



Re-Imagining Fishing Gear in a Circular Economy

A 1-Day Workshop organised by the BSAC, NSAC, NWWAC and PelAC

08:30 – 17:30, Tuesday 28 January 2020, DG MARE, Brussels

Terms of Reference - 06 December 2019

Overview

The Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive¹ entered into force on 2nd July 2019. Marine litter is quite a big issue. While the majority of marine litter is coming from land sources, some litter arises from sea-based activities for example fishing, shipping, offshore platforms etc.

The EU level adopted the Plastics Strategy as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan. The SUP Directive is coherent with and complimentary to existing legislation. It foresees measures on extended producer responsibility schemes, the establishment of national minimum annual collection targets in each MS and the monitoring of fishing gear. Gear that is returned to shore must be properly dealt with from a Circular Economy point of view.

The Directive on Port Reception Facilities (DPRF)² came into force on 17th April 2019. It deals with all waste from ships as well as to waste collected in nets during fishing operations and includes measures to ensure the waste is returned to land to adequate port reception facilities.

The SUP Directive and the Port Reception Directive are looking for specific but differing reporting, though they both have a common goal, which makes it imperative that both directives be read together.

Two ACs have set up Focus Groups in response:

North Sea AC: Focus Group on Circular Design of Fishing Gear

North Western Waters AC: Focus Group Marine Plastics.

The NWWAC in conjunction with the Market AC held a first workshop on Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain in Brussels on 7th November 2019. It brought together members several Advisory Councils with experts and scientists to explore the impact of plastics on fisheries and market actors.

Four Advisory Councils, the NWWAC, PELAC, NSAC and BSAC propose to establish a collaboration in order to hold a second workshop to look at the specifics of fishing gear in a circular economy.

Purpose of the workshop

To build on the conclusions from the NWWAC/MAC workshop on Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain and to bring together members of all the relevant ACs with experts and scientists to explore in detail the impact of the requirements of the SUP Directive and the Port Facilities Directive on the fishing sector.

The Workshop is focussing specifically on the gear component of the legislation to provide a joint clear understanding of the preconditions, possibilities and impossibilities of gear recycling, a clear description of the complex situation and possibilities and solutions for the problems, and a classification of plastics used in fishing gear.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/904/oj>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/883/oj>



By gathering input at the Workshop from experts and scientists on the topic, the Workshop is to be based on the facts and figures according to latest research and best practices.

In addition, participants will evaluate the potential of engaging with NEN regarding development of a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) in support of the proposed CEN standard development for fishing gear under the SUP Directive.

Proposed Outcomes

Stakeholder led information & conclusions which could form the basis of advice to DG MARE to be prepared by summer 2020:

- I. On implementation of SUP Directive and Port Reception Facilities Directive incl. classification of material and exploration of the extended producer responsibility scheme and modulated fees.
- II. Certification/Gear circularity standard incl. identification of new gear technologies.
- III. Fishing for Litter - Harmonisation of FFL across European Member States incl. reference to funding mechanisms, incl. port reception facilities, scaling up of FFL across relevant EU Member States
- IV. Identification and promotion of best practices.

Target Audience

- Members of all relevant Advisory Councils
- European Commission and other relevant/interested (EU) institutions (e.g. EP)
- Experts and other stakeholders

Schedule and Deadlines

- Final Terms of Reference to be adopted by end of November 2019 by NWWAC Focus Group Marine Plastics/ExCom, NSAC Focus Group Circular Design of Fishing Gear/ExCom, BSAC and PelAC
- Draft agenda and proposals for experts to be approved by above based on the agreed Terms of Reference by end of November 2019
- Date for Workshop: 28 January 2020
- Meeting Venue: DG MARE, Brussels
- Report, conclusions/recommendations from the workshop to be published in its final version by March 2020

Resources, inputs and external sources

- Foreseen budget: c. €20.000 split between BSAC, NSAC, NWWAC, PelAC
ACs to reimburse own members directly but split the cost of running the workshop four ways, i.e. catering, expert reimbursement (where necessary)
- In kind collaboration with the Commission