

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Supporting Sustainable Fisheries
Management

EU Parliament
Hearing
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Who we are

Our mandate is to:

- Shape the CFP by providing **evidence-based recommendations**;
- Support the EC by delivering scientific advice **prior to the preparation of legislation proposals** in the field of fisheries, aquaculture, and related matters.
- Track the **evolution of the CFP** and promote the exchange of **best practices**.

Based on the **Commission Decision of 25 February 2016**

setting up a Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, C(2016) 1084.

CFP art.	Assist on
2	Reduce discards
3	Good governance
6	Conservation measures
9	Multi-annual management plans and mixed fisheries management
10	Content of multiannual plans
11	Conservation measures
15	Landing obligation
18	Regional cooperation on conservation measures
28	Develop scientific knowledge in the external policy
29	The position of the Union at international fisheries organisations

How we work



- STECF is composed by 30-35 persons appointed every 3 years by the Commission:

“highly qualified scientific experts, in the application of marine and fisheries **biology**, fishing **gear technology**, fisheries **economics**, fisheries **governance**, **ecosystem** effects of fisheries, **aquaculture** or in the field of collection, management and use of **fisheries and aquaculture data**.”



- Meets 3 times a year in Plenary: Spring, Summer and Autumn.
- Expert Working Groups – EWG,
 - No fixed participation, although an attempt to have 2 STECF members, at least.
 - EWGs report to STECF.



- Written procedures, now substituted by mini-plenaries. Only one TOR. 1-3 per year. Urgency/timeframe.
- In 2024 we have had 22 meetings in total:
 - 3 Plenary, 3 mini-Plenary and 16 EWGs.



How we work

- Only the Commission/DG MARE can request advice from STECF
- We are supported by JRC:
 - Handling the secretariat (Commission role)
 - JRC data collection team (Commission role)
 - As independent experts/chairs with DOIs (none Commission role).
 - For each EWG a JRC focal point is designated

STECF PLEN Report

The basis of **our opinion** is in the 3 plenary reports

TOR X.n	Type of ToRs
TOR 5.n	Assessment of EWG reports.
TOR 6.n	Assessment on specific requests coming from Commission/DG MARE.
TOR 7.n	Preparation of future EWGs, STECF strategy of future advice.
STECF Initiatives	STECF comments on specific issues that would like to raise to Commission/DG MARE.
TOR X.n	How to read a plenary report
Background provided by the Commission	The necessary info to put the request into context.
Request to the STECF	The concrete question or questions that Commission/DG MARE requires STECF advice on.
STECF Comments	The necessary comments on the information provided, or the scientific and technical knowledge available, to address the request.
STECF Conclusions	The conclusions that STECF makes based on the comments above

How we work

EWGs: points 5.

- **Recurrent ones:**

- Balance between capacity and fishing possibilities.
- Fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in the West Med.
- West Med stocks assessment.
- Annual economic report of the EU fishing fleet
- Social data in EU fisheries
- Economic report on EU Aquaculture (biennial)
- Transforming industry report (biennial)
- JR on the LO and Technical measures
- Fishing Dependent information
- National programmes for data collection and data transmission issues.

- **None recurrent ones (although they can be):**

- Implementation of Technical measures regulation
- Outermost fishing regions.
- VME socioeconomic assessment
- Stock Assessment in the Adriatic, Ionian and Aegean Sea
- ...

EWGs
report to
STECF

Reports
are
reviewed
in

plenary
Open to
observers

How we work

Specific assessment requested to STECF: points 6.
(in 2024)

- Joint recommendations deriving from art. 11, 18 ...
- Joint recommendations on dolphins bycatches in the BoB.
- Analysis of socioeconomic data on pollack
- Management plans
- Monitoring reports
- Amendment requests
- CFP monitoring
- Projects related to data quality
- ...

These do form the STECF opinion, and they can be assisted by ad hoc contracts

Thank you

https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/index_en

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