2023
Amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472 as regards the targets for fixing fishing opportunities	COD Report 2023/0449 (COD) COM(2023)0771	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Awaiting committee decision COM 06/12/2023 ATTR 23/01/2024 WD in Committee 09/04/2024

(*) **COM**: Commission proposal date || **ATTR**: Report attribution date || **COMM**: Committee Vote Date || **PLEN**: Plenary Vote Date || **CSL**: Council decision date

Multiannual Management Plans in fisheries (MAPs) are a set of management and conservation tools to help bring **fisheries stocks to sustainable levels of exploitation** or maintain them at such levels. MAPs define biological targets to remove uncertainty for the industry and prevent short-term influences from setting total allowable catches too high. The aim is to progressively introduce MAPs for all major commercial species to better manage fisheries in the long term and to move from **single-species plans** to **multi-species plans** to take account of interactions between species.

MAPs do not simply provide a mechanism for setting TACs and effort levels through the **harvest control rules**; they also lay down a range of fisheries conservation measures to support the sustainable management of the fishery in question, including closed areas, strict technical measures on mesh sizes and gear, and for careful monitoring, inspection and control.

The current CFP Basic Regulation expressly provides that multiannual plans (**MAPs**) requires for more coherence by establishing what the principles, objectives and content of such plans must be. MAPs should cover, where possible, **multiple stocks and fisheries** as well as **time-framed and quantifiable targets** (fisheries management reference

points such as fishing mortality rates and spawning stock biomass) and safeguards. MAPs may also include **other conservation measures**, in particular measures to gradually eliminate **discards** and **technical measures** to minimise unwanted catches and a negative impact of fishing on the ecosystems. Such plans may also provide for further measures to be established, where appropriate, along **regional cooperation** mechanisms ('regionalisation').

The first multiannual plan based on the new CFP, adopted in 2016, covered some demersal and pelagic fisheries in the **Baltic Sea** and served as a model for the other MAPs: Demersal stocks in the **North Sea (2018)**, Stocks fished in **Western Waters (Atlantic) (2018)** and Demersal stocks in the **Western Mediterranean (2019)**.

In the 9th term, the PECH Committee adopted reports on three legislative proposals transposing **recommendations of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on **multiannual recovery plans** and the establishment of a **catch documentation programme for Bluefin tuna** into European legislation.

2.3 Environmental measures

On 15 January 2020, Parliament adopted a resolution on the **European Green Deal**, which supports the Commission's proposal for a global binding target to protect and restore biodiversity in line with the **UN sustainable development goals**. The **Biodiversity Strategy** for 2030 - is a flagship initiative under the European Green Deal.

The European Green Deal and its vast implementing legislation appeared frequently on PECH Committee agendas. PECH elaborated **several opinions and resolutions** on these topics, which fall under the remit of the Committee on the Environment and Public Health (ENVI).

The legislative proposal on "**Nature Restoration**", a key element of the Green Deal adopted in Plenary on 27 February 2024, saw the contribution of a PECH opinion under enhanced cooperation with ENVI. Quite remarkably, the **PECH Committee vote even narrowly rejected** the Commission proposal - a rare event.

The "**EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries**" published by the Commission on 21 February 2023, was another controversial topic in PECH. It aims at contributing to the effective management of **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**, through effective protection of 30% of EU seas by 2030 - the target set under Biodiversity Strategy. Implied restrictions (or banning) of bottom trawling in certain protected areas sparked very lively debates in PECH Committee and inspired a critical own-initiative report.

Debates on subjects related to the Green Deal will most probably continue also in the new parliamentary term, as political processes are still ongoing and new Commission proposals will have to be dealt with by the incoming PECH Committee.

REPORTS & OPINIONS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Nature restoration law	COD Opinion (Rule 57) COM(2022) 304 2022/0195(COD)	ENVI / AGRI & PECH Caroline Roose (Greens/EFA)	Completed COM 22/06/2022 ATTR 12/07/2022 COMM 24/05/2023 PLEN 27/02/2024

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

REPORTS & OPINIONS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
EU Action Plan: protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries	INI Report 2023/2124 (INI) A9-0437/2023 T9-0046/2024	Niclas Herbst (EPP)	Completed ATTR 02/03/2023 COMM 07/12/2023 PLEN 18/01/2024
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives	INI Opinion 2020/2273(INI) A9-0179/2021 T9-0277/2021	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed ATTR 12/06/2020 COMM 17/03/2021 PLEN 08/06/2021
The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems	INI Report 2023/2158(INI) A9-0184/2021 T9-0338/2021	Peter Van Dalen (EPP)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 25/05/2021 PLEN 07/07/2021
A European strategy for offshore renewable energy	INI Opinion 2020/2012(INI) A9-0339/2021 T9-0032/2022	Catherine Chabaud (Renew)	Completed ATTR 02/12/2020 COMM 16/06/2021 PLEN 16/02/2022
Toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors	INI Report 2021/2188 (INI) A9-0089/2022 T9-0135/2022	Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 16/03/2022 PLEN 03/05/2022
Striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: the way forward	INI Report 2021/2189 (INI) A9-0215/2022 T9-0334/2022	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 12/07/2022 PLEN 04/10/2022
The impact on fisheries of marine litter	INI Report 2019/2160(INI) A9-0030/2021 T9-0096/2021	Catherine Chabaud (Renew)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 22/02/2021 PLEN 25/03/2021
Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities	INI Report 2019/2161(INI) A9-0230/2021 T9-0386/2021	Manuel Pizarro (S&D)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 16/06/2021 PLEN 16/09/2021
A new approach to the Atlantic maritime strategy	INI Opinion 2020/2276(INI) A9-0243/2021 T9-0369/2021	Pierre Karleskind (Renew)	Completed ATTR 22/09/2020 COMM 19/04/2021 PLEN 14/09/2021
Role of cohesion policy in addressing multidimensional environmental challenges in the Mediterranean basin	INI Opinion 2022/2059(INI) A9-0094/2023 T9-0133/2023	Nora Mebarek (S&D)	Completed ATTR 12/07/2022 COMM 01/03/2023 PLEN 09/05/2023
Protection of animals during transport and related operations	COD Opinion AGRI/TRAN/PECH/ENVI 2023/0448(COD) COM(2023)0770	Caroline Roose (Greens/EFA)	ATTR 08/12/2023 COMM procedure still open
Revision of the Energy Tax Directive	CNS Opinion (ECON lead) COM(2021)563 2021/0213 (CNS)	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Adopted in PECH: 16.03.2022
Communication on the European Green Deal	COM(2019)640 2019/2956(RSP)	Political Groups Resolution	Adopted in Plenary 15.01.2020
Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector	2023/2547(RSP)	Pierre Karleskind on behalf of the PECH Committee	11/05/2023 (Oral Question)
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

3 Fisheries Control

- In the 9th term, the PECH Committee dealt with **8 files** concerning the control of fisheries, in the form of **two codecision files**, **five files** on the **EFCA budgetary discharge** and **one opinion**. Moreover, the Committee on Fisheries dealt with **ten files** on recommendations of control measures issued by different **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations**. Two public hearings related to fisheries control were also organised by the Committee.
- The **most relevant file of this legislature** was the proposal on the **revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation (EU) 2023/2842**, finally adopted in November 2023 after 12 rounds of trilogue negotiations. This Regulation is the **core of the fisheries control**, along with Regulation 2017/2403 on the sustainable management of **external fishing fleets**.
- The **European Fisheries Control Agency's (EFCA)** is also closely involved in fisheries control, its mission being to promote the highest common **standards** for **control, inspection** and **surveillance** under the CFP. It organises the **coordination and cooperation** between **national control and inspection activities**, so that the rules of the CFP are respected and applied effectively. The **EFCA Executive Director** informs the Committee on Fisheries about the **Agency activities** on a regular basis.
- **Fisheries control** is applied at **every point in the value chain from the boat to the retailer**. It has a set of infringements and a point system attributed to the fishing licence for serious infringements.

The first Regulation on fisheries control was adopted in 1982⁵, prior to the official birth of the CFP, along with catch limitations and the subsequent allegations of misreporting of catches, particularly of catches landed in other countries. Following the accession of Spain and Portugal, the control regulation was reviewed in 1987⁶, increasing the responsibilities of Member States. The third revision, in 1993⁷, introduced the traceability, the enlargement of controls to other areas, and the obligation for Member States to establish a system of sanctions. Regulation 2847/93 was never fully developed, although it was modified many times, and this led to the adoption of Regulation 1224/2009. The new and final Regulation on Fisheries Control (Regulation 2023/2842) was finally adopted in November 2023 after several years of extenuating rounds of trilogue negotiations.

Fisheries control is not just about checking the **activities of fishers at sea**, which is expensive and cannot alone ensure that the fishing rules are respected. Checks are carried out at **every point in the value chain from the boat to the retailer**. Fishing vessels are not allowed to leave port without a valid licence to fish. Though checks at sea are still

⁵ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2057/82 of 29 June 1982 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities by vessels of the Member States, OJ L 220, 29.7.1982, p. 1–5

⁶ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2241/87 of 23 July 1987 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities, OJ L 207, 29.7.1987, p. 1–7

⁷ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy. OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1–16

done, the focus is now on checks in ports where fish is landed or transhipped, during transport, in factories that process fish and at markets where fish is sold.

At every point along the production chain, for every consignment of fish, information must be provided that proves that the fish was caught legally. Standards for all these different kinds of inspection are set at EU level. The control system applies to all fishing activities in EU waters, and to all fishing carried out by EU fishing vessels wherever they may fish. It also applies to recreational fishing on sensitive fish stocks and aquaculture in so far as they are covered by rules at EU level – for instance, to fishing for eel or to certain recreational fisheries for Bluefin tuna.

To ensure that fishing rules are applied in the same way in all Member States, and to harmonise the way **infringements** are sanctioned, the EU has established a list of serious infringements of the rules of the common fisheries policy. EU Member States must include in their legislation effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, and ensure that the rules are respected.

As from 1 January 2012, EU countries had to implement a **point system for serious infringements**. Points are attributed to the fishing licence that is linked to a vessel, so they will stay with the vessel even when it is sold on to a new owner. Detailed rules for the point system have been drawn up at EU level in close cooperation with EU governments. EU Member States are also required to establish a point system for masters of fishing vessels. The point system does not introduce new sanctions and does not interfere with the discretionary power of the national judge in assessing the facts of the case and the gravity of the behaviour in question.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO FISHERIES CONTROLS			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Fisheries Control Regulation	COD Report 2018/0193(COD) COM(2018)0368 A9-0016/2021 T9-0365/2023 Regulation 2023/2842	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed COM 30/05/2018 ATTR 23/07/2019 COMM 05/02/2021 PLEN 17/10/2023 CSL 13/11/2023
Introduction of capacity limits for Eastern Baltic cod, data collection and control measures in the Baltic Sea, and Reg. (EU) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod	COD Report 2019/0246(COD) COM(2019)0564 A9-0093/2020 T9-0300/2020 Regulation 2020/1781	Niclas Herbst (EPP)	Completed COM 31/10/2019 ATTR 12/11/2019 COMM 23/04/2020 PLEN 11/11/2020 CSL 25/11/2020
Regulation amending Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control	COD Opinion 2023/0165(COD) COM(2023)0271 A9-0419/2023	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 29/11/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

The Committee on Fisheries dealt with **two codecision files** related to control along the 9th Parliamentary term.

The **review of the Fisheries Control** Regulation was actually an **omnibus procedure** that affected different aspects established in the latest reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Commission proposal formally amended five Regulations: the **former Control Regulation**, the **Control Agency** Regulation, the **Mediterranean** Regulation, the **IUU** Regulation and the **Baltic** Regulation. In addition, the proposal concerned important aspects of **previous CFP reforms** that had been **insufficiently regulated** at the time or whose **implementation** had been unsatisfactory or even problematic. This includes essential aspects that should have been regulated in the common market organisation of fishery products (definitions) and technological tools needed for the implementation of the CFP reform, such as limitations of engine power or enforcement of the landing obligation.

The Commission proposal on Fisheries Control was made one year before the end of the 8th Parliamentary term. Within this very short timing, discussions took place in Committee without being able to close the negotiations. Hence, the new PECH Committee had to **restart the procedure in September 2019**, appointing a new Rapporteur. Following the vote in Committee, **trilogue negotiations** were long and complex, extending over three years, with **68 inter-institutional meetings** and **twelve formal political trilogues**.

The final **agreement between EP and Council**, Regulation (EU) **2023/2842**⁸ includes:

- the tracking of all fishing vessels, exempting certain small-scale coastal fishing vessels until 2030;
- the electronic reporting of all catches, with a simplified logbook for vessels under 12 metres in length;
- the monitoring of recreational fisheries, with an electronic system for catch recording in Member States;
- full digital traceability along the supply chain and, for processed products only after five years, once the Commission has completed a study;
- the harmonisation of sanctions across the EU;
- the use of on-board cameras to monitor the landing obligation (for vessels with a high risk of non-compliance) will only apply to vessels of 18 metres or more in length;
- more flexible margins of tolerance for estimating the weight of catches on board, particularly for small pelagic and tuna species and
- continuous monitoring of engine power with devices the control of fishing capacity for certain large vessels.

Currently, this Regulation is the **core of the fisheries control**, along with the by Regulation 2017/2403 on the sustainable management of **external fishing fleets**⁹.

The **Regulation on the Baltic Sea**¹⁰ was an attempt to tackle the degradation on environmental conditions in the Eastern Baltic and the management of cod stocks from the control of structural measures. This was the second package of emergency measures following unprecedented fishing restrictions for 2020. In substance, this is a **mix of control and structural measures** aiming at the recovery of fisheries resources and the environmental preservation. This Regulation contains provisions on:

- Financial assistance of the EMFF

⁸ [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1967/2006 and \(EC\) No 1005/2008 and Regulations \(EU\) 2016/1139, \(EU\) 2017/2403 and \(EU\) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control](#)

⁹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1006/2008](#)

¹⁰ [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 amending Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1139 as regards fishing capacity reduction in the Baltic Sea, and Regulation \(EU\) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation of fishing activities for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod, Western Baltic cod and Western Baltic herring](#)

- Reduction of fishing capacity and
- Monitoring of cod catches

Moreover, the Committee on Fisheries dealt with **ten files** on **recommendations of control measures** issued by different **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** (RFMO) - see the section under "The CFP External Dimension". Following the adoption of the new EU Control Regulation, the question remains on how to ensure a level playing field and the competitiveness of vessels flying the flag of EU Member States in the areas covered by the RFMOs.

In addition, the Committee on Fisheries delivered an opinion to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) on the Directive on **Port State control**. This opinion aimed at bringing a number of international conventions within the scope of Port State control inspections, such as the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) and the International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks (Nairobi).

To encourage closer collaboration and exchange of best practice, the **European Fisheries Control Agency** (EFCA) organises joint control campaigns, where inspectors from different EU countries join forces. The Commission has its own inspectors, who can visit national authorities at any time to check they are implementing EU rules correctly. It is not their role to inspect individual fishers' operations, however. Being responsible for the budgetary supervision of EFCA, the Committee on Fisheries has adopted **five discharge files** in the 9th term. Mr Pascal Savouret and Dr Susan Steele (since September 2021), **EFCA Executive Directors**, informed the Committee about the Agency's activities on a regular basis.

The Committee on Fisheries also organised **two hearings** related to fisheries control:

- "**Facing the new challenges of the EU fisheries control system**" (12.12.2019);
- "**Data collection and recreational fisheries**" (30.11.2021), as the assessment of recreational fisheries was a controversial subject in the trilogue negotiations on the new Control Regulation.

4 The CFP External Dimension

The **External Dimension** of the Common Fisheries Policy has three main components: the **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPA)**, the **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO)** and the fight against **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)**. Its political impact has increased significantly over the past two legislative terms.

In the 9th Parliamentary term, the Committee on Fisheries dealt with **17 SFPA files** of which **12** were related to **tuna agreements**:

- 4 files in **Western Africa** (Cape Verde, Gabon, Gambia and Senegal);
- 5 files in the **Indian Ocean** (Madagascar, Mauritius (2 files), Seychelles (2 files, includes the Mayotte access agreement for Seychelles fishing vessels);
- 3 files in the **Pacific Ocean** (Cook Islands (2 files) and Kiribati).

Five files were related to **mixed fisheries agreements** (Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau and Greenland).

At the end of the term (April 2024) **tuna protocols** are in force with Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, São Tomé e Príncipe, Gabon, Cook Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Senegal and Gambia (with a hake component for the last two).

The most important Fisheries Agreements in terms of **fishing opportunities** and **financial compensation** are still those with **Mauritania, Morocco, Guinea-Bissau and Greenland**.

The fisheries relations of the **EU** with **Norway, Iceland** and **the Faroe Islands** are regulated in bilateral framework agreements.

The Committee on Fisheries regularly appoints small delegations to the most relevant **RFMO annual meetings** (for example: **ICCAT, GFCM, IOTC**), where Members are accredited as observers within the official EU Delegation. PECH completed **11** procedures to **transpose RFMO decisions** or **recommendations** into EU legislation.

Finally, the EP gave its **consent** for two Council decisions on:

- **EU accession** to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (**NPFC**)
- Poland's ratification of an amendment to the **Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CCBSP)**, to allow the EU to become party to this Convention.

4.1 Global Fisheries Governance

The United Nations (UN) plays an essential role in fisheries' global governance. The **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** has promoted a number of **regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs)** and several **international conventions**.

Conventions and **other agreements** are used to create a legal order for the seas and oceans and promote their peaceful use, the equitable and effective utilisation of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Bilateral and **multilateral fishing agreements** became necessary after the establishment of exclusive economic zones (**EEZs**) of 200 nautical miles in the mid-1970s. The **United Nations** then adopted the **Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** in 1982, which was meant to be a "constitution for the oceans", recognising coastal states' rights to control fish harvests in adjacent waters. Although EEZs cover only 35% of the total area of the seas, they contain 90% of the world's fish stocks.

The EU is a party to the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** and has actively supported the development of other FAO/UNCLOS instruments.

Given its heavy impact on fisheries worldwide, **combating illegal, unreported and unregulated ("IUU") fishing** is an essential part of global fisheries governance. For this reason, in 2001 FAO adopted an international plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, which inspired the **EU Regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing** (Reg. 1005/2008).

In the context of global marine governance, an important step has been taken on 19 June 2023, when the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference reached consensus on the final text of the **BBNJ Agreement**, the *"Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction"*¹¹. Such areas cover nearly two-thirds of the world's ocean and about 95% of its volume and comprise the high seas and the international seabed area.

The EU signed the BBNJ Agreement on **20 September 2023**, but the **ratification process** is still ongoing and Council may adopt the act only once Parliament has given its **consent**. The PECH Committee has adopted its opinion in favour of the ratification process on 20 March 2024. The BBNJ Agreement will enter into force 120 days after being ratified by 60 parties - hopefully in the summer of 2025¹².

Another aspect of global fisheries governance is related to the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** and its assessment of **fisheries subsidies**. The **UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 14.6** sets out the aim to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies¹³. Accordingly, the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference of 12-17 June 2022** adopted the "Protocol Amending the **Marrakesh Agreement** Establishing the World Trade Organization - Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies" to the effect that it will be prohibited to grant fisheries subsidies to:

¹¹ See the UN certified version: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2023/06/20230620%2004-28%20PM/Ch_XXI_10.pdf

¹² Status of signatures and ratification process:

https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-10&chapter=21&clang=en

¹³ I.e. subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

- vessels or operators engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing or fishing-related activities supporting IUU fishing;
- fishing-related activities concerning overexploited stocks;
- unregulated fishing activities on the high seas.

This WTO Agreement will enter into force once 2/3 of WTO members will have completed their domestic ratification processes. The European Parliament on 19.4.2023 gave its **consent** to the conclusion of the Protocol (2022/0364(NLE)).

Finally, the PECH Committee dealt also with other external-relations topics affecting fisheries, notably with opinions on:

- The **EU-China agreement on the protection of geographical indications (GI)**, calling on the Commission to include also GIs for fisheries and aquaculture products;
- The **Indo-Pacific strategy** in the area of trade and investment, calling on negotiators to apply the EU's economic leverage to promote **sustainable fishing** in that region.

REPORTS RELATED TO GLOBAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
BBNJ Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction	NLE Opinion Procedure not yet closed – awaiting official referral by the Council 2023/0353(NLE)	Predrag Fred Matić (S&D)	Preparatory phase in Parliament PECH adopted its draft opinion on 20.3.2024
Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO)	NLE Opinion 2022/0346(NLE) CONS 14557/2022 A9-0068/2023 T9-0108/2023 Decision 2023/1116	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed CONS 05/12/2022 ATTR 24/01/2023 COMM 14/03/2023 PLEN 19/04/2023 CSL 25/05/2023
Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on and protection of geographical indications	NLE Opinion 2020/0089M(NLE) A9-0202/2020 T9-0298/2020	Nuno Melo (EPP)	Completed ATTR 12/06/2020 COMM 12/10/2020 PLEN 11/11/2020
Indo-Pacific strategy in the area of trade and investment	INI Opinion 2021/2200(INI) A9-0170/2022 T9-0276/2022	Pierre Karleskind (Renew)	Completed ATTR 23/11/2021 COMM 16/03/2022 PLEN 05/07/2022
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

4.2 Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPA)

Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs) are an outcome of the 2002 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. In 2013 the terminology changed¹⁴ and FPAs were labelled **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)**. The underlying idea was for the EU to become a close partner with the third country, to develop sustainable and responsible fisheries and help the local fishing sector. The SFPAs are also meant to underpin coherence with other policies such as development cooperation, environment, trade and health.

The **Lisbon Treaty** provides that international fisheries agreements shall be ratified by the Council having obtained the **consent of the Parliament** (Article 218(6)(a) TFEU). In addition, the EP must be **immediately and fully informed** of any decision concerning the provisional application or the suspension of such agreements.

At present, the EU has **13 SFPA Protocols in force**¹⁵:

- **10 tuna agreements:** Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Gabon, Cook Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Senegal and The Gambia (with a hake component for the last two);
- **3 mixed fisheries agreements:** Greenland, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau.

In addition, the EU currently has **six dormant agreements**¹⁶ (mostly tuna agreements), which concern Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Micronesia, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, and Morocco.

The **EU-Morocco SFPA** is a politically very sensitive mixed fisheries agreement and its protocol expired on 17 July 2023. As it includes the disputed waters of Western Sahara, the renewal of this SFPA will depend on the final **ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ)** on the **case C-779/21** expected later this year. On 29 September 2021, the Court considered that the Council had not sufficiently taken into account all relevant factors relating to the situation in Western Sahara and consequently annulled Council decision 2019/217 of 28 January 2019¹⁷.

SFPAs¹⁸ consist of **three major parts: agreements, protocols and technical annexes**. Agreements set out the scope and basic principles of cooperation. Protocols authorise fishing access of EU vessels and specify fishing opportunities, amounts and methods of payment and modalities of cooperation. Finally, technical annexes set out implementation and procedural aspects such as the licensing system, electronic catch reporting system (ERS), observers, vessel monitoring system (VMS), control and enforcement.

¹⁴ Articles 31 and 32. Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354 28.12.2013, p. 22)

¹⁵ See: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements-sfpas_en

¹⁶ "Dormant agreement" stands for countries that have a Fisheries Partnership Agreement which is still in force but there is no implementing protocol in force; EU vessels are therefore not allowed to fish in waters under the regime of the (dormant) agreement

¹⁷ Council decision (EU) 2019/217 of 28 January 2019 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part

¹⁸ Source: European Commission, https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements-sfpas_en#dormant-agreements

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS				
Country	Expiry date	Type	Total EU contribution per year	Sectorial support per year
Cabo Verde	19.05.2024	Tuna	€750 000	€350,000
Comoros	<i>Protocol expired on 31.12.2016. Agreement denounced</i>			
Cook Islands	13.12.2024	Tuna	€700,000	€350,000
Côte d'Ivoire	31.07.2024	Tuna	€682,000	€352,000 - €407,000
Equatorial Guinea	<i>Protocol expired on 30.06.2001</i>			
Gabon	28.06.2026	Tuna	€2,600,000	€1,000,000
Greenland	21.04.2025	Mixed	€13,590,754	€2,931,000
Guinea-Bissau	14.06.2024	Mixed	€15,600,000	€4,000,000
Kiribati	01.10.2028	Tuna	€760,000	€400,000
Liberia	<i>Protocol expired on 08.12.2020</i>			
Madagascar	30.06.2027	Tuna	€1,800,000	€1,100,000
Mauritania	15.11.2026	Mixed	€57,500,000 (access only)	€3,300,000 (entire period)
Mauritius	20.12.2026	Tuna	€725,000	€275,000
Micronesia	<i>Protocol expired on 24.02.2010</i>			
Morocco	<i>Protocol expired on 17.07.2023</i>			
Mozambique	<i>Protocol expired on 31.01.2015</i>			
São Tomé & Príncipe	18.12.2024	Tuna	€840,000	€440,000
Senegal	17.11.2024	Tuna + hake	€1,700,000	€900,000
Seychelles	23.02.2026	Tuna	€5,300,000	€2,800,000
Solomon Islands	<i>Protocol expired on 8.10.2012</i>			

Under these SFPAs, the EU fleet is given **access rights to the fisheries surplus in the partner country's EEZ**. The **financial terms** are based on fees from vessel owners and a sum paid by the EU composed of two distinct parts: **access rights** to the EEZ (70%) and **sectorial support** (30%) aiming to promote sustainable fisheries development in the partner countries.

Six protocols are about to expire in 2024 and will have to be assessed by the incoming PECH Committee. They concern the SFPAs with Cabo Verde (expires on 19.5.2024), Guinea-Bissau (14.6.2024), Ivory Coast (31.7.2024), Senegal (17.11.2024), Cook Islands (13.12.2024) and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (17.11.2024)¹⁹.

Regarding the **EU-Senegal SFPA**, the current protocol will expire on 17.11.2024, and its renewal will most likely be a challenging exercise. In the past two years a **dispute** arose over the 2019/2020 catch data and the late provision or **non-issuing of fishing licenses by Senegal**, which led to fierce protest and interventions by PECH Members in support of the affected EU fishers. A specific fact-finding **PECH mission to Dakar, Senegal** was organised in February 2022.

Overall, 12 files related to **tuna SFPAs** were treated during the 9th parliamentary term:

¹⁹ For an up to date overview on all Agreements with non-EU Member countries, see: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/search.html?CC_2_CODED=0420&qid=1396862205306&name=browse-by%3Alegislation-in-force&CC_1_COD=ED=04&displayProfile=allRelAllConsDocProfile&CC_3_CODED=042020&type=named&locale=en

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

- **5 files** related to agreements concluded with countries on the **western coast of Africa** (Cape Verde, Gabon, Gambia, Senegal, Sao Tomé).
- **3 files** related to countries in the **Pacific Ocean** (Cook Isl. (2 files) and Kiribati);
- **4 files** related to agreements concluded with countries in the **Indian Ocean** (Madagascar, Mauritius (2 files) and Seychelles).

		NUMBER OF SFPA FILES			
		7th term	8th term	9th term	
MIXED AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	1	1	3	
	Morocco	2	1	0	
	Guinea Bissau	2	2	1	
	Greenland	1	1	1	
	TOTAL MIXED AGREEMENTS	6	5	5	
TUNA AGREEMENTS	WEST AFRICA	Cape Verde	1	2	1
		Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	0
		Gabon	1	0	1
		Gambia	0	1	1
		Liberia	0	1	0
		Equatorial Guinea	Protocol expired on 30.06.2001		
		São Tomé and Príncipe	1	0	1
		Senegal		1	1
		TOTAL WEST AFRICA	4	6	5
	INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	2	1	0
		Madagascar	1	1	1
		Mauritius	1	1	2
		Mozambique	1	0	0
		Seychelles	2	0	1
		TOTAL INDIAN OCEAN	7	3	4
	PACIFIC OCEAN	Cook Islands	0	1	2
		Kiribati	1	0	1
		Micronesia	1	0	0
		Solomon Islands	1	0	0
TOTAL PACIFIC OCEAN		3	1	3	
TOTAL TUNA AGREEMENTS		14	10	12	
TOTAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS		20	15	17	

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

REPORTS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (TUNA)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Gambia and the Implementation Protocol thereto	NLE Report 2019/0076(NLE) CONS 08974/2019 A9-0026/2019 T9-0098/2019 Decision 2020/392	Carmen Gabriela Avram (S&D)	Completed CONS 17/06/2019 ATTR 23/07/2019 COMM 12/11/2019 PLEN 18/12/2019 CSL 05/03/2020
EU/ Cook Islands Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement: extension of the implementation Protocol	NLE Report 2020/0275(NLE) CONS 1162/2020 A9-0243/2020 T9-0343/2020 Decision 2021/113	François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed CONS 17/11/2020 ATTR 12/10/2020 COMM 03/12/2020 PLEN 15/12/2020 CSL 29/05/2020
Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union	NLE Report 2019/0226-M(NLE) CONS 13484/2019 A9-0180/2020 T9-0294/2020 Decision 2020/1786 (M-NLE)=with accompanying non-legislative resolution	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Completed CONS 11/11/2019 ATTR 12/11/2019 COMM 01/10/2020 PLEN 11/11/2020 CSL 01/12/2020
Conclusion of the Protocol (2021-2024) on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands	NLE Report 2021/0312(NLE) CONS 12640/2021 A9-0197/2022 T9-0272/2022 Decision 2022/1449	Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP)	Completed CONS 21/12/2021 ATTR 25/01/2022 COMM 14/06/2022 PLEN 05/07/2022 CSL 18/07/2022
Conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde (2019-2024)	NLE Report 2019/0078(NLE) CONS 08662/2019 A9-0024/2020 T9-0134/2020 Decision 2020/983	Claudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP)	Completed CONS 13/05/2019 ATTR 23/07/2019 COMM 19/02/2020 PLEN 17/06/2020 CSL 10/07/2020
Conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community	NLE Report 2019/0173(NLE) CONS 12199/2019 A9-0001/2020 T9-0138/2020 Decision 2020/985	Nuno Melo (EPP)	Completed CONS 14/10/2019 ATTR 24/09/2019 COMM 21/01/2020 PLEN 17/06/2020 CSL 10/07/2020
Conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles	NLE Report 2020/0002(NLE) CONS 05243/2020 A9-0185/2020 T9-0296/2020 Decision 2020/2000	Caroline Roose (Greens/EFA)	Completed CONS 16/02/2020 ATTR 20/02/2020 COMM 01/10/2020 PLEN 11/11/2020 CSL 08/12/2020
Conclusion of the Protocol implementing (for 2021-2026) the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Gabonese Republic and the European Community	NLE Report 2021/0127(NLE) CONS 09172/2021 A9-0316/2021 T9-0496/2021	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Completed CONS 21/06/2021 ATTR 25/05/2021 COMM 27/10/2021 PLEN 14/12/2021
EU/ Mauritius Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution 2017-2021. Extension of the Protocol	NLE Report 2022/0014(NLE) CONS 5657/2022 A9-0211/2022 T9-0305/2022 Decision 2022/1846	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Completed CONS 08/04/2022 ATTR 25/04/2022 COMM 12/07/2022 PLEN 13/09/2022 CSL 29/09/2022
Conclusion of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the	NLE Report 2022/0249(NLE) CONS 12787/2022 A9-0196/2023	François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed CONS 22/12/2022 ATTR 24/01/2023 COMM 24/05/2023

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

REPORTS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (TUNA)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026)	T9-0235/2023 Decision 2023/2593		PLEN 14/06/2023 CSL 12/07/2023
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar and its Implementing Protocol (2023-2027)	NLE Report 2023/0117(NLE) CONS 09525/2023 A9-0299/2023 T9-0393/2023 Decision 2024/198	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed CONS 30/06/2023 ATTR 24/05/2023 COMM 24/10/2023 PLEN 09/11/2023 CSL 11/12/2023
The Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Kiribati (2023-2028)	NLE Report 2023/0147(NLE) CONS 09862/2023 A9-0380/2022 T9-0452/2023 Decision 2024/396	João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)	Completed CONS 05/10/2023 ATTR 24/05/2023 COMM 29/11/2023 PLEN 12/12/2023 CSL 16/01/2024
(agreement related to Indian Ocean fisheries, not SFPA) Conclusion of an Agreement between the European union and the Republic of Seychelles on access for Seychelles fishing vessels to the waters of Mayotte	NLE Report 2022/0362(NLE) CONS 15048/2022 A9-0043/2024 T9-0111/2024	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Awaiting final decision CONS 15/03/2023 ATTR 29/11/2023 COMM 19/02/2024 PLEN 27/02/2024
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

REPORTS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (MIXED FISHERIES AGREEMENTS)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning the extension of 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 and expiring on 15 November 2019	NLE Report 2019/0210 (NLE) CONS 12928/2019 A9-0088/2020 T9-0064/2020 Decision 2020/742	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed CONS 04/11/2019 ATTR 12/11/2019 COMM 23/04/2020 PLEN 13/05/2020 CSL 29/05/2020
Conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the extension of 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 expiring on 15 November 2020	NLE Report 2020/0274(NLE) CONS 11260/2020 A9-0244/2020 T9-0342/2022 Decision 2021/99	Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP)	Completed CONS 19/11/2020 ATTR 10/20/2020 COMM 03/12/2020 PLEN 15/12/2020 CSL 25/01/2021

REPORTS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (MIXED FISHERIES AGREEMENTS)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024)	NLE Report 2019/0090M(NLE) CONS 08928/2019 A9-0012/2020 T9-0136/2020 Decision 2020/984 (M-NLE)=with accompanying non-legislative resolution	Joao Ferreira (The Left)	Completed CONS 02/06/2019 ATTR 23/07/2019 COMM 21/01/2020 PLEN 17/06/2020 CSL 10/07/2020
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, and the Implementation Protocol thereto	NLE Report 2021/0037M(NLE) CONS 6566/2021 A9-0233/2021 T9-0399/2021 (M-NLE)=with accompanying non-legislative resolution	Pierre Karleskind (Renew)	Completed CONS 18/03/2021 ATTR 22/02/2021 COMM 12/07/2021 PLEN 05/10/2021
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

The Northern Fisheries Cooperation

The fisheries relations of the EU with its **northern neighbours - Norway, Iceland** and the **Faroe Islands**, as well as with the **UK** - are regulated in a series of agreements.

With many of the targeted stocks shared across boundaries, it makes good sense for all five parties to coordinate their activities, especially as the different fleets are not necessarily interested in the same stocks. These agreements have as main purpose to define the management of joint stocks – quotas, technical measures, etc. – and not to give access to fishing opportunities as the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) that the EU has concluded with countries in other parts of the world.

In contrast with the SFPAs, the **framework agreements contain few precise provisions**; the **fishing opportunities** relative to the joint stocks and other aspects of the management are **decided through yearly negotiations** and set out in “**agreed records**” which are **not subject to the consent procedure**. As a consequence, the content of the agreed records is not directly subject to the scrutiny of Parliament, but also during the 9th parliamentary term, Parliament exercised influence over the **northern fisheries relations** by way of questions to the Commission, political statements and debates in Committee, inviting representatives of these countries.

The EU has **three fisheries agreements with Norway**²⁰, namely bilateral, trilateral and neighbouring agreements: The bilateral arrangement covers the North Sea and the Atlantic, the trilateral agreement covers Skagerrak and Kattegat (involving Denmark, Sweden and Norway) and the neighbourhood arrangement grants Swedish vessels access to Norwegian waters in the North Sea.

²⁰ See: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/northern-agreements_en#norway

Fisheries relations with **Norway** have become **more complicated since Brexit**, as the loss of EU territorial waters in the North Sea and North Atlantic modified the balance of power in these waters, weakening the EU's negotiating position. Norway was repeatedly criticized in PECH Committee for unilateral measures, restrictions in the access to Norwegian waters (including Svalbard) for EU vessels and discriminating technical measures etc. At the same time, Norway claims free access to EU waters for blue whiting stocks and to the EU market for its huge salmon aquaculture production.

The agreement with **Iceland** is "dormant", as no bilateral fisheries arrangements have been agreed since 2008²¹.

The agreement with the **Faroe Islands**, in force since 1990, was tacitly extended since 2012 for periods of 6 years, unless a notice of termination (9 months) is given.

The **United Kingdom** and the EU have concluded a **Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)**, applicable from **1 January 2021**. Cooperation under the TCA also includes fisheries (**TCA Heading Five: Fisheries**). Both parties exercise coastal state rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the living marine resources in their waters.

For further information, see the **chapter on Brexit**.

4.3 The Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO)

Regional fisheries management organisations are international bodies tasked with managing fish resources both in exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and on the high seas. Their powers are primarily in the area of **management** to set **catch** and **fishing effort limits**, establish **technical measures**, and **control obligations**.

Their purpose is to **strengthen regional cooperation** to promote the **conservation and sustainable exploitation** of **fish resources** on high seas and of straddling stocks. Importantly, they are also aimed at **deterring IUU fishing practices**.

Regional fisheries management organisations come in **various forms**; some were set up under the auspices of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and others independently; some manage biological resources in a certain zone, while others focus on a stock or groups of stocks. Some apply only to the high seas, or to exclusive economic zones, or to both.

The main RFMOs focus either on **geographical scope** or on regulating fishing for a particular **group of species** (highly migratory species – mostly tuna), while some RFMOs have a purely advisory role. RFMOs generally set up commissions responsible for scientific research, publication of results and recommendations for managing stocks. These may remain as recommendations or become mandatory if no objections are made within a certain period. They generally act in the following ways:

- **limiting catches** by a global quota or national quotas;
- introducing **prohibited zones or periods**;
- banning or regulating **fishing gear**.

RFMOs are also active in establishing measures for the **control** and **monitoring** of **fishing activities**, such as the adoption of joint inspection schemes in the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NAFO) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

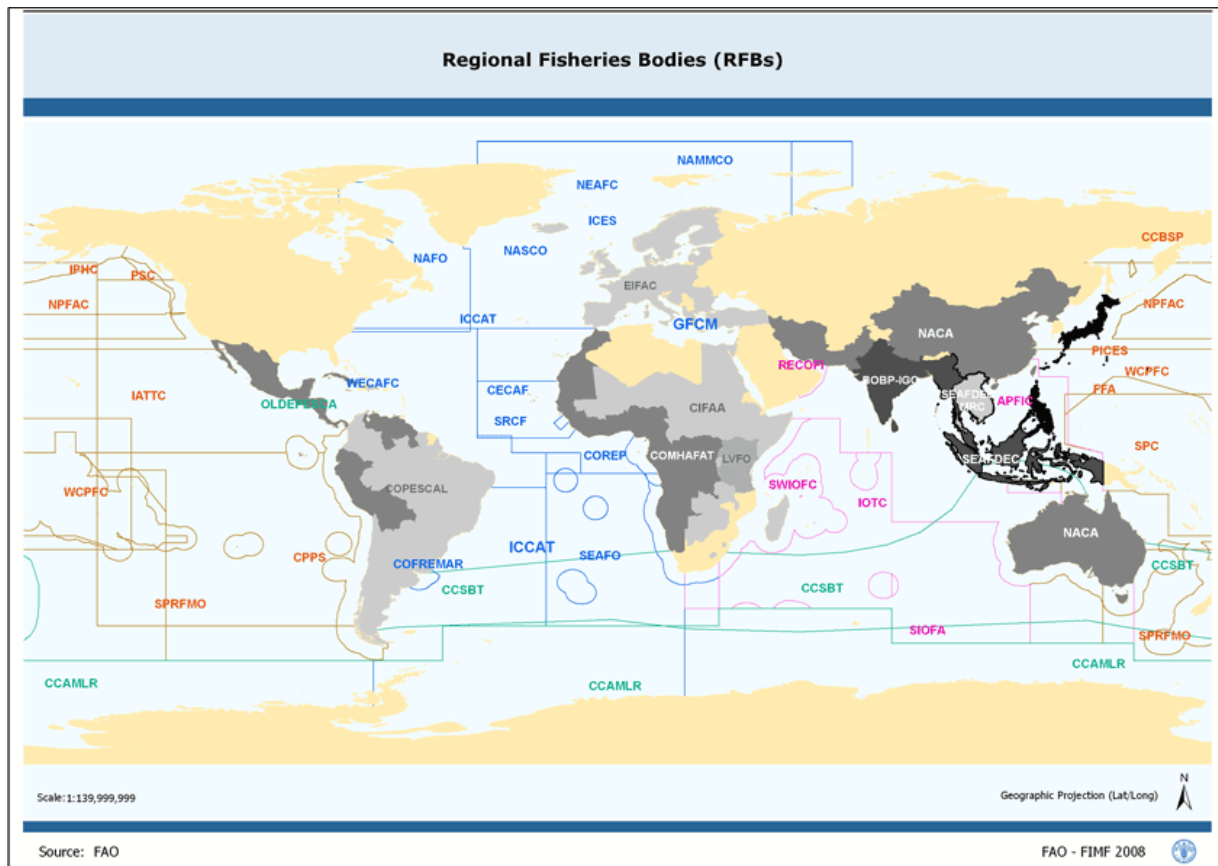
²¹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/northern-agreements_en#iceland

The **EU** is a **member of and contracting** party in many RFMOs, *inter alia*: **NAFO** (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation), **NEAFC** (North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission), **NASCO** (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation), **ICCAT** (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas), **IOTC** (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission), **GFCM** (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean), **WCPFC** (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission), **IATTC** (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission), **CCAMLR** (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), etc.

Regarding new accessions to RFMOs during the 9th term, on 15 February 2022, Parliament gave its consent for the **EU's accession** to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the **North Pacific Ocean (NPFAC)**.

One year later, on 15 February 2023, Parliament gave its consent to authorise Poland to ratify an amendment to the **Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CCBSP)**. The purpose of this amendment was to allow for a later EU accession, as so far only Poland was a Contracting Party to this Convention.

For a full updated map on RFMOs: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2771/073752>



During the 9th parliamentary term the PECH Committee regularly delivered resolutions on the **transposition into EU law** of various **decisions** and **recommendations taken within regional fisheries organisations**.

The Commission's **delay in submitting to Parliament proposals for transposition** of RFMOs recommendations continues to be an issue. As a consequence, PECH may have to deliver its report within very tight deadlines or in other cases the transposition may appear long outdated, referring to RFMO decisions taken several years back.

Quite exceptionally, following the rejection vote in PECH Committee in May 2023, on 11.07.2023 Parliament **broadly rejected** (48 votes to 585, with 6 abstentions) the proposal for a Regulation laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)** and invited the Commission to withdraw its proposal.

The PECH rejection was mainly motivated by concerns that the Commission proposal introduced **dynamic references in EU law as an instrument to swiftly implement SIOFA rules**. However, according to the Treaties and the case law of the Court of Justice²², where EU law seeks to impose obligations on individuals, such as operators, they must be able to acquaint themselves with the full scope and content of those obligations in their own language, which would include publication in the Official Journal.

For **delegated acts** related to **control, monitoring** and **enforcement schemes** adopted in the RFMOs, see the chapter on “Delegated acts”.

REPORTS RELATED TO THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS (RFMOs)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	NLE Report 2019/0225(NLE) CONS 13447/2019 A9-0089/2020 T9-0063/2020 Decision 2020/765	Rosanna Conte (ID)	Completed CONS 11/11/2019 ATTR 12/11/2019 COMM 23/04/2020 PLEN 13/05/2020 CSL 29/05/2020
Proposal for a Regulation laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (IATTC) area and amending Council Regulation (EU) No 520/2007	COD Report 2020/0139(COD) COM(2020)0308 A9-0231/2020 T9-0340/2021 Regulation 2021/56	João Ferreira (The Left)	Completed COM 14/07/2020 ATTR 12/10/2020 COMM 16/11/20 PLEN 15/12/2020 CSL 13/01/2021
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) Area: conservation and management measures	COD Report 2021/0103(COD) COM(2021)0198 A9-0009/2022 T9-0313/2022 Regulation 2022/2056	Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	Completed COM 23/04/2021 ATTR 10/05/2021 COMM 25/01/22 PLEN 13/09/2022 CSL 04/10/2022
Conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	COD Report 2022/0035(COD) COM(2022)0051 A9-0198/2022 T9-0312/2022 Regulation 2022/2037	Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	Completed COM 16/02/2022 ATTR 16/03/2022 COMM 20/06/22 PLEN 13/09/2022 CSL 04/10/2022
Management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence	COD Report 2021/0058(COD) COM(2021)0113 A9-0312/2021 T9-0336/2022 Regulation 2022/2343	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed COM 11/03/2021 ATTR 13/04/2021 COMM 28/10/21 PLEN 04/10/2022 CSL 24/10/2022
Laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Area covered under the Southern	COD Report 2022/0348(COD) COM(2022)056 A9-0192/2023	João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)	Rejected COM 04/11/2022 ATTR 01/12/2022

²² See judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 11 December 2007, in case C-161/06, Skoma-lux, paragraph 38

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

REPORTS RELATED TO THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS (RFMOs)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	T9-0265/2023		COMM 24/05/23 PLEN 11/07/2023
Amending the Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	COD Report 2020/0095(COD) COM(2020)0215 A9-0220/2020 T9-0301/2021 Regulation 2021/1231	Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	Completed COM 29/05/2020 ATTR 12/06/2020 COMM 16/11/20 PLEN 23/06/2021 CSL 13/09/2023
Certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area (recast)	COD Report 2021/0248(COD) COM(2021)0434 A9-0136/2022 T9-0274/2023 Regulation 2023/2124	Ladislav Iličić (ECR)	Completed COM 23/04/2021 ATTR 27/09/2021 COMM 25/04/22 PLEN 12/07/2023 CSL 18/09/2023
Laying down conservation, management and control measures applicable in the area covered by the Convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-East Atlantic fisheries (NEAFC) , amending Reg. 2019/1241 and Council Regulation No 1224/2009, and repealing Council Regulation 1899/85 and Regulation 1236/2010	COD Report 2023/0206(COD) COM(2023)0362	Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA)	Completed COM 30/06/2023 ATTR 20/09/2023 COMM 23/01/24 PLEN: April I CSL: tbc
Amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	COD Report 2023/0056(COD) COM(2023)108 A9-0279/2023 T9-0391/2023 Regulation 2023/2857	Grace O'Sullivan (Greens/EFA)	Completed COM 03/03/2023 ATTR 28/03/2023 COMM 20/09/23 PLEN 09/11/2023 CSL 27/11/2023
Regulation establishing a catch documentation programme for Bluefin tuna and repealing Regulation 640/2010 (concerns ICCAT)	COD Report 2020/0302(COD) COM(2020)0670 A9-0272/2021 T9-0227/2021 Regulation 2023/2833	Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed COM 27/10/2020 ATTR 10/05/2021 COMM 21/11/23 PLEN 21/11/2023 CSL 08/12/2023
Amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Regulation (EU) .../2022 establishing a multiannual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean	COD Report 2022/0111(COD) COM(2022)0171 A9-0301/2023	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed COM 21/04/2022 ATTR 11/05/2022 COMM 24/10/23 PLEN 06/02/2024

REPORTS RELATED TO THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS (RFMOs)			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Multiannual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EU) No 2017/2107, (EU) No 2019/[NAFO], (EU) No 1936/2001, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627	COD Report 2019/0272(COD) COM(2019)0619 A9-0243/2023 T9-0297/2023 Regulation 2023/2053	Giuseppe Ferrandino (S&D) & Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed COM 28/11/2019 ATTR 11/05/2022 COMM 03/09/20 PLEN 12/09/2023 CSL 13/09/2023
Accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean	NLE Report 2021/0184(NLE) CONS 12617/2021 A9-0008/2022 T9-0020/2022 Decision 2022/314	Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)	Completed CONS 18/11/2021 ATTR 30/11/2021 COMM 25/01/22 PLEN 15/02/2022 CSL 15/02/2022
Authorising the Republic of Poland to ratify, in the interest of the European Union, the amendment to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea	NLE Report 2022/0177(NLE) CONS 10918/2022 A9-0007/2023 T9-0042/2023	Elżbieta Rafalska (ECR)	Completed CONS 01/08/2022 ATTR 12/07/2022 COMM 24/01/23 PLEN 15/02/2023
Role of cohesion policy in addressing multidimensional environmental challenges in the Mediterranean basin (GFCM-related)	INI Opinion 2022/2059(INI) A9-0094/2023 T9-0133/2023	Nora Mebarek (S&D)	Completed ATTR 12/07/2022 COMM 01/03/23 PLEN 09/05/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

The most important RFMOs for the EU fishing fleets are **ICCAT, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas** and **GFCM, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean**.

PECH Committee dealt with in total 11 legislative files referring to ICCAT. In May 2020, Parliament gave its consent to amend the ICCAT Protocol, in order to expand ICCAT's scope to manage shark fisheries and modernise its decision-making procedures.

The Regulation establishing an EU Bluefin tuna catch documentation programme (2020/0302(COD)) implements the Bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme adopted by ICCAT, and the mandatory use of the electronic BCD (eBCD) system, to identify the origin of all Bluefin tuna caught and support ICCAT's conservation and management measures.

Note that Members of the PECH Committee, after the COVID-19 period, resumed their participation at the **ICCAT** and **GFCM Annual meetings** in 2022 and 2023.

4.4 Combatting IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing

IUU fishing has very negative worldwide environmental and socio-economic impacts. It also constitutes one of the **most serious threats to the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources and marine biodiversity** and damages the marine environment by overfishing and irresponsible fishing practices and techniques. Developing countries pay a particular high price to this scourge due to lack of resources to control their waters. Many of their coastal communities are also solely dependent on fisheries for their livelihood. The depletion of fish stocks and future stock growth reduces the size and quality of catches, which, in turn contributes to lower profitability and eventually job losses, affecting not only the fishing and processing sector but also related industries. IUU fishing also contributes to unfair competition between those fishers and operators abiding by the rules, and those who do not²³.

It is difficult to estimate the extent of **IUU fishing and its economic value**. But the European Union being the **largest importer of fishery products in the world**, it represents a **potentially lucrative target for IUU operators**²⁴. The strong EU demand for high-value seafood products would - in absence of sound control mechanisms - allow illegally caught fish & seafood to end up easily on EU markets, hence the need for traceability and identification of fishing vessels and their catches.

Combatting IUU fishing has therefore become a priority for the European Union to achieve sustainable management of global fisheries and protect its consumers from illegally caught fish. The root cause of IUU fishing lies in many cases third countries' failure to discipline and monitor vessels operating under their flag or in their waters. Tackling this phenomenon requires a global, multi-sided approach and involves a whole range of international instruments tailored for countries to monitor their fishing vessels (as flag states), their waters (as coastal states), access to their ports (as port states), and access to their market (as market states).

In response to this global problem, the EU has set up a thorough control system, in particular the **IUU Regulation 1005/2008**, which remains a landmark piece of fisheries legislation worldwide. Intended to prevent the import of IUU-caught products into the EU, the IUU Regulation is structured around market-related measures, such as a catch certification scheme, which was the first unilateral scheme of this type, and a 'carding' system for non-cooperating third countries that may lead to trade sanctions. A broad range of complementary measures reinforces this approach. Action to combat IUU fishing is now a key topic on the EU international ocean governance agenda²⁵.

The **IUU Regulation**²⁶ is the outcome of a long row of activities by the European Commission in the fight against IUU fishing²⁷. Its key components are market-related measures: a **catch certification** scheme, intended to allow only fish certified as legal onto

²³ See: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing_en#eu-rules-to-combat-iuu-fishing

²⁴ The EU is the leading trader of fisheries and aquaculture products in the world in terms of value. EU trade (i.e. imports and exports) has increased over the past few years, reaching €31.2 billion in 2020. Norway, the United Kingdom, China, Morocco and Ecuador are the EU's main suppliers: see https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-common-fisheries-policy/external-trade_en

²⁵ A comprehensive overview: "Briefing – 'Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing', European Parliament, Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services, 14 October 2022":

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/614598/EPRS_BRI\(2017\)614598_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/614598/EPRS_BRI(2017)614598_EN.pdf)

²⁶ See the most recent version: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R1005>

²⁷ The main thrust of its policy stems from the European Commission's **2002 IUU Action Plan**, directly inspired by the **FAO International Plan of Action adopted in 2001** to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. In **2007** the Commission elaborated a strategy to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Its instrument is the above IUU Regulation, joining the Control Regulation and the Fishing Authorisation Regulation to form a comprehensive control package covering Member States' responsibilities in each of their roles as flag, coastal, port and market states

the EU market, and a **procedure for third countries considered uncooperative**, which may lead to trade-restrictive measures.

The IUU Regulation sets up a **multiple-step procedure** to deal with non-cooperating third countries. As a first step, the European Commission identifies countries that fail to take action against IUU fishing, and initiates a dialogue with each of them. In most cases, the bilateral discussions result in improved governance of the third country's fisheries, in particular as regards revised legislation, strengthened monitoring, control and surveillance. If the dialogue does not resolve the shortcomings, the Commission notifies the third country of the risk of being identified as a "non-cooperating country" in the fight against IUU fishing. This notification, known as "**pre-identification**", or "**yellow card**", and the reasons for it, are announced publicly. The Commission proposes tailored measures, which the third country is expected to address by a specified deadline. If pre-identified countries make progress in line with the proposed measures and more time is needed to conclude the reforms, the yellow card status may be extended.

In cases where the pre-identified country fails to resolve its IUU fishing issues, the Commission identifies it as a non-cooperating country, in what is called the "**identification**" step, or "**red card**", and proposes placing the country on the list of non-cooperating countries to the Council. **The "red card" listing involves trade restrictive measures**, such as the prohibition of imports of fishery products from the country, associated with the prohibition of EU vessels to operate in its waters.

Dialogue with the third country remains open throughout the procedure. When a pre-identified, identified or listed country makes progress in resolving EU concerns, the Commission proposes **delisting the country** ("green card").

As of 10 January 2026, through the recent revision of the IUU Regulation under Article 4 of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation²⁸, the use of "CATCH" will become compulsory for EU operators for imports of fishery products. CATCH is the first IT tool to streamline checks and verifications of catch certificates for fishery products entering the EU market.

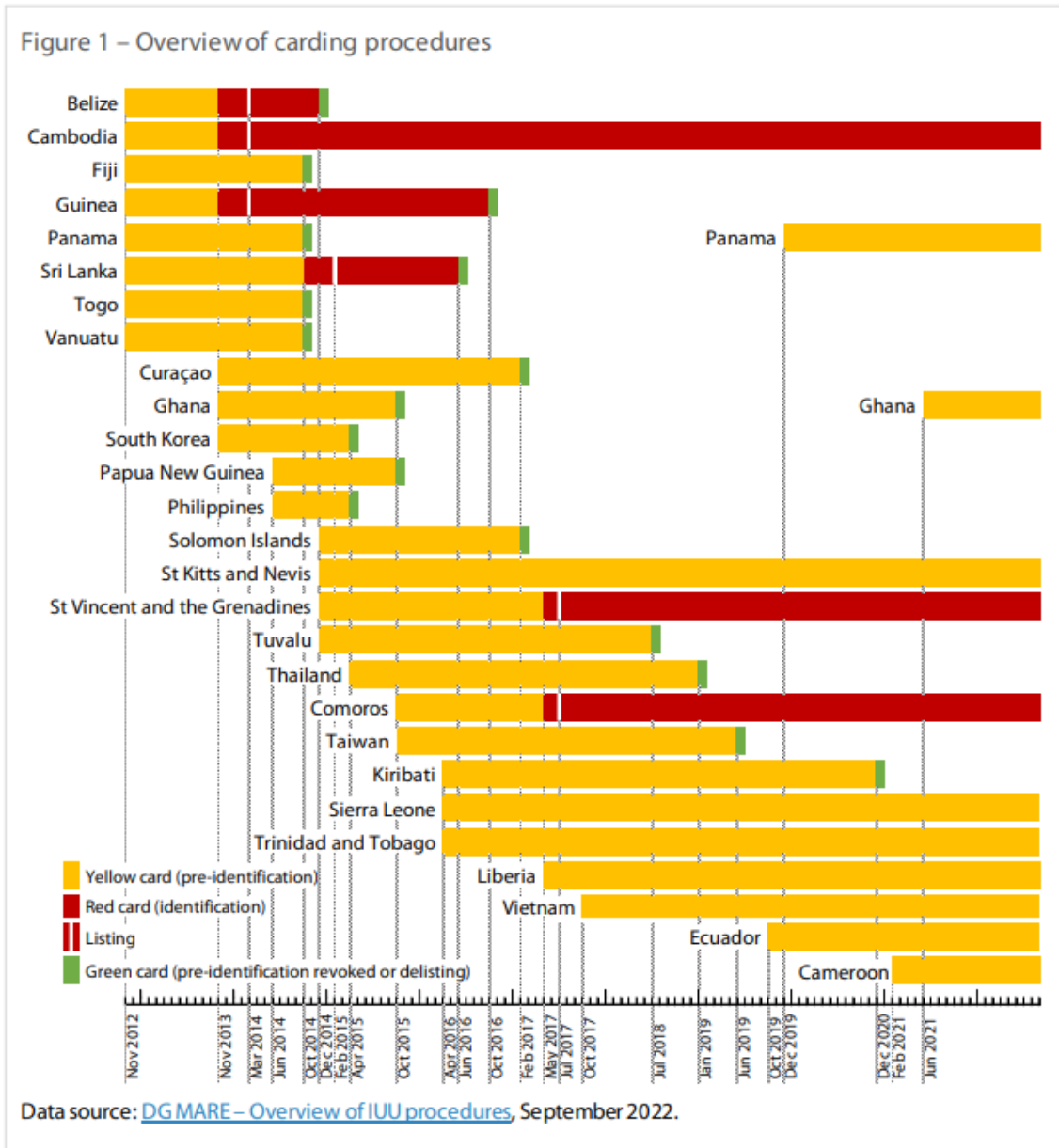
The EU officially became a member to the **IUU Fishing Action Alliance** in March 2023, during the "Our Ocean Conference" in Panama. The IUU Fishing Action Alliance Pledge is a **political declaration** in support of the international fight against IUU fishing, urging all flag States to effectively control and regulate their fishing. The EU supports the main objectives of this Alliance through the IUU Regulation, the EU Catch Certification Scheme, and via "IUU dialogues" with third countries, actions on international ocean governance, maritime safety and labour conditions²⁹.

²⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842>

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing_en

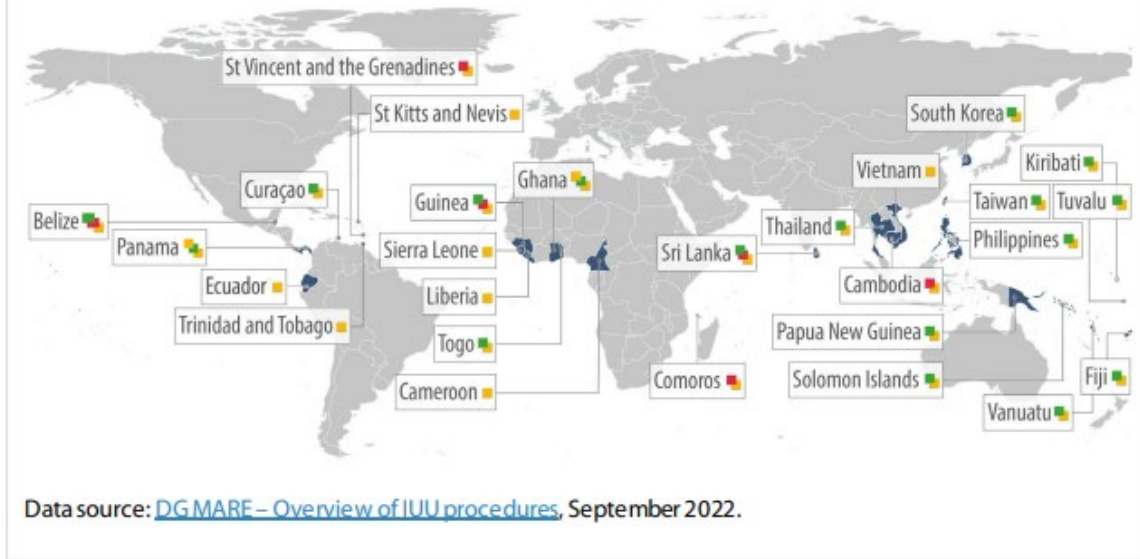
²⁹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing_en

Overview of IUU procedures³⁰ :



³⁰ Source: European Commission: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/illegal-fishing-overview-of-existing-procedures-third-countries_en.pdf

Figure 2 – Location of the countries pre-identified and identified as non-cooperating



Country	Pre-Identification	Pre-Identification Revoked	Identification	Listing	Delisting
Belize	November 2012	N/A	November 2013	March 2014	December 2014
Cambodia	November 2012	N/A	November 2013	March 2014	
Cameroon	February 2021	N/A	January 2023	February 2023	
Comoros	October 2015	N/A	May 2017	July 2017	
Curaçao	November 2013	February 2017			
Ecuador	October 2019				
Fiji	November 2012	October 2014			
Ghana	1. November 2013 2. June 2021	October 2015			
Kiribati	April 2016	December 2020			
Korea	November 2013	April 2015			
Liberia	May 2017				
Panama	1. November 2012 2. December 2019	October 2014			
Papua New Guinea	June 2014	October 2015			
Philippines	June 2014	April 2015			
Republic of Guinea	November 2012	N/A	November 2013	March 2014	October 2016
Sierra Leone	April 2016				
Solomon Islands	December 2014	February 2017			

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

Sri Lanka	November 2012	N/A	October 2014	February 2015	June 2016
St Kitts & Nevis	December 2014				
St. Vincent & Grenadines	December 2014	N/A	May 2017	July 2017	
Taiwan	October 2015	June 2019			
Thailand	April 2015	January 2019			
Togo	November 2012	October 2014			
Trinidad & Tobago	April 2016	N/A	September 2023	November 2023	
Tuvalu	December 2014	July 2018			
Vanuatu	November 2012	October 2014			
Vietnam	October 2017				

During the 9th parliamentary term, the **PECH Committee** referred to the matter of IUU fishing on a regular basis, both with **own-initiative reports**, **regular debriefings** by DG MARE and **fact-finding missions** to the concerned countries (in 8th term: Thailand and Vietnam; in 9th term: Ecuador). The following files serve as an example:

- 17.10.2023, Own-initiative report on “The implications of Chinese fishing operations on EU fisheries and the way forward”, **2022/2148(INI)**;
- 18.10.2024: Own-initiative report on “The impact of illegal fishing on food security – the role of the European Union”, **2023/2027(INI)**;
- 12.02.2020: Opinion on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam, **2018/0356M(NLE)**, where PECH asked for continuous monitoring of Vietnam’s efforts within the “yellow card” procedure and to include safeguard measures such as the possibility of suspending preferential tariffs until the yellow card for IUU fishing has been lifted.
- 06.10.2022: Resolution on momentum for the ocean: strengthening ocean governance and biodiversity, **2022/2836(RSP)**, which called on the Member States to improve the implementation of the IUU Regulation and apply dissuasive sanctions against illegal fishing;

There is also a **link between forced labour abuses in fisheries and IUU fishing**, since the lack of transparency and controls inherent in IUU fishing facilitates the exploitation of forced labour, as highlighted in a PECH opinion **2022/0269(COD)** to a report on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market.

REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO IUU FISHING			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea	INI Report 2019/2159(INI) A9-0170/2021 T9-0307/2021	Ivo Hristov (S&D)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 10/05/2021 PLEN 23/06/2021
Implications of Chinese fishing operations for EU fisheries and the way forward	INI Report 2023/2148(INI) A9-0282/2023 T9-0366/2023	Pierre Karleskind (Renew)	Completed ATTR 14/06/22 COMM 20/09/22 PLEN 17/10/22

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO IUU FISHING			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Impact of illegal fishing on food security – the role of the European Union	INI Report 2023/2027(INI) A9-0433/2023 T9-0043/2024	Nuno Melo (EPP)	Completed ATTR 24/01/2023 COMM 07/12/2023 PLEN 18/01/2024
Prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market	COD Opinion 2022/0269(COD) COM(2022)0453 A9-0306/2023	Rosa D'Amato (Greens/EFA)	Awaiting EP position in 1st reading COM 14/09/2022 ATTR 01/12/2022 COMM 18/07/2023
Conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	NLE Opinion 2018/M/0356(NLE) CONS 06050/2019 A9-0003/2020 T9-0026/2020 Decision 2020/753	Pietro Bartolo (S&D)	Completed CONS 13/06/2019 ATTR 23/07/2019 COMM 03/12/2019 PLEN 12/02/2020 CSL 12/03/2020
<p>(*) COM: Commission proposal date ATTR: Report attribution date COMM: Committee Vote Date PLEN: Plenary Vote Date CSL: Council decision date</p>			

5 Brexit and Fisheries

- Throughout the 9th Parliamentary term, and in particular with the effective departure of the UK from the EU on the evening of 31 January 2020, **Brexit** has been high on the Committee on Fisheries' agenda.
- The Committee on Fisheries dealt with **five legislative (codecision) files and one "consent" (NLE) procedure**. Due to the political difficulties surrounding the UK withdrawal and the establishment of a new relationship between the Union and the UK, the majority of these files (Brexit Contingency measures, conclusion of the new Trade and Cooperation Agreement, implementation measures of the Windsor Framework) were dealt with **under some form of accelerated mode**.
- PECH was also deeply involved, for opinion or on its own, in **three INI reports** about the **fisheries aspects** of the **post-Brexit relationship with the UK**.
- Notwithstanding legislative and non-legislative files, a significant part of the **scrutiny work by PECH** was dedicated to pre- and post-Brexit fisheries related issues. Thus, at least one Brexit related item was part of the agenda in **31 out of the 81** ordinary and extraordinary PECH meetings that took place during the 9th term.
- The Brexit also changed the equilibrium between EU and other coastal states in the North Sea, and in the NE-Atlantic more widely. It therefore also triggered more **scrutiny on fisheries relations with other "Nordic" coastal states** (Norway, Faroes, Iceland).

5.1 General overview

The **PECH work on pre-Brexit and post-Brexit** related issues occupied PECH Members **all along the 9th term**, by **following the political developments surrounding the "divorce"** and the implementation of **a new relationship between the EU and the UK**.

After the UK referendum of 23 June 2016, the UK formally notified on 29 March 2017 its intention to withdraw from the EU. The Brexit was originally scheduled for 29 March 2019. However, because of political deadlocks in the UK, the EU accepted three successive requests for postponements of the actual Brexit date, first to 12 April 2019, then 31 October 2019, and last to **31 January 2020**.

The 9th term hence **started with the UK still being a full Member of the EU**, in a context of high uncertainty regarding the Brexit modalities. A withdrawal agreement could finally be ratified in the very last days of January 2020 (just before the ultimate, and no-more renegotiable, last Brexit-extension deadline), allowing for an "orderly" **leave of the UK from the EU on 31 January 2020 at midnight (11.00 p.m. GMT)**. This date also meant British MEPs leaving the European Parliament, with associated changes in the composition of the EP and the PECH Committee, which had been chaired until then by Chris Davies, a UK Member.

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

To prevent brutal disruption at all levels, this Brexit date was followed by a **“transition period”, to end on 31 December 2020**, during which the UK remained subject to EU law without taking part anymore to EU decisions. Dedicated to the negotiation of the future EU-UK relationship, this transition period was also a period of high uncertainty.

The difficult negotiations on a new relationship in numerous sectors between the EU and the UK could find a positive outcome in the **very last days of December 2020**, particularly in the form of **a new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)**. After the conclusion of this TCA in early 2021, continued focus was given to its actual implementation), including to some adjustments thereof (cf. the “Windsor Framework” negotiated later to ease exchanges between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland).

The involvement of the Committee on Fisheries on Brexit-related issues during the 9th term thus concretised into **five normal legislative files (COD)**, **one consent procedure (NLE)** and **three own initiative reports (INI)**; one of which being an implementation report). It also led to a **very intense scrutiny work** by MEPs in 31 out of the 80 ordinary and extraordinary PECH Committee meetings during this period.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO BREXIT			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Fishing authorisations for Union vessels in UK waters and fishing operations of UK fishing vessels in Union waters	COD Report 2019/0187(COD) COM(2019)0398 A9-0014/2019 T9-0035/2019 Regulation 2019/1797	Chris Davies (Chair - Renew)	Completed COM 04/09/2019 ATTR 02/10/2019 COMM 02/10/2019 PLEN 22/10/2019 CSL 24/10/2019
Fishing authorisations for Union vessels in UK waters and fishing operations of UK fishing vessels in Union waters	COD (without Report) 2020/0366(COD) COM(2020)0830 Regulation 2020/2227	Urgent procedure (Rule 163) requested by PECH	Completed COM 10/12/2020 PECH request for urgent procedure 12/12/2020 PLEN 18/12/2020 CSL 23/12/2020
Brexit Adjustment Reserve	COD Opinion 2020/0380(COD) COM(2020)0854 A9-0178/2021 T9-03723/2021 Regulation 2021/1755	François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed COM 25/12/2020 ATTR 25/01/2021 COMM 10/05/2021 PLEN 15/09/2021 CSL 28/09/2021
Laying down rules for the exercise of the Union's rights in the implementation and enforcement of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom... from the European Union ...and of the [EU-UK] Trade and Cooperation Agreement	COD Opinion 2022/0068(COD) COM(2022)0089 A9-0248/2022 T9-0032/2023 Regulation 2023/657	Pierre Karleskind (Chair - Renew) & François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed COM 11/03/2022 ATTR 25/04/2022 COMM 01/09/2022 PLEN 14/02/2023 CSL 07/03/2023

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO BREXIT			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Specific rules relating to the entry into Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom of certain consignments of retail goods, plants for planting, seed potatoes, machinery and certain vehicles operated for agricultural or forestry purposes, as well as non-commercial movements of certain pet animals into Northern Ireland	COD opinion 2023/0062(COD) COM(2023)0124 A9-0168/2023 T9-0123/2023 Regulation 2023/1231	Pierre Karleskind (Chair - Renew)	Completed COM 27/02/2023 ATTR 28/03/2023 COMM 26/04/2023 PLEN 09/05/2023 CSL 01/06/2023

CONSENT PROCEDURE (NLE) RELATED TO THE EU-UK TCA MIXED FISHERIES AGREEMENTS			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
EU/Euratom/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and EU/UK Agreement concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information	NLE opinion 2020/0382(NLE) CONS 05022/2021 A9-0128/2021 T9-0140/2021 Decision 2021/689	François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed CONS 09/02/2021 ATTR 12/01/2021 COMM 02/02/2021 PLEN 28/04/2021 CSL 29/04/2021

OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO THE EU-UK TCA			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	INI Opinion 2020/2023(INI) A9-0117/2020 T9-0152/2020	François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP)	Completed ATTR 03/02/2020 COMM 25/05/2020 PLEN 18/06/2020
The future of fisheries in the Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean in the light of the UK's withdrawal from the EU	INI Report 2021/2016(INI) A9-0042/2022 T9-0103/2022	Manuel Pizarro (S&D)	Completed ATTR 01/02/2021 COMM 03/03/2022 PLEN 05/04/2022
Implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement	INI Opinion 2022/2188(INI) A9-0331/2023 T9-0436/2023	João Albuquerque (S&D)	Completed ATTR 01/12/2022 COMM 27/06/2023 PLEN 23/11/2023

(*) **COM**: Commission proposal date || **ATTR**: Report attribution date || **COMM**: PECH Committee adoption date || **PLEN**: Plenary adoption date

5.2 Pre-Brexit period in fisheries

In the absence of common arrangements on the Brexit, EU fishing vessels were to lose their access and fishing rights in the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, with a very significant negative impact on numerous EU fleets. Similarly, British fishing vessels would not have access to EU waters anymore from day one of a no-deal Brexit.

To prepare for a no-deal Brexit, the European Parliament and the Council had already adopted, before the end of the 8th term in March 2019, some temporary amendments to the SMEFF regulation³¹. These amendments, applicable until end of 2019 only, aimed at establishing simplified and faster procedures for authorisations for EU vessels entering United Kingdom waters, and for UK vessels wanting to fish in EU waters (should reciprocal access rights to waters be set). These amendments also provided for possible continuation of quotas exchanges with the United Kingdom.

- **Brexit contingency measures - 2019/0187(COD)**

In early September 2019, the Commission tabled new **Brexit contingency measures on fishing authorisations for Union vessels in UK waters and fishing operations of UK fishing vessels in Union waters** (file 2019/0187(COD)). The proposal, presented in PECH on 24 September, aimed at extending, for the year 2020, the temporary arrangements to the SMEFF regulation that could facilitate the reciprocal access of EU vessels to UK waters and vice-versa in case of a no-deal Brexit. Considering the tight timeframe, the **PECH Committee** voted (with the sole objection of the two NA Members from the Brexit Party) on the **adoption of this proposal through a simplified procedure without amendment in accordance with Rule 52(1)**, mandating the PECH chair to submit a report in this regard to the next Plenary. Council adopted the corresponding Regulation³² on 24 October, two days after the EP first reading vote.

5.3 Transition period - towards a new relationship

The conclusion of the Withdrawal Agreement (WA)³³ allowed establishing the terms of an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU, and the opening of the negotiations on a new future relationship. Fisheries had been since long a conflictual and politically highly sensitive issue in the pre-Brexit process, and so it remained in the post-Brexit times. During the **transition period** that followed (**1 February 2020 until 31 December 2020**), PECH dealt with **several fisheries and Brexit related files**, focusing its concerns on the impacts of Brexit on EU operators in the fish sector and on the perspectives of reaching a satisfactory agreement on fisheries.

It needs to be reminded that parliamentary activities were made much more difficult at that time, as it **coincided with the outbreak of the Covid pandemic**, requiring the urgent need for developing - with success - new ways of working and special procedures for remote multilingual meetings and voting procedures.

- **Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the UK - 2020/2023(INI)**

³¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/498 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2019 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 as regards fishing authorisations for Union fishing vessels in United Kingdom waters and fishing operations of United Kingdom fishing vessels in Union waters

³² Regulation (EU) 2019/1797 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2019 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 as regards fishing authorisations for Union fishing vessels in United Kingdom waters and fishing operations of United Kingdom fishing vessels in Union waters

³³ Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community - file 2018/0427(NLE), to which PECH did not need to be specifically involved in

The more politically prominent file during 2020 was the negotiation, by the special "UK task force" of the European Commission, of a new relationship between the EU and the UK. Considering the importance of this negotiation, it was of absolute priority for the EP to be timely informed and deeply involved in the process.

Under a tight timeframe, PECH adopted in May 2020 its key political lines regarding the negotiations on EU-UK fisheries, for their inclusion within the EP **recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the UK**, just ahead of the European Council of June 2020 (file 2020/2023(INI)). The EP reaffirmed an overall principle of these negotiations, i.e. that the EU would "*not agree to a deal at any cost*", and that "*no trade agreement can be concluded between the EU and the UK if it does not include a complete, sustainable, balanced and long-term fisheries agreement, upholding the continuation under optimal conditions of existing access to waters, resources and markets in accordance with common fisheries policy principles and adopted before the end of the transition period*".

- **New Brexit contingency measures - 2020/0366(COD)**

The EU-UK negotiations continued to be particularly difficult and tense all year long, especially as regard the fisheries issues. Under these circumstances, the Commission tabled on 10 December 2020 a new proposal for "**no-deal contingency measures regarding fishing authorisations for Union vessels in UK waters and fishing operations of UK fishing vessels in Union waters**" (file 2020/0366(COD)). The proposal consisted in amending the framework of the SMEFF regulation for a possible eased reciprocal access of EU and UK vessels to each other's waters after 31 December 2020. Such changes, to be applicable until 31 December 2021, or until the date of conclusion of a fisheries agreement with the United Kingdom - whichever would be earlier, were discussed in PECH on 16 December 2020, where Members notably complained about the late submission of this contingency measure by the Commission. As these measures had to enter into force on 1st January in case of no-deal, the PECH Coordinators had already agreed at unanimity to request the **urgent procedure under Rule 163** to have the file dealt with directly in the December Plenary. In close coordination with the Council, the corresponding regulation was adopted on 23 December 2020³⁴.

- **PECH scrutiny work**

Brexit related issues were **at the agenda of four out of the 17 PECH meetings in 2020**. Besides work on the above formal files, PECH scrutiny work on fisheries and Brexit related issues included in-camera exchanges of views with the UK task force, or early debates with the Commission on the prospect of the announced, but still awaited, proposal to concretise the Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Finally, on 24 December 2020, the EU and UK negotiators reached a draft agreement. On 29 December, the Council adopted the decision on the signing of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and its provisional application as of 1 January 2021 (pending the consent of the European Parliament and subsequent conclusion by the Council). The agreement was signed by the two parties on 30 December 2020.

5.4 Post-2021: Implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

- **Conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement - 2020/0382(NLE)**

³⁴ Regulation (EU) 2020/2227 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 as regards fishing authorisations for Union fishing vessels in United Kingdom waters and fishing operations of United Kingdom fishing vessels in Union waters

The Parliament **consent procedure** to the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (2020/0382(NLE)) started early January 2021 under the lead of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the Committee on International Trade (INTA). Considering the very wide scope and significance of this agreement, it was scrutinised within an **accelerated calendar** by numerous associated committees, including PECH.

The PECH draft opinion, presented on 25 January 2021 and adopted on 2 February 2021, expressed relief at the achievement of an Agreement on **Fisheries as an integral part of the comprehensive Agreement**, as it preserved the possibility of access to the waters, resources and markets of the parties concerned. However, deploring the **loss of 25 %** of the value of **historic fishing rights** held by European fleets in UK waters, PECH also expressed some **major concerns** on:

- the **uncertainty of the relationship after the “adjustment period” in 2026;**
- the consequences of the **possibility for the UK to diverge** from Union Regulations on Technical Measures and other related Union environmental legislation, with risks of **discrimination of EU fisheries**, particularly in consideration of provisions applicable to non-quotas species;
- the need to ensure that **fishing licenses** are granted within a reasonable timeframe, highlighting also special concerns for access to the 6-12 miles and waters of Crown dependencies and Overseas Territories (i.e. Channel Islands);
- the confusion, extra costs and financial losses for fishers already caused by the TCA, **as provisionally applied.**

Welcoming the setting of a **consultation mechanism, through the Specialised Committee on Fisheries**, PECH was also adamant to be kept informed and involved in the implementation of the agreement. Overall, despite a number of uncertainties, PECH expressed the view that the TCA generally preserved a favourable framework for fisheries and therefore supported its conclusion.

In its opinion, PECH also recalled that the EU fishing sector will suffer considerable economic loss because of the Agreement, and considered therefore that the compensation to be provided for in the Brexit Adjustment Reserve must be commensurate with the damage suffered by the sector (see below).

• **Adoption of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve - 2020/0380(COD)**

At its special meeting of 17-21 July 2020, the European Council had decided to provide for the establishment of a new special Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) of about €5 billion “to counter unforeseen and adverse consequences in Member States and sectors that are worst affected”. This reserve was to be financed as a special instrument outside of the EU budget ceilings of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Commission concretised the corresponding legislative proposal on 25 December 2020 only (file 2020/0380(COD)). About 80% of the Funding would be allocated to Member States in the form of pre-financing in 2021-2023, and the remainder to be made available in 2025. Considering the contribution of the BAR to alleviating part of the impact of Brexit on EU operators, legislators were committed to a fast examination and adoption process, with REGI in the lead and PECH an associated committee under Rule 57.

In its opinion adopted in May 2021, PECH voted for possible support to temporary or permanent cessation of fishing activities, some eligibility-time extensions to 30 June 2026 (in alignment with the end of the TCA adjustment period), as well as the earmarking of a minimum support of the BAR for the fisheries sector. The trilogue negotiations concluded favourably in June, and the BAR regulation³⁵ - with a significant fisheries-related dimension

³⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 October 2021 establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve

- was formally adopted by the Council on 28 September 2021, after EP first reading on 15 September. Part of this fund (more than 600 M€) was allocated to Member States based on the level of fisheries catches in UK waters. The regulation also set mandatory earmarking for the fisheries sector : Member States that receive more than €10 million in fisheries allocation must spend at least half of their fisheries-related allocation, or 7 % of their total allocated amount (whichever is lower), to support local and regional coastal communities including the fisheries sector (and in particular small-scale fisheries).

- **Own initiative reports on the implementation of the new EU-UK relationship in fisheries - 2021/2016 (INI) & 2022/2188 (INI)**

Considering the far-reaching consequences of the Brexit and the new EU-UK TCA in the fisheries sector, one of the key priorities for PECH Members was to proactively monitor the new EU-UK relationship as from its start, a process which led to two own-initiate reports in 2022 and 2023.

In 2021 PECH decided to draw up a (first) own initiative report on 'the future of fisheries in the Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean in light of the UK's withdrawal from the EU (2021/2016 (INI)). Even not bearing the name in its title, this report, adopted by the Plenary in April 2022, focused on the impact of Brexit and the first TCA implementation phase (notably the difficulties encountered by EU authorities and EU fishers as regard the allocation of fishing licenses to access UK waters).

In 2022 PECH was however refused the authorisation to draw-up its own implementation report on the fisheries chapter of the TCA as a follow-up to its previous report above. Instead, PECH was given the possibility to provide an opinion, as an associated committee with exclusive competence regarding fisheries (Rule 57+), to contribute to a comprehensive Implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement prepared under the joint lead of AFET and INTA (2022/2188(INI)).

The EP resolution adopted in November 2023 largely integrated the PECH opinion. Recalling that the full impact of Brexit on fisheries was not yet fully known, it also highlighted that [contrary to some other dimensions], the implementation of the TCA in relation to fisheries was an on-going process. The EP insisted on some issues of immediate concerns (access to waters and fisheries resources, licensing of EU vessels, displacement of fishing effort; exchanges of quotas, discriminatory unilateral technical measures, proper functioning of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries...). Concerns were also reiterated on the post-2026 period and the review clause that will be applied four years after the end of the adjustment period.

The EP called on the Commission to take all the necessary measures to ensure that reciprocal access to waters and fisheries resources is maintained and that there are no further quota reductions for EU fishers. EP insisted also on the link of the TCA's provisions on energy and on reciprocal access to waters and fisheries resources, and emphasised that fisheries had to be dealt with in conjunction with the numerous issues relating to trade and access to the single market. As Brexit changed the relations among coastal states in the north Atlantic, the EP also highlighted the need to find stable and long-term fishing management arrangements with EU counterparts in the North-East Atlantic

- **Enforcement and implementation of the agreements with the UK : exercise of Unions' right 2022/0068(COD) and implementation of the "Windsor framework" - 2023/0062(COD)**

The implementation of the UK withdrawal agreement, and notably the mechanisms established to safeguard the EU internal market while preserving cooperating between the the "South" and the "North" of Ireland and avoiding controls on the Irish border was faced by significant delays from the UK authorities, even threatening a unilateral suspension of

several provisions of the agreement. The UK cooperation on the EU-UK TCA was not always best either, especially in its fisheries dimension.

In a context of political tension regarding the respect by the UK of its Brexit-related commitments, the Commission presented in March 2022 a draft regulation to exercise Union’s rights to take rapid unilateral retaliatory measures under the different agreements with the UK, in case the latter did not properly implement some of their provisions, or renege on its commitments (2022/0068 (COD)).

In an opinion (in letter form) to the three associated lead committees (AFET, INTA and AFCO), PECH notably welcomed the adoption of measures to defend the interests of the Union in fisheries in the same way as other sectoral interests, and according to similar institutional procedures. PECH also insisted on the need to maintain within the scope of the proposed regulation all the relevant references to fisheries matters.

In February 2023, after lengthy discussions concerning the administrative burden related to the entry into Northern Ireland from other parts of the UK of goods subject to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, but destined for final consumers in Northern Ireland, the EU and the UK finally agreed on the so-called “Windsor framework”, a set of common simplified solutions to implement the withdrawal agreement while protect the integrity of both the Union’s and the United Kingdom’s internal markets.

To transpose this Windsor Framework, the Commission tabled a proposal for specific rules relating to the entry into Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom of certain consignments of retail goods [including fisheries and aquaculture products] ... (2023/0062(COD)). Considering the political circumstances, this proposal for simplification of the requirements and procedures was adopted under an accelerated calendar by ENVI and AGRI in the lead. Because of the tight deadline, **PECH** decided to provide its **opinion** in the form of a letter (Rule 56(1) second subparagraph). In order to protect EU consumers and to prevent the risk that fishery products may originate from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and reach the EU internal market, PECH supported the proposed provisions concerning fishery products, if they would remain unchanged. This was finally the case when the Council concluded the legislative procedure by adopting the regulation, after the EP first reading position in favour of taking over the Commission's proposal.

- **General Scrutiny work in PECH**

PECH Committee decided to invite the Commission very regularly to report back on the state of play in the implementation of fisheries issues under the TCA and the relationship with UK in this regard. PECH also organised in June 2021 a **specific hearing** dedicated to “The future of EU-UK fisheries relations after Brexit”, with an assessment of the implementation of the TCA “(access to waters, issuing of fishing licences, access to ports markets and governance issues) and views about the future EU-UK fisheries relations from fishing sector representatives. PECH was also presented with the results of a **workshop** dedicated on the “impacts of the EU-UK TCA on fisheries and aquaculture (legal / trade / fishing opportunities aspects)” in May 2022.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total number of PECH meetings</i>	<i>Number of PECH meetings with at least one Brexit related item on the agenda</i>	<i>Number of PECH meetings with coastal states issues on the agenda</i>
2021	21	10	3
2022	19	9	3
2023	14	5	2
2024	4 (Jan-Apr)	1	1

Beyond the new bilateral EU-UK relationship, the **Brexit** also **profoundly changed the equilibrium between coastal states** in the North Sea, and in the NE Atlantic more widely. This made the international cooperation between the EU and other coastal states (notably Norway, but also Faroe & Iceland) more difficult and conflictual. It therefore also triggered more concerns for PECH, with an **increased scrutiny work** with exchanges of views (public or in camera) on fisheries relations with other “Nordic coastal states” in 10 out of the 80 PECH meetings held in the 9th term.

6 Structural Policy in Fisheries & Aquaculture

The Committee on Fisheries dealt with **11 files** related to **structural issues** in the 9th Parliamentary term:

Codecision files on the **new European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027 (EMFAF)** which had started in the 8th and was finalised in the 9th Parliamentary term, as well as measures reducing fishing capacity to protect **Eastern Baltic cod**.

Own-initiative reports addressing a number of issues such as **small-scale fisheries, aquaculture and market organisation**.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO STRUCTURAL ISSUES

Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)	COD Report 2018/0210(COD) COM(2018)0390 A9-0222/2021 T9-0325/2021 Regulation 2021/1139	Francisco José Millan Mon (EPP) & Gabriel Mato (EPP)	Completed COM 12/06/2018 ATTR 22/07/2019 COMM 07/03/2019 PLEN 06/07/2021 CSL 07/07/2021
Introduction of capacity limits for Eastern Baltic cod, data collection and control measures in the Baltic Sea, and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod	COD Report 2019/0246(COD) COM(2019)0564 A9-0093/2020 T9-0300/2020 Regulation 2020/1781	Niclas Herbst (EPP)	Completed COM 31/10/2019 ATTR 12/11/2019 COMM 23/04/2020 PLEN 11/11/2020 CSL 25/11/2020

(*) **COM**: Commission proposal date || **ATTR**: Report attribution date || **COMM**: Committee Vote Date || **PLEN**: Plenary Vote Date || **CSL**: Council decision date

Following the Commission proposal of 12 June 2018, the EP adopted its first reading position on the new **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027 (EMFF)** proposal just before the end of the 8th Parliamentary term on 13 March 2019. Taking up the file again in the 9th Parliamentary term, Parliament requested the extension of the fund’s title also to the aquaculture sector, hence the acronym of the new European fund became “**EMFAF**”.

Trilogue negotiations started in November 2019 following the confirmation vote in the PECH Committee, and having reached an agreement in “early second reading” and a final vote in Plenary, the **EMFAF Regulation** was finally published on 7 July 2021.

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

The EP agreed on a **budget increase proposal** for the 2021-2027 period. 87% of the Fund's resources would be allocated for the management of fisheries, aquaculture and fishing fleets under the so-called "shared management" (involving Commission and Member States), while 13% of funds would go to direct and indirect support (covering measures such as scientific advice, control measures, market intelligence, maritime surveillance and security). Additionally, Parliament also endorsed a specific reserve for outermost regions, the protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity, the improvement of safety, working and living conditions of the crew, training, social dialogue skills and employment.

Regarding the **reduction of fishing capacity and the application of permanent cessation measures to protect Eastern Baltic cod**, the EP outlined the consequences of the bad state of the stocks and the resulting limitations of fishing opportunities especially for small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The EP called for enhanced support from the EMFAF to provide aid for the permanent cessation of fishing activities through scrapping of fishing vessels and to support investments by contributing to the diversification of income for fishers.

OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO STRUCTURAL ISSUES			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
The implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel	INI Report 2023/2030(INI) A9-0353/2023 T9-0411/2023	Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)	Completed ATTR 24/01/2023 COMM 24/10/2023 PLEN 21/11/2023
Implementation of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation in fisheries and aquaculture - Regulation (EU) 1379/2013	INI Report 2023/2049(INI) A9-0406/2023 T9-0047/2024	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Completed ATTR 02/03/2023 COMM 29/11/2023 PLEN 18/01/2024
The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems	INI Report 2023/2158(INI) A9-0184/2021 T9-0338/2021	Peter van Dalen (EPP)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 25/05/2021 PLEN 07/07/2021
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea	INI Report 2019/2159 (INI) A9-0170/2021 T9-0307/2021	Ivo Hristov (S&D)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 10/05/2021 PLEN 23/06/2021
Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities	INI Report 2019/2161(INI) A9-0230/2021 T9-0386/2021	Manuel Pizarro (S&D)	Completed ATTR 03/12/2019 COMM 16/06/2021 PLEN 16/09/2021
Small-scale fisheries: situation in the EU and future perspectives	INI Report 2021/2056(INI) A9-0291/2022 T9-0019/2023	João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)	Completed ATTR 13/04/2021 COMM 30/11/2022 PLEN 19/01/2023
Toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors	INI Report 2021/2188 (INI) A9-0089/2022 T9-0135/2022	Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 16/03/2022 PLEN 03/05/2022
Striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: the way forward	INI Report 2021/2189 (INI) A9-0215/2022	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed ATTR 17/06/2021 COMM 12/07/2022

OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO STRUCTURAL ISSUES			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
	T9-0334/2022		PLEN 04/10/2022
Co-management of fisheries in the EU and the contribution of the fisheries sector for the implementation of management measures	INI Report 2022/2003(INI) A9-0119/2023 T9-0132/2023	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Completed ATTR 30/11/2021 COMM 28/03/2023 PLEN 09/05/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date			

The report on the **Eel Regulation** made a series of recommendations on the improvement of its implementation, notably by improving the governance of eel management plans, recognising the essential role of the fishers, continuing the policy of restocking, tackling migration barriers, stepping up the fight against IUU, promoting scientific research, and harmonising data collection.

Regarding the report on the implementation of the **CMO Regulation (Common Market Organisation)**, the EP acknowledged progress made in implementing the rules but believes that more efforts are needed in order to ensure consumer information, improve labelling, market transparency and increase traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products.

The report on the impact on the fishing sector of **offshore wind farms and other renewable energy systems** focused on the consequences on the livelihood of small-scale fishers, who find their traditional fishing areas increasingly restricted due to the proliferation of offshore wind farms, in particular in the North Sea.

The report "**Striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture**" analysed the Commission communication on strategic guidelines for the sector, seen as lacking ambition in order to boost sustainable production in EU fish farms and the development of a genuinely thriving and competitive EU aquaculture sector.

7 Delegation of Powers to the Commission

- As stipulated by Art. 290 TFEU, a legislative act may delegate to the Commission the power to adopt **non-legislative acts** (...) to **supplement or amend** certain **non-essential elements** of the legislative act.
- In the 9th Parliamentary term, between July 2019 and March 2024 the PECH Committee scrutinised **sixty-five Delegated acts** (DAs), **extending the 2-months scrutiny period** in **nine files** and **objecting to one** (EMFAF Delegated act).
- The number of **basic acts** empowering the Commission has **increased** with **Multiannual Plans** and the **Technical Measures Regulation**, while the recently adopted **Fisheries Control Regulation** will generate Delegated acts only in the new (10th) Parliamentary term.
- The largest part of PECH DAs (45%) were related to the **Landing obligation** (LO), notably as tools used by Member States to mitigate its impact; **26%** of DAs were based on **Technical Measures**.
- Overall, the PECH Committee **scrutinised 7% of all published Delegated acts** notified to Parliament, ranking fifth after large committees (ECON, ENVI, AGRI, IMCO).

7.1 Background

The Treaty of Lisbon recognises codecision as the "ordinary legislative procedure" for the Common Fisheries Policy. Furthermore, it establishes the possibility of empowering the Commission, allowing for rapid decisions on technical details.

While decisions taken via **Delegated acts may appear complex and technical, they are frequently of considerable political importance and they can have significant implications for the sectors concerned**. Delegated acts are non-legislative acts of general application, amending or supplementing certain non-essential elements of the "Basic" legislative act.

Within these limits, the co-legislators can delegate powers to the Commission and define the objectives, content, scope and duration of the delegation of power in the legislative act itself. The Parliament and the Council therefore have two important powers:

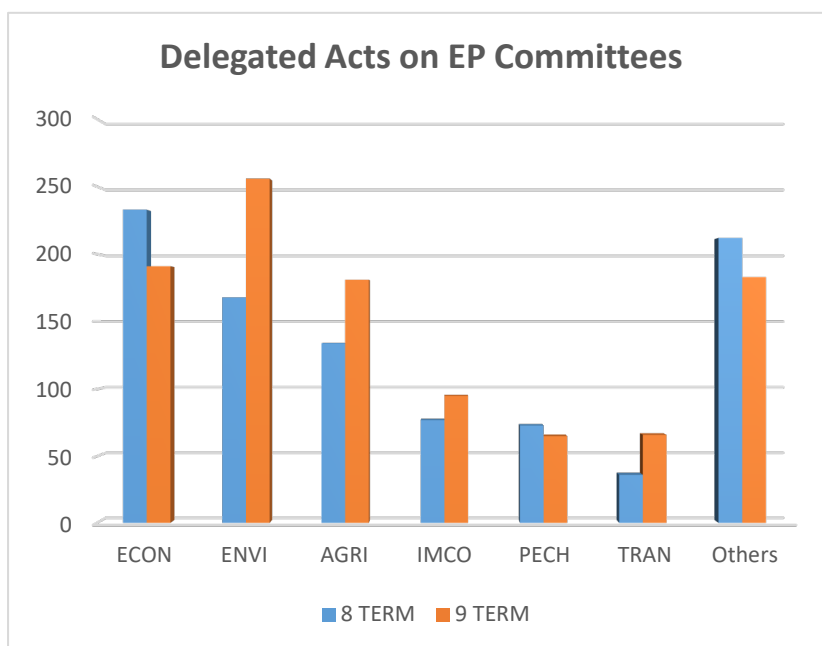
- they may decide to revoke the delegation completely, and
- they can 'veto' a particular Delegated act.

Article 290, paragraph 2(b) TFEU specifies that the Delegated act may enter into force **only if no objection has been expressed** by the European Parliament or the Council. It is important to note that neither Parliament nor Council can amend a draft delegated act and can **only accept or reject it in its entirety**.

With the entry into force of the TFEU, not only old legislation had to be aligned with the new rules on Delegated acts, but also new legislation, adopted according to the ordinary legislative procedure, has to be based on that same framework.

For non-essential elements that are not decided upon immediately in the Basic act, Council and Parliament have to agree upon the **choice of the secondary measures** that the Commission may be empowered to adopt (Delegated or Implementing acts). Parliament usually has two or three months (**two months for the CFP**) to scrutinise a Delegated act, **extendable** by a further two months³⁶. Parliament can, by an absolute majority of its component members, **veto** a Delegated act.

Draft implementing acts may also be scrutinised by Parliament **prior to their adoption**. Parliament may adopt by simple majority a resolution, indicating that it considers the draft implementing act **exceeding the implementing powers** provided for in the Basic act. The Commission must then take account of this position, but may nevertheless maintain the draft measure in question.



The 8th (2014-2019) and 9th (2019-2024) terms saw the development and consolidation of Delegated acts as ordinary legislative tools. The growing number of regulations providing for delegation of powers increased also the number of Delegated acts emanating from them.

In the 9th term, the PECH Committee scrutinized **65 Delegated acts**. PECH Secretariat produced and forwarded to Members briefing notes on each one before the presentation by the Commission.

These 65 Delegated acts represent approximately 7% of DAs scrutinized by EP committees during this term, with PECH ranking in 5th place behind much larger committees such as ECON, ENVI, AGRI and IMCO, more or less in line with the respective legislative burdens.

PECH Committee **objected to only one DA** (EMFAF Delegated act), but **extended the period of scrutiny in nine DA procedures**, to better assess the file in question. The **“Landing obligation”** and the **Technical Measures Regulation** were the most relevant DA-drivers in the CFP, but also other topics are worth taking into account.

Delegated acts can **amend or supplement its Basic legal act**. Most DAs aim at amending basic acts, but frequently they amend previous Delegated acts on the same subject. Amending acts referring to **“technical measures”** aim at the specific Regulation³⁷

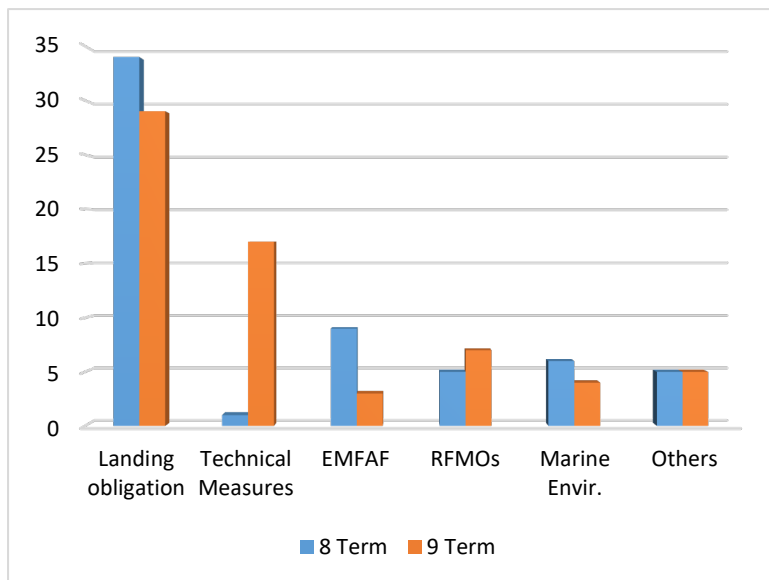
³⁶ The exact length of the scrutiny period is specified in the basic act

³⁷ Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005

adopted at the end of the 8th term. However, regarding the **landing obligation**, certain Delegated acts give rise to chains of “Amending Delegated acts” and create complex sets of regulations for topics that, in theory, should be non-essential. Sometimes the changes only extend the lifespan of the previous DA.

A new DA type, close to the “supplementing”, has been used for the landing obligation during this 9th term. This **“specification of details” of the landing obligation** actually creates small sets of technical measures, even using as legal basis the Technical measures Regulation. This fact creates difficulties for the **classification of DAs**, as some could be classified as “landing obligation” with regard to its purpose, but it could be classified as “technical measures” taking into account its legal basis or the type of tool. The functional approach will be used in this summary, in any case, possible overlapping with legal basis will be described in each case.

Supplementing the Basic act is used for the EMFAF as exclusive modality. However, it is used for eight DAs on the landing obligation, where they supplement Multiannual plans or the CFP Basic Regulation.



The CFP delegated acts can be grouped in **nine sets**: landing obligation, technical measures, EMFAF, RFMO implementation, marine environment, linguistic corrections, Advisory Councils, data collection and Brexit. Nevertheless, only **five sets** concentrate a vast majority of Delegated acts for fisheries.

Currently, landing obligation is the main source for delegated acts in the form of **discard plans**. The Regulation on Technical measures opened up the possibility of adopting DAs

to **modify issues** as diverse as **minimum conservation reference sizes, mesh sizes, closed or restricted areas**.

Another potential source of DAs in the next Parliamentary term will be the **new Fisheries Control Regulation**. It opens up the possibility of adopting DAs in many provisions (in 17 articles out of 124) such as detailed specifications of electronic equipment, logbook requirements or derogations and exemptions for certain categories of vessels.

7.2 DAs on Landing Obligation

The most relevant group of Delegated acts in the 9th term was dedicated to the Landing Obligation (29 out of 65 DAs), a slight reduction compared to the previous term due to the **unification of the “Western Waters” sea basin** and the **extension of the lifespan** of some DAs from **two to four years**.

Since the last CFP reform, the Landing Obligation has been its most controversial topic because of its impact on current fisheries practices. DAs have been used intensively to **limit its impact** or, simply, to **circumvent the obligation**. Most of the LO-related Delegated acts combine the **“High Survivability”** and **“De Minimis”** exceptions.

However, a few DAs also resort to changes in the “**Minimum Conservation Reference Size**”, for example for **Venus shells** (*Venus spp*): these DAs were particularly controversial, opposing Italian and Spanish harvesting interests.

In four cases, the Delegated acts used the **Technical measures** as legal basis to deal with the Landing obligation using “**specifying details**” for **demersal fisheries** in the **North Sea** and **Western Waters**.

LANDING OBLIGATION DELEGATED ACTS			
AREA	8th TERM	9th TERM	TOTAL
Western Waters	47%	28%	38%
Mediterranean Sea	18%	41%	29%
North Sea	24%	21%	22%
Baltic Sea	9%	3%	6%
Black Sea	3%	7%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

The **geographical distribution** of the delegated acts linked to the landing obligation is **not uniform and it evolved along time**.

Modalities of DAs for the Landing obligation are very different according to sea basins. The biggest differences appear in the **Mediterranean** due to the late entry into force of the landing obligation there. The diversity of conditions in this sea basin and the

existence of a southern coast with non-EU countries create an **uneven playing field** that calls into question the possibility of equalization with other sea basins.

Therefore, in the 9th term the largest number of DAs linked to the Landing obligation were aimed at the **Mediterranean Sea (12)**, with **four DAs** dedicated to **Venus shells in Italian Waters**. The **scrutiny period** for these DAs were **extended twice**. At the same time, another DA for **Venus shells and other bivalves in the Western Mediterranean** was adopted, to allow smaller individuals to be discarded due to their high survival rates instead of authorizing their commercialization.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION (MEDITERRANEAN SEA)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2020/4	Discard plan for demersal fisheries	06/01/2020	Extension. No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/3	Discard plan for Venus shells in Italian waters	06/01/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/3	Discard plan for Venus shells (<i>Venus spp.</i>) in Italian waters	06/01/2020	Extension. No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/2012	<i>De minimis</i> exemption for small pelagic fisheries	10/12/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/2237	Derogation for MCRS of Venus shells (<i>Venus spp.</i>) in Italian waters	28/12/2020	Extension. No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/2064	<i>De minimis</i> exemption for demersal fisheries in Adriatic and south-eastern Mediterranean Sea	26/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/2066	Landing obligation for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea for 2022-2024	26/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2288	Extension of the high survivability exemption to the landing obligation for Venus shells, Scallops and Carpet clams in the western Mediterranean Sea	23/11/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2564	<i>De minimis</i> exemption demersal fisheries in the Adriatic and south-eastern Mediterranean	23/12/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/2460	<i>De minimis</i> exemption for small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea	06/11/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/2462	Landing obligation for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea	06/11/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/2918	<i>De minimis</i> exemption for demersal fisheries in the Adriatic and south-eastern Mediterranean Sea	28/12/2023	No-Objection

In the future, the number of DAs for the **Mediterranean** could increase because of a progressive differentiation in **three separate sub-basins**.

Considering the 8th and 9th Parliamentary terms as a whole, the DAs corresponding to the **Western Waters (WW)** are the **most numerous**. Until 2021 the DAs for **North-Western (NWW) and South-Western Waters (SWW) were separate**, and this partly explains their relative high share. The legal basis for most of the LO-related DAs is the Regulation (EU) 2019/472 establishing a **Multiannual plan for WW**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION (WESTERN WATERS)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2019/2237	Landing obligation for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters for the period 2020-2021	30/12/2019	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2019/2239	Landing obligation for certain demersal fisheries in North-Western waters for the period 2020-2021	30/12/2019	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/1759	Discard plan for certain pelagic fisheries in South-Western waters	26/11/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/2015	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in Western Waters for the period 2021-2023	10/12/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/2063	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in Western Waters for the period 2021-2023	26/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2290	Exemptions to the landing obligation in the Western Waters for 2023	23/11/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/828	Exemption for common sole catches by vessels under 12 metres long and using otter bottom trawls, in the Western Waters, ICES division 7e, for 2023	19/04/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/2623	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in Western Waters for the period 2024-2027	22/11/2023	No-Objection

The Western Waters experienced a different dynamics compared to the Mediterranean, with a **geographical unification between North and South WW, an extended lifespan of DAs (4 years) and an extension of DA scope** to include the implementation of the entire Landing obligation. For the new term, it can be foreseen that DAs on the landing obligation in Western Waters will be considerably less.

LO-related DAs for the **North Sea** remained stable over the past years, with a special focus on the landing obligation of **demersal species**, which are the most relevant from an economic point of view in this sea basin. The **Scheveningen High-Level Group** has demonstrated its maturity and ability to produce joint recommendations that result in stable and long-lasting DAs. Consequently, also here a reduction in the number of delegated acts is foreseeable for the new legislature.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION (NORTH SEA)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2020/1758	High survivability and de minimis exemptions for demersal fisheries in the North Sea	26/11/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2019/2238	Landing obligation for demersal fisheries in the North Sea for 2020-2021	10/12/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/2014	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in the North Sea for the period 2021-2023	10/12/2020	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/2062	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in the North Sea for 2021-2023	26/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2289	Exemptions to the landing obligation for the North Sea for 2023	23/11/2022	No-Objection

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION (NORTH SEA)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2023/2459	Landing obligation for certain fisheries in the North Sea for 2024-2027	06/11/2023	No-Objection

DAs for the North Sea are based on the **Multiannual plan for the North Sea** (Regulation (EU) 2018/973), with an exception for Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2238 including the **regional Technical Measures** (Art.15 of Technical Measures Regulation) as legal basis.

In the **Baltic Sea**, the experience of the **Baltfish High-Level Group** and the stability of its recommendations with regard to **salmon** are remarkable. The legal basis of these DAs is the **Multiannual plan for the Baltic Sea** (Regulation (EU) 2016/1139).

Finally, delegated acts in the **Black Sea** focus specifically on **turbot**. The **legal basis** of this DA is **article 15(6) of the CFP Basic Regulation (landing obligation in absence of a multiannual plan)**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION (BALTIC & BLACK SEA)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2021/1417	Landing obligation for salmon in the Baltic Sea for 2021-2023	31/08/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/2065	Discard plan for turbot in the Black Sea	26/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2287	Discard plan for turbot in the Black Sea	23/11/2022	No-Objection

7.3 DAs on Technical Measures

A second group of **17 Delegated acts** is dedicated to **Technical measures**, following the entry into force of the **new Regulation on technical measures** (Regulation (EU) 2019/1241) at the end of the 8th term. In general, they **amend** the Technical measures Regulation in the context of **regionalisation**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO TECHNICAL MEASURES (NORTH SEA)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2019/2201	Real-time closures for Northern prawn fisheries in the Skagerrak	23/12/2019	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/1160	Sprat box and the plaice box in the North Sea	15/07/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2021/1473	Real-time closures for Northern prawn fisheries in the Skagerrak	15/09/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/200	Mesh sizes and the overall maximum length for certain beam trawls in the North Sea	15/02/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/199	Excluder devices in the North Sea fishery for Norway pout	15/02/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/826	Exemptions from the plaice box	30/05/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/1357	King scallops (<i>Pecten maximus</i>) in the English Channel	05/08/2022	No-Objection

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

D.R. (EU) 2022/2588	Technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland	30/12/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) .../...	Technical measures for Atlantic halibut in the Skagerrak and Kattegat		No-Objection

No TM-related DA was objected for the **North Sea**, nor were there extension of the scrutiny period in any procedure. For the **Baltic Sea**, two DAs have been scrutinised, one for **dolphins protection** and one for the **reduction of cod by-catches**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO TECHNICAL MEASURES (OTHER SEA BASINS)			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2021/2324	Technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland	29/12/2021	Extension No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/303	Incidental catches of the resident population of the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) in the Baltic Sea	25/02/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2587	Minimum conservation reference size of Venus shells (<i>Venus spp.</i>) in certain Italian territorial waters	30/12/2022	Extension No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/56	Technical measures for red seabream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>) in ICES subareas 6 to 8	06/01/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) .../...	Technical measures to reduce by-catches of cod in the Baltic Sea		No-Objection
D.R. (EU) .../...	Prolongation of specific technical measures for red seabream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>) in ICES subareas 6 to 8		No Position Yet
D.R. (EU) .../...	Prolongation of technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland		No Position Yet

Two other DAs focused the **red seabream** in ICES subareas 6 to 8 (Scotland to Bay of Biscay), with provisions on its minimum conservation reference size, closed areas and recreational fisheries. The second DA was a prolongation of the first one. With regard to the legal basis, most DAs are **regional technical measures** adopted to take into account regional specificities of the relevant fisheries, such as recreational fisheries, real-time closures and prohibited species.

7.4 Other Delegated Acts (RFMO, EMFAF, Marine environment)

In the 9th term, the PECH Committee scrutinized **seven DAs** on the **implementation of RFMOs recommendations**, in most cases modifications of the basic act and one DA supplementing the NAFO Regulation.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO RFMO			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2019/2200	ICCAT and the NAFO: implementation of the Union's international obligations	23/12/2019	Extension No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2020/124	Conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the NAFO	06/02/2020	No-Objection

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

D.R. (EU) 2021/860	Amending annex to the conservation and enforcement measures of the NAFO	31/05/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/824	ICCAT and NAFO: implementation of the Union's international obligations	30/05/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/1281	Conservation and enforcement measures of the NAFO	22/07/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/1090	Certain provisions of the conservation and enforcement measures of the NAFO	06/06/2023	Extension No-Objection

The EU plays an active role in **18 RFMOs** but uses **DAs for the transposition of RFMO recommendations only for NAFO and ICCAT**. For other RFMOs, recommendations are transposed by co-decision files (see section on "External Dimension"), with the risk of delays, mistakes and even the **rejection** of Commission proposals. Parliament's rejection of the proposal on SIOFA in 2023 was motivated by the use of **dynamic references in EU law as an instrument to swiftly implement SIOFA rules**. However, following the Treaties and the Court of Justice case law³⁸, citizens subject to EU Law must be able to read their legal obligations in their language, published in the Official Journal.

One Delegated Regulation (D.R. 2020/124) has as legal basis the **procedure for amendments (article 50) of the NAFO Regulation (EU) 2019/833**. The legal basis for the other four DAs on RFMOs is not explicitly described in the Commission proposal.

In conclusion, the **transposition of RFMO recommendations into EU law remains a grey area**, whether within the scope of the ordinary legislative procedure (codecision) or using DAs. Predictably, this issue will **continue to be present throughout the next legislature**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO EMFAF			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2021/1972	Criteria for the calculation of the addition	15/11/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) .../...	Periods of time and the dates for the inadmissibility of applications for support		Extension & Rejection
D.R. (EU) 2022/2181	Starting dates and time periods for the inadmissibility of applications for support	09/11/2022	No-Objection

On another subject, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (**EMFAF**), the number of Delegated acts has decreased. However, they were particularly relevant because one of them was the only

Delegated act related to Fisheries Policies formally rejected by the EP in the 9th term. In fact, the proposal included measures aimed at controlling fishing activity, which were perceived as a **double penalty**, and on 15 February 2022, **Parliament adopted** by 368 votes to 297, with 33 abstentions, **a resolution³⁹ objecting** to Commission delegated regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 (...) on the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund as regards the periods of time and the dates for the inadmissibility of applications for support".

Members called on the Commission to propose an alternative and more proportionate solution regarding the duration of the inadmissibility period based on points, and a **new Delegated act** was adopted in November 2022.

³⁸ Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 11 December 2007, in case C-161/06, Skoma-Lux sro v Celní ředitelství Olomouc. Paragraph 38

³⁹ Objection to a delegated act: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund: time periods for the inadmissibility of applications for support

Four Delegated acts on marine environment protection were scrutinised by the PECH Committee in the **9th term**: one, of general interest, on the **use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture**, and three focused on **North Sea** marine environment. The legal basis of the alien species in aquaculture was Article 24(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 on the same subject, while for the three North Sea DAs the legal basis was article 11(2) of the CFP Basic Regulation.

Finally, there are **five miscellaneous DAs**: two linguistic corrections, one DA dealing with **Brexit**, one with **data collection** and one with the functioning of **Advisory Councils**.

DELEGATED ACTS RELATED TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2022/516	Use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture	01/04/2022	Extension No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/952	Fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the North Sea	21/06/2022	Extension No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/340	Conservation measures in Sylter Aussenriff, Borkum-Riffgrund, Doggerbank and Östliche Deutsche Bucht, and in Klaverbank, Friese Front and Centrale Oestergronden	16/02/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/1609	Fisheries conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment in the North Sea (Correcting)	08/08/2023	No-Objection
OTHER DELEGATED ACTS			
Number Reg.	Subject	OJ date	EP position
D.R. (EU) 2021/1167	Collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022	16/07/2021	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2022/204	Functioning of the Advisory Councils under the CFP	16/02/2022	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/1178	Correcting certain language versions of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/47	19/06/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/1480	Correcting the Dutch language version of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2015	19/07/2023	No-Objection
D.R. (EU) 2023/1697	Implementation of the Union's international obligations in the context of Brexit	07/09/2023	No-Objection

8 EU Budget Issues

During the 9th Parliamentary term the Committee on Fisheries delivered **five opinions** calling on the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) to incorporate its suggestions into the General budgetary procedure of the European Union, and **four opinions** to the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) pertaining to the discharge of the budget of the **European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)**. While not expressly stated in the Rules of Procedure, EFCA falls under the remit of PECH Committee.

Budget opinions and EFCA discharge opinions were traditionally attributed to the Chair, who tabled them to the lead committees on behalf of PECH.

OPINIONS ON BUDGET ISSUES			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections	Opinion BUDGET 2019/2028(BUD) COM(2019)0400 A9-0035/2019 T9-0071/2019 Budget 2020/227	Chris Davies (Chair)	Completed COM 05/07/2019 ATTR 15/07/2019 COMM 04/09/2019 PLEN 27/11/2019
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections	Opinion BUDGET 2020/1998(BUD) COM(2020)0300 A9-0206/2020 T9-0302/2020	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn COM 09/07/2021 ATTR 20/02/2020 COMM 01/10/2020
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 - all sections	Opinion BUDGET 2021/0227(BUD) COM(2021)0300 A9-0326/2021 T9-0465/2021 Budget 2022/182	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed COM 09/07/2021 ATTR 25/01/2021 COMM 01/09/2021 PLEN 24/11/2021 CSL 23/11/2021
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023 - all sections	Opinion BUDGET 2022/0212(BUD) COM(2022)0400 A9-0278/2022 T9-0403/2022 Budget 2023/278	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed COM 01/07/2022 ATTR 25/01/2022 COMM 01/09/2022 PLEN 23/11/2022 CSL 22/11/2022
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 - all sections	Opinion BUDGET 2023/0264(BUD) COM(2023)0300 A9-0362/2023 T9-0413/2023 Budget 2024/207	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Awaiting Council decision on budgetary joint text COM 05/07/2023 ATTR 24/01/2023 COMM 18/07/2023 PLEN 22/11/2023 CSL 20/11/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

OPINIONS ON GENERAL BUDGET DISCHARGE			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
2019 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	Discharge Opinion 2020/2169(DEC) COM(2020)0288 A9-0092/2021 T9-0193/2021 Decision 2021/1619	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed COM 26/06/2020 ATTR 03/09/2020 COMM 22/02/2021 PLEN 28/04/2021
2020 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	Discharge Opinion 2021/2127(DEC) COM(2021)0381 A9-0114/2022 T9-0173/2022 Decision 2022/174	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed COM 30/06/2021 ATTR 27/09/2021 COMM 07/02/2022 PLEN 04/05/2022
2021 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	Discharge Opinion 2022/2103(DEC) COM(2022)0323 A9-0112/2023 T9-0167/2023 Decision 2023/187	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Completed COM 23/06/2022 ATTR 10/10/2022 COMM 24/01/2023 PLEN 10/05/2023
2022 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	Discharge Opinion 2023/2150(DEC) COM(2023)0391	Pierre Karleskind (Chair)	Awaiting Plenary decision COM 28/06/2023 ATTR 20/09/2023 COMM 23/01/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

9 Integrated Maritime Policy

Closely related to the Common Fisheries Policy, the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)** of the European Union aims at fostering the sustainable development of all sea-based activities and coastal regions.

The policy scope includes the '**Blue growth strategy**' that builds on the idea that the Union can draw higher returns from its maritime space with less impact on the environment.

In the 9th term, PECH Committee delivered **five opinions** to the "**Maritime Safety Package**".

Although the **Integrated Maritime Policy** of the EU falls under the remit of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, IMP subjects with a close interaction to fishing activities and the fisheries policy more in general appeared frequently on PECH Committee agendas.

In 2023, the Committee on Fisheries contributed with five opinions to the legislative package on "**Maritime Safety**", as detailed below; some other **key IMP items** for debate in PECH included:

- **Blue growth:** the long-term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors, where seas and oceans are seen as drivers for the European economy and potential for innovation and growth;
- **Marine data and knowledge:** comprehensive marine research and the collection of marine data are key for the sustainable development of sea-based activities;
- **Maritime spatial planning:** the fast-growing demand and competition for maritime space for different purposes, such as fishing activities, offshore renewable energy installations and ecosystem conservation, have highlighted the urgent need for integrated ocean management;
- **Maritime surveillance:** a secure marine environment is essential for the development of marine economic activities, including fisheries: sharing information and data involved in surveillance, e.g. border control, maritime pollution and the marine environment, fisheries control, etc.
- **Sea basin strategies:** a region-tailored approach based on cooperation among countries within the same sea basin (Baltic Sea Region, Black Sea, Atlantic, Adriatic & Ionian Region, Mediterranean basin, EU's outermost regions, etc.

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties, including criminal penalties, for pollution offences	COD Opinion 2023/0171(COD) COM(2023)0273 A9-0365/2023	Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP)	Parliament's position in 1st reading in April 2024 COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 09/11/2023
Amending Directive 2009/18/EC establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector	COD Opinion 2023/0164(COD) COM(2023)0270 A9-0422/2023)	Niclas Herbst (EPP)	Parliament's position in 1st reading in April 2024 COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 29/11/2023
European Maritime Safety Agency and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002	COD Opinion 2023/0163(COD) COM(2023)0269 A9-0423/2023	Clara Aguilera (S&D)	Parliament's position in 1st reading in March 2024 COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 29/11/2023
Amending Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control	COD Opinion 2023/0165(COD) COM(2023)0271 A9-0419/2023	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)	Parliament's position in 1st reading in April 2024 COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 29/11/2023
Amending Directive 2009/21/EC on compliance with flag State requirements	COD Opinion 2023/0172(COD) COM(2023)0272 A9-0418/2023	Ana Miranda Paz (Greens/EFA)	Parliament's position in 1st reading in April 2024 COM 01/06/2023 ATTR 27/06/2023 COMM 29/11/2023
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

10 Exceptional Events

In the 9th term, two **exceptional events at a global scale** have to be pointed out for their heavy impact on the parliamentary work and the fisheries sector.

The **Covid-19 pandemic** left its mark on the work of all parliamentary committees from a political, but also from an organizational perspective, with meetings and votes held in "remote" or "hybrid" mode, missions cancelled due to travel restrictions etc.

The Committee on Fisheries was called to act very quickly to adopt legislation authorizing **relief support** to the fishing sector, in order to mitigate the impact of the Covid pandemic on the fishing fleet.

The **Russian war of aggression against Ukraine** was another exceptional geopolitical event having a significant impact on fishers, aquaculture farmers and fish-processing companies. The spike in **inflation, energy and fuel prices** caused by the war severely hampered the financial viability of many fishers and fishing companies.

10.1 Covid-19 pandemic

While it never stopped Parliament from staying operational, the Covid-19 pandemic had a deep impact on the work of all committees from a political, but also from an organizational perspective. The pandemic had a limiting effect on meetings and hearings, which could not be held in physical presence but had to be replaced rapidly by **videoconferencing** using a new tool ("**Interactio**") developed especially for Parliament and its multilingual environment. Even more critical was the safe handling of voting procedures in committees and in Plenary.

From the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, EU fishers were heavily affected by the closure of retailers and restaurant who in normal times would buy their fish. With a **collapsing demand for fish & seafood**, fishers had to remain ashore deprived of their main income.

To provide immediate relief for fishers in the first wave of Covid, Parliament adopted on 17 April 2020 a Regulation on **specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector (2020/0059(COD))**. PECH Committee proved to be particularly effective by applying an urgent procedure closed in a record-breaking 23 days from the legislative proposal to the publication of the final Regulation in the Official Journal.

To mitigate the social and economic impacts of the spread of COVID-19 in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the proposal amended the Regulation on the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** and the **Regulation on the Common Market Organisation (CMO)**, with specific measures including:

- support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities (including for inland fishing and "fishers on foot") and compensation for specific economic losses for aquaculture producers and fish processing enterprises;
- support to producer organisations and associations of producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products;

- flexibility to use 10% of the budgetary funds allocated to fisheries control and scientific data collection for measures mitigating the effects of COVID-19;
- specific provisions in favour of the outermost regions to deal with the consequences of the crisis, compensating fishermen for the economic losses resulting from deterioration in the price of fish or increased storage costs.

Also to be noted, due to the Covid pandemic **Committee fact-finding and RFMO missions** could not take place for nearly two years: after the delegation visit to Guinea Bissau in February 2020, PECH missions resumed only in February 2022 with the mission to Senegal, in both cases taking stock of the problems related to the respective Fisheries Agreements.

10.2 Impact of the war in Ukraine on fisheries

The Russian aggression war against Ukraine that began on 24 February 2022 has directly and indirectly affected fishers, aquaculture farmers and fish-processing companies. While the EU **sanctions against Russia and Belarus did not include a ban on seafood trade**, with the exception of some luxury seafood products, trade flows have been severely hampered, especially for EU fish-processing companies that relied on **supplies of whitefish** from Russia. In addition, **Black Sea fisheries** faced a direct security threat.

Even more significant was the impact on the fishing sector of **spiking inflation, energy and fuel prices**. As prices doubled in a matter of weeks, this severely hampered the financial viability of many fishers, in particular the artisanal segment of the fleet, forcing them in many cases to remain ashore, as they could not afford the fuel to go out to sea.

The EU reacted very quickly to support the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector through:

- the **EMFAF Regulation crisis mechanism**, which allowed Member States to compensate operators for lost income or additional costs and producer organisations for the storage of fishery products;
- a new **State aid temporary crisis framework**, which allowed fishery and aquaculture companies to receive financial aid, liquidity support and compensation for the high energy prices;
- a modification of the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** to offer specific support.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was also taken into account when opening **autonomous EU tariff quotas (ATQs) for fishery products** for the years 2024 - 2026. Since the EU has become more dependent on imports to meet the demand for fishery products for its processing industry, the Council has been adopting ATQs to guarantee an **adequate supply of fishery products**. Given the deteriorated EU-Russia relations, and in order to ensure consistency with the EU's external action, the Council decided in November 2023 not to allow fishery products originating in Russia to benefit from ATQ duty-free or most-favoured nation treatment⁴⁰. The matter of ATQs in fisheries was also the subject of discussions within the PECH Committee and during PECH delegation visits.

⁴⁰ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15363-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC and UKRAINE WAR			
Title	References / Documents	Rapporteur (Group)	Status / Dates (*)
Specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector COD	Report 2020/0059(COD) COM(2020)0142 T9-0052/2020 Regulation 2020/560	Pierre Karleskind (Chair-Renew) on behalf of PECH	Completed COM 02/04/2020 COMM 14/04/2020 PLEN 17/04/2020 CSL 22/04/2020
Regulation amending and correcting Regulation (EU) 508/2014 as regards specific measures to alleviate the consequences of the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine on fishing activities and to mitigate the effects of the market disruption caused by that military aggression on the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products	COD Report 2022/0118(COD) COM(2018)0179 A9-0182/2022 T9-0282/2022 Regulation 2022/1278	Nuno Melo (EPP)	Completed COM 13/04/2022 ATTR 11/05/2022 COMM 20/06/2022 PLEN 04/07/2022 CSL 11/07/2022
(*) COM : Commission proposal date ATTR : Report attribution date COMM : Committee Vote Date PLEN : Plenary Vote Date CSL : Council decision date			

ANNEX 1 - Composition of the PECH Committee

Composition in July 2019

		LANG.	GROUP		
Chair	DAVIES Chris	UK	Renew		
Vice-Chairs	VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP		
	GADE Søren	DA	Renew		
	FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D		
	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP		
MEMBERS (27)			SUBSTITUTES (27)		
	L	GROUP		L	GROUP
AGUILERA Clara	ES	S&D	ANDROULAKIS Nikos	EL	S&D
ALLARD Christian	UK	Greens/EFA	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
CORBETT Richard	UK	S&D	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HIDVÉGHI Balázs	HU	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	NI	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
DAVIES Chris	UK	Renew	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
DE MAN Filip	BE	ID	HUIHEMA Jan	NL	Renew
DODDS Diane	UK	NI	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
GADE Søren	DA	Renew	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MONTEITH Brian	UK	NI
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MUMMERY June Alison	UK	NI
JAMET France	NL	ID	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite	ES	Renew
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA
Baroness MOBARIK Nosheena	UK	ECR	RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ECR
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

Composition in **February 2020** (post-Brexit)

		LANG.	GROUP		
Chair	KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew		
Vice-Chairs	VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP		
	GADE Søren	DA	Renew		
	FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D		
	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP		
MEMBERS (28)			SUBSTITUTES (28)		
	L	GROUP		L	GROUP
AGUILERA Clara	ES	S&D	ANDROULAKIS Nikos	EL	S&D
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	BOMPARD Manuel	FR	GUE/NGL
CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
CASANOVA Massimo	IT	ID	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HIDVÉGHI Balázs	HU	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	NI	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
FEDERLEY Fredrick	SE	Renew	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
GADE Søren	DA	Renew	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	ECR
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL	LAGOS Ioannis	EL	NI
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
JAMET France	FR	ID	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite	ES	Renew
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	RAFALSKA Elżbieta	PL	ECR
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ECR
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP	ŽDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

Composition in **April 2024**

		LANG.	GROUP		
Chair	KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew		
Vice-Chairs	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP		
	CHRISTENSEN Asger	DA	Renew		
	MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D		
	CARVALHO Maria da Graça	PT	EPP		
MEMBERS (28)			SUBSTITUTES (23)		
	L	GROUP		L	GROUP
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
CHRISTENSEN Asger	DK	Renew	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
MATIĆ Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	Renew
CARVALHO Maria da Graça	PT	EPP	FLANAGAN Luke Ming	EN	The Left
AGUILERA Clara	ES	S&D	GONZÁLEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
ALBUQUERQUE João	PT	S&D	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
CASANOVA Massimo	IT	ID	MARKEY Colm	IE	EPP
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	Greens/EFA	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	The Left	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP
HAGA Anja	NL	EPP	O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	PAPANDREU Nikos	EL	S&D
ILČIĆ Ladislav	HR	ECR	RAFALSKA Elżbieta	PL	ECR
JAMET France	FR	ID	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
MIRANDA Ana	ES	Greens/EFA	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
PIMENTA LOPES João	PT	The Left	VUOLO Lucia	IT	EPP
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR			
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP			
TARABELLA Marc	BE	NI			
WIESNER Emma	SE	Renew			
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

Political Groups' Coordinators (July 2019-February 2020)

EPP	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara	ECR	TOMAŠIĆ Ruža
Renew	KARLESKIND Pierre	GUE/NGL	FERREIRA João
Greens/EFA	O'SULLIVAN Grace		

Political Groups' Coordinators post-Brexit (Feb. 2020-2024)

EPP	MATO Gabriel	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara PIZARRO Manuel CARVALHAIS Isabel	ECR	TOMAŠIĆ Ruža ILČIĆ Ladislav
Renew	GADE Søren BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	GUE/NGL The Left	FERREIRA João PIMENTA LOPES João
Greens/EFA	O'SULLIVAN Grace ROOSE Caroline		

Political Group advisors (2019-2024)

EPP	LAERA Michela PEREZ CAMPAGNE Nathalie OBE Maxime WILLBYE Amanda KREMPOUNI Spyridoula	Greens/ EFA	STOCKHAUSEN Björn MUIR Lachlan
S&D	RIBEIRO FERRAZ Rogério RITTER Martina KONECNY Martin BROWN Dina	ID	ANGELINI Martina CHEVALLIER-CHANTEPIE Philippe
Renew	ENGQVIST Isak SANTAMARIA Veronica KOLYVA Marianna SKOVLUND Mie	GUE/NGL The Left	CORDEIRO MORIANO Joel CAPUCHA Luis PIMENTA LOPES João CORCORAN Odran
ECR	GULAM LALIC Anita PAVANATO Luca HEALY Caroline	NI	SCOTT Laurie POLZER Peter RUCYTE Dovile

PECH Committee Secretariat (2019-2024)

Head of unit	Claudio Quaranta	Committee Assistant	Kirsti Paakkola Gwenaelle Depierraz
---------------------	------------------	----------------------------	--

Administrators: Jean Weissenberger, Jesús Iborra, Robert Seibold, Sten Svane, Priit Ojamaa, Filippo Segato, Johannes Kiersch, Emma Soto Renou, Goncalo Macedo, Mauro Belardinelli, Jesús Pardo, Saulius Milius.

Assistants: Lina Barstyte, Maria Cristina Trevisani, Sylva Nenickova, Krisztina Manyik, Katalin Marky, Carla Lyon, Despina Abatzis, Valda Mangale, Aoife Murphy.

ANNEX 2 - Statistics on Committee activities

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Members	27	28	28	28	28	28	
Meetings	7	17	22	17	14	4	81
remote/hybrid	0	14	21	10	0	0	45
Hearings	2	2	5	6	8	0	23
Exchanges of views	17	20	25	38	20	14	134
Missions / Delegations	1	1	0	7	6	0	15
Other external activities	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Legislative reports (COD)	5	4	5	4	2	2	22
Fisheries Agreements (SFPA / NLE)	2	7	4	1	2	1	17
Own-initiative reports (INI)	4	4	6	2	4	0	20
Opinions	5	10	3	8	9	1	36
Delegated Acts	10	7	18	16	13	2	66
Implementing Acts	8	29	22	22	13	2	96

2019

Number of meetings	7		
Missions / Delegations	1	ICCAT, Palma de Mallorca, Spain	22-24.11.2019
Hearings	2	Facing the new challenges of the EU fisheries control system	12.11.2019
		State of play of the landing obligation: Challenges and best practices	02.12.2019
Confirmation Hearing of Commissioner-designate	1	Commissioner-designate Virginijus Sinkevičius (Joint PECH-ENVI Hearing)	03.10.2019
Exchange of views	17	Joao Aguiar Machado, Director-General of DG MARE	23.07.2019
		Emergency measures for the conservation of the cod stock in the eastern Baltic Sea	23.07.2019
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	23.07.2019
		Unilateral seizure of mackerel by Iceland and Greenland	04.09.2019

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2019			
Exchange of views		Finland's Presidency of the European Union	04.09.2019
		State of the seas	04.09.2019
		European Union preparedness for changes to the EU fishing sector in the event of Brexit	24.09.2019
		Realising the potential for development of EU aquaculture	24.09.2019
		European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	02.10.2019
		State of the seas (follow-up)	02.10.2019
		Governance of fish stock recovery areas and marine protected areas	02.10.2019
		International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES): How ICES advises on sustainable management of fish stocks and marine ecosystems	03.10.2019
		Achieving maximum sustainable yield: 2020 catch limits for the Baltic	11.11.2019
		European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	11.11.2019
		Sustainable management of shared stocks with Norway and Iceland	12.11.2019
		EU vessels and Yellowfin tuna	12.11.2019
		2019 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet	12.11.2019

2020			
Number of meetings	17	of which 5 remote and 9 hybrid	
Missions/ Delegations	1	Guinea-Bissau	25-29.02.2020
Hearings	2	Measures to improve sustainable aquaculture in the EU	19/02/2020
		Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean: Next steps	27/10/2020
Exchange of views	20	Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and fisheries	20.01.2020
		Achieving MSY? Fishing opportunities 2020 (TACs)	20.01.2020
		Multiannual plans - are we failing to fulfill the hopes?	21.01.2020
		Croatian Presidency of the European Union	21.01.2020
		Preventing bycatch deaths of dolphins and other cetaceans	21.01.2020
		Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	21.01.2020

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2020			
Exchange of views		Win Win! Addressing the EU's failure to safeguard biodiversity and increase fish stocks	21.01.2020
		Beyond Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)? Ambitious for the future of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)	21.01.2020
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	19.02.2020
		Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea	19.02.2020
		Negotiations on the future fisheries relations with United Kingdom in the fisheries sector	18.05.2020
		EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	11.06.2020
		The Marine Strategy Framework Directive	11.06.2020
		The Farm to Fork Strategy: What place for fisheries and aquaculture	12.06.2020
		German Presidency of the Council of the European Union	03.09.2020
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	27.10.2020
		Brexit Adjustments Reserve	16.11.2020
		Impact of Covid-19 on fisheries: Measures foreseen by the Commission for 2021	16.11.2020
		European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	02.12.2020
		Report from the Commission on the implementation and functioning of Regulation 2017/1004 on the establishment of an Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy - COM(2020) 664	03.12.2020

2021			
Number of meetings	22	of which 21 hybrid	
Missions/Delegations	0		
Hearings	5	Co-Management of EU fisheries at local level	26.01.2021
		The future of EU-UK fisheries relations after Brexit	16.06.2021
		Fishers for the future	11.10.2021
		Gender equality in fisheries	28.10.2021
		Data collection and recreational fisheries	30.11.2021
		Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union	25.01.2021
		Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General, DG MARE	22.02.2021

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2021			
Exchange of views	25	State of play in the implementation of the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement	18.03.2021
		EU-UK: Adoption of TAC & quotas and implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement	13.04.2021
		EU-Norway bilateral and trilateral fisheries arrangements: state of play	13.04.2021
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	25.05.2021
		EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement	25.05.2021
		Regional Fisheries Management Organisations - State of play	25.05.2021
		Future of EU-UK fisheries relations after Brexit	16.06.2021
		EU Budget 2022	16.06.2021
		World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on fisheries subsidies	16.06.2021
		Allocation of fishing quotas in Svalbard waters	17.06.2021
		Slovenian Presidency of the European Union	12.07.2021
		Allocation of fishing quotas in Svalbard waters	12.07.2021
		World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on fisheries subsidies	12.07.2021
		Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	13.07.2021
		Blue transformation to feed the world - UN Food System Summit	01.09.2021
		EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement (licences, 2022 quota negotiations)	06.09.2021
		State of play in the cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the fight against IUU fishing	28.10.2021
		General Court's judgement concerning the EU-Morocco Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement	28.10.2021
		Gender Equality in Fisheries	28.10.2021
		World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies: update ahead of the Ministerial Conference (MC12)	11.11.2021
		The impact of cormorants on EU fisheries and aquaculture: assessment of actions taken and options for the future	29.11.2021
		EU-UK TACs 2022 negotiations	09.12.2021
		GFCM Recommendations on fisheries management (Adriatic, Mediterranean, Black Sea)	09.12.2021

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2022			
Number of meetings	17	of which 10 hybrid	
Missions / Delegations	7	Dakar, Senegal	22-24.02.2022
		Mazara del Vallo, Sicily, Italy	23-25.05.2022
		EFCA, Vigo, Spain	15-17.06.2022
		UNOC, Lisbon, Portugal (joint mission PECH/DEVE/ENVI)	27-29.06.2022
		Porto & Peniche, Portugal	18-20.07.2022
		GFCM, Tirana, Albania	9-11.11.2022
		ICCAT, Vale do Lobo, Portugal	18-21.11.2022
Hearings	6	Towards a sustainable blue economy in the EU: The role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors	07/02/2022
		State of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and future perspectives	17/03/2022
		The cormorant problematic affecting EU fisheries and aquaculture	11/05/2022
		Spitsbergen to Brexit: A new paradigm for sustainable fisheries management in the NE-Atlantic & Arctic	14/06/2022
		Maritime spatial planning directive: Implementation and impact on fisheries	11/07/2022
		The Impact of the Energy Price Crisis on the Fisheries Sector and the Future of Fuels	26/10/2022
Exchange of views	38	EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement (licenses, TAC 2022)	24.01.2022
		European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	25.01.2022
		French Presidency of the Council of the European Union	03.02.2022
		Follow-up to the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership between the European Union and Republic of Senegal	16.03.2022
		Consequences of the invasion of Ukraine for fisheries and aquaculture sector	16.03.2022
		EU-Norway bilateral and trilateral fisheries arrangements: state of play	25.04.2022
		Sustainable fisheries partnership agreement EU-Senegal: outcome of the joint committee meeting of 24-25 March 2022	25.04.2022
		Relations with the United Kingdom: fishing licenses and news from the Doggerbank	28.04.2022
		IMO Cape Town Agreement: fishing vessel safety at a global level	28.04.2022
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	11.05.2022

2022		
Exchange of views	Revision of EU State aid rules for the fisheries and aquaculture sector	11.05.2022
	Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	12.05.2022
	EU Budget 2023	13.06.2022
	Framework for maritime spatial planning - COM(2022)0185	14.06.2022
	EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement	14.06.2022
	World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies in the Ministerial Conference (MC12)	20.06.2022
	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement EU-Senegal: follow-up and participation of Members to RFMO annual meetings	11.07.2022
	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) measures for the Mediterranean and Black Sea: update on EU proposals	11.07.2022
	Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union	12.07.2022
	The unilateral increase of mackerel quotas by Norway and Faroe Islands	12.07.2022
	The Implementation of the Deep sea access Regulation 2016/2336	12.07.2022
	Commission communication: Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2023 - COM(2022)253	12.07.2022
	Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2023 - COM(2022)253	01.09.2022
	Setting the course for a sustainable blue planet - Joint Communication on the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda - JOIN(2022)28	01.09.2022
	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement EU-Senegal: Update	01.09.2022
	Consequences of UK wastewater discharges in the Channel and North Sea	01.09.2022
	EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement	29.09.2022
	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - update	29.09.2022
	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Annual meeting, 1-5 August 2022	29.09.2022
	Implementation of measures taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries sector and allegations of frauds	10.10.2022

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2022			
Exchange of views		Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/1614 determining the existing deep-sea fishing areas and establishing a list of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known to occur	10.10.2022
		Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement EU-Senegal: update	26.10.2022
		International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	26.10.2022
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and non-cooperating countries	30.11.2022
		EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement	30.11.2022
		European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	30.11.2022
		Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Marine Protected Areas in Europe	30.11.2022
		Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	01.12.2022

2023			
Number of meetings	14		
Missions / Delegations	6	Quito-Manta-Guayaquil, Ecuador	22-24.02.2023
		Brest, Brittany, France	3-5.04.2023
		Waterford-Wexford, Ireland	15-17.05.2023
		Split-Hvar, Croatia (Jabuka Pomo MPA)	19-21.06.2023
		GFCM, Split, Croatia	6-8.11.2023
		ICCAT, Cairo, Egypt	16-20.11.2023
Other external activities	1	Chair participated in the informal Council meeting of Fisheries Ministers in Vigo	17-18.07.2023
Hearings	8	State of play of the implementation of the multiannual plan (MAP) for Baltic sea	21.01.2023
		European Citizens' Initiative: "Stop Finning – Stop the trade"	27.03.2023
		Marine pollution (in particular plastics pollution) and its impact on fisheries	28.03.2023
		The future of fishing - How to promote income diversification and facilitate access to EU funding for fishers	24.05.2023
		The implementation of the EEL regulation 1100/2007	27.06.2023
		The importance of fisheries and aquaculture for rural areas	20.09.2023
		Decarbonising EU fisheries and aquaculture	24.10.2023

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2023			
		Improving the labelling legislation of vegetarian and vegan imitations of fish products	29.11.2023
Exchange of views	20	EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TACs 2023)	23.01.2023
		Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union	24.01.2023
		EU-Norway bilateral and trilateral fisheries arrangements: state of play	06.02.2023
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Ecuador - update	06.02.2023
		IOTC decision on management of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs)	01.03.2023
		EU-Morocco SFPA - update	01.03.2023
		EU-Norway bilateral and trilateral fisheries arrangements: state of play	26.04.2023
		Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	26.04.2023
		EU Budget 2024	27.06.2023
		Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union	20.09.2023
		19th session of the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade	20.09.2023
		Court case C-330/22 (Total allowable catch above zero)	20.09.2023
		General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	21.09.2023
		Proposal for the 2024 fishing opportunities for the Baltic Sea	21.09.2023
		Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing update	24.10.2023
		ICCAT, 28th Regular Meeting of the International Commission of the Atlantic Tunas update	09.11.2023
		Proposal for fishing opportunities (TAC) for 2024 in the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak	09.11.2023
		Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General, DG MARE	29.11.2023
		EU-UK: Implementation of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement and fishing quotas (TACs) for 2024	29.11.2023

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

2024 (January-April)			
Number of meetings	4		
Hearings	0		
Missions / Delegations	0		
Other external activities	1	Chair participated in the informal Council meeting of Fisheries Ministers in Bruges	25.03.2024
Exchange of views	14	ECA Special Report 25/2023 "EU Aquaculture"	23.01.2024
		Training & Social security schemes for fishers	23.01.2024
		Court case C-330/22 (TAC above zero)	23.01.2024
		SFPA EU-Morocco update	23.01.2024
		Belgian EU-Presidency - Exchange of views	19.02.2024
		Closure of fisheries in Bay of Biscay	19.02.2024
		Increasing selectivity in EU fisheries	19.02.2024
		Policy options for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries & aquaculture sector	20.03.2024
		UK closure of sandeels fisheries in North Sea	20.03.2024
		European cooperation in red shrimp management in the Mediterranean	20.03.2024
		Renewal of fishing fleets in the Outermost regions	20.03.2024
		Update on fisheries negotiations with Norway & Coastal states	09.04.2024
		Implementing Article 17 CFP: state of play of the fishing opportunities allocation	09.04.2024
		Update on IUU fishing ("yellow card") cases	09.04.2024

ANNEX 3 - Oral Questions in Plenary

Reference	Author	Title	Date of debate
2021/2699(RSP)	KARLESKIND Pierre (Chair)	Climate-resilient EU fisheries & aquaculture	08/06/2021
2023/2547(RSP)	KARLESKIND Pierre (Chair)	Resolution towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector	11/05/2023

ANNEX 4 - Public Hearings & Exchanges

Subject	Date
EV - Joao Aguiar Machado, Director-General of DG MARE	23.07.2019
EV - Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union	04.09.2019
EV - ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea): How ICES advises on sustainable management of fish stocks and marine ecosystems	03.10.2019
EV - European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - WP 2020	11.11.2019
PH - Facing the new challenges of the EU fisheries control system	12.11.2019
PH - State of play of the landing obligation: Challenges and best practices	02.12.2019
EV - Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	20.01.2020
EV - Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	21.01.2020
PH - Measures to improve sustainable aquaculture in the EU	19.02.2020
EV - German Presidency of the Council of the European Union	03.09.2020
PH - Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean: Next steps	27.10.2020
EV - European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - WP 2021	02.12.2020
EV - Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union	25.01.2021
PH - Co-management of EU fisheries at local level	26.01.2021
EV - Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General of DG MARE	22.02.2021
PH - Future of EU-UK fisheries relations after Brexit	16.06.2021
EV - Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	12.07.2021
EV - Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	13.07.2021
PH - Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities	11.10.2021
PH - Data collection and recreational fisheries	30.11.2021
EV - European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - WP 2022	25.01.2022
EV - French Presidency of the Council of the European Union	03.02.2022
PH - Towards a sustainable blue economy in the EU	07.02.2022
PH - State of Play in the implementation of the CFP and future perspectives	17.03.2022
PH - Cormorant problematic affecting EU fisheries and aquaculture	11.05.2022
EV - Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	12.05.2022
PH - Spitsbergen to Brexit: sustainable fisheries management in the NE-Atlantic & Arctic	14.06.2022
PH - Maritime Spatial Planning Directive: Implementation and Impact on Fisheries	11.07.2022
EV - Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union	12.07.2022
PH - The Impact of the Energy Price Crisis on the Fisheries Sector and the Future of Fuels	26.10.2022
EV - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	26.10.2022
EV - European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - WP 2023	30.11.2022
EV - Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	01.12.2022

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

Subject	Date
PH - State of play of the implementation of the Multiannual Plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea	23.01.2023
EV - Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union	24.01.2023
PH - European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Stop Finning – Stop the Trade	27.03.2023
PH - Marine pollution (in particular plastic pollution) and its impact on fisheries	28.03.2023
EV - Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	26.04.2023
PH - The future of fishing - Promotion of income diversification and access to EU funding	24.05.2023
PH - The implementation of the Eel Regulation 1100/2007	27.06.2023
PH - The importance of fisheries and aquaculture for rural areas	20.09.2023
EV - Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union	20.09.2023
PH - Decarbonising EU fisheries and aquaculture	24.10.2023
EV - European Court of Auditors: ECA Special Report 22/2023 "Offshore renewable energy in the EU"	24.10.2023
EV - Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General, DG MARE	29.11.2023
PH - Improving the labelling legislation of vegetarian and vegan imitations of fish products	29.11.2023
EV - European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - WP 2024	07.12.2023
EV - European Court of Auditors: ECA Special Report 25/2023 "EU Aquaculture"	23.01.2024
EV - Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	19.02.2024

ANNEX 5 - Missions & Delegations

SFPA/IUU/RFMO or MEP organiser	Place	Date
ICCAT (RFMO)	Palma de Mallorca, Spain	22-24.11.2019
Guinea-Bissau SFPA	Bissau, Guinea-Bissau	25-29.02.2020
2020 + 2021 no Committee travel due to Covid-19 pandemic		
Senegal SFPA	Dakar, Senegal	21-25.02.2022
MEP BARTOLO Pietro	Mazara del Vallo, Sicily, Italy	23-25.05.2022
EFCA (Agency visit)	Vigo, Spain	15-17.06.2022
UNOC (UN Ocean Conference)	Lisbon, Portugal (ENVI-PECH-DEVE)	27-29.06.2022
MEP PIZARRO Manuel	Porto, Portugal	18-20.07.2022
GFCM (RFMO)	Tirana, Albania	9-11.11.2022
ICCAT (RFMO)	Vale do Lobo, Portugal	18-21.11.2022
IUU Follow-up	Quito-Manta-Guayaquil, Ecuador	21-25.02.2023
MEP KARLESKIND Pierre	Brest, Brittany, France	3-5.04.2023
MEP O'SULLIVAN Grace	Waterford-Wexford, Ireland	15-17.05.2023
MEP KELLER Ska	Split-Hvar (Jabuka MPA), Croatia	19-21.06.2023
GFCM (RFMO)	Split, Croatia	6-8.11.2023
ICCAT (RFMO)	Cairo, Egypt	16-20.11.2023

ANNEX 6 - Studies & Workshops

(Organised and coordinated by the **Policy Department B – Structural and Cohesion Policies**)

TITLE	Dates
EU fisheries policy: latest developments & future challenges	24.09.2019
Seafood industry integration in all EU Member States with a coastline	03.12.2019
Implementation of the current EU fisheries control system by Member States (2014-19)	12.10.2020
Impact of the use of offshore wind and other marine renewables on European fisheries	27.10.2020
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture	27.10.2021
Electronic Technologies for Fisheries	11.11.2021
Impacts of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement on fisheries and aquaculture in the EU	16.03.2022
Artificial Intelligence and the fisheries sector	13.06.2022
Costs and benefits of spatial protection measures	27.10.2022
Role and impact of China on world fisheries and aquaculture	24.01.2023
Animal welfare of farmed fish	27.06.2023
European Green Deal – Challenges and opportunities for EU fisheries and aquaculture	23.10.2023
Training & Social security schemes for fishers	23.01.2024
Increasing selectivity in EU fisheries	19.02.2024
Policy options for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries & aquaculture sector	20.03.2024

ANNEX 7 - External speakers invited to meetings

July 2019 - March 2024

2019

1. MEETING 10 July 2019

2. MEETING 23 July 2019

3. MEETING 4 September 2019

- Jari Leppa, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, for the EU Presidency

4. MEETING 24 September 2019

- Bertrand le Gallic, University of Brest, UMR Amure (France)
- Clara Ulrich, Technical University of Denmark – DTU Aqua (Denmark)
- Martín Aranda, AZTI (Spain)

5. MEETING 2 - 3 October 2019

- Colm Lordan, ICES Advisory Committee

6. MEETING 12 November 2019

- Alicia Villauriz Iglesias, Secretary-General for fisheries - Spain
- Nino Accetta, Federcoopescas - Confcooperative - Italy
- Bernhard Friess, DG MARE
- Hans-O. Pörtner, IPCC WGII Co-Chair

7. MEETING 2 - 3 December 2019

- Pim Visser, executive officer VisNed
- Sergio López García, Organización de productores pesqueros de Lugo
- Jeremy Percy, Director New under Ten Fishermen's Association
- Clara Ulrich, IFREMER/ DTU Aqua (Denmark)
- Ben Collier, Project manager, Gear Trials Project, Northern Ireland
- Ward Warmerdam, Senior Researcher at Profundo

2020

1. MEETING 20 - 21 January 2020

- Bernhard Friess, Acting Director General, DG MARE
- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
- Marija Vučković, Minister of Agriculture of Croatia, for EU Presidency

2. MEETING 19 - 20 February 2020

- Miguel Bernal, GFCM Secretariat
- Cristina Sandu, International Association for Danube Research (IAD)
- Paulo Serra Lopes, AQUAZOR
- Michal Kratochvíl, Czech Fish Farmers' Association Freshwater commission
- Béla Halasi Kovács, PhD director NAIK Research Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Steven Beckers, BIGH Founder
- Ivana Bušelić Garber, PhD, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Croatia
- Michal Kratochvíl, Czech Fish Farmers' Association Freshwater commission, FEAP

(17 March 2020 meeting cancelled due to Covid-19)

3. MEETING 7 April 2020 - Videoconference only

4. MEETING 23 April 2020 - Videoconference only

5. MEETING 30 April 2020 - Videoconference only

6. MEETING 18 May 2020 - Hybrid

7. MEETING 25 May 2020 - Hybrid

8. MEETING 11-12 June 2020 - Hybrid

9. MEETING 25 June 2020 - Hybrid

10. MEETING 1-3 September 2020 - Hybrid

- Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister of food and agriculture, for German EU Presidency

11. MEETING 22 September 2020 - Hybrid

12. MEETING 28 September 2020

13. MEETING 12 October 2020 - Hybrid

14. MEETING 26-27 October 2020 - Hybrid

- Vanessa Stelzenmüller & Antje Gimpel, Thünen Institute of Fisheries, Bremerhaven, DE
- Xavier Murard & Marie-Laure Barois, Co-directors Operations, ReSEAclons

15. MEETING 16 November 2020 - Videoconference

- Mark Dickey-Collas, Chair ICES Advisory Committee

16. MEETING 2-3 December 2020 - Videoconference

- Maria Grazia Pennino, Instituto Español de Oceanografía
- Franco Andaloro, Senior Scientist, Director of Sicilian Marine Center Stazione Zoologica

17. MEETING 16 December 2020 - Hybrid

2021

1. MEETING 11 January 2021 - Hybrid

2. MEETING 14 January 2021 - Hybrid

3. MEETING 25 - 26 January 2021 - Hybrid

- Ricardo Serrão Santos, Portuguese Minister of Maritime Affairs, for EU Presidency

4. MEETING 1 February 2021 - Hybrid

5. MEETING 5 February 2021 - Hybrid

6. MEETING 22 February 2021 - Hybrid

- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General DG MARE

7. MEETING 17-18 March 2021 - Hybrid

- Henn Ojaveer, Advisory Committee Vice-Chair, ICES

8. MEETING 12-13 April 2021 - Hybrid

9. MEETING 19 April 2021 - Hybrid

10. MEETING 10 May 2021 - Hybrid

- Cecilia Pinto, Alessandro Mannini, Christoph Konrad, Michael Gras, Henning Winker and Paris Vasilakopoulos, EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) Unit for Water and Marine Resources

11. MEETING 25 May 2021 - Hybrid

- Susan Steele, Executive Director EFCA

12. MEETING 16 - 17 June 2021 - Hybrid

- Karlo Ressler, EU Budget 2022 Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets

13. MEETING 28 June 2021 - Hybrid

14. MEETING 12 - 13 July 2021 - Hybrid

- Jože Podgoršek, Slovenian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

15. MEETING 1 September 2021 - Hybrid

- Manuel Barange, Director, FAO Fisheries Division of the UN, Rome, Italy

16. MEETING 6 September 2021 - Hybrid

17. MEETING 27 September 2021 - Hybrid

18. MEETING 11 October 2021 - Hybrid

19. MEETING 27 - 28 October 2021 - Hybrid

- Katia Frangoudes, University of Western Brittany

- Susana Rodríguez Carballo, Director-General for Fisheries Development in the Galician Regional Government, Xunta de Galicia

- Sandrine Thomas, small-scale fisher from Royan, Nouvelle Aquitaine, France

- Ángeles Mille Rodríguez, Secretary of the Spanish National Association of women in fisheries (Anmupesca) and President of the Association of professional netmakers

20. MEETING 11 November 2021

- Iñaki Quincoces, AZTI Marine Research Department
- Edwin T.M. van Helmond, Wageningen Marine Research
- Jørgen Dalskov, National Institute for Aquatic Resources Denmark

21. MEETING 29 - 30 November 2021 - Hybrid

22. MEETING 9 December 2021 - Hybrid

2022

1. MEETING 24 - 25 January 2022 - Hybrid

- Susan Steele, EFCA Executive Director
- Lena Andersson Pench, Director, DG MARE, Directorate D

2. MEETING 3 February 2022 - Hybrid

- Annick Girardin, French Minister of Marine affairs, EU Presidency

3. MEETING 7 February 2022 - Hybrid

- Jesús Vázquez Almuiña, President of the Port of Vigo
- Monica Verbeek, Seas at Risk, Executive Director
- Henrique Ramos, CEO seaExpert
- Raquel Gaspar, co-founder of the co-operative Ocean Alive
- Leonidas Papaharisis, HAPO Technical Committee

4. MEETING 3 March 2022 - Hybrid

5. MEETING 16 - 17 March 2022 - Hybrid

- Javier Garat, President of Europêche
- Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, President of the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)
- Vera Coelho, Senior Director at Oceana Europe
- Clara Ulrich, Deputy Head of Science at IFREMER (France)
- Iván López van der Veen, Chair of the Long-Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)
- Daniel Buhai, Chair of the Black Sea Advisory Council and President of the Danube Delta Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) (Romania)
- Nils Höglund, Coalition Clean Baltic and active in the Baltic Sea Advisory Council Working Group on Ecosystem Based Management (Sweden)
- Alicia Villauriz Iglesias, Secretary General for Fisheries, Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food (Spain)
- Valentin Schatz and Alexander Proelss, University of Hamburg
- Heleen Bartelings & Zuzana Krátková, Wageningen Economic Research
- Benoit Caillart and Pavel Salz, F&S (FR) / MR&A (NL)

6. MEETING 25 April 2022 - Hybrid

7. MEETING 28 April 2022 - Hybrid

8. MEETING 11 May 2022 - Hybrid

9. MEETING 12 May 2022 - Hybrid

10. MEETING 13 - 14 June 2022

- Nicolae Ștefănuță, EU Budget 2023 Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets
- Jose A. Fernandes-Salvador (AI expert), AZTI
- Gabriela A. Oanta (Legal expert), University of A Coruña, Spain

11. MEETING 20 June 2022

12. MEETING 11 - 12 July 2022

- Kira Gee, scientist at the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, Germany
- Stella Sofia Kyvelou, Professor in Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens
- Ana Cristina Costa, Senior Expert at the General Directorate for Natural Resources Safety and Maritime Services, Portugal
- Xavier Marill, Deputy Director at the Maritime and Coastal Areas Service, Directorate-General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, France
- Zdeněk Nekula, Czech Minister of Agriculture for EU Presidency

13. MEETING 1 September 2022

14. MEETING 29 September 2022 - Hybrid

15. MEETING 10 October 2022

16. MEETING 26 - 27 October 2022

- Eva Lindström, Member of the European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- Pim Visser – special advisor to the Northern Fisheries Alliance Netherlands
- Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro, Executive Director, Oprmar
- Stephen C Mangi, Harry Owen, Stephen Hodgson, Sébastien Metz, Sebastian Villasante, Pablo Pita, George Triantaphyllidis and Robert Wakeford, MRAG Europe
- Mark Dickey-Collas, Chair of Advisory committee (ACOM) of ICES, Copenhagen, DK

17. MEETING 30 November - 1 December 2022

- Susan Steele, Executive Director EFCA, European Fisheries Control Agency

2023

1. MEETING 23 - 24 January 2023

- Henrik Svedäng, Baltic Sea Center, Stockholm University
- Vesa Tschernij, Fisheries engineer, Marine centre, Municipality of Simrishamn, Sweden
- Felix Leinemann, Head of Unit Blue, Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning
- Daniel Pauly, Professor of Fisheries and Principal Investigator, Sea around Us, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- Maria L.D. Palomares, Senior scientist and Manager, Sea around Us, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia
- Peter Kullgren, Swedish Minister for rural affairs, EU Presidency

2. MEETING 6 February 2023

3. MEETING 1 - 2 March 2023

4. MEETING 27 - 28 March 2023

- Nils Kluger, Spokesperson of ECI "STOP FINNING – STOP THE TRADE"
- Pero Tutman, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Croatia
- Carla Dâmaso, Azores Sea Observatory, Portugal
- Elena Ghezzi, national Association of Agri-food Cooperatives for Rural and coastal Development
- Frédérique Mongodin, Marine Litter policy officer Seas At Risk
- Veronika Hunt Šafránková, Head of UNEP Brussels Office

5. MEETING 26 April 2023

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

6. MEETING 24 May 2023

7. MEETING 27 June 2023

- Michail Pavlidis, University of Crete
- Siegfried Muresan, EU Budget 2024 Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets

8. MEETING 18 July 2023

9. MEETING 20 - 21 September 2023

- Luis Planas, Spanish Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

10. MEETING 9 October 2023

11. MEETING 23 - 24 October 2023

- Oihane C. Basurko, AZTI, Pasaia (Gipuzkoa), Spain
- Sébastien Metz, Sakana Consultants, Brest, France
- Rod Cappel, Poseidon Europe, Dublin, Ireland
- Nikolaos Milionis – ECA Member, European Court of Auditors

12. MEETING 9 November 2023

13. MEETING 29 November 2023

- Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General DG MARE
- Yobana Bermúdez, President of the European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP) and Chair of the Market Advisory Council (MAC)
- Roberto Alonso Baptista de Sousa, Secretary General of ANFACO-CECOPESCA, (Spanish association of canned fish manufacturers), President of EUROTHON
- Rafael Pinto, European Vegetarian Union (EVU) Policy Manager
- José Basilio Otero Rodríguez, President of the Spanish Federation of Cofradías
- Claudia Benassi, Marine Biologist, "Coldiretti Impresapesca National Confederation", Italy

14. MEETING 7 December 2023

- Dr Susan Steele, Executive Director EFCA, Vigo

2024

1. MEETING 23 January 2024

- Nikolaos Milionis, ECA Member, European Court of Auditors
- Milena Arias Schreiber, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Arne Kinds, University of Göteborg, Sweden

2. MEETING 19 February 2024

- Hilde Crevits, Vice-Minister-President of Flanders, for the Belgian EU Presidency
- Laurence Fauconnet, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of the Azores, Portugal

3. MEETING 20 March 2024

- Martin Aranda, AZTI (Spain)

4. MEETING 9 April 2024

REFERENCES for Inter-Institutional Agreements

Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Aai0041
Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A010301_2
Inter-institutional Agreement EP-Council on Classified Information	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014Y0401%2801%29

GLOSSARY

AAC	Aquaculture Advisory Council
ACFA	Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ACs	Advisory Councils
AIDCP	Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (<i>sister organisation to IATTC</i>)
BSAC	Baltic Sea Advisory Council <i>formerly BSRAC</i>
BSRAC	Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAMLR	Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCBSP	Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
CCR.S	South-western waters Advisory Council <i>formerly SWWRAC</i>
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CECAF	Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CFCA	Community Fisheries Control Agency
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
COD	Codecision procedure
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAs	Delegated Acts
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
EMFF/ EMFAF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EUMOFA	European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture products
FAD	Fish Aggregation Device
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation
FMSY	Fishing Maximum Sustainable Yield
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
IA	Impact Assessment
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDCP	International Dolphin Conservation Programme
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
JRs	Joint Recommendations
LDAC	Long Distance Advisory Council <i>formerly LDRAC</i>
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
LO	Landing Obligation
Lopt	Optimal Length
LTMPs	Long-Term Management Plans
MAC	Market Advisory Council
MAGP	Multiannual Guidance Programmes
MAPs	Multiannual Management Programmes
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MLS	Minimum Landing Size
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
NAVFOR	EU Naval Force
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NLE	Non-Legislative Enactment
NS	North Sea
NSAC	North Sea Advisory Council <i>formerly NSRAC</i>
OLP	Ordinary Legislative Procedure
OCTs	Overseas Countries and Territories
ORs	Outermost Regions
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
PEL RAC	Pelagic Regional Advisory Council
PNA	Parties of the Nauru Agreement

Overview of the activities of the Committee on Fisheries 2019-2024

PO	Producer Organisation
RAC MED	Regional Advisory Council for the Mediterranean
RBM	Rights Based Management
REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
RFOs	Regional Fisheries Organisations
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAFO	South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SFPAs	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
SIOFA	South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
SWWRAC	South Western Waters Regional Advisory Council
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TFCs	Transferable Fishing Concessions
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WW	Western Waters

