



## FOREWORD

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Dear readers,

This month was busy in terms of **ocean governance, conservation, and fisheries.**

**COP26** was highly awaited to set worldwide targets and commitments for the years to come. **EBCD was involved** in the Conference with the organisation of different events.

The **27th ordinary meeting** of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (**ICCAT**) took place with important outcomes for sustainable management of fisheries.

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors must be part of the climate discussions to ensure that the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social, and environmental - are equally considered. Same goes with the discussions at the **European level** where oceans and fisheries are high on the agenda. Everything that happens at the international level has consequences in the EU. That is why **EBCD insists on connecting these two levels** to make sure that our conservation targets are aligned. This is key for the EU not to act alone to improve **sustainability** and to ensure **fair competition worldwide.**

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# TOP NEWS

## COP26

**The role of oceans was very high in the COP26 agenda.** Decarbonisation of the fisheries sector, marine spatial planning, bottom trawling and sustainable blue economy were the focus of several events during the Conference.

This focus on oceans led to several declarations on the future of the oceans, such as **The Ocean for Climate Declaration, Because the Ocean Declaration** and the report **The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Five Opportunities for Action.**

**EBCD** organised an event with the Regional Government of Galicia (Spain) on **carbon neutrality** in the aquatic food sector and co-organized the **EU Ocean Day with the European Commission.**

Overall, COP26 shows that oceans and fisheries will be all the more a critical factor in the climate action plan.

## BREXIT - FISHING LICENCES

Several **fishing licenses** for EU fishers to be granted access to **UK and Channel Islands waters** are still pending to be issued by UK government. On the 4th of November French Secretary of State Clément Beaune and Minister David Frost met to discuss the licenses. The following day, Commissioner Sefcovic met with Minister Frost on several topics concerning the TCA among them the fishing licences. In both cases, the conclusion was that discussions will carry on in order to find a solution. The PECH Committee organised an exchange of views on the same topic where **the Commission claimed they conduct discussions at all levels (political and technical).** On 18th of November, **French Minister of the Sea, Annick Girardin, announced a 40 to 60 million euros financial to compensate fishers** while maintaining pressure on the UK government to deliver the licences. At the end of the month **Guernesey** granted additional permanent licences.

## ICCAT - 27TH ORDINARY MEETING

ICCAT 27th ordinary meeting took place on **15-23 November.** Commission welcomes the overall positive outcome of the meeting especially on measures taken by North Atlantic **shortfin mako.** Commission **regrets** that no new multi-annual management plan on **tropical tunas** has been adopted. Commission also emphasizes the importance of strengthening control measures for **bluefin tuna** in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. On the other hand, Europêche expresses its disappointment regarding ICCAT decisions.

Additionally, **Ernesto Penas Lado** was elected **Chair of ICCAT.**

# EU WORK IN PROGRESS

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**3/11:** Commission published its proposal for 23 TACs in the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak. It only concerns fish stocks that are solely managed by the EU in EU waters. Commission states the proposal will be updated after EU-UK consultations.

**6/11:** The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) adopted a new 2030 Strategy for the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Commission states this new strategy provided the necessary tools to ensure sustainability for the fleets and the ecosystems.

**12/11:** Commission adopts a contingency plan for food supply and food security in times of crisis. The purpose is to improve preparedness to deal with crises that may threaten EU food supply and food security. Commission insists on not repeating the COVID-19 experience.

**18/11 & 22/11:** The 2021 Annual economic report on the EU Fishing Fleet and the EUMOFA 2021 edition have been released.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The **PECH Committee** met twice this month:

**11/11:** a workshop on new technologies for fishing control purpose (CCTV, VMS, AIS, GPS) was organised. The Commission also briefed the MEPs on the fishing licences in the framework of the EU-UK agreement as well as WTO negotiations on the prohibition of fishing subsidies. => See agenda

**29-30/11:** a vote took place on Indian Ocean Tuna Commission transposition and other dossiers regarding RFMOs on the North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention were discussed. Two reports were debated by the MEPs on sustainable blue economy and small-scale fisheries. A hearing on data collection and recreational fisheries occurred as well.

=> See agenda

Here is the full work in progress of the PECH Committee.

**IMPORTANT:**  
Report on Small-scale fisheries  
Report on sustainable blue economy.

# COUNCIL

**15/11:** Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH) held an exchange of views on progress made in consultations on fishing opportunities for stock shared with the UK for 2022. Council provided guidance to the Commission that will lead the negotiations with the UK in the framework of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

**16/11:** Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the 2022 EU Budget. Both institutions agreed on a total of 169,5 billion € in commitments and 170,6 billion € in payments. For the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) it resulted in 964 063 750 € in commitments and 724 603 246 € in payments. 2022 EU Budget was adopted by the two institutions at the end of the month.

**23/11:** Council adopted conclusions on resilience and crisis response. In this regard, Council welcomed the contingency plan on food supply and food security in times of crisis presented by the Commission.

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

### ADVICE & RESPONSES

- Joint LDAC/PELAC/NWWAC Advice Deepsea Mining in International Waters
- Joint NWWAC/NSAC recommendations on management measures for seabass for 2022
- Allocation of lump-sums: state of play and way forward: request from MEDAC and answer from DG MARE
- Avis 153 du CC Sud sur la limitation des fluctuations des possibilités de pêche
- Avis 154 du CC Sud sur l'adoption de la règle d'exploitation définitive pour le germon du Nord
- Avis 155 du CC Sud sur les possibilités de pêche 2022

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 8 December: NWWAC/NSAC – MFSD Focus Group
- 17 December: MEDAC - Extraordinary meeting on the results of the STECF Plenary meeting
- 17 December: MEDAC - WG4 recreational fishery

Advisory Councils (AC) are established by the Common Fisheries Policy. Their role is to provide advices to the Commission and the Member States on fisheries and aquaculture management in their respective area. There are 11 AC: BSAC, BLSAC, MEDAC, NSAC, NWWAC, SWWAC, PELAC, LDAC, CCRUP, AAC, MAC.

# OTHERS

## **World Fisheries Day Brussels – FAO**

On November 22, FAO organised the event: Sustainable fish value chains as a cornerstone for agri-food systems transformation to "build back better". This event aimed to raise awareness on the Blue Transformation initiative, which focus on fish value chain efficiency, viability, inclusiveness and management.

**[Read more](#)**

## **Forum on Offshore Aquaculture - EATIP**

In the context of Blue Growth, on 24 November, EATIP hosted an event stressing the importance of offshore aquaculture in the ambition of Europe to become more sustainable.

**[Read more](#)**

## **Achieving sustainability in fisheries through research and innovation**

On 11 November, the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development hosted an event on how research and innovation play a key role with regards to achieving sustainable fisheries.

**[Read more](#)**

## **EBCD at COP26**

On 9 November, **DG MARE, EBCD, Ocean & Climate Platform and Plymouth Marine Laboratory** organized an event in the context of the EU Ocean Day. The event focused particularly on showcasing scientific knowledge and ocean-based mitigation and adaptation measures, including in the fisheries domain.

**EBCD & the Government of Galicia** organized the event on Leading the Race to Zero In The Fisheries Sector: Towards a Carbon Neutral Aquatic Food Production. This event brought together policymakers, technology developers and representatives from the fisheries sector to identify viable options to mainstream climate change in fisheries, ultimately contributing to the decarbonization of fishing operations.

Read more on the EBCD events **[here](#)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

**6-10 December:** World Ocean Summit Asia-Pacific: Investing in a blue economy

WTO 12th Ministerial Conference that was supposed to take place from 30/11 to 3/12 was postponed due to Covid outbreak. No date has been set yet for the rescheduling.

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

- **9-10 December:** Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- **09 December:** Seafood traceability: Aligning RFMO CDS to combat IUU fishing
- **13 December:** EP intergroup event on Seafood as a strategic source of food in the context of climate change
- **17 December:** Future of our seas

# TEAM & CONTACTS



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