



The social dimension of fisheries (EU)

Meeting with North Sea and North Western Waters Advisory
Councils – Social Aspects Focus Group

DG MARE
5 September 2024

Current political context

- **February 2023**, the [Communication on the Functioning of the CFP](#): strengthening implementation of CFP essential. Commission implementation of its commitments (social indicators, foresight study, STCW-F, vademecum on allocation of fishing opportunities) continues.
- **June 2024**: [call for evidence](#) launching **full evaluation of the CFP**. Evaluation decided following discussions with and recommendations of EP & Council. Public feedback open until 6 September 2024.
- **July 2024**: [political guidelines](#) presented by Ursula Von Der Leyen: “a European Oceans Pact will focus on boosting the blue economy and ensuring the good governance and sustainability of our oceans in all of their dimensions” and the appointment of “a Fisheries and Oceans Commissioner tasked with ensuring the sector remains sustainable, competitive and resilient and with upholding a level playing field for the European fisheries chain.”
- **September 2024**: new Commissioner & **mission letter** to come, **hearings planned** end Sept/October.

Social dimension analysis toolbox

- **National Fisheries Profiles = description of national fisheries context.** 13 profiles produced (NL, ES, DK, IE, BG, CY, EE, FR, IT, SI, SE, PT, HR), discussed by STECF in May 2024. Remaining NFPs to be prepared in the coming months. Peer-review and publication process being discussed (STECF, JRC, Commission).
- **Community profiles = description of specific fishing communities.** Initial work done in 2019 and 2020, further completed with STECF WG in May 2024. Definition of community provided & template for community profiles, as well as a list of “representative” communities per sea basin.
- **Social indicators:** develop additional indicators to be used to evaluate & assess conservation measures & inform policy-decision making. Short term development of indicators vs. long term development.

Social indicators: further details

- **Consultation of stakeholders** from 08/02 – 15/04 to identify priority areas: 24 answers received including 3 advisory councils (+ 6 members of advisory councils); 7 MS (BG, FR, LT, NL, SI, DE, MT); social partners; 6 other organisations (including NGOs, ICES, small-scale)
- 4 areas were considered to be initial priorities (based on consultation):
 - **Current socio-economic situation of fishers**: working conditions, safety, well-being, income, training & skills, positioning in society, age, gender – allows to establish a baseline.
 - **Vulnerability of fishers** (wages, contracts, social coverage, pension, predictability of business environment, financial position, work safety, etc)
 - **Impact of management measures** on local communities, engagement & compliance
 - **Generational renewal & attractiveness of the sector**
- STECF has developed a **list of 38 potential indicators** and identified which ones could be collected at short (list of 12), medium, long term. These will be published on the [STECF website](#) in the coming days.
- Discussions ongoing with **national data collectors** about integration of social indicators in short term (2025/2026).

Vademecum on allocation process of fishing opportunities

- **Many discussions:** numerous studies, EP report in 2021, court cases.
- **Commission work:** 4 questionnaires sent to Member States (2016, 2020, 2022, 2023) + 3 STECF Expert Working Groups have analysed questionnaires in 2020, 2022, 2023.
- **Consultation of stakeholders** from 08/02 – 15/04: 22 answers received including 1 advisory council (+ 6 members of advisory councils); 7 MS (BG, FR, LT, NL, SI, DE, MT); social partners; 6 other organisations (including NGOs, small-scale fishers)
- Work is ongoing, focus on transparency and how the different information collected by Commission and STECF can contribute.

Objective: provide **better transparency** while limiting **administrative burden** and allowing for enough **flexibility**, especially producer organisations managing multiple species and fishing gears.

Fishers of the Future



Foresight exercise = first attempt at identifying **perceptions of fishers and stakeholders** about what the future can hold (similar to Farmers of the Future). We are not seeking to define a future for fishers but want to stimulate thinking around **possible future conditions and challenges**.

3 phases ([see website for further details](#)):

- **Phase 1:** the development of **baseline profiles of fishers in today's world**. Purpose = outline the main features of a broad range of fishers currently working in EU waters. Consultation of 200 fishers to produce 12 initial profiles + survey + feedback from stakeholders. Initial profiles are being adjusted based on stakeholder feedback.
- **Phase 2:** exploring the **future scenarios** in which fishers might be living and working **in 2050** by identifying key **drivers of change** in the fishing world; 1 survey + 4 workshops.
- **Phase 3:** the development of **profiles of fishers in 2050**, using the drivers and scenarios previously developed. This phase started in July. Advisory Councils and social partners have been invited to feedback meetings in September (3 dates available – 16, 17, 20).

Thank you!



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