



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



**24.04.09**

## Fisheries

[COM \(2009\) 173](#) Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Council Regulation(EC) No 1386/2007 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

The purpose of Council Regulation (EC) No 1386/2007 of 22 October 2007 is to implement conservation and enforcement measures adopted by the Northwest Atlantic fisheries Organisation (NAFO) in Community law.

NAFO adopted a number of modifications to these conservation and enforcement measures which are:

- Comprehensive measures to deal with bottom fishing activities following the adoption of Resolution 61/105 by the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- Various conditions for the shrimp fishery in the Regulatory Area;
- Introduction of an additional closed Area to protect vulnerable seamounts;
- Introduction of additional port state measures which effectively closes European ports to landings or transshipments of fisheries products which have not been verified to be legal by the flag State.

These modifications were adopted with the support of the Community following consultations with Member States, concerned industry and non governmental organisations. These modifications are binding and should therefore be implemented in Community law, taking into account the Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing which will apply from 1



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January 2010. The Council is hereby requested to adopt this proposal as soon as possible.

**Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – 22/04/2009**

The Green Paper analyses the shortcomings of the current Policy and launches a broad public consultation on how these shortcomings should be tackled. Fishermen and other interested parties from the sector, but also scientists, civil society and interested citizens, are invited to respond and have their say until 31 December 2009 on the future face of European fisheries. The consultation is the first step of the process which should bring about a radical reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. Stakeholders are invited to submit their views. (For more information [click here](#)) Then, the Commission will prepare an impact assessment report and develop a proposal for a new basic regulation. This could then be presented to the European Parliament and Council early in 2011, with a view for adoption in 2012.

This Green Paper is twofold: raise awareness of the challenges faced by the sector in recent years; and elicit a public response which can grow into a new, innovative and more consensual approach to fisheries regulation.

The Paper analyses all the facets of fisheries policy today and explains why some problems persist despite the progress made since the reform of 2002. The Paper identifies the overcoming of structural shortcomings of the present approach:

- the deep rooted problem of overcapacity
- the imprecise policy objectives, especially with regard to ecological responsibility and integration with general maritime issues;
- a decision-making system that is too centralised and focused on short-term solutions which more often than not undermine long-term sustainability;
- a framework that does not give sufficient responsibility to the industry;
- the absence of political will towards compliance with the fishing limitations.



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These issues have to be considered in a context where Europe imports two-thirds of its demand in fisheries products.

The Commission is concerned that if a better environmental sustainability of fishing is not achieved in the coming years, the consequence will be impoverished seas and an economically unviable fishing industry. If however the next reform projects the Common Fisheries Policy into the 21st century, the benefits will not just be limited to fishermen or coastal communities, but will also be shared by Europe's citizens.

Although the Commission is only legally bound to review some parts of the CFP by 2012, the prevailing situation, particularly as regards stocks and fleet overcapacity, has convinced it of the need to launch the reform process already now.

[Commission welcomes Parliament's support for a new control system for EU fisheries – 22/04/2009](#)

The European Commission welcomed the support provided by the European Parliament (EP) to its proposal for a new fisheries control system designed to ensure compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The Parliament listed various amendments but retained most of the key matters of the Commission's proposal. The EP remarked that for a control system to be effective, all those involved in the chain of production should be treated equally. In fact, the new system establishes a level playing field for the industry by covering all aspects, from capture through processing to the market. In addition to this, the Commission welcomes the fact that a definition of recreational fisheries is provided for and that the Parliament anticipates that where recreational fishery is found to have a significant impact, catches should then count against the quotas. Add to this, the EP also agreed with the Commission on the marketing of catches from recreational fishing to be prohibited except for philanthropic purposes.

Other positive notes for the Commission are: the support given by the EP to the establishment of a culture of compliance; the EP's agreement in principle with its definition of roles and responsibilities between the Member States and the Commission. Finally, the new Control Regulation is to be discussed and voted by the Council of Ministers in June, for possible final adoption in the second half of 2009.



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[COM \(2009\) 189](#) Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing a multi-annual plan for the western stock of Atlantic horse mackerel and the fisheries exploiting that stock

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a long-term plan for the sustainable management of horse mackerel across the eastern Atlantic from the Iberian Peninsula to the northern North Sea. The proposal comes in response to an initiative launched by the fishing sector concerned and based on the results of a scientific working group.

The present management system does not serve the horse mackerel situation very well. Therefore this management plan is pioneering. Hence, relying on biological information already available and encouraged by the scientific advice approving of management that is based on biological indicators for trends in stock health, meaning that the egg survey results will be at the centre of a harvest control rule. The harvest rule could be adapted to more precise scientific assessments once these are available.

The aim of this plan is to bring the stock to its maximum sustainable yield, whereby the point at which the largest catch or yield can continuously be taken from the stock under the prevailing environmental conditions without continuously diminishing the stock size and its reproductive capacity. Nowadays, horse mackerel is fished less for its oil and more for human consumption. The fleets involved are mostly large trawlers which catch a range of pelagic species such as mackerel, herring and blue whiting. The proposed long-term management plan will affect average annual catches of some 140 000 tonnes.

### **Consultation**

[Consultation on EMODNET – building a European marine data infrastructure](#)

The period of this consultation is from 07/04/2009 to 02/06/2009. The objective of this consultation is to assess stakeholder opinion on the current state of Europe's marine knowledge infrastructure and how the EU could act collectively to improve it.



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It is targeting groups who have views on Europe's marine knowledge infrastructure including public bodies, private enterprises and civil society organisations that collect or process marine data.

One can also submit his contributions. For further details [click here](#)

### **Agriculture and Rural Development**

Commission publishes 2008 report on the agricultural situation in the EU

The Commission just published the 2008 edition of its yearly report on the agricultural situation in the European Union. A large part of the report is devoted to statistical information on Community agriculture. This is drawn up on the basis of information from Eurostat and data collected by the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The statistical information presented covers a wide range of subjects: the economic situation in agriculture, structures, trade, markets, financial aspects and rural development. An introductory chapter gives an overview of the 2008 agricultural year. It includes a wide range of statistical information on agriculture in the 27 Member States and in the accession Countries for EU membership.

To access the full report – [click here](#) –

Less Favoured Areas: Commission intensifies cooperation with national authorities to simplify and better target the aid – 21/04/2009



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The European Commission today adopted a Communication paving the way for a new classification of agricultural areas with natural handicaps. With the help of scientific experts, the Commission has identified 8 soil and climate criteria as a basis for objectively and clearly classifying such areas. However, before presenting a legislative proposal, the Commission needs more data to assess their feasibility. Therefore, Member States are asked to provide simulations using national data to show how the criteria might work. The new classification system is likely to be in place in 2014; meanwhile the current system remains in force. This review exercise does not affect mountain areas (already classified based on objective common criteria) or areas with specific handicaps such as islands and coastal areas which are classified according to those specific handicaps.

Commission insists that all Member States publish recipients of CAP payments by 30<sup>th</sup> April, as set out in EU law – 23/04/2009

The European Commission expressed its surprise and disappointment with suggestions that Germany may not publish the list of beneficiaries of Common Agricultural Policy payments by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, as required by EU law.

The new Financial Regulation, adopted in 2006, provides that each Member State shall publish the information on a website which allows people to search for the beneficiaries by name, municipality, amounts received (and the currency concerned) or a combination of these three criteria and to extract the information as a single set of data. It requires Member States to inform the beneficiaries that their data will be made public and that they enjoy the rights accorded to them by EU data protection rules, thus ensuring that the system complies with the requirements of data protection. Recipients of money from the Rural Development fund have already been required to be published since September 2008. Germany has also published this data.

As Guardian of the Treaties, the Commission will treat all Member States in the same way and ensure that transparency rules are fully enforced in the whole EU from 30 April 2009.



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**The IPPC Directive – Its Effects on your Operations- A Briefing Session for Stakeholders**

Industrial activities play an important role in the economic well-being of Europe contributing to sustainable growth. Industrial activities however, have a significant impact on the environment. The largest industrial installations account for a considerable share of total emissions of key atmospheric pollutants. The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Directive sets out the main principles for the permitting and control of installations based on an integrated approach to achieve a high level of environmental protection.

The issues in question should be of particular interest to persons involved in various sectors. Amongst these sectors is livestock farming. Hence, this directive will affect some farms, which fall under the capacity of more than 450,000 places for quails, 40,000 places for broilers, pheasants, partridges or guinea fowl, 30,000 places for laying hens, 24,000 places for ducks, 12,000 places for geese or 11,500 places for turkeys.

MEUSAC together with MEPA, is organising a consultation session for stakeholders in relation to the proposed recast of the IPPC Directive on the **5<sup>th</sup> of May 2009** at Projects House in Floriana from **1000 – 1200 hrs**. Further details can be found in the attached circular. Please note that prior registration for the meeting is required. Your interest to attend the meeting should reach MEUSAC offices by not later than noon of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The registration form is also attached.

Should you require further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

**Council**  
**23/04/2009**

**Conclusions**

The Council has adopted conclusions on an Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.



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The Council has taken note of the Minister's preliminary reactions on a Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and on a communication on Sustainable Aquaculture.

For further info [click here](#)