Basic information

2016/2079(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Status of fish stocks and socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.08 Fishing enterprises, fishermen, working conditions on board **Geographical area** Mediterranean Sea area	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	AFFRONTE Marco (EFDD)	19/04/2016
	Shadow rapporteur LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica (PPE) BRIANO Renata (S&D) TOMAŠIĆ Ruža (ECR) MARINHO E PINTO António (ALDE) SENRA RODRÍGUEZ Maria Lidia (GUE/NGL) GODDYN Sylvie (ENF)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PIMENTA LOPES João (GUE/NGL)	16/06/2016

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

12/05/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/2017	Vote in committee		
12/05/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0179/2017	Summary
12/06/2017	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0255/2017	Summary
13/06/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/06/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2079(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/06483

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE585.527	09/12/2016	
Committee draft report		PE595.446	09/12/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE597.468	06/02/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0179/2017	12/05/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0255/2017	13/06/2017	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)574	20/11/2017	

Status of fish stocks and socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean

2016/2079(INI) - 13/06/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 558 votes to 43, with 35 abstentions, a resolution on the status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean.

In its communication entitled 'Consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2017 under the Common Fisheries Policy', the Commission maintained that overfishing remains prevalent in the Mediterranean and that urgent measures are needed to reverse this situation.

In addition to overfishing, the Mediterranean sea is facing numerous challenges, the majority of which can be attributed to a densely populated coastline but also to maritime transport and the overexploitation of resources, including oil and gas harvesting.

Addressing overfishing and protecting the Mediterranean: Members stressed the importance of **comprehensively enforcing, in the short term, the targets and measures laid down in the common fisheries policy (CFP)**, and of a timely drafting and effective implementation of the multiannual management plans in line with an approach centred on regionalisation and a multiplicity of species. They also stressed the need for a **response that is collective** and based on multi-tier international, European, national and regional cooperation, while underlining the strategic role of the Mediterranean Advisory Council in this context.

The resolution called for the following actions and measures:

- ensure that more incentives and preferential access to coastal fishing areas are given to **small-scale** (artisanal and traditional) **fleets** if they fish selectively and in a manner that has a limited impact;
- encourage **recreational fishing** that generates a high economic revenue for the local communities, through activities like tourism;
- **define coastal, small-scale coastal and traditional fishing** in line with socio-economic characteristics;
- apply a **precautionary approach** to the conservation, management and exploitation of living marine resources which takes into account socio-economic considerations in order to achieve sustainable fisheries, while protecting and preserving the marine environment;
- improve efforts in the field of **marine knowledge**, with particular regard to commercially exploited species, and that this knowledge should be used as the basis for planning their sustainable exploitation;
- **combat illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing** in the Mediterranean Basin and secure the support of non-EU Mediterranean countries;
- **step up monitoring activity** both on land, throughout the entire distribution chain (markets and catering trade), and at sea, especially in areas in which fishing is temporarily suspended or prohibited;
- provide incentives for fleets to use **more selective fishing equipment** and techniques that have a reduced impact on the marine environment;
- tackle the depletion of stocks in the Mediterranean through fisheries management and conservation measures for commercial and recreational fisheries, including, mainly, through **area and time-based restrictions and daily or weekly fishing limits, as well as quotas**, where appropriate;
- ensure that marine-protected areas cover at least **10 %** of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020;
- protect cooperation in the management of **sensitive areas** that represent important spawning grounds for the most economically important species;
- take measures to address the problem of **marine litter** and plastics in the sea;
- provide for **appropriate planning in space** ('no fishing' areas on a rotational basis, total or partial closures depending on fishing systems) and time (**biological recovery periods**), in addition to the promotion of technical measures aimed at maximum gear selectivity;
- adopt, in the Mediterranean, a **minimum permitted size for all** commercial and recreational targeted species, depending on sexual maturity and based on the best scientific knowledge available;
- **greater involvement of the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)** and regional fisheries organisations in the decision-making process in line with the regionalisation mentioned in the common fisheries policy.

Cooperation with third countries: Parliament called for a series of measures in respect of third countries, such as: (i) promoting measures actions through the GFCM to improve the status of stocks shared with third countries; (ii) promoting compliance and a level playing field in fisheries control with third countries and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs); (iii) assisting non-EU Mediterranean countries to achieve the objective of sustainable fishing.

Working conditions: stressing that 250 000 people are directly employed on boats, Members stated that it is crucial to improve the working conditions of fishermen, starting with decent remuneration and fair competition, while special attention should be paid to the industry's high accident rate and high risk of occupational diseases. They suggested that Member States establish income support instruments as well as a **stable income compensation fund** to cover non-fishing periods.

Raising awareness among consumers: Parliament recommended the mandatory provision of proper consumer information detailing the exact origin of products and the method and date of catch and raising awareness among consumers and educate them to consume fish responsibly.

Status of fish stocks and socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean

2016/2079(INI) - 12/05/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted an own-initiative report by Marco AFFRONTE (Greens/EFA, IT) on the status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean.

In its communication entitled 'Consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2017 under the Common Fisheries Policy', the Commission maintained that overfishing remains prevalent in the Mediterranean and that urgent measures are needed to reverse this situation. In addition to overfishing, the Mediterranean sea is facing numerous challenges, the majority of which can be attributed to a densely populated coastline but also to maritime transport and the overexploitation of resources, including oil and gas harvesting.

Members stressed the importance of **comprehensively enforcing, in the short term, the targets and measures laid down in the common fisheries policy (CFP)**, and of a timely drafting and effective implementation of the multiannual management plans in line with an approach centred on regionalisation and a multiplicity of species. They also stressed the need for a **response that is collective** and based on multi-tier international, European, national and regional cooperation, while underlining the strategic role of the Mediterranean Advisory Council in this context.

The report called for the following actions and measures:

- ensure that more incentives and preferential access to coastal fishing areas are given to **small-scale** (artisanal and traditional) **fleets** if they fish selectively and in a manner that has a limited impact;
- encourage **recreational fishing** that generates a high economic revenue for the local communities, through activities like tourism;
- **define coastal, small-scale coastal and traditional fishing** in line with socio-economic characteristics;
- apply a **precautionary approach** to the conservation, management and exploitation of living marine resources which takes into account socio-economic considerations in order to achieve sustainable fisheries, while protecting and preserving the marine environment;
- improve efforts in the field of **marine knowledge**, with particular regard to commercially exploited species, and that this knowledge should be used as the basis for planning their sustainable exploitation;
- **combat illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing** in the Mediterranean Basin and secure the support of non-EU Mediterranean countries;
- **step up monitoring activity** both on land, throughout the entire distribution chain (markets and catering trade), and at sea, especially in areas in which fishing is temporarily suspended or prohibited;
- provide incentives for fleets to use **more selective fishing equipment** and techniques that have a reduced impact on the marine environment;
- tackle the depletion of stocks in the Mediterranean through fisheries management and conservation measures for commercial and recreational fisheries, including, mainly, through **area and time-based restrictions and daily or weekly fishing limits, as well as quotas**, where appropriate;
- ensure that marine-protected areas cover at least **10 %** of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020;
- protect cooperation in the management of **sensitive areas** that represent important spawning grounds for the most economically important species;
- take measures to address the problem of **marine litter** and plastics in the sea;
- provide for **appropriate planning in space** ('no fishing' areas on a rotational basis, total or partial closures depending on fishing systems) and time (**biological recovery periods**), in addition to the promotion of technical measures aimed at maximum gear selectivity;
- adopt, in the Mediterranean, a **minimum permitted size for all** commercial and recreational targeted species, depending on sexual maturity and based on the best scientific knowledge available;
- encourage **coordinated action** with third countries from the Mediterranean;
- promote and implement an agreement for **time-area closures** imposing temporary sequential limits on fishing in the breeding areas of certain species throughout the year;
- **greater involvement of the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)** and regional fisheries organisations in the decision-making process in line with the regionalisation mentioned in the common fisheries policy.

The report called for a series of **measures in respect of third countries**, such as: (i) promoting measures actions through the GFCM to improve the status of stocks shared with third countries; (ii) promoting compliance and a level playing field in fisheries control with third countries and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs); (iii) assisting non-EU Mediterranean countries to achieve the objective of sustainable fishing.

Members also stated that it is crucial to **improve the working conditions of fishermen,** starting with decent remuneration and fair competition, while special attention should be paid to the industry's high accident rate and high risk of occupational diseases. They suggested that Member States establish **income support instruments** as well as a stable income compensation fund to cover non-fishing periods.

Lastly, the report recommended the **mandatory provision of proper consumer information** detailing the exact origin of products and the method and date of catch and raising awareness among consumers and educate them to consume fish responsibly.