

REPORT

Meeting: **CFP Stakeholder event - Taking stock of the CFP**

Attendees on NSAC behalf: **Kenn Skau Fischer, Tamara Talevska**

Date: **10 June 2022**

Location: **Brussels, hybrid**

Rapporteur: **Tamara Talevska**

On 10 June Kenn Skau Fischer and Tamara Talevska attended the final CFP stakeholder event to take stock of the CFP. Some of the take home messages are gathered below.

Individual presentations to be distributed upon receipt.

[Plenary Session: consultation on the functioning of the CFP – reflections from the side of the EU Institutions](#)

Eric Banel, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture:

- Need for ecosystem approach with climate change factored in.
- Socio-economic considerations are one of the three sustainability pillars to be taken into account. The need to integrate the three pillars to strengthen the CFP.
- Objective to reach: 100% MSY
- Reduce the number of non-evaluated fish stocks
- Beyond MSY management – ecosystem aspects should be integrated into policies
- Improve scientific knowledge
- Governance of TAC – important but facing challenges. Multiannual plans for certain stocks are crucial to grant stability.
- TAC should be a principle if not a rule.
- Regionalisation is supported by MS, however there is heavy administrative burden (exemptions)
- Need to reflect on how to change the working procedures with the UK acting as external actor.
- Regionalisation to remain as MS favour its continuation.
- LO offers advantages, MS unanimous on maintaining LO, but there is a need to change it in order to guarantee more stability and to make it more operational.
- Derogations must be discussed with multi-annual derogations being a possibility.
- Acknowledged that LO remains a challenge to the sector.
- Need to adapt control efforts and rules on stocks – guarantee a level playing field.
- Need to innovate and carry out research on selectivity.
- CFP needs to evolve.

Charlina Vitcheva, Director General, DG MARE:

- Dialogue with stakeholder is essential for achieving objectives of the CFP.
- Response to CFP consultation: 195 responses, report on CFP has been circulated to stakeholders.
- Result: CFP remains a good framework, however it is lacking implementation and control.
- Objective: Inclusion of the ecosystem based and precautionary approach (not always reached)
- EU hasn't been able to eliminate overfishing completely.
- EU Fishing sector contributes to many key policy objectives.
- EU Green Deal – sustainability as key. Contributing to UN SDG.
- Transparency in decision-making is crucial.
- Involvement of stakeholders and especially ACs is important – more ambitions towards transparency is expected.
- Promote fully documented fisheries.
- Address impact of climate change.
- Improve EU-NO-UK relations.
- CMO: 125 contributions
- Challenges: POs are instrumental to better seafood supply structure, consumer info is considered fit for purpose.
- Stakeholders have different views according to their role in the value chain.
- COM providing market intelligence through its observatory through EUMOFA is widely appreciated.
- Future challenges up to 2030: Post-Brexit fisheries management, Covid, climate change, increased importance of MSP, generational renewal, decarbonisation of the fleet.
- Increased costs of energy and difficulties in operations stemming from the war in Ukraine.
- Smart fisheries management: relevant existing tools, scientific approach, socio-economic and ecosystem considerations applied.
- Supports regionalisation approach, however more ambition is needed, and faster decision-making.
- Invitation to participate in the consultations of the progress of EMFAF – all challenges need to be addressed through EMFAF by delivering projects to address the challenges.
- EMFAF is a scarce resource and has to be used properly.

Pierre Karleskind, Member of the European Parliament, President PECH Committee:

- In the past, limiting fishing was considered enough to improve the state of the stocks.
- Now there are different ecosystem processes identified contributing to that (climate change, but also political crises: Brexit, Covid, Ukraine)
- 4 messages of PECH: CFP is too rigid - fishers are being excluded from discussions, a number of MS have not implemented proper control. Consultation with fishers is

important and needs to be improved. Ecosystem based technologies need to be basic principles of CFP.

- A common policy is needed for managing fishing resources, as well as adaptation of fishing effort to resources, and accounting for the impact of climate change
- There is a lack of holistic assessment of the impact of climate change, acidification and pollution (incl. land-based pollution). Work along with directors for water management.
- MSP is creating confrontations of historic dimensions, a number of new activities using marine space are emerging.
- Without an ecosystem-based approach fishers are perceived as the only guilty party.
- Co-management needs to be established, management needs to be developed together with the fishermen. They are the key players.
- LO is problematic for the sector. Monitoring and control is increasing.
- Proper implementation of current measures leads to increased administrative burden and fishers are at the receiving end of this burden.
- Fishers feel like they are not being listened to and many threaten with ending their fishing career.
- There's lack of trust in EU policy and science (ICES).

Session 1: social, economic and environmental sustainability

Massimo Bellavista, technical animator of the Emilia-Romagna Coast Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) - From Italy, a coastal management plan for key local species developed with (and taking into account the needs of) fishers and fish farmers in Emilia-Romagna.

- Management plans, involvement of stakeholders which will improve buy-in and management

Dr Amber Himes-Cornell, co-chair ICES WGSOCIAL.

- To create sustainable fisheries, we need empowered communities, socio-economic impact analysis based on transparent data and rigorous science, innovative policy, and breakthrough collaboration.
- Importance of social dimension: knowledge sharing, cultural heritage, attachment to place, values, beliefs and behaviours, social networks.
- Fisheries as part of the social, cultural and economic portfolio of communities.
- Need for explicit recognition of the importance of marine resources to fishing communities.
- Social dimension in the CFP: Operationalizing the social dimension: fishing communities are dependent on fishing activities and thus contribute to a fair standard of living.
- Place-based vs. community of practice
- Locus of socio-cultural value of fishing: value of fishing for fishing communities.

- Data is missing, holistic approach is needed to understanding the impact of management decisions on communities.
- What affects social context of fisheries: ease of access to fisheries resources, stakeholder conflicts, status of fishing communities (employment opportunities, general social well-being such as poverty, housing, education), fisheries management decisions (quota allocation, biodiversity conservation efforts, area-based management)
- Social data used to understand the relationship between communities and fisheries, help communities be better represented, understand how social well-being changes over time, provide more holistic understanding of dynamics.
- NOAA social indicators [link](#) (tracking social dimension)

Myron Peck, coordinator Horizon2020 project CERES.

- Anticipate and adapt to major changes such as climate change
- 52% of respondents believe that RFMOs are to face the challenges of climate change and protection of ecosystems.
- Climate change and European fisheries – [Ceres 2020 report](#); [FAO report](#) on climate change and food security.
- Some northern species among best studied (cod, herring, plaice, sole) but relatively few studies on interaction between physical factors.
- Indirect effects of climate: disease in aquaculture, food web and function
- Policy changes linked to the climate (scenarios), economic effects
- Demersal fisheries benefiting from climate change as opposed to pelagic.
- Climate change risk analysis: high risk in southern NS.
- Article: climate risk to European fisheries and coastal communities [link](#)
- Nature-based solutions in marine environment: MPAs, restoring marine habitats, sustainable harvesting.
- 17% of the NS is designated as MPA – question of how to designate the rest?

Ibon Galparsoro, AZTI: Maritime spatial planning (offshore windfarms, multi-use of the ocean)

- MSP: demand for space increasing, efficient and sustainable (ecosystem-based) management needed.
- MSP Directive, marine conservation and restoration
- Fishing activity monitoring based on voluntary adoption of AIS-B.
- Biomass maps developed from this.
- Capturing interaction between the fishery and environmental features.
- Possible prediction of capacity.
- Mapping potential fishing zones, essential fish habitats and important areas for fisheries.
- Information regarding catches and selling prices, spatial distribution of fishing grounds.
- Identification of suitable areas for energy production.

Jérémie Souben, General Secretary, French Association of Fish Producers Organisations (FEDOPA); The Common Market Organisation: its tools and involvement and producers' organisations involvement

- Role of POs: markets as powerful tools towards the sustainable exploitation of living marine resources, promoting viable and sustainable activity, contributing to the elimination of IUU, avoiding and reducing unwanted catches, reducing environmental impact of fishing
- POs a link between production and commercialisation

CMO as key pillar of CFP objectives:

- Production and marketing plans
- Integrate commercial aspect to value the limited access to resources

Market tools:

- Purchase orders (France), a safety net to stabilize the market, POs buy the products of their members at established price. Improves the economic returns for producers.
- Storage: solutions to absorb production peaks or a temporary reduction in the market; it's a temporary adjustment mechanism for seasonal differences rather than structural tool

Crisis management in the last 3 years:

- Imbalance supply and demand
- Need for a comprehensive toolbox of measures for POs
- Support in several aspects: knowledge of activity/production, development of activity forecasting tools, knowledge about first sales and markets, help to avoid disruption in supply chains, market support, support for matching supply and demand.

Exemption to the application of competition rules – important to maintain.

Panel discussion

- Livia Spera, (general Secretary, Industry European Transport Workers' Federation),
- Esben Sverdrup-Jensen (President, The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations),
- Riyong Kim (Head of Programme for Biodiversity and Ecosystems, European Environment Agency),
- Antonia Leroy (Head of Ocean Policy, WWF)

Questions picked by the audience and responded to by the panellists:

Does the Commission believe that fishermen are becoming more and more of an endangered species every day? How are you working to prevent that disappearance?

- Fishing community is facing challenges: climate change, green transition, state of stocks.
- Difficult competition with the green sector.
- Alternative fuels: coming from the windfarms in the way of important fishing grounds.
- Important to keep in mind one of the objectives of social and economic viability if we want to attract fishers to the sector.
- Working and safety conditions needs to improve.
- Sea-blindness: invisible sector.
- We need structural measures, technical measures and others. Social dimension needs to be taken into account. This has not sufficiently been the case so far.

Many talked about the complexity of the LO but are there possible solutions to the LO?

- POs help members understand the complex rules around LO.
- Mixed fisheries easily face choke situations.
- If science was perfect this wouldn't be the case, but there are limitations to the science and its applications – one of the main tasks is to look at the scientific system and possibly reform approach to quotas.
- Multi-year advice as an option. There are situations where fishermen are not able to bring fish to shore but are also not able to discard them (contradiction in rules) – we need to address this situation.
- (Too) many exemptions to the LO.
- LO as an Incentive to improve selectivity, full ecosystem approach is needed.
- Funding to fishermen for improving selectivity.
- MSY should be set as the limit not the goal.
- Reducing discards is priority
- Need to increase selectivity of gear – towed gear produce lots of discards and that's difficult to manage.
- Modify the gear to reduce unwanted catch. When this is not possible with TM, another relevant solution is spatial-based solution, closed fisheries areas where the probability of catching a large amount of undersized fish is high.
- Adopt spatially-based measures.

What concrete changes to regionalised management of today can improve the ability for MS to deliver adaptive management to ecosystem-based management?

- Align EU policies, linked to MSP,
- stakeholder involvement is important,
- There is conflict but implementation of MSP involves feedback from stakeholders directly.

How can we include fishers at the very heart of the CFP?

The problem of the lack of generational change is extensive for entire value chain, how do we face this problem?

- We need to make sure to bridge the gap between the green transition and social viability.
- Currently lots of fishers are tied up in ports due to fuel crisis.
- We need to take a step back, focus on objectives of CFP, and need to be profitable in short term and secure the necessary aspects to keep the fishers in the sector. Then we can afford to transition to greener future.
- Investments in technology, financial, social dimension are important.
- Social research is becoming more and more relevant.

Session 2: innovation and adaptive governance in EU fisheries

Wes Erikson, Canadian halibut fisher

- Reinforce control and enforcement for a more credible policy with the support of innovative / digital control tools.
- Erikson shared his experiences fishing for halibut under strict Canadian discard legislation to demonstrate how landing obligation can result in sustainably managed and economically viable fisheries.
- Erikson stated that previously skippers changed fishing behaviour when they had observers on board away from their most preferred fishing grounds to some with less fish, less smaller fish and bycatch.
- Fishermen realised they needed a social license as well as a fisheries license.
- Convinced that monitoring in fisheries benefits everyone.
- Full accountability and monitoring are now accepted as the new reality - with it a fishery is defensible.
- [Link](#) to presentation

Ludvig Ahm Krag: Selectivity and smart gear, SMARTFISH project

Fundamental challenges in trawl fisheries:

- Few selective gears used, sector discarding despite LO
- Expensive activity, affects ecosystem and has high CO2 emissions
- Trawling is a blind process today
- Need for transformation of trawling

Trawl Camera prototype: real time camera system

- Obtaining clear image in demersal fisheries – difficult due to clouds of sediments
- New system allows for a stable flow of quality images
- Automatic detection and identification of species
- Identifying catch compositions in real time on seabed
- Digitizing the catching process, species, size-selectivity and catch efficiency
- Design concept → industrial design and uptake → production and sale
- System 1,5kg, available to the industry
- Commercial uptake in deepwater shrimp and nephrops fishery
- Real time catch monitoring system is developed, tested and commercially available

- Improvements of species and size selectivity, avoidance of choke and endangered species, increase catch efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and seabed impact, ability to comply with management regulations.
- Future developments in precision fishing: expand AI part to include all relevant species and sizes – establishing a fully digitized fishery, detectors and alarms for choke and endangered species (cod), intelligent selectivity systems that automatically react to ongoing catching process
- DTU Aqua pioneering work

Hendrik Romkes & Rob Barkel, entrepreneurs, in lead of innovation - decarbonisation of vessel; MDV-1: IMMANUEL – masterplan sustainable fisheries (decarbonisation of fishing fleet)

Innovative vessel developed in the NL:

- Lower fuel consumption (28000l/week → 8000)
- Reduced emissions by 70%
- Construction in Rotterdam
- Propeller nozzle (3-bladed propeller instead of 4-bladed, highly efficient, reducing losses)
- Hull shape change – streamlined, 20% less steel, longitudinal webframes instead of transverse webframes, reduced weight by 20%
- Uninterrupted cooling chain
- Diesel-electric propulsion; diesel could be changed for alternative fuel
- Twinrigguls technique, discards surviving techniques
- Fish handling: plaice stripping machine sorting fish onboard, uninterrupted cooling chain
- Materials: doors and hatches in composite, antifouling as protection, optimised insulation
- Additional energy saving: led-lights, movement detection systems, hotwater accumulator
- Business model: 6mio EUR investment; due to fuel price increase the business model is not yet sustainable.
- Vision: Selective yielding techniques (e.g. automatic image recognition, AI)

Nedo Vrgoč Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Data monitoring of fisheries restricted area Pomo Pit.

- MPA, bottom up approach [link](#)

Panel discussion

- Susan Steele (Director, European Fisheries and Control Agency),
- Javier Garat (President Europeche),

- Vera Coelho (Senior Director, Oceana),
- Clara Ulrich (Chair STECF, Scientific, Technical, Economic Committee of Fisheries (STECF))

Questions selected by the audience and responded to by the panellists:

There are no bad fishing gears, there are bad uses of fishing gears (request for comment).

- Bottom trawling: need to look at impact: CO2 emissions, seabed impact, fuel intensity, high bycatch, high food waste. It's a harmful fishing technique. Sustainable alternatives are needed.

How to address the modernization of vessels to improve the conditions for the crew with the obstacle of gross tonnage limitation.

- Europeche believes that there is a need for revision of capacity ceilings if the fleet is to modernize.
-

CCTV provides wide opportunities but incentives are important to get commitment from fishers. Which incentives could work in the EU?

- Future of EU fisheries will be dependent on successful CCTV projects. Susan Steele thanked those fisheries that got engaged and successfully tried CCTV.
- Fishers need regulations that they are able to comply with.
- The problem is not with the implementation of LO but the LO itself. Revision of LO is needed.
- Problem is the lack of trust, which is mutual between fishers and EU institutions.
- Need to build bridges and foster trust.
- LO was an incentive to increase selectivity. We have innovations, research, tools that unfortunately stay on the level of projects and is not systemically adopted.
- The uptake needs to be improved, incentivize avoidance techniques, selectivity methods.
- At the moment fishers have very little incentive to comply with the rules when their peers are not doing so.
- REM, CCTV would allow us to level the playing field.

How to build trust between stakeholder and enhance enforcement of existing rules and laws?

- Trust starts with dialogue, between stakeholders, fishers, policy makers etc.
- Common goal is sustainable fisheries. Sometimes the dialogue does not start from a place of trust, but on dichotomy of demons and angels. This need to be revised and start talking from a place of trust.
- Advisory Councils are a good, if not the only way of establishing trust between stakeholders.

- Science representative: LO needs to be revised, not many scientists support the LO
 - we need to go back to the drawing table.
- Encourage connection between stakeholders to built trust.

Closing session: reporting back from the day: DG ENV, DG MARE

Patrick Child, Deputy Director General (DG ENV):

- Unsustainable fishing practices need to be reviewed.
- Environmental considerations are key for sustainable maritime activities.
- Emerging and evolving environmental and climate objectives.
- Work towards agreed objectives of biodiversity strategies, fast mechanisms.
- Important role of research, science and innovations.

Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director General (DG MARE):

- Managing complexity and reducing uncertainty.
- Reform of CFP 2013 promoted pragmatic governance, bottom-up management, regionalisation.
- All stakeholders need to play a role.
- All starts with science, data collections (collaboration between scientists and fishers)
- Collaboration between MS is crucial.
- Scientists to improve monitoring tools.
- Invitation: 2022 [Seminar on Fisheries Science](#): Implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.
- Management measures should be tailored to circumstances, no blanket approaches.
- Most of management measures is brought about by MS, POs, MS groups.
- Regionalisation addressed one of the five failings of CFP: focus on longer term goals in relation to environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- Fisheries management relies on mutual trust: trust between fishers, managers, consumers, scientists, within the sector and their organisations, and the trust between fisheries sector and other sectors.
- Sustainability essential, innovation as leverage.