

MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Work Programme Year 6

1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Vision	3
Objectives.....	4
MAC priorities and deliverables for Year 6.....	6
Operational structure	13
Annex I.....	19

Introduction

The Market Advisory Council (MAC) is a stakeholder-led organisation created in 2016 under the legal form of a non-profit organisation based in Brussels and co-funded by the European Commission.

The MAC is made up of 59 European and national organisations from 12 Member States representing the whole value chain. Members include organisations from the catching and aquaculture sector, processors, trade unions and environmental organisations, among others.

The MAC provides evidence-based advice to the European Commission and the Member States in relation to various issues regarding the markets of fishery and aquaculture products. Its main goal is to achieve a better understanding of the markets for aquaculture and fishery products facilitating a better implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and common organisation of the market.

The MAC is unique among Advisory Councils in that it is a horizontal body, covering activities across the entire supply chain, from primary production (of both capture and farmed fish) through processing, marketing and trading, to retail and consumption, including food safety, consumer information and other relevant regulatory issues. Its membership reflects this broad spectrum of interests, including those of non-industry stakeholders.

In its sixth year of operation, which runs from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022, the MAC wishes to apply for grant-aid from the EU Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions in force.

www.marketac.eu

Vision

Over the past 50 years, annual global consumption of seafood products per capita has more than doubled, from almost 10 kg in 1960 to over 20 kg in 2014. Seafood protein represents an essential nutritional component in many countries, especially where total protein intake levels are low. In 2013, seafood provided more than 3.1 billion people with at least 20 % of their intake of animal protein (source: FAO, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016. Contributing to food security and nutrition for all. FAO, Rome. 200 pp.). Thus, capture fisheries, aquaculture and related industries make vital contributions to food security as a direct source of protein, micronutrients and indispensable fatty acids, but also indirectly via employment.

Responsibly and sustainably managed seafood can contribute to food security. Seafood is unique among food sources. It is inherently renewable, if properly managed, low impact and can generally speaking be considered to be good for the human health.

Objectives

The value of the MAC is giving the opportunity to have full, frank, open and respectful discussions among all the concerned industries and other interest groups– from the sea to the consumers’ plate. This can lead to a better understanding of markets and facilitate the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.

The specific objectives of the MAC include the upgrade of market incentives to support sustainable production practices and better governance, reduction of administrative burden and simplification of the legal framework, passing by enhancing the market potential of EU products and ensuring a level playing field for operators.

Main objectives

- 1. Ensuring the collective voice of all stakeholders in the value chain is heard with regards to market issues both by responding to Commission’s request for advice and by identifying other related issues that members of the MAC consider necessary to address**

The principal aim of the Market Advisory Council for Fishery and Aquaculture Products is to bring together European stakeholders (including primary producers - catch sector and aquaculture - traders, exporters, importers to/from third countries, processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, environmental or development non-governmental organisations, consumer organisations and any other interest group affected by the CFP) in order to allow for a transparent and representative dialogue in submitting recommendations and suggestions to the Commission and to the Member States in market-related issues. The cross-sectorial nature of the MAC provides a unique platform for stakeholders to share views and expertise to inform evidence-based policy making.

- 2. Facilitating the implementation of the CFP**

Ultimately, the advice produced by the MAC will be directed by the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and in particular its provisions relating to the Common Market Organisation. But this should not preclude the possibility of issuing recommendations on the basis of any other legal instruments that touch upon market-related issues, such as trade, sanitary matters, food safety and food security. The MAC will assist the Commission and policy-makers to effectively implement the CFP and the CMO by issuing recommendations and opinions in respect of the non-exhaustive list of topics described in detail below.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the MAC are, among others, to provide advice on:

- The up-to-date market developments and position of EU production as well as a level playing field conditions for products marketed in the Union;
- Reduction of administrative burden and simplification of the (existing) legal framework for the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- Market incentives and sustainable production practices conducive to economic, socio-economic and environmental sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- EU production of fisheries and aquaculture products
- EU structural market changes
- Short-term fluctuations in the market;
- The market potential of EU products vis-à-vis existing and planned legislation;
- How precise and reliable information can be communicated to consumers;
- Providing healthy food products to consumers in the EU and beyond;
- Ensuring the long-term viability of the fishery and aquaculture products value chain in the EU in the face of regional and global challenges, including but not limited to the effects of climate change and pollution

MAC priorities and deliverables for Year 6

1. Outstanding Work from Year 5

Due to developments in ongoing interinstitutional negotiations, some deliverables of Year 5 remain as outstanding work for Year 6.

1.1 Revision of Fisheries Control Regulation

The Fisheries Control Regulation impacts across the market procurement chain as a whole. The MAC supports the Commission's broad review objectives of simplification and increased effectiveness, and the mitigation of differential levels of implementation between Member States. This is of particular concern in relation to market control and traceability. The MAC will keep examining ways in which existing arrangements might be improved, in particular in relation to the inter-action between the Fisheries Control Regulation, the operation of the CMO and food law and labelling in the Food Information for Consumers Regulation. The MAC will follow up on the Control Regulation and will aim at providing any support or advice to the Commission and Member States during the inter-institutional negotiations, keeping in mind the importance of simplification and easy implementation by stakeholders, and easy / effective control by the authorities.

Timeline: As soon as tangible outcomes from inter-institutional negotiations become available, after careful analysis, follow-up advice to the European Commission and EU Member States is to be produced on the impact of the revision of the Control Regulation during year 6.

1.2 CATCH IT System

In Year 1, the MAC adopted advice, jointly with the LDAC and the MEDAC, on the need for modernisation and improvement of the IUU regulation, in particular in relation to the development of an electronic catch certification system. The first version of the CATCH IT system was launched on 7 May 2019. The objective behind CATCH is to develop a web-based application to support the management (issuance, control and verification) of official documents and to automate the related procedures laid down in the IUU Regulation. CATCH has been included as part of the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation (Amendment of Article 12). Until the adoption of the proposal, this IT system will be used on a voluntary basis by the EU Member States and their national operators. The use of the system will remain voluntary for third countries after the adoption of the legal basis. The MAC will follow-up on the implementation of this system, particularly once its use becomes mandatory for the EU Member States and their national operators, while taking into account the potential impact of the voluntary use by third countries.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission to be developed and adopted during Year 6, once the provisions on the mandatory use per the EU Member States and their national operators are published in the Official Journal.

1.3 EMFAF Funding Priorities

The EMFAF programme is the principal mean of providing publicly funded financial support for the industry as a whole. During its Year 1 work, the MAC made several observations relating to problems in accessing existing measures and to the need for greater coherence and consistency in their application, while recognising that this is in part due to decisions by individual Member States within the frameworks laid down. In this regard, the MAC forwarded the Commission its advice in March 2018. In 2019, the MAC adopted a joint ACs advice on EMFF funding for research projects. The MAC will follow the implementation of the EMFAF, particularly the Member States' national programmes and the funding for Production and Marketing Plans.

Timeline: During the course of Year 6, as national programmes are prepared by the Member States and approved by the European Commission, advice to the European Commission and the Member States on the objectives and implementation.

2. Farm to Fork Strategy

In May 2020, the European Commission published the Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. The Strategy is part of the European Green Deal, which aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The Strategy aims to accelerate a transition to a food system that should: have a neutral or positive environmental impact; help to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts; reverse the loss of biodiversity; ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and sustainable food; preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade.

The Strategy's draft action plans include several initiatives of direct and indirect relevance for the EU fisheries and aquaculture market. Under Year 5, the MAC already adopted advice on several initiatives and will continue to follow-up in the upcoming year:

- Development of a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security
- Development of an EU code and monitoring framework for responsible business and marketing conduct in the food supply chain
- Proposal for a revision of EU legislation on Food Contact Materials to improve food safety, ensure citizens' health and reduce the environmental footprint of the sector
- Proposal for a revision of EU marketing standards for agricultural, fishery and aquaculture products to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products
- Proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices
- Proposal to require origin indication for certain products

- Review of the EU promotion programme for agricultural and food products with a view to enhancing its contribution to sustainable production and consumption

Under Year 6, the MAC will also initiate work on other initiatives that might affect the market of fisheries and aquaculture products, such as:

- Proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems
- Evaluation and revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and slaughter of animals
- Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers to support their position in the food chain and non-legislative initiatives to improve transparency
- Initiative to improve the corporate governance framework, including a requirement for the food industry to integrate sustainability into corporate strategies
- Initiatives to stimulate reformulation of processed food, including the setting of maximum levels for certain nutrients
- Enhance coordination to enforce single market rules and tackle Food Fraud, including by considering a reinforced use of OLAF's investigative capacities
- Determine the best modalities for setting minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement to promote healthy and sustainable diets, including organic products, in schools and public institutions
- Review of the EU school scheme legal framework with a view to refocus the scheme on healthy and sustainable food
- Proposal for EU-level targets for food waste reduction

Several planned initiatives with significant relevance on the market have been identified as their own specific priorities and deliverables for Year 6.

The recently adopted strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture will also be taken account. The guidelines demonstrate the important role that sustainable aquaculture can play in delivering public goods, including nutritious and healthy food with a limited environmental footprint.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission on the initiatives with direct and indirect relevance for the EU seafood market to be adopted along Year 6, as these are launched.

3. Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments

The EU market is heavily dependent on imported supplies to meet consumer demand. As part of its work to improve understanding of consumption trends and price developments, the MAC will

continue to monitor and offer advice on both offensive and defensive opportunities in relation to the various ongoing EU negotiations with third countries on possible new free trade deals. Understanding the interest other ACs have in providing input in this regard, representatives of other ACs, such as the LDAC, will be invited to actively participate in MAC meetings.

The EU market is not only affected by multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, but also by other policy instruments, such as the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (Standard GSP, Everything But Arms, GSP+) and the ATQs Regulation.

Timeline: contributions to public consultations to be submitted as these are launched by the European Commission, plus advices to be produced on an *ad hoc* basis when relevant developments in EU's trade negotiations become publicly known throughout the whole Year 6.

4. Marketing Standards Framework

In 2019, the European Commission published an evaluation of the marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products. In this context, the MAC had adopted an opinion on the framework for fresh products, followed by an opinion on processed products. In April 2020, the Commission launched an inception impact assessment, while aiming to address identified shortcomings in the framework, particularly connected with the CMO's objectives of enabling the market to be supplied with sustainable products and helping to achieve a level playing field. The MAC adopted advice as feedback to this initiative. Later that year, the Commission launched a public consultation on the same topic. The MAC also adopted advice on this consultation.

In April 2021, STECF published a report on criteria and indicators to incorporate sustainability aspects for seafood products in the marketing standards under the CMO. Under Year 5, the MAC is expected to adopt advice on further sustainability criteria and indicators. The revision of the marketing standards will continue during the period of Year 6, including through an impact assessment, and the Commission's legislative proposal, currently planned for in H1 2022. The incorporation of sustainability aspects will continue to be a key issue.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission on the legislative proposal, when published in H1 2022.

5. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing & Global Governance

The EU is a pioneer in the global fight against IUU fishing and the European Commission has taken a leadership position by promoting a "zero-tolerance" approach to IUU fishing. The EU IUU Regulation established an EU-wide system to prevent, deter and eliminate the import of IUU fishery products into the EU market and promotes reforms in non-EU countries through its carding system. The Commission services have continuously updated the MAC on its cooperation with third countries and corresponding evaluations to promote reforms. As the world's largest import

market for seafood products, the EU has a responsibility to ensure that products stemming from IUU fishing activities do not access the EU single market.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission to be produced on an *ad hoc* basis when significant cases of IUU fishing products entering the EU market are known or when actions take place under the Commission's carding system.

6. European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA)

As the European Commission's market intelligence tool, the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA) increases market transparency and efficiency, analyses EU market dynamics, and supports business decisions and policy-making. The ex-post information provided by EUMOFA on volumes, values and prices of fisheries and aquaculture products, including imports and exports, is greatly appreciated by the members of the MAC. Among these, the annual "The EU Fish Market" has particular importance and the MAC aims to maintain the established annual exchange of views on this report.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission on the work programme of EUMOFA, including suggestions on species and Member States covered in price structure analyses and in thematic analyses, by the end of 2021.

7. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)

SFPAs provide a considerable supply of seafood to the EU market as well as to external markets. Since the EU is a deficit market for fisheries products, the opening up of fishing grounds for EU vessels and trade opportunities for non-EU countries to potentially export to the EU can be considered advantageous. In early 2021, the European Commission published an Evaluation Roadmap on the Evaluation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and the MAC adopted advice on the matter. An evaluation report and a Staff Working Document, which will contribute to the CFP's implementation report, are expected to be published at the end of 2021.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission, with a market and trade perspective, on the evaluation report and the Staff Working Document at the beginning of 2022.

8. Food Information to Consumers

At the end of 2020, the European Commission published a Roadmap on the Proposal for a Revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC Regulation) with the aim of following-up on several Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives, namely: a proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling; the setting of "nutrient profiles" restricting the promotion (via nutrition and health claims) of foods that are high in fats, sugars and/or salt; consider proposing the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products; and a revision of EU rules on date marking ("use by" and "best before").

In early 2021, the MAC adopted advice on the mentioned Roadmap. Under Year 6, the MAC will continue following-up on initiatives with an impact on labelling and on food information to consumers, such as the ones mentioned above as well as the proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices, since these will have a significant impact on the EU seafood market.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission on the mentioned initiatives to be adopted along Year 6, as these are launched.

9. Technologies for the transmission of data in the supply chain

The seafood supply chain is continuously evolving due to innovation in information and communication technologies. A “digital revolution” in food systems is ongoing with the introduction of new technologies. Digital solutions, particularly blockchain, could potentially optimise the transmission of data along the chain. Therefore, the MAC will organise, in collaboration with the NWWAC and NSAC, a webinar on “Blockchain and other new technologies for the transmission of traceability information and other data in the seafood supply chain”.

The webinar will take into account the role of traceability information under the General Food Law and the Fisheries Control Regulation, the increased digitalisation foreseen in the Commission’s proposal for the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation, the Farm to Fork Strategy, as well as other data that could be transmitted the chain for specific purposes, e.g., fisheries control, food fraud, product labelling, information to consumer, voluntary sustainability claims, and certification schemes. Focusing on EU-produced products, from sea to plate, the webinar will explore the proactive engagement of seafood operators, including its implementation and potential added value. It will raise awareness and provide for exchange of views, experiences and best practices, while also accounting for ongoing and potential EU policy actions.

Timeline: Webinar to take place at the end of 2021. A webinar report will be prepared, which will serve as a basis for the potential adoption of advice to the European Commission in early 2022.

10. Landing Obligation

In line with Article 15(14) of the CFP, the Commission reports annually on the implementation of the landing obligation based on information transmitted by the Member States, the Advisory Councils and other relevant sources. The landing obligation can have a significant socioeconomic impact on the market, including through the need for outlets for catches below the minimum conservation size and the development of new market segments for unwanted catches. Due to the permitted discards under temporary exemptions to the landing obligation, there might also be problems of data availability and quality, which impacts the reliability of information, on a regional basis, on the market effects of the implementation of the landing obligation.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission on the annual implementation of the landing obligation at the beginning of 2022.

11. Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

The MAC hopes to continue its collaboration with STECF. This collaboration will focus particularly on the STECF's Report on Economic Performance of the EU Fish Processing Industry, the Economic Report of the EU Aquaculture Sector and the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet, including through the established practice of presentations and exchanges of views on these reports. The MAC will aim to ensure representation, as observers, in the relevant STECF Expert Working Group meetings. If appropriate, it will also provide feedback on the reports, promote the submission of additional data by the members, and suggest topics of specific analysis, such as species, fleet segments, and geographical areas, for the consideration of STECF, as well as more detailed data on aquaculture.

Timeline: during the entire Year 6.

12. Sanitary & Hygiene Rules

The implementation of sanitary and food hygiene rules plays an important role in the EU market of fisheries and aquaculture products, in order to ensure confidence in the supply chain and among consumers. The MAC will monitor sanitary and hygiene rules relevant to seafood, such as food safety management, contaminants and additives, in cooperation with the relevant Commission services. The maximum level of sulphite in crustaceans is an example of an issue previously raised by members of the MAC, which will likely be addressed.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission to be produced on an *ad hoc* basis when significant issues of sanitary and hygiene matters are brought to the attention of the MAC.

13. Substantiating Green Claims

Last year, under the Circular Economy action plan, DG ENV committed to launching an initiative on substantiating environmental claims through Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods. The aim is to ensure that claims on the environmental performance of companies and products are reliable, comparable and verifiable across the EU. The communication of environmental performance of products is a horizontal issue that will affect fishery and aquaculture products, as highlighted by the MAC's previous advice on the file. The development of Product Environmental Footprint Category Rule for Marine Fish will have particular importance for the market of fishery and aquaculture products.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission to be produced on the ongoing development of the green claims initiative, particularly PEFCR for Marine Fish, once new legislative developments take place.

14. Empowering the consumer for the green transition

Last year, under the Circular Economy action plan, DG JUST launched a consumer policy initiative to strengthen the role of consumers in the green transition. The initiative will potentially set minimum requirements for sustainability logos and labels. The initiative aims to tackle the proliferation of sustainability logos, labels, trust marks, quality marks, claims, etc. signalling economic, social and environmental virtues, and online information, that, differently from greenwashing, are difficult to interpret or verify. In the EU seafood market, there is an increasing presence of sustainability logos and labels, so this initiative will also impact it.

Timeline: Advice to the European Commission to be produced on the setting of minimum requirements of sustainability logos and labels, once new legislative developments take place.

Other Work

In addition to the above, each of the three Working Groups will keep under review the specific areas of interest for which it is responsible, responding as appropriate to *ad hoc* requests for advice from the European Commission, the Member States, and members.

Furthermore, as demonstrated by the UN's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, topics connected to social responsibility in fish value chains plays a key role in international agendas. The CFP aim is also to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term social sustainability. Therefore, the MAC will take into account this matter, including gender inequality, human trafficking, forced labour, labour conditions and child labour, in relation to the EU market and the import markets, when developing the above advice.

Operational structure

Many of the issues the MAC needs to address have a horizontal nature, impacting more than one part of the chain and involving several different players. Experience of operation in previous years has shown the need for a flexible and responsive structure to meet the challenges involved. It has been decided that the best way of achieving this is through a tripartite Working Group structure reporting to an Executive Committee which is responsible for the delivery of formal advice reflecting Working Group recommendations. The flexibility in the organisation of the work under the MAC has allowed the organisation of joint Working Groups to tackle those issues under the remit of several Working Groups. In order to facilitate the drafting of advices and have a tangible product to present to the Working Groups, the MAC has also constituted several Focus Groups entrusted with the preparation of papers.

The MAC normally covers expenditure related to the organisation of meetings. As the MAC is established in Brussels, meetings normally take place in Brussels. This is the most convenient location for the majority of the stakeholders and for the Secretariat in liaising with meeting venues, interpreters, catering and logistics related to events.

The operational hierarchy of the MAC is organised in the following structure:

1. General Assembly

All members are invited to participate in the General Assembly, which takes place at least once a year. The General Assembly is updated by the Chairs of the MAC and Working Groups on the decisions taken and advices adopted and are entrusted with the adoption of the budgets, work programme, election of chairs of the MAC and Working Groups, among other tasks reflected in the Statutes.

2. Executive Committee

All decisions relating to the MAC are made by an Executive Committee with a maximum of 25 members (i.e., 15 fishing industry, and 10 other interest groups) reflecting the 60/40 balance required.

Meetings of the Executive Committee take place at least twice a year. The Executive Committee addresses policy issues, which are particularly aimed at further improving the functioning of the MAC, it debates the input from Working Groups, proposes the budget and annual programme of the AC and the annual report and any other task entrusted by the Statutes.

3. Management group

The management group is comprised of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the MAC, Chairs of the Working Groups and rapporteurs of Working Groups. They meet whenever is needed to discuss informally the functioning of the MAC, to prepare Working Group meetings and to exchange views on the implementation of the work programme.

4. Working Groups

The Working Groups implement the work programme within the limits of their competencies, established annually by the Executive Committee. Additional Working Groups may be created as required in the future. Working Groups adopt proposals of opinions, advices and papers to be endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Working Groups are held over a period of normally 2 days in order to ensure an efficient use of the budgetary resources. Meetings of the Working Groups take place at least 3 times a year.

The following is an indicative allocation of responsibilities between the 3 Working Groups. The list of items is merely indicative of the scope of the three Working Groups constituted, a graphic representation of the matters that are addressed or may be addressed in each Working Group. The non-exhaustive list of items is intended as a guide to the organisation of work, rather than itself constituting a formal programme of activity for the year ahead.

Working Group 1: EU Production

- Common Market Organisation: production and marketing plans, producers & interbranch organizations, marketing and planning, stabilisation of markets
- European Maritime and Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
- COVID19 Pandemic: Evaluation, impact and measures in a post COVID 19 environment
- Economic viability of the fleet – collaboration with STECF
- Evaluation and revision of Marketing Standards on sizes and freshness (Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96)
- Implications of the EU Control Regulation on EU Production
- Evaluation of the landing obligation on markets
- EUMOFA: Development of additional case studies

Working Group 2: EU Market

- Supply (annual status and trends)
- Trade with third countries: Community Custom Code, General System of Preferences (GSP), Free Trade Agreements, Economic Partnership Agreements, World Trade Organisation
- Monitoring of community imports and tariff situation; tariff suspensions and tariff quotas for fishery and aquaculture products with the aim of providing advice or input if necessary
- Monitoring and assessment of unfair/disloyal practices in 3rd countries
- Price developments 'from sea to table' (from the fisherman / aquaculture producer to the consumer) with the aim of providing advice or input as necessary
- Understanding the dynamics and drivers of the market throughout the whole chain

- Analysing market trends and consumer behaviours, with the aim of providing evidence to inform policy development and the work of others in relation to: responsible sourcing and processing
 - open and useful / efficient consumer information
 - explaining and justifying the health benefits of eating seafood, including benefit / risk analyses when appropriate
 - improving standards across supply chains
- Implications of IUU fishing in EU market
 - Implications of the Control Regulation in EU market
 - Annual Report on Economic Performance of the EU Fish Processing Industry Sector & EU Aquaculture sector - collaboration with STECF

Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

- Consumer information
- Proper functioning of article 35-38 about consumer information of regulation 1379/2013 on the common organization of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products in all member States
- Labelling of fishery and aquaculture products
- Voluntary information on fish and aquaculture products
- Traceability in seafood products
- Implementation of IUU Regulation-issues other than tackled by WG2
- Plastic in the oceans : from macro plastic to micro plastics – European plastic strategy
- Certification schemes
- Hygiene issues, e.g., the level of sulphite in crustaceans

5. Focus Groups

The MAC has decided to establish small groups to prepare drafts on different topics. The items included in those drafts reflect discussions held in first instance in the relevant Working Group without the possibility of going beyond. These are in charge of reflecting and addressing all points of view. The drafts prepared within a Focus Group are put forward for adoption in the corresponding Working Group.

The Focus Groups that have been previously adopted are the following:

A. Focus Group on Marketing Standards

This Focus Group was launched to respond to the Commission's evaluation of the marketing standards framework in 2018. The FG was reinstated in Year 4 to prepare the feedback to the Commission's inception impact assessment. It was operational in Year 5 to prepare feedback to the Commission's public consultation. It might be reactivated in Year 6 to assist in the preparation of advice in the context of the ongoing revision of the marketing standards.

B. Focus Group on Level Playing Field

This Focus Group was created to prepare the MAC's advice on the level playing field and is currently inactive.

C. Focus Group on Consumer Information

This Focus Group was established in 2019 to prepare a draft text on consumer information. The draft was put forward to Working Group 3, so the Focus Group is currently inactive.

D. Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab

This Focus Group was established in November 2020 to prepare a joint draft text on brown crab supply chain issues. The relevant Working Groups are expected to proceed with the consideration of the draft text in September 2020, so the Focus Group should become inactive in Year 6.

E. Initial Focus Group on Trade

This Focus Group was established in January 2021 to collect data on imports of the EU market of fisheries and aquaculture products in the frame of various trade policy instruments and to contribute with factual information to the development of an advice on trade policy instruments by Working Group 2. The Focus Group should become inactive in Year 6, following the development of a report to Working Group 2 in collaboration with DG MARE.

Other FGs may be created during Year 6 if needed.

An indicative schedule of meetings can be found in [Annex I](#).

Annex I

MAC Meetings

The information presented below is indicative of MAC meetings in Year 6. Focus Groups will take place when needed, as well as management meetings.

All dates are subject to change and will be directed by the requirements of the Commission and proposals originating from MAC members.

Meeting type	Estimated date	Location	Main Priorities
FG on Marketing Standards	October 2021	Brussels	- Ongoing revision of the marketing standards framework
FG on Marketing Standards	November 2021	Brussels	- Ongoing revision of the marketing standards framework
Workshop on New Traceability Tools	November 2021	Brussels	- Preparation of report on new technological tools, such as blockchain to increase awareness, recognise benefits and shortcomings, and identify potential policy actions
Management Meeting	January 2022	Brussels	- Preparation of MAC meetings
Working Group 1	January 2022	Brussels	- EUMOFA's work programme - STECF AER on the Fishing Fleet
Working Group 2	January 2022	Brussels	- SFPAs Evaluation: COM's impact assessment & Staff Working Document - EUMOFA 2021 EU Fish Market report - Follow-up on traceability workshop - STECF 2021 EU Fishing Processing Sector report
Working Group 3	January 2022	Brussels	- Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives
Executive Committee	January 2022	Brussels	- Adoption of agreed advice - Update on work done - Update on administration & finances

FG on Marketing Standards	February 2022	Brussels	- Ongoing revision of the marketing standards framework
Management Meeting	March 2022	Brussels	- Preparation of MAC meetings
Working Group 1	March 2022	Brussels	- Landing Obligation: annual report - EMFAF Funding Priorities
Working Group 2	March 2022	Brussels	- Recent trade developments - Follow-up on traceability workshop
Working Group 3	March 2022	Brussels	- Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives - Food Information to Consumers - Sanitary & Hygiene Rules
FG on Marketing Standards	April 2022	Brussels	- Ongoing revision of the marketing standards framework
Management Meeting	May 2022	Brussels	- Preparation of the MAC meetings
Working Group 1	May 2022	Brussels	- EMFAF Funding Priorities - Marketing standards framework
Working Group 2	May 2022	Brussels	- IUU Fishing - Recent trade developments - CATCH IT System - Fisheries Control Regulation
Working Group 3	May 2022	Brussels	- Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives - Food Information to Consumers
Executive Committee	May 2022	Brussels	- Adoption of agreed advice - Preparation of Work Programme and Budget for Year 7
Management Meeting	September 2022	Brussels	- Preparation of the MAC meetings
Working Group 1	September 2022	Brussels	- Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives
Working Group 2	September 2022	Brussels	- Recent trade developments - CATCH IT System - Fisheries Control Regulation

Working Group 3	September 2022	Brussels	- Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives - Food Information to Consumers
Executive Committee	September 2022	Brussels	- Adoption of agreed advice
General Assembly	September 2022	Brussels	- Update on work done - Update on administration & finances - Approval of Work Programme and Budget for Year 7

For further information please contact secretary@marketac.eu