

## Working Group 1: EU Production

### Draft Agenda

Wednesday, 4 February 2026 (10:00 – 13:30 CEST)

European Food Centre (Wandelaarkaai 7 / 61, 8400 Oostende)

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

**10:00 Welcome from the Chair, Julien Lamothe**

**10:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (02.12.25)**

**10:10 Action points**

- State-of-play of the action points of the last meeting - information

**10:15 Catch Welfare Platform**

- Presentation on solutions to improve animal welfare in fisheries by Michelle Boonstra (Catch Welfare Platform)
- Exchange of views

**10:45 VeriFish**

- Presentation on the work of the project by Sara Pittonet Gaiarin (VeriFish)
- Exchange of views

**11:15 Break**

**11:30 European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture**

- Presentation on the work programme of EUMOFA by Christophe Vande Weyer (MARE A4)
- Demonstration of the website of EUMOFA
- Exchange of views
- Way forward

**12:15 Flags of Convenience**

- Presentation of the study "Beyond the flag: who really owns the world's large-scale fishing fleet" by Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana)
- Exchange of views

**12:45 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries**

- Consideration of draft advice on the Terms of Reference of the 2026 edition of the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet



- Way forward

**13:20 AOB**

**13:25 Summary of action items**

**13:30 End of meeting**

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## Annotated Version

Type	Item	Background	Purpose	Documents
Information	Catch Welfare Platform	The Catch Welfare Platform is an ongoing initiative composed of industry and researchers to develop solutions to improve animal welfare in fisheries. The platform aims for characterising capture-related hazards, defining scientific principles and tools for implementing good catch welfare, understanding technical and socio-economic barriers, and facilitating stakeholder engagement and public awareness through effective communication and education.	Presentation on solutions to improve animal welfare in fisheries by Catch Welfare Platform representative.	- <a href="#">Catch Welfare Platform</a>
Information	VeriFish	VeriFish is an EU project that aims to develop a sustainability indicator framework to communicate responsible aquafood production and consumption patterns. The project was launched in 2024 and will be concluding in April 2026. The MAC Secretary General is a member of the External Advisory Board of the project.	Presentation on the work of the project by VeriFish representative.	- <a href="#">VeriFish</a>
Information + Decision	EUMOFA	EUMOFA is a market intelligence tool on the European Union fisheries and aquaculture sector, developed by the European Commission. In 2024, the official website was updated to improve user-friendliness. Every year, DG MARE prepares a work programme for EUMOFA, which covers price structure analyses, thematic analyses, and conferences. Under the annual work programme, the MAC committed to providing suggestions of studies.	Presentation of on the work programme of EUMOFA by DG MARE representative. Demonstration of the website by DG MARE representative. Decision on way forward (e.g., timing of new advice).	- <a href="#">EUMOFA</a> - <a href="#">Advice</a>
Information	Flags of Convenience	In May 2025, Oceana published a study that aims to comprehensively map the ownership to date of the world's large-scale fleet. The study covers nearly 7000	Presentation of studies on flags of convenience by Oceana representative.	- <a href="#">Advice</a> - <a href="#">Study</a>

		vessels across 143 flag States. In 2026, Oceana will publish a new report on the topic. On 8 October 2021, the MAC adopted advice encouraging leadership from the EU to reduce the detrimental effects of flags of convenience.		
Consideration	Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet	The report is published every year by STECF, providing a comprehensive overview on the structure and economic performance of EU fishing fleets. Under the annual work programme, the MAC committed to providing advice to the European Commission on the Terms of Reference of the next edition. A questionnaire was circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.	Consideration of draft advice on the Terms of Reference of the 2026 edition of the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet	- Draft Advice (via e-mail / Members Area)

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