

December 2013



Timetable mapping CFP reform process

2012

- **7 Feb 2012** – CFP Working document presented with 35 amendments. Intended to be a basis for discussion: [Part 1](#) / [Part 2](#) / [Part 3](#) Rapporteur Ulrike Rodust. Annex 1.
- **8 Feb 2012** - Opinion delivered by Environment Committee: [Environment Committee draft opinion by Chris Davies](#). Annex 2.
- **27 Feb 2012** – CFP Working document discussed in Fisheries Committee.
- **19 March 2012** – Orientation debate on discards in Agriculture and Fisheries Council. It did appear as if a joint declaration on fishing discards by a group of EU Member States – led by France and Spain was going to be tabled stating that a discard ban as proposed in the draft basic regulation of the future CFP is unrealistic and too prescriptive, and that a pragmatic approach is needed especially in the context of mixed fisheries, particularly in the Mediterranean;
- **20-21 March 2012** – European Parliament exchange of views.
- **26-27 April 2012** – Orientation debate on Regionalisation and Transferable Fishing Concessions in Agriculture and Fisheries Council.
- **2 May 2012** – Draft [Concrete legislative proposal](#) on the basic regulation, published to be reviewed by MEPs. Rapporteur Ulrike Rodust.
- **10 May 2012** - [Environment Committee adopts opinion](#) (provisional version) on CFP reform aimed at maximum economic yield. The report was adopted by the committee with 50 votes against 0, with 8 MEPs abstaining. The original 542 amendments have been replaced by a list of 38 consolidated amendments. All 38 consolidated amendments were adopted.
- **14/15 May 2012** - Orientation debate on MSY in Agriculture and Fisheries Council. It became clear that almost all of them want to reach this goal later than 2015, which is the year proposed by the Commission.
- **21 May 2012** - The draft concrete legislative proposal (published 2 May 2012) were presented in the Fisheries Committee. Fisheries Committee suggests new timetable. The deadline for amendments is the 18 June 2012, there will an exchange of views on the amendments on 16 September and a vote in the Fisheries Committee on 9 October 2012 (moved from 11 July 2012).
- **22 May 2012** – Defra briefing on legislative procedure.
- **30 May 2012** – Fisheries Committee public hearing on EMFF.
- **31 May 2012** – Fisheries Committee to vote on CMO Report. 500 amendments tabled.
- **12 June 2012** – Agriculture and Fisheries Council. General approach on Basic Regulation, CMO and partial general approach on EMFF to be discussed. This general approach constitutes a political agreement within the Council on the CFP reform pending the future first-reading position in the European Parliament. With regard to the basic regulation on the CFP, the compromise supported by a majority of delegations developed proposals for several outstanding issues. On the discards ban, Council has agreed on having one date for the main species and a later date for bycatch species. For the North Sea, the discard ban is proposed to be gradually introduced between 2015 and 2018. Parts of the text on discards are still in [square brackets], and a special group in Council will deal with the details at a later stage. **Highlights below.**

<http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/CFP-General-Aproach-st11322en12.pdf>

- Maximum sustainable yields (MSY): the compromise aims to achieve MSY by 2015 where possible (e.g when scientific advice on the stocks are available) and by 2020 at the latest. For shared stocks a consultation with third countries will be initiated.
- Multiannual plans: the compromise establishes that member states should manage fisheries in more detail through quantifiable targets linked to biological parameters as well as safeguard and remedies. It applies the MSY to the significant stocks in multiannual plans while specific measures applies to other stocks with an approach taking into account interactions between stocks.
- Landing obligation and discards ban: a gradual approach of the policy is proposed but the aim is still the elimination of discards. Concerning the landing obligation in identified fisheries a specification through multiannual plans within a fixed timeframe is laid down.
- Regionalisation: concept is supported by vast majority of MS as it accepts that one size does not fit all. The compromise also introduces an alternative model for regionalisation where member states adopt national measures through regional cooperation.
- Transferable fishing concessions (TFCs) and capacity management: as requested by many delegations, the agreement stipulates that TFC systems should be voluntary. Exemptions are made possible in the case of the implementation of an action plan and a specific report in accordance with the EMFF.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/130884.pdf

- **18 June 2012** – Deadline for amendments to Fisheries Committee on Basic Regulation.
- **20 June 2012** - Fisheries Committee adopted reports on reporting obligations and CMO (call for: date of catch on label to be voluntary; a legislative proposal by 1 January 2015 to introduce a new EU eco-labelling system for fisheries products). Also drafted opinions on capacity reduction and provisions for EU funds.
- **10 July 2012** - Total number of amendments to Basic Regulation reaches 2549 (MEPs 2322 and Ulrike Rodust 227). <http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/2012/07/here-are-all-the-amendments-to-the-basic-regulation/>
- **11 July 2012** - Fisheries Committee adopts overarching communication on CFP reform.
- **12 September** - First vote in European Parliament on CMO. Stevenson report on the CMO and fish labelling is first legislative file to be voted in plenary. Will now be sent to the Council for the next step in co-decision. MEPs amended draft legislation to support more transparent labelling of fisheries products. Parliament wants fish labels to include info on gear type, fish stock and flag state. MEPs also voted to strengthen role of POs.
- **19 September 2012** – Exchange of views on external dimension of CFP reform in Fisheries Committee.
- **9 October 2012** – Scheduled vote in Fisheries Committee on main report. There were 2500 amendments tabled to the main report. Postponed to 18 December 2012. Negotiation meetings with shadow rapporteurs scheduled for October. Once the report is adopted in the Fisheries Committee, it is placed on the agenda of a plenary session of the European Parliament for comment and amendment.
- **24 October 2012** – Agriculture and Fisheries Council reached a partial general approach on the Commission's proposal on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).
- **19 - 21 Nov 2012** – Scheduled EU Parliament first reading in plenary of main report and EMFF proposals. Postponed initially to January 2013 but likely February/March.
- **28 Nov 2012**- Compromise amendments for the basic regulation have been finalised by the Fisheries Committee. The 2,500 amendments have been reduced to 104.
- **18 Dec 2012** – Fisheries Committee adopted basic regulation with 13 votes against 10 (2 abstentions). Next step is the first reading in Parliament (plenary).

2013

- **1 Jan 2013** – was the proposed date for entry into force of reformed CFP.
- **6 Feb 2013** – European Parliament voted with a large majority of 502 against 137 (and 27 abstentions) to overhaul the Common Fisheries Policy.
- **26 Feb 2013** - Vote in Council. The Council adopted a second general approach on the proposal for a regulation on the common fisheries policy replacing the basic provisions of the CFP (this follows up on the first general approach agreed by the Council in June 2012). It specifies the Council position on the implementation of the discards ban and the possibility of by-catch quotas.

This constitutes a negotiating mandate for the trilogue discussions between the Council, Parliament and Commission to begin on key fisheries reform. Trilogue negotiations are between the three main institutions of the EU, the Council (represented by the Irish Presidency under Minister Simon Coveney), Parliament (by the rapporteur Ulrike Rodust) and Commission (by Maria Damanaki). http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CFP_Basic_reg_3-column_document_revised_5-March.pdf

- **19 Mar 2013** – Trilogue.
- **26 Mar 2013** – Trilogue.
- **8 Apr 2013** – Trilogue.
- **9 Apr 2013** – Trilogue.
- **16 Apr 2013** - Meeting of Directors General of Fisheries of EU Member States supported achieving agreement on CFP reform by the end of June.
- **22 Apr 2013** - Council meeting. Agreement on the time line to conclude negotiations with EP, with the aim to achieve political agreement by the summer; margins for flexibility on key issues (MSY, discard ban, regionalization, fleet capacity management); how to address the institutional issues related to multi-annual plans. On the basis of Member States support, the Presidency will prepare an adjustment of the negotiating mandate for finalising an agreement with the Parliament by the end of May.
- **24 Apr 2013** – Trilogue.
- **2 May 2013** - Coreper meeting. Member States are represented by their Permanent Representatives, i.e. Ambassadors at the Permanent Representations in Brussels. There was no agreement on the negotiating mandate.
- **13-14 May 2013** - Council meeting. EU Fisheries ministers agreed on a revised mandate for the Irish Presidency to facilitate a compromise with the European Parliament in the ongoing CFP negotiations.
- **30 May 2013** - Parliament and Council reach landmark political agreement on basic regulation.
- **18 June 2013** - Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs welcomed the agreement on a new, reformed fisheries policy for the EU reached between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. After the agreement reached at political level, finalisation of the co-decision process and formal adoption will follow in the coming months.
- **24 July 2013** - The European Commission published a roadmap for the Omnibus Regulation amending technical measures and control regulations to implement the landing obligation, which will be the responsibility of DG MARE – Unit A2 (Common Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture).
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/docs/2013_mare_108_omnibus_tm_and_control_regulations_en.pdf

- **10 December 2013 - Final green light for the Common Fisheries Policy reform.** On 9 December 2013, the European Parliament plenary held a joint debate on the Common Fishery Policy and the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products. This was followed on December 10 with a qualified majority vote - both reports were approved in second reading.
- Approved text Basic Regulation:
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&t=PDF&gc=true&sc=false&f=ST%2012007%202013%20INIT&r=http%3A%2F%2Fregister.consilium.europa.eu%2Fpd%2Fen%2F13%2Fst12%2Fst12007.en13.pdf>
- Approved text Market Regulation:
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&t=PDF&gc=true&sc=false&f=ST%2012005%202013%20INIT&r=http%3A%2F%2Fregister.consilium.europa.eu%2Fpd%2Fen%2F13%2Fst12%2Fst12005.en13.pdf>

2014

- **1 Jan 2014** - The new CFP will enter into force. Implementation of the new rules will be progressive, for instance on the landing obligation, because there is a need for the sector to adapt and to be able to deliver results.

The main elements of the new Common Fisheries Policy

- **Fishing at maximum sustainable levels, under multi-annual ecosystem-based management.** To rebuild a vibrant fishing economy in Europe, fish stocks need to return to a healthy state. To do this, fishing will progressively be managed at levels that correspond to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, and setting of quotas will respect scientific advice. Where possible by 2015, and at the latest by 2020 all fish stocks will be managed at MSY. Multi-annual management plans will move from the current single-stock plans to fisheries-based plans – covering more fish stocks in fewer plans in support of reaching sustainability. Stocks will also be managed through fixing fishing opportunities by Council, and other conservation and technical measures which are part of the toolbox of instruments proposed.
- **Banning discards.** Discarding, the practice of throwing unwanted fish overboard, is estimated at 23% of total catches (substantially more in some fisheries!). This unacceptable practice will be phased out with a precise timeline for implementation (progressively between 2015 and 2019) and in combination with some flanking measures. Fishermen will be obliged to land all the commercial species that they catch. Under-sized fish can generally not be sold for human consumption. This ban will lead to more reliable data on fish stocks, support better management and improve resource efficiency. It is also an incentive for fishermen to avoid unwanted catches by means of technical solutions such as more selective fishing gear. The Commission envisages financial support to introduce more selectivity and innovations to reduce unwanted catches.
- **Decentralised governance.** The new CFP will bring decisions on technical and conservation measures closer to the fishing grounds, in particular to national administrations, fishermen and other interest groups. This should end micro-management from Brussels so that EU legislators will only define the general framework, the basic principles and standards, the overall targets, the performance indicators and the timeframes and then the Member States will develop recommendations on the actual implementing measures.

- **Fish stock recovery areas.** Under the new CFP the Union and the Member States shall attempt to establish protected areas on ground of their biological sensitivity, or of heavy concentrations of juvenile fish or in spawning grounds. This will be in addition to already existing protected areas.
- **Management of fishing capacity of fleet.** Member States will have to ensure that the fleet capacity (number and size of vessels) is in balance with the fishing opportunities. Where a Member State identifies overcapacity in a fleet segment, it will develop an action plan to reduce this overcapacity
- **Support for small-scale fisheries.** In the EU, the small-scale fleet accounts for 77% of the total EU fleet in vessel numbers, but on average its impact on the resources is less, with only 8% of the EU total in tonnage (vessel size) and 32% of EU engine power. Small-scale coastal fisheries often play an important role in the social fabric and the cultural identity of many of Europe's coastal regions. The reformed CFP extends to 2022 the right for Member States to restrict fishing in a zone within 12 nautical miles of the coastline.
- **Developing sustainable aquaculture.** A better framework for aquaculture will contribute to increased production and supply of seafood in the EU, reduced dependence on imported fish and boosting of growth in coastal and rural areas. By 2014, Member States will draft national strategic plans to remove administrative and other barriers, while upholding environmental, social and economic standards for the farmed-fish industry.
- **Improving scientific knowledge.** The CFP establishes the basic rules and obligations in order that Member States will be entrusted with collecting, maintaining and sharing data about fish stocks, fleets and the impact of fishing at sea-basin level, so as to improve the advice to policy and management.
- **New market policy - empowerment of the sector and better informed consumers.** The new market policy aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU industry, improve the transparency of the markets, and ensure a level playing field for all products marketed in the Union. The existing intervention regime will be modernized and simplified: producer organisations will be allowed to buy up fisheries products when prices fall under a certain level, and store the products for placing them on the market at a later stage. This system will foster market stability. Producer organisations will also play a greater role in collective management, monitoring and control. New marketing standards on labelling, quality and traceability will give consumers clearer information and help them support sustainable fisheries. Certain labelling information will be compulsory, other claims may be supplied on a voluntary basis.
- **Taking international responsibility.** In bilateral fishing agreements with non-EU countries, the EU will promote sustainability, good governance and the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) will replace the existing Agreements and they will ensure that the exploitation of fishery resources takes place on the basis of sound scientific advice only targeting surplus resources as internationally recognized. Under SFPAs, partner countries shall be compensated for granting access to their fishing resources and financial assistance shall be provided to the partner countries for the implementation of a sustainable fisheries policy.

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/index_en.htm

<http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/conserving-fish-stocks/discards/discards-under-cfp-reform>