

Working Group 1: EU Production Minutes

Thursday, 28 January 2021

10:30 - 13:00 CET

Zoom online meeting

Welcome from the Chair, Sean O'Donoghue

Adoption of draft agenda and minutes of last meeting (25.11.20): adopted

Click [here](#) to access the Chair's presentation.

Action points of the last meeting

- **State of play of the decisions made during the last meeting (25.11.20) – information**
- Marketing Standards:
 - Secretariat and Chair to prepare a draft advice in response to the public consultation, which should be based on the previously adopted advice
 - Draft advice put forward to the Executive Committee for adoption through written procedure by 3 February 2021
 - Encouragement of individual submissions to the public consultation by members
 - Done
 - Send Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgroßhandels e.V.'s questions on the public consultation to DG MARE in written format:
 - Done (8 December 2020)
- Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab:
 - Working Group to be continuously updated on the work of the Focus Group
 - Update scheduled under the meeting's draft agenda
- COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - Draft text to be put forward to the Executive Committee through written procedure
 - Advice adopted on 11 December 2020
- Sustainable Blue Economy:
 - Final draft to be circulated to WG1 members for their information
 - Done
 - Draft text to be put forward to the Executive Committee through urgent written procedure, informing that WG1 was not in a position to consider it:
 - Advice adopted on 9 December 2020



COVID-19 Pandemic

- **MAC Advice on Impact and Mitigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Seafood Supply Chain – information**

The Chair recalled that the MAC advice was adopted on 11 December 2020. The advice included recommendations on market, funding, and environmental and social initiatives. The Commission's reply is pending.

Matthias Keller (Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgroßhandels e.V.) expressed dissatisfaction with the Commission's reply to their questions on the Marketing Standards public consultation. In their view, the questionnaire is rather poor and biased.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) responded that the questionnaire was drafted in accordance to the Better Regulation Guidelines, which the Commission services scrupulously follows for public consultations.

The Commission representative thanked the MAC for the advice, which include 20 recommendations: five on market initiatives, twelve on funding initiatives, and 3 on environmental and social initiatives. Due to the holiday period and Brexit-related preparations, the Commission's reply had been delayed, even though it is still under the required timeframe. The reply will likely be sent in the beginning of February.

On the recommendation for a pan-European communication campaign, the representative informed that, the following week, DG MARE would be launching the "Taste the Ocean" campaign. The campaign is aimed at consumers of sustainable seafood, encouraging sustainable consumption. It also aims to boost recovery of local communities to encourage local consumption. It will address a large number of potential consumers.

On the recommendation to improve traceability, the representative explained that DG MARE is completely in line and fully agrees. DG MARE expects this to be addressed under the ongoing revision of the Control Regulation. The Commission's proposal foresees full traceability for all products. Full traceability will make the set-up more effective, in particular by using with the use of wide digitalisation of processes and procedures.

On the recommendations for proper operating of internal market and of international trade, the representative underscored that the Commission remains vigilant and wants to limit obstacles to the movement of goods. The Commission launched the contingency plan initiative, jointly organised by AGRI, SANTE, and MARE, which aims to address food security and food supply issues in times of crisis.



On the recommendation on funding, the representative recalled that there was a political agreement for the next EMFAF. The legal framework should be officially in force in the beginning of April. The text is currently undergoing legal scrutiny. The programming period of 2021-2027 has already started. All investments after 1 January 2021 are eligible under the new programming period. The needs expressed in the recommendation can be supported through the EMFAF. DG MARE will work with the Member States, in the preparation of their operational programmes, in order to assess the strategies, needs, and comparative advantages, in order for the sector to thrive. MAC members should interact with their managing authorities, in order to explain the needs. Under the subsidiarity principle, the final decision on the structural funds falls within the Member States.

On the recommendations on crisis situations, the representative explained that the EMFAF, in case of exceptional events that generate significant disruptions of the market, foresees compensation for aquaculture, fisheries, and processing operators, in order to cover unforeseen costs and foregone revenues. There can also be storage aid for Producer Organisations if Operational programmes are foreseen it.

On the recommendations to support a transition towards a greener and more sustainable seafood production, the representative highlighted that it is line with the objectives of EMFAF. As the financing tool of the CFP, the EMFAF will contribute to the climate, environmental and biodiversity objectives, particularly the spending objectives agreed under the Multiannual Financial Framework.

On the recommendation on simplification of access to aid, the representative highlighted that this was taken into account in the initial reflections of the new financial instrument. The main change is the discontinuation of the request to follow a long catalogue of pre-defined measures. The new operational programmes do not foresee specific measures. There are objectives and each Member State must define the best way to achieve the objectives. There are some areas that cannot be supported by the EMFAF. Overall, Member States have a lot more space of manoeuvre.

The Chair thanked the Commission representative for the helpful preliminary remarks. Knowing that the MAC's recommendations are being implemented greatly contributes to members feeling that their time and efforts are worthwhile. The Chair also thanked MARE A4 for the close collaboration during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair proposed to include an item under the next meeting's draft agenda to analyse the Commission's reply.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) drew attention to a recent [video report](#) by EuroNews on how traceability, labelling and control help the seafood supply chain.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to circulate the video to the members.



Data Collection

- **Presentation of implementation and functioning report of the Data Collection Framework Regulation by Commission representative**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

Annette Hurrelmann (DG MARE) emphasised that reliable and complete data is a key requirement for scientific under the CFP. The main instrument is the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation. Under Article 23, the Commission is required to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the functioning of the regulation. The report was a good opportunity to present the system of data collection and to address future challenges.

Data collection in the EU is de-centralised, which depends on good coordination between the main players. Member States are responsible for collecting, storing, protecting and making available the data to the end users. The Regional Coordination Groups are groups of Member States within sea basins that ensure harmonised processes at the regional level. The data collected is the one that is necessary for the scientific end users, such as ICES, STECF, RFMOs' scientific committees. The European Commission sets the legal framework for the requirements and aims to support the Member States in the collection of data through dialogue and ensuring compliance.

On the tools and activities under the DCF, the EU Multi-Annual Programme for data collection is the implementing and delegated legislation that goes along with the DCF Regulation and sets the detailed requirements, the list of mandatory scientific surveys, and the thresholds for when collection is not necessary. The process to build a revised EU MAP for post-2021 is ongoing. The Commission aims to build in improvements based on developing political priorities, data needs identified by end users, and new approaches developed by studies. It should improve data on many areas, for example on accidental catches of protected species, data on recreational fisheries, data on freshwater aquaculture. The delegated act is expected to be adopted in the Spring 2021. Member States plan their data collection under multiannual work plans and report annually on their achievements. Member States have also undertaken pilot studies to test specific methodologies and had help for regional cooperation through direct management.

Regional cooperation has been substantially strengthened under the current period. In the new EU MAP, the Commission wants even greater emphasis on this aspect. Coordination under Regional Coordination Groups has become a central feature of the DCF. RCGs work on harmonised methodologies, make decisions, provide recommendations. Member States interact with each other and with the end users. The next step to bring forward the work of Regional Coordination Groups is to develop multiannual work plans. These would replace fully or in part the national work plans. The Commission is looking into the establishment of a host for regional data base in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Commission has launched a new series of regional grants that will support



these developments. Financing for data collection is managed under shared management. Under direct management, the Commission also increased support through regional grants.

As a conclusion, the DCF is well established and well regulated regime. It provides the tools and the necessary flexibility for Member States to collect the data. It provides the necessary data to support scientific advice under the CFP. The structures and operating arrangement of the DCF are well understood and accepted by the players. In terms of challenges, it is necessary to further operationalise regional cooperation and to finalise the update of EU MAP to cater to the needs of the end users.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair expressed full recognition for the key importance of reliable data and how fundamental it is for the CFP and other policy-making. The MAC previously adopted advice on the data available for STECF, which particularly drew attention to issues in the collection of price data by Member States. The Chair suggested the inclusion of the MAC in the future end user and stakeholder consultations. The Chair drew attention to the importance of quality assurance and requested information on who is responsible for ensuring quality assurance. The Chair asked for more information on the ongoing pilot studies on social and employment data, wondering how the MAC could contribute.

Annette Hurrelmann (DG MARE) explained that stakeholders were consulted on the formulation of the new EU MAP. The delegated act will soon go under public consultation, so there will be a chance to provide feedback. Quality assurance is very important. For this, it is essential to receive feedback from the end users and the report on the data's usability. There are mechanisms in place that do this such as a tool in the JRC's platform to follow-up on data issues with the Member States. The whole system needs to have embedded mechanisms to grow and improve the data. One of the Regional Coordination Groups is the Planning Group on Economics (PG ECON), which discusses socio-economic data collection. The pilot studies are run by individual Member States. The pilot studies have been running under the current period. These are a good way to test methodologies and approaches. The new MAP should integrate the results into the regular data collection. Presently, the Commission is requesting the data from the pilot studies, in order to assess how it will contribute to improved data collection in the coming period. The Commission is also assessing on how to better present this information and would be glad to discuss it with the MAC in the future.

The Chair, taking into account the importance of the PG ECON's work for the MAC, wondered if it would be possible for someone from that group to participate in a MAC meeting and provide an overview of their work.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) responded that it was possible, but highlighted that the discussions were very technical. The aim is to ensure consistency and data quality across Member States. The representative suggested holding, ahead of the annual PG ECON meeting, a technical meeting



between a MAC expert and the Commission experts, in order to understand the data call requests in detail. The following week, the Commission would launch the new data call for the Annual Economic Report. Every year, the Commission improves the data call. As an example, for the 2020 report, STECF tried to analyse the impacts of COVID-19. JRC together with STECF ensure the data quality. STECF experts meet for one week to go through the quality of the data. The representative expressed confidence in the robustness and accuracy of the data, while also expressing availability to discuss how to improve market data.

Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet

- **Presentation of 2020 STECF report**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

Raúl Prellezo (AZTI) explained that the objective of the AER was to use the expertise of more than 50 people and the economic data of the fleets to obtain a full overview of the economic situation of the EU fleet in 2018 and to project the situation in the next two years. The methodology for the 2020 forecast had to be adapted to take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to 2017, there was a reduction in the number of vessels, but, individually, vessels were more profitable. In 2017 to 2018, it is not possible to say this. In 2019, the profitability of the fleet recovered, but the following year was impacted by the pandemic. In general, the EU fleet is profitable and there is a positive economic growth. The expert provided an overview of the contents list of the report.

In 2018, in terms of active vessels, the main players are Italy and Greece. In employment, Italy and Spain. In value of landings, Spain. In gross value added, Spain and France. There were landings of 5.3 million tonnes with a value of landings of 7.8 billion euros. 78% of vessels were active. In terms of crew, there was 72% of full time employment. As for gross value added, 63% went to labour. When comparing 2018 to 2017, the number of vessels and fishers decreased slightly and the contribution to the GDP also decreased. 75% of the fleet is composed of small-scale fleet. For crew, 50% is for small-scale fleet. As for contribution to GDP, the small-scale fleet contributes only 14%. When comparing with the previous year, there was a significant reduction in quantity of landings, while the value increased slightly.

Overall, the profitability of the fleet is driven by the large-scale fleet. The small-scale fleets have improved their profitability margins, while it has decreased for large-scale fleets. In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the opposite happens. In the South Western waters, the North Western waters, and the North Sea, the small-scale fleet's profitability improved, but, in the Baltic Sea, it almost collapsed. Large-scale fleet's profitability is down except in the Mediterranean. The gap in profitability between the small-scale fleet and the large-scale fleet is close to zero. The average wages are much higher in the large-scale fleet, but small-scale fleet's values are biased by mixed rents.



The distant water fleet, while accounting for only 0.4% of the fleet, it accounts for 14% of the landings. The profitability margins of the distant water fleet improved in 2018.

For the 2020 forecast, the AER is not an inception impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries. It is an updated version of the usual forecast, so with a COVID-19 adjustment factor calculated based on four sources of data. In general, the impact on the EU-27 fisheries was in line with the impact on the general economy. The real prices relatively constant or down. Fuel costs decreased. The activity of some fleets was severely affected. The capital remuneration suffers more than labour. The situation is quite dispersed among Member States. In terms of information sources, STECF sent a survey to different producer organisations and stakeholders. The answer is usually more negative than it is observed in the data. In general, average prices decreased, but the situation varies across Member States. In gross profits, a 17% decrease is expected.

In terms of growth accounting, the report found that capital and energy are complements when producing capital services, there is a substitution effect among capital services and labour, energy and capital are more complementary in demersal fleets than in pelagic fleets, the Total Factor Productivity's levels are higher the North Atlantic Ocean than in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and that small-scale fleets have higher productivity than large-scale fleets. There is economic growth in the North Atlantic Ocean and in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

- **Exchange of views**

Patrick Murphy (IS&WFPO) wanted to know where the increase for the small-scale fleet came from and whether this increase was sustainable.

Juan Manuel Trujillo (ETF) requested information on the impact on employment, including job losses and precariousness of employment, of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raúl Prellezo (AZTI) explained that small-scale fleets are not better off than large-scale fleets, but are more productive. There are shorter value chains and less restriction by the TACs and quotas systems. On whether it is sustainable, they analyse the entire data from several years and the trend is positive. The economic growth seems to be sustainable. More analysis on the results is needed. As for the effect on employment, the expert highlighted that the report covers full-time employment, not employees. It is based on full time equivalents. The number of fishers is somewhat constant, but the activity has reduced.

The Chair requested information on how STECF reached the 2020 forecast's figure on the price drops due to the pandemic. According to industry estimates in the Northeast Atlantic, there are price drops between 20 and 30%. The Chair wondered about the difference between the information of the POs surveyed and the results.



Raúl Prellezo (AZTI) explained that, when calculating price drops, STECF does not produce estimations. Instead, they use EUMOFA, which collects the latest data on prices, and make comparisons with previous years. The entire 2020 was not covered by the report. On the differences between the POs and the observed data, the difference can be quite high and reach 40% of difference. STECF does not ignore the information provided, but uses both sources of information with weighted results.

Agnes Lisik (Oceana) wanted to know when the next report could be expected, plus if it would take into account the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and of Brexit.

Raúl Prellezo (AZTI) responded that the next report will be produced in the first semester of the year. It should be approved in the Summer by the STECF's plenary. The report will deal with 2019 data, but include forecasts for 2020 and 2021, which will include more observed data. Regarding Brexit, it is unclear how it will be dealt with. It will depend on the terms of reference of the group.

The Chair emphasised the importance of the forecasts in the context of the pandemic and Brexit. The Chair proposed to maintain the issue on the working group's agenda, including for the next meeting, in order to determine how the MAC could provide input to improve forecasts. The Chair drew attention to the importance of MAC participation as observers at STECF meetings.

Biodiversity Strategy

- **Presentation on the market perspective by Callum Nolan, Oceans Researcher, EJF**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

The Chair highlighted the importance of focusing the presentation on market topics, since other ACs are quite active on this file.

Callum Nolan (EJF) provided a presentation, on behalf of the EU IUU Coalition, on IUU fishing and the European Green Deal – advancing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The presentation covered the ongoing biodiversity loss, how oceans are covered by the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the EU IUU Coalition's policy brief on IUU and biodiversity, and the business case for biodiversity. They suggested a series of recommendations:

- Encourage EU Member States to take a “zero-tolerance” stance to IUU as part of their commitments under the Biodiversity Strategy, in line with commitments made by Commissioner Sinkevičius;
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to monitor and manage MPAs as well as assist international partners with MPA management to reduce risk of IUU caught fish entering EU markets;



- Make it harder for IUU caught products to enter the EU by continuing to roll out the CATCH digitised import database system;
- Actively drive innovation to reduce the harm caused by ‘ghost’ fishing gear and packaging across the seafood supply chain, to protect biodiversity and improve consumer perceptions of the seafood industry;
- Introduce further well-enforced traceability and transparency mechanisms which will help protect biodiversity, allow consumers and other stakeholders to make more informed choices and simultaneously improve the accuracy of available data on fish stocks. These should include the creation an easily accessible and user-friendly public database of fishing authorisations without delay; the adoption of Remote Electronic Monitoring and the sanctioning of EU vessels for persistent non-transmission of AIS;
- Implement mechanisms to ensure that the development and implementation of biodiversity policies are inclusive processes and give voice to stakeholders across the supply chain;
- Consider the inclusion of biodiversity provisions within future fisheries trade agreements, and the undertaking of biodiversity impact assessments.

They offered to prepare a draft advice based on the presentation for the consideration of the working group.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair invited members to provide their view on how the working group should proceed on this file. The Chair suggested that Callum Nolan could produce a draft to be considered at the next meeting, which should be focused on the MAC’s remit.

Jean-Marie Robert (Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne) wanted to know if the presentation was focused on the high seas or the EU waters. Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne want to discuss the Biodiversity Strategy, which is quite important for their activities and certain species. They added that it could be difficult to see how the MAC would produce advice on this file, since it is necessary to respect the remit of the other Advisory Councils.

The Chair wondered if this was a topic that would be better dealt with as a joint ACs advice.

Nicolás Fernández Muñoz (OPP72) underscored that IUU fishing should not take place, which leads to illegal trade. Therefore, it is quite relevant topic for the MAC. Illegal trade has social repercussions on certain coastal communities.

Pim Visser (VisNed) recognised that biodiversity must be protected and that robust ecosystems are needed, in order to feed a growing world population. The MAC should cover this file in the perspective of the supply of food with the lowest possible carbon footprint and lowest impact on ecosystems.



They expressed openness to the development of a joint ACs advice, if there is no specific perspective for the MAC.

Callum Nolan (EJF) responded that the suggested recommendations cover both EU waters and international waters. Taking into account the importance of imported seafood for the EU's market, there must be a global collaborative effort.

The Chair proposed to ask Callum Nolan (EJF) to produce a draft, at least two weeks before the next meeting, concentrating on the MAC's remit. The draft would be considered, in detail, at the next meeting. The size of the draft should be a reasonable size, in order to allow analysis of the entire document. At a later stage, the MAC could decide if a joint ACs advice would be relevant.

Marketing Standards

- **Update on STECF EWG on incorporating sustainability aspects by Commission representative**
- **MAC's Advice on Public Consultation – information**

The Chair recalled that the working group considered the draft advice under written procedure from 22 December 2020 to 15 January 2021. The draft was put forward to the Executive Committee for consideration under written procedure from 19 January to 3 February 2021. The draft text was based on previous MAC advice on the marketing standards.

Laurène Jolly (DG MARE) explained that the Commission is in the process of collecting materials and inputs for the impact assessment. The STECF EWG was established to working on the sustainability aspect of the initiative. The EWG was asked to identify possible sustainability criteria and indicators, which could be integrated in the marketing standards, if that option is selected. The group is composed of around 30 scientific experts with diverse expertise, including economics, social studies, and biology. The group met for once week in November, in order to work jointly on these indicators. The group worked on the known sustainability indicators. DG MARE is looking for simple indicators to cover some sustainability elements, which would need to rely on publicly available data. A draft report is being developed. The report will be endorsed by the STECF's Plenary in March.

The Commission is also undertaking several consultation activities. The public consultation is open until 23 February 2021. Several contributions have been submitted. The representative encouraged all MAC members to submit contributions. Targeted consultations will be launched, in order to interview stakeholders and national administrations. Several EU associations and the MAC will be covered by these targeted consultations. The interviews will take place in February and in March by the Commission's external consultant. DG MARE expects to have all the necessary materials by the end of March, in order to analyse them in April.



The Chair recalled that a MAC advice on the public consultation would likely be sent by 4 February and encouraged members to reply to the public consultation. The Chair suggested he was surprised that the MAC was not consulted in the drafting of the terms of reference for the STECF EWG. The Chair expressed hope that the MAC would be consulted on the outcomes of the STECF's report.

Laurène Jolly (DG MARE) expressed satisfaction that the MAC will submit an advice and that individual members will contribute. On the STECF EWG, the terms of reference were established in consultation with the Chair of the group. It is rather difficult to define terms of reference that are feasible in a short timeline for 30 scientific experts. DG MARE is counting on the expertise of the EWG Chair. STECF is a robust scientific group and provides robust scientific advice, which is why it was selected for this task.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) expressed understanding for the Chair's comments, but explained that DG MARE was following the procedure used for all STECF WGs. DG MARE does not consult ACs in the drafting of terms of reference for STECF. Discussions with the MAC have been taken into consideration, in order to prepare the terms of reference. The STECF WGs is composed of reputable experts. The tasks to develop sustainability indicators is quite difficult. The representative expressed interest in the work of Working Group 3 on the voluntary sustainability claims.

The Chair acknowledged the terms of the relationship between DG MARE and STECF, but added that, on this topic, a prior discussion with the MAC could have been useful, taking into account the MAC's interest, remit and active involvement on this file. The MAC will analyse the STECF report, once it is made available, and will wait for the targeted consultation.

Unfair Trading Practices in the Food Supply Chain

- **Presentation of questionnaire to suppliers and foreseen initiatives by Commission representative**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

Annette Kliemann (DG MARE) recalled that the directive on unfair trading practices needs to be transposed into national law. The directive protects the weaker suppliers against the stronger buyers. Transposition into national law should happen by 1 May 2021. No formal notifications from the Member States have been received. The directive will be applicable half a year later, in order for stakeholders to adapt. On 1 November 2021, the Commission will have to present an interim report on the state of transposition. The report is expected to state which Member States have transposed the directive and to include a summary of the main transposition choices. For example, Member States can select stricter deadlines for payments for perishable and non-perishable products, including fresh and frozen seafood. From 15 March 2022, Member States will need to report annually to the Commission. In 2025, the Commission must undertake an evaluation on the effectiveness of the measures implemented at national level and of the cooperation mechanism. In this first



evaluation report, the Commission will consider the Member States' annual reports and the baseline survey for stakeholders.

On the transposition process, the representative explained that, in each Member State, there will be an enforcement authority to deal with complaints about unfair trading practices. The Commission monitors the transposition process closely. Member States are debating internally on how wide the application should be in terms of operators. The directive only protects smaller suppliers against large suppliers. Member States might decide differently and protect all operators. Cooperatives are protected when acting as a supplier, but must also respect the directive when acting as a buyer. In terms of the calculation of turnover, the turnover of the company's group counts. The payment deadlines seem to be the main problem, since certain contracts will need to be changed. In the Commission's view, weaker suppliers should not be expected to serve as credit for large enterprises. For perishable products, such as fresh fish, payment must take place in 30 days, while payment for non-perishable products must take place in 60 days. Member States can maintain or adopt stricter measures or measures outside the scope of the directive. For example, in Bulgaria, in some cases, even a 15 days' deadline is practised. Enforcement is applicable to buyers located outside the EU.

Member States are debating internally on which enforcement authority to select, for example authorities under the Ministry of Agriculture or a competition law authority. Transposing in time can also pose a challenge. When there are national laws in place, the correct transposition can also be difficult. In view of the 2025 evaluation, DG AGRI and JRC launched a baseline survey, in order to hear from victims of unfair trading practices. The survey will be repeated annually across all Member States and target suppliers covered by the directive. Anonymised results will be published at the JRC portal.

- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair proposed the circulation of the baseline survey to the members, encouraging their participation.

Technical Measures Regulation

- **Presentation on preparation of the implementation report with relevance for the MAC by Commission representative**
- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair explained that the DG MARE tri-annual report on the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation focused mostly on topics outside the MAC's competence, such as fishing gear, bycatch species, and protected species. Therefore, in his view, the MAC should not respond to the questionnaire sent by DG MARE to all Advisory Councils.



Maria Moset Martinez (DG MARE) agreed with the position of the Chair. The representative highlighted that all contributions will be taken into account, even though the questionnaire was more relevant for the regional ACs.

Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab

- **Update on last meeting (21.01.201) by Norah Parke, Focus Group Chair**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

Norah Parke (Focus Group Chair) explained that the second meeting of the Focus Group took place on 21 January. The meeting was quite productive and gathering information on the national framework from several Member States. Additional information is still needed from some of the Member States recently involved in brown crab fisheries. The Focus Group has identified a series of problems to be addressed in the upcoming months, such as animal welfare and existing health certification problems with Asian markets and their effects on supply chain. A series of action points were agreed on. The next meeting will take place in early March.

AOB

- **Landing Obligation**

The Chair explained that, on 17 December 2020, the Commission sent a letter and a questionnaire to the Member States on the annual report on the implementation in 2020 of the landing obligation. No specific questionnaire was prepared for the Advisory Councils, but additional information on the implementation was welcomed. The Chair proposed to prepare a response through written procedure. Taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the general lack of data, the draft text would be similar to the MAC Advice on the European Commission's request on the Annual Report on the Implementation in 2019 of the Landing Obligation, which was adopted on 15 April 2020.



Summary of action points

- Covid-19 Pandemic:
 - Topic to be included on the draft agenda of the next meeting, in order to exchange views on the upcoming Commission's reply
- Data Collection Framework:
 - Contact DG MARE to determine possibilities of cooperation, for example through the participation on PG ECON
- Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet:
 - Topic to be included on the draft agenda of the next meeting, in order to exchange views with more detail on the forecasts
- Biodiversity Strategy:
 - Draft text to be prepared by Callum Nolan (EJF) ahead of the next meeting, followed by circulation to all working group members
 - Draft text to be considered at the next meeting
- Marketing Standards:
 - Report by STECF EWG on incorporating sustainability aspects to be discussed at the next meeting
 - Working group will await contact on the targeted consultation by the Commission's external consultant
- Unfair Trading Practices in the Food Supply Chain:
 - Secretariat to circulate the baseline survey to the members
- Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab:
 - Continuous updates on the next meetings



List of attendees

Representative	Organisation
Agnes Lisik	Oceana
Alen Lovrinov	Omega3 PO
Alexander Stein	European Commission
Andrew Kuyk	CEP
Angel Calvo	European Commission
Annelie Rosell	Swedish Pelagic Federation PO
Annette Hurrelmann	European Commission
Annette Kliemann	European Commission
Arnault Chaperon	FEAP
Callum Nolan	EJF
Carla Valeiras Álvarez	EuroCommerce
Catherine Pons	FEAP
Christine Absil	Good Fish Foundation
Cristine Fernández (observer)	United Kingdom
Daniel Voces	Europêche
Daniel Weber	European Fishmeal
Eduardo Míguez	OPP77 Puerto de Celeiro
Emiel Brouckaert	EAPC
Erik Bjørn Olsen	Danish Society for a Living Sea
Erin Priddle	MSC
Frangiscos Nikolian	European Commission
Garazi Rodriguez	FEAP
Georg Werner	Environmental Justice Foundation
Gerd Heinen	European Commission
Guillaume Carruel	EAPC



Representative	Organisation
Guus Pastoor	Visfederatie
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Jens Mathiesen	Danish Seafood Association
Jordi Guillen	European Commission
José Basilio Otero Rodríguez	Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Cadiz (FECOPESCA)
José Carlos Escalera	Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Cádiz (FECOPESCA)
Juan Manuel Elices López (observer)	Spain
Juan Manuel Trujillo	ETF
Julien Lamothe	Lamothe
Katarina Barathova	European Commission
Katarina Sipic	AIPCE-CEP
Katrin Poulsen	WWF
Laurène Jolly	European Commission
Linnéa Engström	MSC
Maria Luisa Álvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA
Maria Moset Martinez	European Commission
Matthias Keller	Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgroßhandels e.V.
Mirta Novak (observer)	Croatia
Nicolás Fernández Muñoz	OPP72
Norah Parke	EAPO
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO
Pierre Commère	ADEPALE
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council
Pim Visser	VisNed
Raúl PELLEZO	AZTI
Roberto Carlos Alonso	ANFACO-CECOPESCA



Representative	Organisation
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche
Santiago Folgar Gutierrez	AVOCANO
Sean O'Donoghue (Chair)	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd
Sergio López García	OPP Lugo
Stavroula Kremmydiotou	Market Advisory Council
Thomas Wenzel Kruse	Danish Fishermen PO

