

## Executive Committee

### Minutes

Tuesday, 2 December 2025 (14:00 – 16:30 CEST)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez

#### [Presentation](#)

**Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (18.09.25):** Adopted

#### Action points

- **State-of-play of the action points of the last meeting - information**
- Working Groups:
  - Draft letter on the state-of-play on labelling and consumer information concerning plant-based imitations of fishery and aquaculture products to be considered via written procedure.
    - Letter agreed via written procedure on 21 October 2025.
- Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products:
  - Questionnaire on simplification to be circulated to the Working Groups, to initiate the preparation of advice on the matter.
    - Questionnaire circulated from 3 to 17 October 2025.
- AOB:
  - Secretary General to accept the invitation for a meeting with the Head of the Mission of Ecuador to the European Union.
    - Meeting held on 24 September 2025.

#### Membership of General Assembly

- **Endorsement of applications for membership**
  - **Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP-71)**

#### [Presentation](#)



Elvira Morote (OPP-71) informed that her organisation represents a diverse fishing fleet operating in Geographical Sub-Areas 1 and 2, including trawlers, purse-seiners and small-scale vessels. OPP-71 is a member of the Mediterranean Advisory Council. Her organisation can provide the perspective of primary producers with practical experience in traceability systems, online sales and product differentiation, most notably through the “Red Prawn of Almería” brand. OPP-71 participates actively in sustainability initiatives, collaborates with scientific partners, and promotes responsible consumption through outreach activities.

Ms Morote highlighted that, in the context of Working Group 1, her organisation could contribute to discussions on sustainable EU production, the long-term viability of small-scale fisheries, and the challenges posed by invasive species and competition from third-country fleets. In Working Group 2, it could contribute to discussions on the importance of short supply chains, fair competition and the promotion of high-quality local products. As for Working Group 3, it could contribute to discussions on strong commitments to traceability, clear labelling, health guarantees in fish markets, and the need for effective enforcement to prevent illegal practices and strengthen consumer confidence.

*The Executive Committee endorsed Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP-71) as a member.*

- **Organización de Productores de Mejillón de Galicia (OPMEGA)**

#### Presentation

Lino Suarez (OPMEGA) informed that his organisation is a national Producer Organisation formally recognised in 1986 by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as OPP-18. Originally established under the name OPMAR, the organisation adopted its current name in 1996. Since its creation, OPMEGA has brought together mussel producers from all the Galician estuaries, coordinating their efforts to improve the sector and defend the interests of both producers and Galician mussels. As the most representative organisation in the Galician mussel sector, OPMEGA takes part in all relevant regional and national forums where the industry’s interests must be promoted, debated or protected. Its role centres on uniting producers, strengthening their voice and ensuring the recognition and defence of the quality and value of mussels from Galicia. OPMEGA comprises 579 rafts and 312 members, organised into 11 delegations across the estuaries of Muros and Noia, Arousa, Pontevedra, Vigo and also Portugal.

*The Executive Committee endorsed Organización de Productores de Mejillón de Galicia (OPMEGA) as a member.*

The Chair welcomed OPP-71 and OPMEGA as new members of the Advisory Council.

#### **UN Trade and Development**

- **Presentation on ocean economy and fisheries initiatives, including South-South trade in the marine fisheries and aquaculture sectors, by David Vivas Eugui (UNCTAD)**

#### Presentation



David Vivas Eugui (UNCTAD) highlighted that South–South trade in fisheries is becoming increasingly important at a time when global marine resources are under severe pressure. The share of overfished stocks has almost quadrupled since 1974, with 88% of marine fisheries now either overfished or fished at their maximum sustainable limit. Aquaculture has emerged as the main alternative, rising from 20% of global aquatic production in the 1990s to more than half today. The fisheries value chain generated around 203 billion dollars in global trade in 2023, and fisheries-related goods now account for nearly a quarter of all ocean-based exports. Consumption is highly concentrated in Asia, which accounts for almost three quarters of global aquatic food demand, with China alone representing half of that figure.

Mr Vivas explained that trade among developing countries is expanding far more rapidly than global trade overall, both in primary fisheries products and processed seafood. Tariffs on fish products among developing economies are generally low, except for least developed countries, and most sanitary and phytosanitary requirements apply broadly across all fish products. Because developing countries specialise in different species and products, they often have complementary strengths that favour deeper South–South trade relations.

Mr Vivas outlined that the Global System of Trade Preferences, established in 1988, provides a framework to expand sustainable extra-regional and South–South trade. With 42 participants and three rounds of negotiations, it operates under the Enabling Clause, meaning it is exempt from the World Trade Organisation’s Most Favoured Nation obligation. The system contains provisions on rules of origin based on value added, preferential tariff reductions and wider cooperation instruments. These include tariff arrangements to improve market access, mutual recognition of non-tariff measures such as catch certificates, long-term supply contracts to provide security for both exporters and importers, and sectoral cooperation aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability.

Mr Vivas emphasised that the UNCTAD’s Sustainable Ocean Economies programmes reinforce these opportunities. The Ocean Economy and Trade Strategies initiative helps coastal developing countries increase economic benefits from marine resources through stronger legal and institutional frameworks. The Blue BioTrade programme, already implemented in several Caribbean and Central American countries, supports exports of marine biological resources in line with social, environmental and economic sustainability standards. Together, these initiatives draw on UNCTAD’s combined expertise in ocean governance and biodiversity to promote a more sustainable and equitable global fisheries economy.

### Working Groups

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) informed that, at the meeting of 2 December 2025 of Working Group 1:

- A representative of FAO delivered a presentation of the 2025 edition of the Review of the State of World Marine Fishery Resources.



- EUMOFA experts delivered a presentation on the study “digitalisation at first sale stage”.
  - A representative of the relevant STECF Expert Working Group delivered a presentation of the 2025 edition of the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to proceed with a questionnaire to collect input for future advice on the Terms of Reference of the next edition of the report.
  - The Working Group held an exchange on the appropriate terminology to refer to “fishery and aquaculture products”. The Working Group agreed to continue using the mentioned term.
  - As an AOB, the Working Group followed up on the exchange of views on traceability requirements held at the Working Group 2 meeting of the previous day.
- **Reporting by Pierre Commère, Chair of Working Group 2**

Pierre Commère (Seafood Europe) informed that, at the meeting of 1 December 2025 of Working Group 2:

- DG MARE representatives provided an update on the latest trade developments, including ongoing negotiations with Malaysia and with the United Arab Emirates, amendments to the agricultural agreement with Morocco, implementation of the deal reached with the USA, and an overview of the timelines for the ratification of the free trade agreements with Mexico and with Mercosur.
- The Working Group exchanged views with DG MARE representatives on upcoming traceability requirements, particularly Article 58 of the amended Fisheries Control Regulation, that will enter into force on 10 January 2026. Several members expressed concerns and called for more clarity. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to proceed with advice on the matter.
- The consultants hired by DG MARE provided an update on the ongoing study on feasible traceability systems for prepared and preserved fishery and aquaculture products.
- Mike Turenhout (Visfederatie) presented the “EU Seafood Supply Synopsys 2025” report published by Seafood Europe.
- Jesús Urios (EJF) presented a report on unregulated squid in the Southwest Atlantic published by his organisation.
- The Secretary General provided an update on the EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action. Members were encouraged to participate in the comprehensive exchange with DG MARE scheduled for the 5 February 2026 meeting of the Executive Committee.



The Secretary General informed that he received an email message from María Luisa Álvarez (FEDEPESCA) to express her concern about the exchange of views held with DG MARE representatives on the traceability requirements. The Secretary General highlighted that Mr Heinen (DG MARE) had committed to communicating the concerns of the members to his colleagues in MARE D4. For the February 2026 meeting, an invitation would be sent to MARE D4 representatives to hold a new exchange of views on the technical aspects of the implementation of the new traceability requirements.

The Chair emphasised the importance of maintaining a constructive and collaborative relationship with DG MARE. While industry representatives were not opposed to traceability requirements, it was important to have clarity and guidance.

- **Reporting by Benoît Thomassen, Chair of Working Group 3**

Benoît Thomassen (FEAP) thanked Paulien Prent (Vice-Chair of Working Group 3) for chairing the meeting of 1 December 2025 of Working Group 3 in his absence.

The Secretary General informed that, at the meeting of 1 December 2025 of Working Group 3:

- Javier Ojeda (FEAP) delivered a presentation on the use of the designation “seabass” in international markets, particularly in the marketing of barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) in Asia and in the Middle East. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to proceed with advice on the matter.
- A DG AGRI representative delivered a presentation on the legislative proposal to protect “meat-related terms” under the Common Market Organisation for Agricultural Products. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to proceed with advice on the matter. ~
- Luigi Tozzi (SAFE) presented a report from his organisation on transparency in food products, particularly focusing on the term “natural”.
- The Working Group considered draft advice on simplification and reduction of administrative burden. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Focus Group to further develop the advice. The Secretariat would be circulating a proposal of Terms of Reference.

### Functioning of the Advisory Councils

- **Exchange of views on the participation of the various stakeholder groups**

The Chair recalled that, in September 2025, several environmental NGOs sent a letter to Commissioner Kadis on the participation of environmental NGOs in the Advisory Councils. The letter includes an Annex with suggestions and examples of good practices.



The Secretary General explained that the letter referred to concerns in the functioning of some Advisory Councils but did not explicitly identify specific ones. The Secretary General provided an overview of the issues and solutions identified in the Annex.

The Secretary General highlighted that, in his view, the solutions mentioned in points 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 were generally implemented in the MAC. The issue of the composition of the membership and balanced voting raised in point 3 would require an amendment to the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation. The development of rules of conduct, including establishment of “whistle blowing” mechanism, suggested in point 6 had been addressed at the 18 November 2025 Inter-Advisory Councils meeting. In his view, while possible, there would be a financial cost and some administrative burden for the establishment of such mechanisms. As for the full disclosures suggested in point 7, in his view, while possible, these would imply a significant administrative burden for the Secretariat in the collection and handling of the information.

The Secretary General informed that, following the letter, the subscribing NGOs were invited to a meeting with Commissioner Kadis. According to DG MARE, after the mentioned meeting, Commissioner Kadis proposed to proceed with a code of conduct and a list of best practices for the Advisory Councils. The Secretary General encouraged the members to share their views on the functioning of the Advisory Council, including on the participation of the various stakeholder groups, as a way to assist him in the future development of the mentioned code of conduct by DG MARE.

Guus Pastoor (Seafood Europe) argued that, despite the merit of several of the issues raised, these should have been discussed internally within the Advisory Councils, particularly in the context of the Executive Committees, before the submission of a letter to the Commissioner. In his view, most of the suggested actions were already implemented in the MAC, even though there was always room for improvement. Mr Pastoor expressed disappointment that it would be necessary to follow up with the Commissioner without a broad discussion beforehand.

Julien Daudu (EJF) informed that his organisation had signed the letter and participated in the meeting with Commissioner Kadis. Mr Daudu agreed with Mr Pastoor and the Secretary General that the MAC works well. Nevertheless, there were issues in the functioning of some of the other Advisory Councils, for example ignored requests for agenda points from NGO representatives. In his view, the meeting with the Commissioner had also been useful to raise awareness on existing good practices. Several of the issues raised in the letter could be addressed without amendments to the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation.

Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana) informed that her organisation had also signed the letter. While Oceana did not face issues in the Advisory Councils in which they were members, the signature was in solidarity with other NGOs with less positive experiences in other Advisory Councils. Ms Vulperhorst expressed her availability to openly discuss any potential issues in the MAC, which could contribute to broader discussions on the functioning of the Advisory Councils. In her view, even before the meeting with the Commissioner, the Commission was already considering the development of a code of conduct.

The Chair expressed satisfaction that NGO representatives were content with the functioning of the Advisory Council. The Chair expressed confidence in the work of the Secretariat to promote a good functioning.

### Areas of Competence



- **Exchange of views on the areas of competence foreseen in point 1 of Annex III of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation**

The Secretary General provided an overview of a proposal of draft letter on the areas of competence circulated in advance of the meeting. The Common Fisheries Policy Regulation originally established Advisory Councils with a regional focus. Later, thematic ones, on aquaculture and on markets, were established. The areas of competence outlined that the MAC's area of competence is "all market areas", while the other Advisory Councils were responsible for primary production aspects.

The Secretary General argued that, in his interpretation, the areas of competence of each Advisory Council were delimited via distinct criteria, avoiding duplication, including through a categorical exhaustive allocation of market matters, ensuring internal coherence. While Article 44(1) of the regulation foresaw the possibility of joint recommendations, it should not allow stakeholders to circumvent the areas of competence delineated by the EU legislators.

The Secretary General emphasised that, without clearly demarcated domains, the annual grant provided to each Advisory Council could be spent on duplicated activities. In his view, stakeholder organisations should be able to know, in a transparent manner, to which Advisory Council to channel their limited human and financial resources. The Commission staff should not have to dedicate their resources addressing possibly conflicting, potentially not representative, advice from multiple Advisory Councils.

The Secretary General recalled that, in recent years, several Advisory Councils broadened their exchanges and recommendations to topics related to the market of fishery and aquaculture products. On multiple occasions, the Secretariats of the other Advisory Councils communicated their ongoing initiatives. Nevertheless, in some cases, recommendations were adopted without prior efforts of cooperation. In the spirit of good institutional relationships, the Secretariat had proceeded with the development of joint recommendations even in cases of topics that were not under shared competence, potentially setting the wrong precedent.

The Secretary General explained that the aim of the draft letter was for the Commission to provide clarity and to remind all the Advisory Councils to respect the areas of competence established in the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation. The Secretary General encouraged the members to share their views on how to interpret the areas of competence, the relevance of the draft letter, and on how to approach collaborations with the other Advisory Councils.

Pierre Commère (Seafood Europe) emphasised the sensitivity of the discussion. Mr Commère highlighted that, prior to the establishment of the MAC and of the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), the various regional groupings addressed market and aquaculture issues, which sometimes led to differing recommendations across the Advisory Councils. To address certain topics, such as external trade or consumer information, the same organisation had to join multiple Advisory Councils. Therefore, the establishment of the MAC had been welcomed by the stakeholders, providing clarity.

Mr Commère recalled that there had been some initiatives on market issues from the Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP), for example on the presence of IUU products in the markets of the Outermost



Regions. The CCRUP Secretariat informed the MAC Secretariat of the initiatives. In those cases, the MAC called for the removal of the market-related sections from the draft texts. Where appropriate, joint MAC-CCRUP advice had been pursued. He drew attention to potential complex overlaps with the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC). On several occasions, the MAC and the LDAC adopted joint advice.

Mr Commère argued that, if an Advisory Council autonomously adopts advice without respecting the areas of competence, DG MARE should be alerted. In these cases, DG MARE should request information on potential prior consultations of the MAC and follow up appropriately. He acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat to resolve the mentioned situations.

Julien Daudu (EJF) recognised there could be frictions in relation to the LDAC, including due to topics tabled by his organisation in both Advisory Councils. Mr Daudu encouraged his fellow members to take these potential frictions into account when suggesting topics of advice. In his view, there was a good collaboration between the various Advisory Councils. He acknowledged that situations where one Advisory Council already has a completed draft were particularly challenging. He thanked the Secretariat for the efforts to cooperate with the other Advisory Councils.

Janne Posti (Conxemar) expressed agreement with Mr Commère. Mr Posti highlighted that LDAC presented market and level-playing-field topics as part of their scope. In his view, there were issues of transparency, since, in the LDAC, there were actually only three organisations representing traders, of which only one was part of the Executive Committee. He argued that allowing other Advisory Councils to work on market issues diluted their own topics, while contributing to the submission of fragmented and contradictory advice to the European Commission. He expressed support for proceeding with a letter.

Guus Pastoor (Seafood Europe) recalled that the role of the Advisory Councils is to advise the European Commission. The success of the system depends on individual functioning of the Advisory Councils and on how the Commission engages with them. Mr Pastoor argued that some Advisory Councils had taken over part of the area of competence of the MAC. In his view, the Commission should pay attention to the representativeness of the advice received. He argued that, if, for example, the MAC adopted advice on fishing in the Baltic Sea, DG MARE would question the representativeness.

Mr Pastoor emphasised that the mentioned concerns should be conveyed to the Commission. In his view, it would be positive to remind the Commission and the other Advisory Councils about the areas of competence. He expressed hope that a good collaboration could be established with the other Advisory Councils. In situations where a completed draft is shared with the MAC, some discussion between the Secretariats and the Chairs of the two Advisory Councils could be relevant. The letter should call for consultation of the MAC when market issues are raised.

The Chair proposed to amend the draft letter and proceed with a written procedure. The Chair expressed availability to exchange with the Chairs of the Advisory Councils. In that case, a list of sensitive topics should be prepared in advance with the Secretariat.



## External Representation

- **Reporting back on the following meetings:**
  - **Advisory Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency (Online, 21 October 2025) by Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

The Secretary General recalled that he attended, on behalf of the MAC, the 21 October 2025 meeting of the Advisory Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency. The Secretary General informed that, when providing a state-of-play on the work of the Advisory Council, he drew attention to recent advice on Autonomous Tariff Quotas, IUU in the Outermost Regions, EU import control rules, the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the 2040 Vision for Fisheries, and the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

- **Inter-Secretariats Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 13 November 2025) by Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

The Secretary General recalled that, on 13 November 2025, DG MARE held a coordination meeting with the Secretariats of the Advisory Councils. At the meeting, DG MARE representatives informed that Commissioner Kadis suggested the development of guidelines for Advisory Councils, including examples of good practices and codes of conduct. The DG MARE representatives provided an update on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which foresees funding for the Advisory Councils through the EU Facility. Work was still ongoing on a reply to the MAC-AAC letter concerning the classification of members. The DG MARE representatives encouraged greater integration of small-scale fisheries representatives in the Advisory Councils, for example through additional seats in the Executive Committees. Furthermore, the DG MARE representatives informed that the Commission met with representatives of several environmental NGOs to discuss the functioning of the Advisory Councils.

- **Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 18 November 2025) by Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

The Secretary General recalled that Yobana Bermúdez (Chair), Christine Absil (Vice-Chair), Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair / WG1 Chair), Pierre Commère (WG2 Chair), Benoît Thomassen (WG3 Chair), and himself attended the Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE on 18 November 2025.

The Secretary General informed that, at the meeting, Director-General Vitcheva provided updates on general EU fisheries matters, emphasising broad support for the European Ocean Pact and the ongoing work on Marine Spatial Planning and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. A mid-term assessment of the Aquaculture Guidelines highlighted both progress and obstacles, particularly regarding licensing and access to space. The evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy is ongoing, with results expected in Spring 2026. Market issues, including competition, sustainability, support for small-scale operators, bargaining power, and market access, were addressed alongside consumer information and labelling, emphasising sustainability, consumer demand, and competitiveness.



The Secretary General further informed that Director-General Vitcheva presented the 2040 Vision for Fisheries as an operational document – input from the Advisory Councils would be welcomed. Energy transition discussions focused on 2050 targets, financing, an aging fleet, and a high-level meeting planned for February 2026. The Director-General highlighted that the upcoming EU Strategy for Islands and Coastal Communities will involve collaboration with DG REGIO, with a call for evidence expected in early 2026 and a dedicated exchange under the European Ocean Days scheduled for March 2026. Simplification efforts aim to review policies, implement digital tools, and improve regulation without undermining the achievements of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Director-General also drew attention to the 2026 fishing opportunities, including Council debates on rebuilding trajectories and prior years’ work, as well as positive feedback on the February 2025 workshop on the Fisheries Control Regulation, with a follow-up workshop planned.

The Secretary General explained that, at the meeting, Director Mitolidis delivered a presentation on the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework. According to the Director, the new EU budget would be more integrated, flexible, and impactful, with three pillars: the EU Facility (including €11.5 billion for implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and €63 billion for Union-level actions), the European Competitiveness Fund (€451 billion), and the Global Europe Fund, with €2 billion ring-fenced for fisheries and aquaculture and Advisory Councils funded under “direct management”.

The Secretary General further explained that Director-General Vitcheva provided a presentation on the EU Fisheries External Action Strategy. According to the Director-General, the upcoming strategy would emphasise emphasised market predictability, transparency on IUU fishing, a level playing field, science, market access, food security, stronger labelling, and a next-generation Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with tougher conditionalities, IT-based catch reporting, rigorous import controls, and integration of climate change and deep-sea protection concerns.

The Secretary General highlighted that exchanges on the functioning of the Advisory Council addressed the roles of Chairs and Secretariats, safe working environments, the potential relevance of a Memoranda of Understanding between Advisory Councils, HR and 360° staff reviews, training, term limits for Chairmanships, whistleblower mechanisms, internal issue-resolution committees, and external mediation services. Periodic external performance reviews, the 2022 amendments to the delegated act, and the growing demand for conduct rules—including Commissioner Kadis’ suggestion of guidelines and examples of good practice—were also discussed.

- **Implementation Dialogue on small-scale fisheries with Commissioner Costas Kadis (Brussels, 24 November 2025) by Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair)**

The Secretary General recalled that Julien Lamothe, as Vice-Chair, attended the Implementation Dialogue on small-scale fisheries with Commissioner Kadis on behalf of the MAC. At the meeting, Commissioner Kadis emphasised that small-scale fisheries are essential for the future of fisheries, vital economically and socially, and play a central role in coastal communities. Challenges include access to resources, maritime planning and competition. The Ocean Pact makes small-scale fisheries a priority, notably through the Multiannual



Financial Framework. The Commission highlighted the ongoing energy transition and the vademecum of Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation to facilitate implementation by Member States.

At the meeting, former Commissioner Vella and former Commissioner Damanaki delivered speeches. According to the former Commissioners, small-scale fisheries are not automatically synonym with low impact. They emphasised three elements: transparency in quota allocation, incentives for good practices, and social dialogue. They also drew attention to the need to facilitate access to aid and resolve the problem of recruiting young fishers. According to them, the use of low-impact gear is crucial for biodiversity. In that context, there should be transparency in quota allocation, a ban of trawling in Marine Protected Areas, and technological innovation, while maintaining the role of the European Commission.

At the meeting, there were contributions from all participants, which included representatives from Advisory Councils, fishers, including small-scale fisheries organisations, NGOs, workers, and the Danish Presidency of the Council. Participants highlighted the importance of adaptative co-management and allocation of fishing rights according to environmental and social criteria (transparency), and the promotion of selective gear and low impact on the seabed. Participants emphasised the need to maintain financial support to the fishing sector. Participants called for fair, simple and enforceable regulation. There were participants that argued that organisations can represent a diversity of activities, both small-scale and large-scale fisheries. The participants drew attention to how decisions of the Commission can impact small-scale fisheries.

As part of their concluding statements, Director-General Vitcheva and Commissioner Kadis highlighted the publication by the Commission of a vademecum on the application of Articles 16 and 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, providing guidelines to the Member States. The Director-General and the Commissioner emphasised that small-scale and coastal fisheries are the backbone of the Union's coastal communities, sustaining local economies, preserving cultural heritage, and upholding sustainable fishing traditions. They highlighted that small-scale fisheries face mounting challenges, including competition for maritime space, access to fishing opportunities, climate change, soaring operational costs, invasive species, and fluctuating market demands. These pressures have positioned small-scale coastal fisheries as one of the most vulnerable sectors within the EU fishing fleet, threatening both livelihoods and coastal resilience. According to them, the priorities should be easier access to resources and planning, access to funds, reduction of administrative burden, transparency, energy transition, innovation, including through digital tools, and improved collaboration.

### Chairs, Vice-Chair(s) and Executive Committee

- **Information on appointments for Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Chairs of Working Groups, and Executive Committee for the 2026-2029 period by Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

The Secretary General highlighted that, at the February 2026 meetings, the appointments for Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Chairs of Working Groups, and the Executive Committee for the 2026-2029 period would take place.



The Secretary General recalled that the Executive Committee is designated for a three-year term by the General Assembly. Voting can be conducted in person or by a proxy. 60% of the 25 seats are allocated to representatives of the value chain, while the other 40% are allocated to the other interest groups. He provided an overview of the composition of the Executive Committee under the 2023-2026 period, while also recalling the division of seats across sub-categories in the “representatives of value chain” college.

The Secretary General emphasised that the MAC Chair must be designated by consensus by the General Assembly. The term is of three years. At least one Vice-Chair must originate from a different college than the Chair. The Vice-Chairs are designated by consensus by the Executive Committee. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups are also designated for three-year terms by the General Assembly. Where possible, Working Group Vice-Chairs should originate from a different college than the Chair.

The Secretary General encouraged the members to start considering potential expressions of interest. The Secretary General informed that the call for expressions of interest would be launched soon after the meeting. The deadline would be set to conclude before the holidays period, so that information on the candidacies could be circulated in January 2026.

#### AOB

None.



**Summary of action items**

- Areas of Competence:
  - o Draft letter on areas of competence to be amended and considered via a written procedure.
  
- Chairs, Vice-Chair(s) and Executive Committee:
  - o Secretariat to launch the call for expressions of interest for the 2026-2029 period.



## Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Adrien Simonnet	Union du Mareyage Français (UMF)	Observer
Alessandro Manghisi	Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)	Observer
Angels Segura Uni6	AECOC	Observer
Anna Rokicka	Polish Association of Fish Processors (PSPR)	Observer
Benoit Thomassen	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Camille Maisonneuve	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Christine Absil	Good Fish Foundation	Member
Cristina Borges	Portugal	Observer
David Vivas Eugui	UNCTAD	Expert
Dominic Rihan	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Elena Ghezzi	COPA COGECA	Member
Elvira Morote	OPP71 Almeria	Observer
Fabian Schaffer	Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.	Observer
Gaëtane Le Breuil	EFFOP - Marine Nutrients Europe	Member
Gerd Heinen	European Commission	Expert
Grace Howe	The Nature Conservancy	Observer
Guus Pastoor	Seafood Europe	Member
Janne Posti	Conxemar	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
John Lynch	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO)	Observer
Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo	ETF	Member
Jules Danto	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Julien Daudu	Environmental Justice Foundation	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
Julian Lamothe	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Katarina Sipic	Seafood Europe	Member
Laure Guillevic	WWF	Member
Lino Suarez	OPMEGA	Observer
María Luisa Álvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA	Member
Marine Cusa	Oceana	Member
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation	Member
Pedro Hernandez Saez	CARBOPECA	Observer
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	Seafood Europe	Member
Roberto Alonso	ANFACO-CYTMA	Member
Sarah Hautier	EuroCommerce	Member
Sylvie Becaus	VVV	Observer
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	Seafood Europe	Chair

