

NSAC/NWWAC Social Aspects Focus Group Terms of Reference

Draft

Chair: Kenn Skau Fischer

Secretariat & facilitation: Kick-off and first advice: NWWAC; subsequent work: NSAC

Framework: This FG will function within NSAC Executive Committee which is also the forum for approval of the advice. The FG will function within NWWAC Horizontal WG, through which the TOR and draft advice will be revised and/or approved.

Purpose (aims and objectives):

The Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013) stipulates that fishing activities must contribute to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability. Furthermore, the CFP should contribute to increased productivity, to a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector including small-scale fisheries, and to stable markets, and it should ensure the availability of food supplies and that they reach consumers at reasonable prices.

In order to realize the full potential of a fishery, fisheries management needs to address and incorporate all three sustainability pillars. In the STECF publication on Social dimension of the CFP ([STECF-20-14](#)), the Commission stated that major structural changes in fisheries have led to significant social implications for both individual fishers and for fishing communities. In many fishing communities and regions of the EU, the social importance of the fisheries sector outweighs its direct economic contribution and therefore needs systematic addressing.

This focus group will endeavour to bring to attention identified gaps and shortcomings in the fisheries legislation concerning the social and economic considerations, provide missing links or point to areas where further work is needed, and provide recommendations on ways to improve the social and economic aspects of commercial, small-scale and recreational fisheries.

The FG work will touch upon economic and social data collection, including data on working and living conditions of fishers, vessel safety, trainings, the viability of the value chain and the effect of technical measures on fishers' safety, health and income, as well as on their general wellbeing. Furthermore, the FG will investigate how socio-economic impact assessment of fisheries and conservation measures could inform ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and environmental management. Throughout its work the FG will keep close contact and take advice and guidance from Social Partners for Fisheries.

In addition to voluntary instruments relevant to the fishing sector, e.g., the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, national safety codes and recommendations, and voluntary standards, the FG will build its work upon five international binding fisheries instruments:

1. The IMO (2012) Cape Town Agreement (CTA) ([link](#)),
2. The IMO (1995) International Convention on Training, Certification and for Fishing Vessels Personnel (STCW-F) ([link](#)),
3. The ILO (2007) Work in Fishing Convention (C188) ([link](#)),
4. Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 implementing the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the International Labour Organisation, concluded on 21 May 2012 between the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (Cogeca), the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche) ([link](#)),
4. The (2009) FAO Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) ([link](#)).

Advice and timelines:

1. Framework advice on identified social aspects and data gaps / announcement of FG intention (*November 2022*)
2. Advice on Evaluation of Directive 97/70/EC setting up a harmonised safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over
3. Further considerations regarding rising fuel prices, their implications for food supply and socio-economic sustainability of fisheries, and the need for agile adaptive management (*Q1 2023*)
4. Socio-economic data collection and practical application/implications (e.g. STECF); (*Q1 2023*)
5. Best practices in fisheries employment (working conditions, education, gender parity and diversity, physical and mental health, generational renewal, improving attractiveness of the sector, safety etc.) (*Could be broken down in smaller pieces of advice*) (*Q2 2023*)
6. Recommendations on recreational sector (*Q1 2023*)
7. Further *ad hoc* reflections on the Report on the functioning of CFP (*tbd*)

Functioning:

The Focus group will begin by conducting a series of hearings on social aspect of focus. The Focus Group will be inviting DG MARE and Social Partners for Fisheries to contribute to NSAC work as appropriate.

The Focus Group will aim to propose several consensus-led recommendations to be adopted by the respective NWWAC/NSAC Executive Committees. Social Aspects being a cross-cutting subject relevant in different topics considered by the ACs, these advice papers would provide a basis for other AC contributions related to the matter.

In the long-term and subject to the interest of AC members, the Focus group could serve as a group offering expertise for parts of other advice considering social aspects.

As the knowledge and understanding of social issues evolves, the Focus Group will share relevant outcomes with other institutions and bodies with view of making available valuable consensus-led opinions.

As a consensus-led forum, the Focus Group understands the Commission will give appropriate priority consideration to its advice and opinions, compared to individual submissions and contributions. As such, the Focus Group welcomes DG MARE replies to and participation in its advice developments and hearings.

Timeline:

FG duration: ongoing until topics exhausted / permanent

Timeline for individual pieces of advice to be decided upon and presented in the first Framework Advice on Social Aspects.

Recipients of Advice (target audience):

European Commission: DG MARE. In addition, a copy of each advice to be sent to North Sea and North Western Waters Member States, all AC members, and the PECH Committee for information.

Measures of success (Key Performance Indicators):

- Consensus Advice (when possible);
- Recognition of the paper by the EU Commission, NS MS, PECH Committee;
- DG MARE response to Advice;
- Reference to Advice by decision-makers and managers.

Members

Peter Breckling	Deutscher Fischerei Verband	IND	NSAC
David Curtis	European Anglers Alliance	OIG	NWWAC/NSAC
Bruno Dachicourt	European Transport Federation	IND	NWWAC
Gérald Hussenot	Blue Fish	OIG	NWWAC
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation	IND	NWWAC
Michael O'Brien	ETF (ITF)	IND	NWWAC
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation	IND	NWWAC
Jasmine Vlietinck	Rederscentrale	IND	NWWAC/NSAC
Sander Meyns	Rederscentrale	IND	NWWAC/NSAC
Kenn Skau Fischer	Danmarks Fiskeriforening	IND	NSAC
Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary	OIG	NWWAC
Mo Mathies	NWWAC Secretariat		
Tamara Talevska	NSAC Secretariat		