

Working Group 1: EU Production

Minutes

Monday, 28 March 2022 (10:00 – 13:30 CEST)

Zoom / Radisson Collection Hotel, Grand Place Brussels (Hybrid)

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

Welcome from the Chair, Sean O'Donoghue

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

Adoption of draft agenda and of the last meeting minutes (25.01.22): adopted

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE), in relation to the minutes of the last meeting, drew attention to the need to verify the translations of the reference to “kingfish”.

The Secretary General informed that he was waiting to hear back from Mr Guus Pastoor (Visfederatie) concerning the scientific name of the species, in order to correct the reference.

Action points of the last meeting

- **State-of-play of the decision made during the last meeting – information**
- Focus Group on Brown Crab:
 - Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, exchange of views to be scheduled.
 - Agenda item scheduled (11:30 CEST)
- Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable and Competitive EU Aquaculture:
 - Secretariat to circulate the European Parliament's report on the topic
 - If there are no studies on logistics for the aquaculture sector, prepare a recommendation for an EUMOFA topic
 - Draft Report circulated: 25 March 2020
 - Agenda item on EUMOFA scheduled (10:15 CEST)
- Landing Obligation:
 - Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to the members on the perceived socioeconomic effects of the landing obligation
 - Questionnaire circulated: 28 February – 10 March 2022
 - Draft advice circulated: 18 March 2022
- Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet:
 - Secretariat and Europêche to prepare request on the use of data of the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse emissions of the fisheries sector
 - Agenda item scheduled (12:50 CEST)



- European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund:
 - Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, presentations by other Member States and exchanges of views to be scheduled
 - Invitations to several Member States sent
 - Agenda item scheduled (10.45 CEST)
- Production and Marketing Plans:
 - Ahead of the next meeting, Javier Ojeda (FEAP) and Pim Visser (VisNed) to prepare potential amendments to update the guidelines and good practices
 - Suggested amendments circulated: 24 March 2022

European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA)

- **Presentation on implementation of annual work programme and update on suggested studies by Commission representative**

The Chair recalled that, on 10 September 2020, the MAC adopted advice to the Commission with a suggestion of studies for EUMOFA to undertake. Several of the suggested studies have been undertaken and other are under development.

Christophe Vande Weyer (DG MARE) explained that all the suggested studies were integrated in the work programme of EUMOFA across the period of 2020 to 2022. Mr Vande Weyer provided an overview of the work programme for 2022 and of the other studies being undertaken. Over the past months, EUMOFA has also been providing information on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in a similar manner to the information provided along the COVID-19 pandemic. In this work, EUMOFA is focusing on species particularly affected by the war, especially the evolution of costs of the inputs into the value chain.

Mr Vande Weyere outlined that, in 2022, there would be five price structure analyses: seabream (published in January), meagre, cultivated oysters, rope grown mussels, and large trout. As an internal study, there would be a mapping of the EU processing industry. For internal purposes, EUMOFA analyses the contribution to SFPAs. The “EU Fish Market” report is expected to be published in November. A report on the supply balance at EU and Member States’ level would be published in July. EUMOFA continuously contributes with information for the negotiations on the TACs and quotas. There would be an update of species profiles. A few weeks prior, an update of the country profiles took place, which would be complemented with another update later in the year.

In terms of consolidation activities, EUMOFA provides monthly updates on trade flows affected by Brexit to DG MARE. An update of the study on EU organic aquaculture is being finalised. EUMOFA is regularly organising online seminars, the “EUMOFA Talks”, which have been quite successful. The audience of the webinars have continuously grown. Six “EUMOFA Talks” would be taking place along the year. A new edition of the of the Blue Bioeconomy report was also planned. As for the studies suggested by the MAC planned to be released in 2022, there would be the thematic analysis on caviar analogues – salmon eggs (roes) and trout eggs in June, and a thematic analysis on sturgeon in September. In March 2022, EUMOFA also published a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on farmed species, focusing on turbot and caviar.



- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair expressed appreciation for the Commission's efforts to integrate the suggestions of the MAC into the work programme of EUMOFA as well as the availability to exchange on the matter. The Chair asked information about the availability of studies on the logistics of aquaculture supply, which had been discussed at the January 2022 meeting.

Christophe Vande Weyer (DG MARE) emphasised the importance of ensuring a market perspective in the studies requested to EUMOFA. Mr Vande Weyer requested further information on the suggestion.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) explained that it would be important to study the circuit of distribution and commercialisation of the supply of aquaculture products in the market, in order to understand the flows of the products. The idea would be also to understand how producers complement traditional sales to retailers, for example the use of direct sales and of online sales. In the case of mollusc products, there have been difficulties in implementing the mentioned examples, since postal carriers refuse to transport packages with water. Therefore, there are issues connected to packaging and rules. Furthermore, in certain geographical areas of the EU, it is difficult for mollusc and fish products to reach consumers, so this "market desert" should be understood.

Christophe Vande Weyer (DG MARE) informed that DG MARE requested the undertaking of an EUMOFA study on the evolution of cooperation practices along the value chain, which should help to better understand impacts on profitability to different actors in the chain. In the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, this issue is even more relevant. In relation to the suggested study on the supply of aquaculture products, Mr Vande Weyer recommended the submission of technical specifications and scope by the MAC. The Commission representative further informed that, at the Seafood Global Expo, in April 2022, there would be a presentation about market changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including new channels of commercialisation.

The Chair thanked Mr Vande Weyer for the suggestion of submitting technical specifications and asked Mr Guillaumie about his availability to undertake this work.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) asked Mr Vande Weyer to provide an example of previous specifications, in order to facilitate the development of the submission, which would aim to better understand the accessibility of consumers to aquaculture products in different geographical areas and channels.

Patrick Murphy (IS&WFPO) highlighted that, in the case of Ireland, there were impacts to logistics due to the Russian invasion to Ukraine. Under the current legislative framework, health certificates are needed for the export of aquaculture products. There are ongoing difficulties with the organisation of transport, which impacts the emission of the health certificates. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were insufficient inspectors available to undertake the necessary checks on products. Requests must be made five days in advance, which can be difficult for the industry to meet. Mr Murphy expressed interest in knowing whether flexibility in the timeline was legally possible.

The Chair recognised the importance of the issue raised by Mr Murphy, but suggested to come back to it at a later stage, since it connected to the legal framework, not to an EUMOFA study.



Matthias Keller (Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.) requested information on the quality review process of the studies and country profiles published by EUMOFA. The German profile was recently updated, but it included data from 2016. There were also connections between industry and retail missing. Mr Keller wanted to know about the difference compared with data available at the national level, which the Commission does not seem to be using. Since the data at the national level is more precise and recent, Mr Keller wondered about the added value of the country profiles. He encouraged other members to check the profiles of their respective countries.

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE), while recognising the relevance and quantity of the documentation produced by EUMOFA, commented that, in relation to the country profiles, the consultants hired for EUMOFA did not seem to check their findings with industry professionals. Mr Commère suggested further interaction, in order to improve the quality of the country profiles.

Christophe Vande Weyer (DG MARE), on the possibility to carry out a study on outlets for aquaculture products, expressed availability to provide examples of technical specifications as well as to organise bilateral meetings, in order to determine the relevance of the study and EUMOFA's availability. On the consequences of Brexit and the evolution of trade flows, Mr Vande Weyer explained that, in the upcoming months, a case study on trade flows and market developments over the past year would be published. As for the country profiles, Mr Vande Weyer took note of the observations made. The Commission is aware that, at national level, information is more accurate. The added value of EUMOFA is that it is a pan-EU exercise, allowing comparable and standardised profiles. In order to ensure the comparability, the most recent available data for all Member States must be used. The drafting process requires significant time, since profiles must be prepared for 27 Member States, plus be translated in all official languages of the EU. The Commission representative expressed satisfaction with the availability of the members to review the profiles before publication, adding that DG MARE would be willing to share the draft versions for comments.

The Chair welcomed the availability to engage with members to improve the country profiles.

Patrick Murphy (IS&WFPO), in relation to the trade of mussels, highlighted that, even beyond the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, in the context of other markets, there were difficulties, such as the packaging and water, as mentioned by Mr Guillaumie earlier.

The Chair, in relation to the provision of information on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, wanted to know if EUMOFA would focus on particular topics for studies.

Christophe Vande Weyer (DG MARE) responded that, taking into account feedback from members and other stakeholders, DG MARE prepared a list of sensitive species, raw materials, and inputs. The focus will be on those sensitive items, in order to monitor the evolution of their price and availability. The Commission is aware of the high risk of shortages of certain raw materials. Mr Vande Weyer recognised the difficulty in gathering recent market data, since official data from the Member States can have a gap of several weeks.



Pim Visser (VisNed) wondered if it would be possible to distinguish between the direct, like the market effects, and the indirect effects, such as the shortage of sunflower oil and the fuel prices. Mr Visser commented that it would be difficult to distinguish between direct market effects from the current crisis and the ongoing EU-wide removal of COVID-19 restrictions. Presently, fish prices are very high, but there will be a very significant effect from the fuel prices. Mr Visser emphasised that the real crisis was taking place in Ukraine, considering the invasion and destruction faced.

European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

- **Presentation on national programmes**
- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair informed that the presentations by Member States representatives were postponed to the May 2022 meeting. The Chair expressed appreciation for the presentation provided by Spanish representatives at the previous meeting.

Focus Group on Brown Crab

- **Exchange of views on the reply to the advice on Production and Marketing of Brown Crab in the EU with Commission representative**

Paulo Vasconcelos (DG MARE) thanked the MAC, the NSAC, and the NWWAC for the information provided, recognising the importance of following up with stakeholders and scientific researchers on the topic. The advice covered several issues: background information, EU production by the main countries involved in the fishery, reported decreasing catches in certain areas that require increased monitoring of landings, exports to the People's Republic of China, and Brexit.

In relation to the exports to the People's Republic of China, Mr Vasconcelos explained that the Commission is aware of the problem connected to the cadmium levels reported in the brown meat of the crab. The differences in the analytical procedures performed by the EU and by China are known. This issue is being handled directly by DG TRADE, not by DG MARE. Regarding the issues connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission representative recalled that trade, customs, and taxation issues were dealt by DG MARE, DG TRADE, and DG TAXUD. The EMFAF includes funding for exceptional situations, including health crisis, which can provide specific compensation schemes.

In relation to Brexit and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Mr Vasconcelos highlighted that, in the near future, the issues mentioned would be dealt with in a more direct manner with UK counterparts within the remit of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, which will meet more regularly from April 2022 onward.

The Chair emphasised the importance of exchanging with DG TRADE and DG TAXUD on the topic. The Chair recognised the efforts made to solve the issue of testing for cadmium in exports to China, even though there was no significant progress.



Norah Parke (KFO) thanked the Commission for the detailed response to the advice. Ms Parke highlighted that the issue of cadmium testing has been ongoing since the trade developed. Member States have been addressing the problem in an individual manner with China. If there was an EU-wide approach, the situation might be easier to solve. In the recent past, Chinese authorities launched a public consultation on the possibility of raising the permitted level from 0.5 mg per Kg to 3 mg per Kg, which would be a significant increase, even though it would not resolve the problem fully.

At present, EU exporters report several unclear practices by Chinese authorities. In some areas, the authorities accept the health certificates without a problem, while, in other areas, the exported crab is quarantined and tested. If the quarantined product does not pass the Chinese testing, it is destroyed, representing a significant financial risk for EU exporters. Ms Parke drew attention to the problems connected to the COVID-19 rules, which requires breaking up consignments and opening boxes. This significantly impacts the economic value of the crab, since the crab must be provided live to the importing costumers.

In relation to production in the EU, Ms Parke highlighted the increasing number of countries involved in the production of brown crab. Ms Parke informed that, at a recent meeting of NWWAC, she proposed to contact the members of the Focus Group on Brown Crab, in order to discuss the results of the advice. There are issues connected to the health of the stock and availability of marine space – taking into account restrictions in the North Sea due to development of wind farms. She suggested the organisation of a workshop by Autumn 2022, particularly focused on the scientific monitoring of the stock.

- **Way forward**

The Chair stated that were clear issues of management and stocks to be addressed. The Chair suggested, that, if the NSAC and the NWWAC were in agreement, the MAC would be an observer to the work undertaken. At the next meeting, Ms Parke could also provide an update on the potential establishment of a new Focus Group by the NSAC and the NWWAC. The Chair further suggested that the issue of trade would continue to be addressed in Working Group 2.

Pim Visser (VisNed) drew attention to the issue of trading of brown crab between Member States exporting to China. The Netherlands is considered a good hub for exports to China, but there are problems connected to the health certificates. There should not be restrictions to the export of products from the common market, for example refusals from the Dutch authorities to recognise health certificates from another Member State. Mr Visser also drew attention to the increased popularity of brown crab fishing in the North Sea, including with the conversion of Dutch operators. There is significant ambition from the Dutch, German, and Danish governments for multiuse space for windfarms and brown crab fishing. Multiuse space is an opportunity for the continuation of fishing operations, despite the significant increase in space used for windfarms. It could also be an opportunity for other forms of passive fishing and for mussel farming, ensuring the provision of high value protein.

The Chair suggested that the trade issue mentioned by Mr Visser could be addressed by Working Group 2. The other issues would be appropriately addressed by the NWWAC and the NSAC.



Christine Absil (Good Fish) wondered about scientific monitoring of cadmium levels, particularly if there was variation in different geographical areas, which could affect trade.

Norah Parke (KFO) explained that cadmium levels in brown crab and other crustaceans are not an environmental issue. It is a physiological element of the animals. Therefore, it is not a matter of varying levels of cadmium across geographical areas. The cadmium levels vary with the age of the animals.

The Chair suggested that trade issues could be addressed by Working Group 2, while, at the May meeting of Working Group 1, Ms Parke could provide an update on the work of the Focus Group of the NWWAC.

Landing Obligation

- **Presentation of the replies to the Secretariat's questionnaire**

The Chair recalled that a questionnaire was circulated to the members from 28 February to 10 March 2022 about the implementation of the landing obligation. Replies were submitted by FECOPESCA, OPP72, OPP Lugo / AVOCANO, AIPCE-CEP, Good Fish, and Omega3 PO. Based on these replies and previous discussions, a draft text was circulated on 18 March 2022. According to the replies, there was no significant effects on the market from the landing of catches below the minimum conservation reference size. The questionnaire also demonstrated that there is little information available. In the context of the consideration of the draft advice, the Chair encouraged members to focus on the assessment of the market effects of the landing obligation, particularly the landing of catches below the minimum conservation reference sizes.

- **Consideration of draft advice & way forward**

The Chair provided an overview of the background information. The Working Group proceeded with a consideration, on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis, of the draft recommendations.

Jarosław Zieliński (PSPR) emphasised the role of pelagic species as strategic resources for the production of food reserves, as demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Mr Zieliński drew attention to a recent workshop with EFCA experts who recognised that the pelagic sector of the Baltic Sea complies with the landing obligation. It demonstrates the sustainability of the fishery, including sprat and herring, and of the corresponding products. Mr Zieliński informed that, the previous week, BSAC addressed a statement to DG MARE Director-General Vitcheva expressing disappointment that, in the context of the landing obligation and the Technical Measures Regulation, the BSAC was not consulted regarding a draft implementing act to the Technical Measures Regulation.

The Chair requested further information about the connection to the draft advice.

Jarosław Zieliński (PSPR) explained that his previous intervention was meant to provide background information on the implementation of the landing obligation.



The Chair suggested that the point about the implementation of the landing obligation in the Baltic Sea could be included in the draft text as background information, while the point about BSAC's statement seemed to be outside the remit of the MAC.

Pim Visser (VisNed) emphasised that it should be clear that catches below minimum conservation reference size cannot be marketed for direct human consumption. A market for undersized fish should not be created. It is not cost effective to catch undersized fish. In relation to draft recommendation a), Mr Visser suggested the inclusion of a reference to outlets for purposes other than direct human consumption, in line with Article 15 of the Technical Measures Regulation. Mr Visser argued that, without the exemptions currently in place, the situation would be much more complex.

The Chair suggested the inclusion of a reference, under draft recommendation b), to the existence of specific exemptions in different geographical areas.

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE) expressed disagreement with the wording of draft recommendation c). The reference to “the gap between supply and demand” seems to provide a market logic. The reference to the “shelf life of the products” gives the notion that it refers to supermarkets. Mr Commère emphasised that these are products that do not receive marketing. The aim is to avoid landing fish below the minimum conservation reference size, so the reference should not be to a “demand”. In relation to the last sentence, the reference should be to conservation post-landing, meaning the stabilisation of the products.

The Chair agreed with Mr Commère concerning draft recommendation c). The replies to the questionnaire showed that there are no marketing problems connected to catches below minimum conservation reference size, so it was not necessary to “close the gap between supply and demand”.

Emiel Brouckaert (EAPO) emphasised that the main objective is to avoid and minimise unwanted catches. Mr Brouckaert suggested the inclusion of reference to this objective in the introductory paragraph of the recommendations section.

The Chair suggested the deletion of the reference to “in order to close the gap between supply and demand” and of “including to improve the shelf life of the products”. The reference to “necessary infrastructure and equipment” should state that it is “if required”. The Chair further suggested the addition of a sentence about how, based on knowledge collected by the MAC, the presence in the market of fish below minimum conservation reference sizes does not appear to be significant.

Pim Visser (VisNed) highlighted that these products need to be processed, but that there is no processing capacity. There should be a reference to the need for more insight into the existence of processing capacity and the market's ability to absorb landed catches below minimum conservation reference sizes, particularly if it is not economically viable due to the low volumes landed. Mr Visser exemplified that, in the Netherlands, some of these catches were directed to feed for fur production, but that fur production was closed. This means that there might be insufficient outlets to process the landed catches.

The Chair suggested the inclusion of a reference to “including the processing capacity”.



Emiel Brouckaert (EAPO), in relation to draft recommendation d), wondered about the meaning of “regular”.

The Secretary General responded that the aim of the draft paragraph was that checks on the implementation of the landing obligation should take place in the context of pre-existing control activities, meaning that the operator would not be burdened with an additional check dedicated only for the landing obligation by control authorities.

The Chair recalled that the paragraph was inspired by one of the replies to the questionnaire. The Chair added that, under the Fisheries Control Regulation, control activities are already expected to take place together.

Nicolás Fernández (OPP72) expressed support for the wording of draft recommendation d). There should not be a specific control for the implementation of the landing obligation. It should be included in the context of other control activities.

The Working Group agreed on the amendments proposed. The Working Group further agreed to an urgent written consultation to confirm the redrafting before proceeding with the submission of the draft advice to the Executive Committee.

Production and Marketing Plans

- **Presentation of potential amendments to update the MAC’s guidelines and good practices by Pim Visser (VisNed) and Javier Ojeda (FEAP)**

The Chair recalled that Pim Visser (VisNed) and Javier Ojeda (FEAP) agreed to analyse the guidelines and good practices on the Production and Marketing Plans, in order to account for the EMFAF Regulation. The amendments suggested by Mr Visser and Mr Ojeda were circulated on 24 March 2022. Via email, comments were received from Sergio López García (OPP Lugo) and Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA). The Chair encouraged members to provide suggestions, so that the text could be amended at the May or September meetings.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) stated that the majority of the document remains true, so it should be maintained. The first amendment was to incorporate references to the EMFAF Regulation. The second amendment was to point out a gap concerning transnational POs, in the context of Production and Marketing Plans. Transnationality was already foreseen in the original system and several transnational POs were established. It essentially means that a national PO can admit members from a neighbouring Member State. In the aquaculture sector, there are interesting opportunities for cooperation between POs, but a feasible manner for these POs to engage is missing. Mr Ojeda’s suggested amendment consisted of a paragraph explaining the situation and potential solutions.

- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair agreed with Mr Ojeda’s views on transitional POs, but wondered whether it would not be more appropriate to deal with the issue in a separate manner from the guidelines and good practices document. The document is meant to be addressed at fishery and aquaculture POs when developing



their Production and Marketing Plans. The problems of transnationality would be more appropriately addressed to the Commission. The Chair suggested that the document should mention the change from a mandatory to a voluntary nature in the funding of PMPs by Member States.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) agreed that the issue of transnationality, which is relevant for both POs and inter-branch organisations, should be addressed separately from the document, for example through the adoption of advice on the topic.

Sergio López García (OPP Lugo) argued that it was an opportune moment to proceed with a revision of the document. The suggestions provided by Mr Ojeda and Mr Visser focused primarily on the regulatory aspects and on the issue of transnationality. Mr López proposed to include further issues, for example indicators and management bodies. In the case of Spain, there are different geographical levels in the management bodies. The decision on the funding of certain measures can be decided by a regional authority or by the national one. It would be useful to have unified criteria, in order to ensure a level-playing-field, and to highlight differences between countries.

Juana María Parada (OR.PA.GU.) agreed with the interventions of Mr López and Mr Ojeda. Ms Parada stated that the issue of transnationality was quite relevant and was not fully addressed by the CFP. The MAC should address it separately from the guidelines and good practices document. In practice, transnational associations are in a limbo.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) agreed with addressing the issue of transnationality separately, since it is an important issue faced by many POs. Nevertheless, the guidelines and good practices should include a reference to the current framework on the transnational dimension of the POs.

Nicolás Fernández (OPP72) agreed with Mr López concerning the importance of the revision.

Pedro Luis Casado López (OPP80) agreed with the importance of the issue of transnationality.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) commented that it could be useful for the work to consider the guidance on transnational POs issued by the Commission, which followed a study conducted two years prior on the topic.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) drew attention to the final report of the pilot project of the EU platform for fishery and aquaculture producer organisations.

The Chair proposed, as a way forward, the preparation of draft advice on transnationality by Mr Ojeda in coordination with the Secretariat. In relation to the revision of the guidelines and good practices document, the Chair proposed for Mr Ojeda and Mr Visser, in coordination with Mr López, the Secretariat and himself, to further update the document, ahead of the May meeting.

Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet

- **Consideration of official position ahead of STECF meetings**



The Chair recalled that, as previously agreed, the Secretary and himself would be attending, as active observers, the 13-17 June 2022 STECF meeting on the Annual Economic Report.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) recalled that, at the previous meeting, following the presentation by the STECF expert, Europêche suggested the drafting of a letter to the Commission concerning the calculation of greenhouse missions by the fishing fleet. Mr Voces presented a proposal of draft letter. In relation to the reduction of greenhouse emissions and of fuel consumption by the fishing fleet, the data of STECF only dates back to 2009. In the context of the European Green Deal and the “Fit for 55” package, the ambition of the Commission is to reduce greenhouse emissions by at least 55% by 2030 when compared to 1990 levels. In order to fully understand whether the targets have been met, the available data should be used. Under the Kyoto Protocol, Member States are obliged to report on the missions of the different sectors. Therefore, the request would be for DG MARE and STECF to liaise with DG CLIMA to detail the greenhouse emissions of the fishing industry. The data should be available for the Commission services and for stakeholders.

- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Secretary General suggested redrafting the document as advice to the Commission, which would provide suggestions for the Commission to take up with STECF.

Pim Visser (VisNed) suggested, for reasons of schedule, to proceed with a written procedure.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) emphasised that the work of STECF on the Annual Economic Report is exclusively based on the Data Collection Framework.

The Chair, as an additional issue to bring up at the STECF meeting, drew attention to the issue of capital allowances and capital depreciation. A new vessel could have capital allowances up to 15 million €, which could be “written off” in one year, translating into a significant effect on the overall gross margin of the vessel. STECF is aware of the issue, but further work to address the problem is needed. The calculation method used by STECF can provide distorted results given how the capital allowances and depreciation are dealt with. Therefore, it would be useful to discuss how to sort out the anomalies. The Chair stated that the issue of fuel should also be brought up to STECF. In the previous year, the STECF report included a chapter on Brexit, which the Chair hoped would be maintained.

Pim Visser (VisNed) wondered about the possibility of individual members contacting national specialists involved in the topic. In the case of the Netherlands, economic institutes have prepared a normalisation of capital depreciation.

The Chair agreed that could be useful, even though it would still be necessary for the MAC to discuss it with STECF, in order to ensure a solution across the EU.

Emiel Brouckart (EAPO), in terms of topics to bring up to STECF, emphasised the importance of maintaining the nowcast and forecast exercises.



Common Fisheries Policy & Common Market Organisation

- **State-of-play on the adoption of advice - information**
- **Exchange of views & way forward**

The Chair thanked the members for the work to draft advice on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy and on the Common Market Organisation. Extraordinary meetings took place in February 2022. There were several written consultations. Advice on the Common Fisheries Policy was adopted on 23 March 2022. Adoption by the Executive Committee of advice on the Common Market Organisation was pending.

AOB

None.

Summary of action points

- European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA):
 - Draft advice requesting a study on outlets for aquaculture products to be prepared by Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) and Javier Ojeda (FEAP), in coordination with the Secretariat, following the provision by DG MARE of template of technical specifications
 - Secretariat to coordinate with DG MARE about the possibility of industry members providing feedback on draft country profiles
- Focus Group on Brown Crab:
 - Trade-related issues to be addressed by Working Group 2
 - Cooperation to be maintained with NWWAC and NSAC on their future work
- Landing Obligation:
 - Draft advice to be amended and circulated via urgent written procedure
- Production and Marketing Plans:
 - Javier Ojeda (FEAP), in coordination with the Secretariat, to prepare advice on transnationality
 - Javier Ojeda (FEAP), Pim Visser (VisNed), Sergio López (OPP Lugo), Chair, and Secretariat to further update guidelines and good practices document, ahead of the May meeting
 - For the May meeting, request presentation by Commission representative about the final report of the pilot project on the EU platform for fishery and aquaculture POs
- Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet:
 - Draft advice to be developed, taking into account the draft letter prepared by Europêche, and other topics raised (capital depreciation, fuel, Brexit, nowcast/forecast)



Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Alen Lovrinov	Omega 3 Producers Organisation	Member
Alexandre Rodríguez	Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)	Observer
Antonia Leroy	WWF	Member
Alexandra Philippe	Market Advisory Council	Secretariat
Benoît Guerin	BG Sea Consulting	Observer
Benoît Thomassen	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Bruno Guillaumie	European Molluscs' Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Catherine Pons	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Christine Absil	Good Fish	Member
Christophe Vande Weyer	European Commission	Expert
Daniel Voces	Europêche	Member
Daniel Weber	European Fishmeal	Member
Emiel Brouckaert	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Francisco Lahoz Molina	Federación de Asociaciones Provinciales de Empresarios Detallistas de Pescados y Productos Congelados (FEDEPESCA)	Member
Frangiscos Nikolian	European Commission	Expert
Garazi Rodríguez	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Georg Werner	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Member
Guus Pastoor	Visfederatie	Member
Jaroslav Zieliński	Polskie Stowarzyszenie Przetworców Ryb (PSPR)	Member
Javier Ojeda	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne	Member
Jennifer Reeves	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member
Jens Mathiesen	Danish Seafood Association	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
Jérémie Souben	Fédération des Organisations de Producteurs de la Pêche Artisanale (FEDOPA)	Member
Jeroen Loog	Netherlands	Observer
Jérôme Dorgelo	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member
Joash Mathew	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP)	Member
José Basilio Otero Rodríguez	Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores (FNCP)	Member
José Carlos Escalera	Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Cádiz (FECOPESCA)	Member
Juana María Parada Guinaldo	Organización de Palangreros Guardeses (OR.PA.GU.)	Member
Julio Morón Ayala	Organización Productores Asociados Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC)	Member
Louis Lambrechts	WWF	Member
Katarina Sipic	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP)	Member
Marta Moren Abat	European Commission	Expert
Massimo Bellavista	COPA COGECA	Member
Matthias Keller	Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.	Member
Miguel Lizaso	European Commission	Expert
Mike Turenhout	Visfederatie	Member
Nicolás Fernández Muñoz	Organización Productores Pesqueros Artesanales Lonja de Conil (OPP72)	Member
Noémie Jegou	Market Advisory Council	Secretariat
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Pablo Iraeta	Spain	Observer
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO)	Member
Paulo Vasconcelos	European Commission	Expert
Pedro Luis Casado López	Asociación de Armadores Punta del Moral (OPP80)	Member
Pierre Commère	Association Des Entreprises de Produits Alimentaires Élaborés (ADEPALE)	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
Pim Visser	VisNed	Member
Poul Melgaard Jensen	Danish Seafood Association	Member
Roberto Carlos Alonso	ANFACO-CECOPESCA	Member
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche	Member
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Chair
Sergio López García	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OPP-07-LUGO)	Member
Thomas Kruse	Danish Fishermen P.O.	Member
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	Asociación Española de Mayoristas, Importadores, Transformadores y Exportadores de Productos de la Pesca y Acuicultura (CONXEMAR)	Member

