

North Sea Fisheries and Climate Change



NSAC

North Sea Advisory Council

Webinar

7 December 2022

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Webinar on the North Sea Fisheries and Climate Change

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Advice on the decarbonisation of fishing fleet

Bringing together stakeholders for sustainable North Sea fisheries.

Process of drafting of the advice

- Published on 19 October 2022
- 1st piece of advice of the NSAC Focus Group on Climate Change
- 4 meetings with presentations of EC representatives and stakeholders (fishing sector, wind propulsion, e-methanol, IMO, etc)
- Aims:
 - *Respond to the Commission request for stakeholders' feedbacks on energy transition of the fishing sector*
 - *Feeding into Commission upcoming action plan on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors*



Objectives

- Understanding **EU framework** on energy transition and the related initiatives with a focus on blue sectors.
 - Providing a state of play of **research**, knowledge and on-going projects relating to the **decarbonisation** of the maritime sectors. And particularly of the fishery sector.
 - Tackling the issues of **alternative to fossil fuels** and **energy efficiency** for the fisheries sector.
 - Providing information on the different **funding possibilities** for the fisheries sector to transition.
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Identified challenges

- 30-50% of gross revenue spent on fuel (beam trawlers)
 - Technologies **not yet adapted** to the fisheries sector (mainly on shipping)
 - Space on board and weight constrained by CFP **definition of fishing capacity**
 - **Cost** of the technologies
 - Lack of **fundings** (mainly focus on research and pilot projects)
 - **Impact** of technologies on the marine ecosystems
 - **Low acceptance** by shipowners and crew
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Identified opportunities

- Reducing dependency on fossil fuel
 - Reducing functioning costs
 - Investing in energy efficiency and so ensuring scaling up of new technologies
 - Reducing carbon footprint of the fishing products to reach our climate objectives
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Recommendations

- Stakeholder engagement to ensure the legitimacy and buy-in of the measures;
 - Consider the need for **external funding, tax and market incentives**, as well as legislative certainty;
 - Introduce **realistic objectives**, taking into account the level of knowledge and scientific research, the cost of transition and the funding available;
 - Focus, in the short term, on **improving the energy efficiency** of the existing fleet with the objective of reducing fossil fuel consumption (new type of gears, solar and wind propulsion, vessel design, etc.) while further research on the **fuel alternatives** is ongoing and the costs of new technologies are becoming more affordable.
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Recommendations

- Conduct **SWOT analyses** of the different technological solutions prior to their implementation;
 - Clarify if the intention is to include the fishing sector in **Emissions Trading System (ETS)** in the near future;
 - Accelerate fundings of **research projects** on decarbonization;
 - Establish guidelines to achieve the **emissions-reduction objectives** in the Paris Agreement;
 - Evaluate the **definition of capacity** (gross tonnage and engine power);
 - Bear in mind that new engines technologies using alternative fuels will engender **new types of skills** for the seafarers → consider the use of EMFAF;
 - Ensure that all consequences for the marine ecosystems are taken into account -> **environmental impact assessment**
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