



Brussels,
MARE.D.3/FB/ (2021)

Subject: Launch of the consultation on the Action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems and other issues

Dear Sir/Madam,

Firstly, let me thank you once again for your very valuable contributions to the recently published report¹ on the implementation of the 2019 Technical Measures Regulation². The report provides a useful overview of where we are in the implementation of this regulation and the challenges that remain. It highlights in particular a positive contribution of the Regulation to its objective of protecting sensitive species and habitats, while also confirming that further action and decisive steps are needed for the goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030³ to be met.

As has been announced in the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Commission is working on an **Action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems**, to complement this report. With the Action plan, the Commission seeks to provide recommendations and actions that in practice link the implementation of the common fisheries policy with environmental legislation and policy, notably the Birds, Habitats and the Marine Strategy Framework Directives. It will identify clearly where and by when action is required by Member States and the Commission to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems. This way, it aims to concretely exploit the synergies between fisheries and environmental policies and help to improve their implementation.

Given the importance of this Action Plan, the Commission has just launched a targeted consultation⁴ and I hope that you all will take the time to provide your replies and input in reply to this consultation. **We would in particular appreciate your feedback and**

¹ [Sustainable fisheries: Commission publishes first report on the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/sustainable-fisheries/commission-publishes-first-report-on-the-implementation-of-the-technical-measures-regulation)

² Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005

³ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives. COM/2020/380 final

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/action-plan-protect-fisheries-resources-and-protect-marine-ecosystems-your-opinion-counts_en

input on the elements of the Action plan that are considered to improve management, implementation and governance of fisheries and environmental legislation. Likewise, your contribution with verification on the current state of conservation of sensitive species and habitats, and on the availability and potential of innovative, more selective fishing gears and techniques, would be of value to the shaping of the Action plan in a manner that is coherent with the CFP objectives.

The consultation is open until **20 December 2021**. In order to facilitate your work and ensure that all stakeholders are heard, the questionnaire, which is currently published in English only, is being translated into all EU languages. The translations will be added in the EU survey in the coming weeks and should all be available by 3 December at the latest.

I also take the opportunity of this letter to inform you that due to unforeseen circumstances the next inter-AC meeting, initially scheduled on 26 November 2021, is postponed to early 2022. We have tentatively scheduled 19 January 2022 and I would be grateful if you could already mark this date in your calendars. My services will confirm this date as soon as possible.

Pending the Inter-AC meeting itself, I have asked my team to use the date of 26 November 2021 for a technical meeting with all secretariats to reflect further on the planning and organisation issues, the financial matters and of course the implementation of the soon to be adopted Delegated act on the functioning of the ACs.

As for the financial management, the most important item to discuss is evidently the new lump sum approach. As already indicated by my services, this new approach is still under development and discussion internally in the Commission. Therefore, the new approach will not be ready to be applied as of 1 January 2022. We hope to be able to provide more information on the matter already during the meeting with the secretariats late November, as well as during the Inter-AC meeting in January. In the meantime, we will continue to apply the yearly-based budgets and reimbursements based on real costs.

Finally, as far as the delegated act on the functioning of the Advisory Councils is concerned, let me thank you for the numerous feedbacks we received. We are currently finalising the text with the aim of its adoption by the College in the coming weeks. Following the subsequent scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council, this new act would come into force in the first Quarter of 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Contact: MARE-TECHNICAL-MEASURES@ec.europa.eu