

Basic information	
<p><b>2021/2169(INI)</b></p> <p>INI - Own-initiative procedure</p> <p>The state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives</p> <p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>3.15 Fisheries policy</p>	Procedure completed

Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	PECH Fisheries	MATO Gabriel (EPP)	12/07/2021
		<b>Shadow rapporteur</b> AVRAM Carmen (S&D) KARLESKIND Pierre (Renew) KELLER Ska (Greens/EFA) RUISSEN Bert-Jan (ECR) TARDINO Annalisa (ID) PIMENTA LOPES João (The Left)	
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/10/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/10/2023	Vote in committee		
13/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0357/2023	Summary
18/01/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0045/2024	Summary
18/01/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/01/2024	Debate in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2169(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/07126

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE719.724</a>	08/11/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE745.219</a>	15/03/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A9-0357/2023</a>	13/11/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T9-0045/2024</a>	18/01/2024	<a href="#">Summary</a>

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
<a href="#">KARLESKIND Pierre</a>	Committee chair	<a href="#">PECH</a>	29/06/2023	WWF European Policy Programme
<a href="#">KELLER Ska</a>	Shadow rapporteur	<a href="#">PECH</a>	26/01/2023	Eurogroup for Animals
<a href="#">RUISSSEN Bert-Jan</a>	Shadow rapporteur	<a href="#">PECH</a>	12/10/2022	CNPMEM
<a href="#">KARLESKIND Pierre</a>	Shadow rapporteur	<a href="#">PECH</a>	10/05/2022	ClientEarth AISBL OCEANA WWF European Policy Programme
<a href="#">KELLER Ska</a>	Shadow rapporteur	<a href="#">PECH</a>	10/05/2022	OCEANA Our Fish BirdLife ClientEarth
<a href="#">AVRAM Carmen</a>	Shadow rapporteur	<a href="#">PECH</a>	24/03/2022	French National Committee on Fisheries

### Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives

ROOSE Caroline	22/11/2022	Eurogroup for Animals
KELLER Ska	22/06/2022	The European Anglers Alliance

# The state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives

2021/2169(INI) - 18/01/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 371 votes to 92, with 92 abstentions, a resolution on the state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives.

## **General objectives of the CFP**

The resolution aims to provide political guidelines for any future review of the CFP. It poses some questions on the implementation of the current CFP, on whether the current CFP objectives and tools are still relevant to tackle current and future challenges and on whether certain aspects should be reformed, reviewed, adapted or improved. It focuses mainly on the conservation of fish stocks and fisheries management, also building on specific reports already adopted in recent years on issues such as maximum sustainable yield, landing obligations and quota allocation.

The resolution regretted that, since 2014, the implementation of the CFP has not given sufficient consideration to socio-economic aspects or the availability of food supply or the ecosystem-based approach, all of which are needed to ensure sustainable management of stocks.

Members consider that the resulting negative impacts on the fishing sector have been exacerbated by unprecedented challenges that have arisen could not have been foreseen in 2012 when the CFP was designed, such as Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis. While welcoming the rapid adoption of EU measures to support and relieve the sector in times of crisis, Members pointed out that the cumulative effects of this situation have brought many fleets to the brink of bankruptcy, with potentially devastating repercussions for employment and social cohesion in coastal areas. Therefore, Parliament believes that **the CFP must continue to be implemented, and where needed, reformed and adapted accordingly.**

Parliament is in favour of **strengthening the socio-economic and food safety dimensions of the CFP**, and advocate remedying shortcomings and raising ambitions in this respect. It advocated the full application of an ecosystem approach and the establishment of a level playing field at international level.

## **Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)**

The introduction of MSY as a fisheries management reference point has been a driver for improving the overall state of fish stocks. It is crucial to continue and accelerate the work of rebuilding and keeping fish stocks above MSY levels. Parliament stated that the MSY objective should be implemented in light of the practical reality and in consideration of the socio-economic, proportionality and food security dimensions.

## **Conservation measures**

The Commission and the Council are called on to consider setting total allowable catches for longer than annual or biannual periods, in particular for the main target stocks, always based on the best scientific advice available, in order to provide more predictability and long-term certainty for fishers and in line with the MSY principle.

## **Landing obligation and reduction of unwanted catches**

The resolution noted that the landing obligation cannot be properly implemented if some shortcomings, such as the lack of storage capacity on board or collection facilities at port as well as adequate usage of exemptions, are not improved.

Moreover, the objective of minimising unwanted catches cannot sufficiently be achieved through the landing obligation and should be primarily met by using technical measures and should be supported by better documenting catches, on the basis of the best available scientific advice.

## **Quota allocation**

While deploring the lack of transparency regarding the distribution of fishing opportunities in certain Member States, the Commission will initiate discussions among Member States and stakeholders with a view to preparing a vade mecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities in order to improve transparency, promote sustainable fishing practices across the EU, and support small scale and coastal fisheries.

## **External dimension of the CFP and oceans' governance**

The Commission is called on invest more effort in promoting the CFP as a **policy model for ocean governance**, by using the EU's position in RFMOs, free trade agreements and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, and more generally in international forums.

## **Imports and trade and Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing**

Parliament called for a more harmonised approach in the EU in relation to the implementation of IUU-related EU-legislation. It underlined the importance of the EU's zero-tolerance policy regarding IUU fishing, in the light of it still being an occurrence on the international level including examples ranging from a lack of transparency on illegal fishing operations to modern slavery, as in the case of some Chinese vessels.

The resolution called for all free trade agreements with third countries to include a section on tackling IUU fishing.

### ***Climate change and other challenges for the future***

The resolution stressed that climate change mitigation and adaptation are key challenges that are insufficiently tackled by the current CFP. In this regard, the Commission is called on to consider, when revising the Common Fisheries Policy, that the ocean's characteristics (temperature, density, salinity, oxygen saturation, etc.) have changed over the last 10 years.

Moreover, Member States should continue to encourage the promotion of **algae farming** and facilitate the use and development of algae as food and feed.

### ***Aquaculture***

The resolution recalled the importance of aquaculture to guarantee long-term food security and contribute to meeting the growing world demand for aquatic food, as well its contribution to create growth and employment for EU citizens, to better preserving ecosystems and biodiversity and be part of a more circular management of resources. However, Parliament regretted that the EU's current trade policy does not safeguard a level playing field between EU and non-EU producers that will allow the aquaculture sector to achieve sustainable economic results and in return to contribute to the social and economic development of the EU's regions.

Lastly, Parliament highlighted the **strategic role of fishers and aquaculture producers** in the food value chain and in food security, as well as the role of **women**, as fishers, vessel masters, net menders, shore-based assistants and packagers, etc., and their need for recognition. Members also stressed the need to attract young people not only to sea fishing activities, but also to the management of fishing and aquaculture businesses, so as to ensure generational renewal throughout the aquatic products sector.

## **The state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives**

2021/2169(INI) - 13/11/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted an own-initiative report by Gabriel MATO (EPP, ES) on the state of play in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives.

The report aims to provide political guidelines for any future review of the CFP. It poses some questions on the implementation of the current CFP, on whether the current CFP objectives and tools are still relevant to tackle current and future challenges and on whether certain aspects should be reformed, reviewed, adapted or improved. It focuses mainly on the conservation of fish stocks and fisheries management, also building on specific reports already adopted in recent years on issues such as maximum sustainable yield, landing obligations and quota allocation.

The report regretted that, since 2014, the implementation of the CFP has not given sufficient consideration to **socio-economic aspects or the availability of food supply or the ecosystem-based approach**, all of which are needed to ensure sustainable management of stocks.

Members consider that the resulting negative impacts on the fishing sector have been exacerbated by unprecedented challenges that have arisen could not have been foreseen in 2012 when the CFP was designed, such as Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis. While welcoming the rapid adoption of EU measures to support and relieve the sector in times of crisis, Members pointed out that the cumulative effects of this situation have brought many fleets to the brink of bankruptcy, with potentially devastating repercussions for employment and social cohesion in coastal areas.

The report stressed that the implementation of the CFP will have to **adapt to the challenges of the fight against climate change**, in the context of which the Union has committed itself to being climate neutral by 2050. The CFP must therefore continue to be implemented and, where necessary, reformed and adapted accordingly.

Members stressed the strategic value of seafood in the context of the European Green Deal and the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They stressed the need to maintain a balance between the three pillars of sustainability of the CFP.

They are therefore in favour of **strengthening the socio-economic and food safety dimensions of the CFP**, and advocate remedying shortcomings and raising ambitions in this respect. They advocate the full application of an ecosystem approach and the establishment of a level playing field at international level.

According to the report, the objectives of a fisheries policy should include guaranteeing the supply of fish to the public, as part of ensuring food security and sovereignty, developing coastal communities, and championing and encouraging the social recognition of fisheries-related professions, as well as promoting jobs and improving the living conditions of fishers.

The report noted that the CFP Basic Regulation highlights the environmental, socio-economic and food security objectives of the policy, Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 relating to deep-sea stocks deals solely with environmental aspects. Members consider that in future all regulations subordinate to the Basic Regulation should fully incorporate socio-economic and food security aspects.

The Commission and Council are invited, in the context of policy development, to place more value in policymaking on the importance of fisheries in contributing to food security by providing high-quality seafood products, as well as in its contribution to the economic and social structure, and the cultural, touristic and gastronomic heritage of Europe's coastal and island communities.

Members pointed out that some aspects of the CFP may not be responding adequately to the **small-scale fishing sector** and that its essential socio-economic role in many coastal communities and its strategic role in securing the food supply must be guaranteed.

The report highlights the **strategic role of fishers and aquaculture producers** in the food value chain and in food security, as well as the role of **women**, as fishers, vessel masters, net menders, shore-based assistants and packagers, etc., and their need for recognition. Members also stressed the need to attract young people not only to sea fishing activities, but also to the management of fishing and aquaculture businesses, so as to ensure generational renewal throughout the aquatic products sector.

Recalling that all seas and the ocean are a **global common good**, Members consider that marine resources should be managed on the basis of sound scientific advice so as to maximise the long-term benefits for society as a whole.

The Commission is invited to invest further efforts in **promoting the CFP as a strategic model for ocean governance** by using the EU's position in RFMOs, free trade agreements and sustainable fisheries partnership agreements, and more generally in international fora. These efforts will be essential to **ensure a level playing field** for EU operators and to defend the interests of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sectors at global level.

Member considered that imported aquatic food products must be subject to rigorous monitoring and certification procedures, to ensure they come from sustainable fisheries, and to high health, environmental and social standards, that are as strict as those applied to EU products. They also underlined the importance of the EU's zero-tolerance policy regarding IUU fishing, in the light of it still being an occurrence on the international level.

Lastly, **outermost regions** have specific constraints and specific needs as provided for in article 349 TFEU. The CFP ought to take account of their specific characteristics and needs and adapt to these.