

#EMD2025

22 May 2025, 15:45 – 17:00

Cork, Hotel Clayton - Pegasus 3&4 Hall

## ACs' workshop at European Maritime Day

# *Celebrating Advisory Councils' success in view of the Oceans Pact*

English



Français



Español

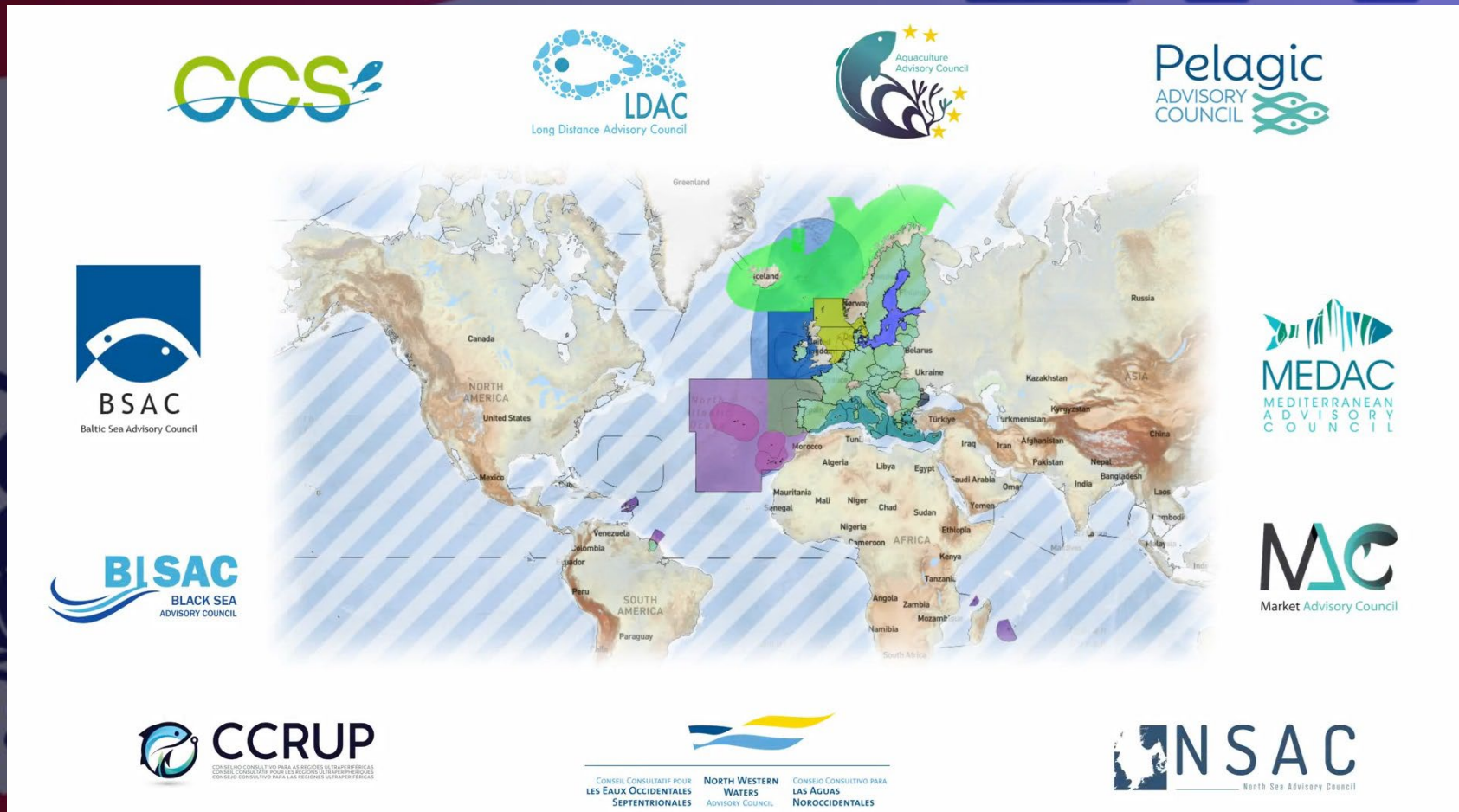


*EU Advisory Councils: Stakeholder engagement in policymaking for sustainable fisheries & aquaculture production and value chains*



# Introduction to the ACs

<https://youtu.be/2-n6qCBknHo>



ME DAY  
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EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

## 20 years of Advisory Councils Success Stories

Cork 21-23 May 2025



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## Establishment of EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for aquaculture species

- 2022 AAC recommendation for the establishment of an EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for aquaculture species (EURCAW-Aqua)
- 2024 Creation of EURCAW-Aqua
- AAC Recommendation on the working priorities for the EURCAW-Aqua:
  - developed in cooperation with DG MARE, DG SANTE, the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) and the team in charge of the EURCAW-Aqua
  - includes recommendations on:
    - knowledge transfer
    - supporting good policy
    - priority topics
    - stakeholder engagement





## Building common ground: BSAC's path to advice balanced seals and cormorants' management

- 2023 and 2024: Baltic Sea AC (BSAC) workshops dedicated to seals and cormorants
- Workshop 1: applicable legislation; research on these two groups of predators in the Baltic Sea
- Workshop 2: discussions around conservation and management
- Important step forward towards creating a common understanding of how to better balance conservation and management of seals and cormorants
- 2024 consensus-based recommendations:
  - BSAC advice on cormorants
  - BSAC advice on seals
- The recommendations were addressed to the European Commission, Sea Member States, HELCOM and ICES
- 2025: Joint NSAC-BSAC workshop on predators

[BSAC Website](https://www.bsac.eu)

## Inclusion of Fisheries in Romania's National Maritime Spatial Plan

- Fishing activities were erroneously left out of Romania's National Maritime Spatial Plan
- Black Sea AC issues recommendations for:
  - genuine involvement of fishers
  - organisation of information sessions
  - cooperation with other sectors
  - assessment of the impact of offshore wind farms
- Result: chapter dedicated to fisheries was updated with relevant data and maps
- Fishing was officially recognized as an essential activity through Government Emergency Ordinance no. 97/2023, an example of participatory governance

## Authorisation the renewal of several vessels in the Outermost Regions (ORs)

- Recommendations n°. 37 and n°44 on the “Review of Criteria relating to the Fleet’s State and the Fleet Renewal in the Outermost Regions”. Led to the renewal of:
  - 6 vessels in La Réunion
  - 22 vessels in Martinique
  - 23 vessels in Guadalupe
  - included a one-off scheme for the renewal of 25 vessels in French Guyana
  - Opened funding programmes for Portuguese ORs (Azores and Madeira) and the Spanish OR (Canary Islands)
- EC (COM(2024) 223): special characteristics and limitations of the ORs often make it impossible to carry out an assessment according to the criteria established for the annual report, thus determining alternative methods for interested Member States to apply, in order to prepare balance indicators for fleets under 12 metres



## Fight against illegal, unregulated and undeclared (IUU) fishing

- One of the main topics of work for the Long Distance AC since its inception supporting the EC's "zero tolerance" approach
- Trust built between fishing sector and environmental NGOs (e.g. EJF, OCEANA, Pew and WWF)
- 15 advice submissions covering
- Enhance the implementation of the IUU Regulation in relation to Catch Documentation Scheme and the carding system
- Request for harmonised control of imports from third countries into the EU market across EU MS
- MCS considerations to be included in the EU mandate for negotiations at SFPAs and RFMO Annual Meetings
- Evidence used from EC, EP, ECA, EFCA, Interpol, investigative journalists, Researchers, national administrations

[LDAC Website](#)

## Impact and Mitigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Seafood Supply Chain

- 2020 outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic → weekly informal online meetings between MAC Management Team and Markets Unit of DG MARE for transmission of information on:
  - Price increases
  - Decrease in production activities
  - Restrictions in outlets
  - Changes in consumer behaviour
  - Lack of public support
- Adoption of advice recommending several market, funding, and environmental and social initiatives
- Measures were generally implemented by the European Commission, including possibility of financial support for the entire supply chain in crises situations.

## **Mediterranean AC advice**

### **on invasive species and algae ([Ref.:238/2020](#))**

- Call for an Alien Species Observatory: “Constituting and developing an international coordination centre and a Mediterranean warning network to detect, monitor and manage invasions. Should be based or have monitoring centres close to the entry points of invasive species, such as Strait of Gibraltar or the Suez Canal”
- Included in the GFCM SAC Report 2022 "Monitoring programmes [...] - Continue supporting key regional activities including: [...]; monitoring NIS across the Mediterranean, including through the establishment of the Observatory”.

47th Session of the GFCM (2024): “The Commission endorsed the final version of the concept note for the pilot study on non-indigenous species (NIS) in the eastern Mediterranean, [...] also endorsed the guiding document for the establishment of a Mediterranean observatory on NIS, including insights for its operationalization.”

[MEDAC website](#)



## 2023 North Sea AC advice on the need to involve stakeholders in the formulation of ICES advice requests

- Joint-AC motion to involve stakeholders in this critical stage of advice request formulation
- Positive Commission response; 2024 first coordination meeting between DG MARE and ACs
- 2025 First debrief from a meeting with ICES advice requesters (MIRIA)
  - Aim of these meetings was to exchange with DG MARE on research topics identified by the ACs and discuss avenues for stakeholder input to non-recurrent advice, as a starting point
  - Critical step in introduction of ecosystem variables in the framework of ecosystem-based fisheries management, the operationalisation of which has been slow in the EU Context

[NSAC website](#)

## Energy-efficient technologies used by new engines

- 2021 NWWAC feedback on the initiative “CO2 emissions of engines – methodology for their reduction”
  - Modification of the final act: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/46 of 13 January 2022 implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 as regards the identification of energy-efficient technologies and the specification of methodology elements to determine the normal fishing effort of fishing vessels
  - Addition of a reference to internal combustion and fuel cell hybrid in the final text of the implementing act
- Supported by South Western Water AC, Mediterranean AC, North Sea AC, Outermost Regions AC

[NWWAC Website](https://www.nwwac.eu)

## Long-term management strategy for boarfish

- 2011 Pelagic AC request for inclusion of Boarfish in PelAC remit due to development of targeted boarfish fisheries
- 2012 first PelAC long-term management strategy for boarfish submitted to ICES
  - Used by ICES to provide advice on the stock
- 2013 boarfish officially included in PelAC remit in the 2013 reform of the CFP
- PelAC work on stock including recommendations on
  - Closures to avoid bycatch
  - ICES advice
- Work led to ICES benchmark – stock moved from Category 3 to Category 1
- Continued work on long-term management strategy

[PelAC Website](#)



# Panel on Success Stories

Alexandra Philippe, **NWWAC Chair**

Merel den Held, **PelAC Vice Chair**

Yobana Bermúdez, **MAC Chair**

Antonis Petrou, **MEDAC Coordinator FG EastMed**

Stilyanos Mytolidis, **DG MARE**

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## EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

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### Panel on the role of ACs in supporting the implementation of the Ocean Pact



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## EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

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**Interaction with the audience**  
Four break-out rooms



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# SLIDO Questions



SLIDO ACCESS CODE :  
ACEMD2025



**Use one word to describe the contributions made by the Advisory Councils to the implementation of the CFP over the past 20 years.**



**In your opinion, which is the key priority that needs to be achieved under the Ocean Pact and how:**





**Use one word to describe the contributions made by the Advisory Councils to the implementation of the CFP over the past 20 years.**

# SLIDO Question 1

Use **one word** to describe the contributions made by the Advisory Councils to the implementation of the CFP over the past 20 years

# SLIDO Question 2

In your opinion, **which is the key priority** that needs to be achieved under the Ocean Pact and how:

1. pursue a healthy and productive ocean by implementing relevant EU legislation and championing the EU's international ocean governance agenda
2. boost a competitive, resilient, and sustainable EU blue economy, including fisheries
3. consolidate, simplify, and extend the EU's marine knowledge framework

# SLIDO Question 3

Considering the key role of ACs' contributions to EU policy over the past 20 years, what do you consider is **the key focus** for the ACs' contribution to the implementation of the Ocean Pact?



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## Conclusion



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*Thank for your participation!*

