

### ACTIVITY REPORT BISAC 2020

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Key results of the meeting (brief summary of the minutes)
Meeting of the WG 1	20.02.2020	Astor Garden Hotel, Varna, Bulgaria	<p>The meeting was attended, in their capacity of guests and participants, by Assoc. Prof. Violin Raykov, Institute of Oceanology, Varna, Prof. Simeon Nikolaev, Dr. Anton Eugen and Paun Katalin from 'Grigor Antipa' Institute of Marine Research and Development, Constanta.</p> <p>A brief review of the recommendations submitted by BISAC and the replies received from DG MARE in 2019 followed.</p> <p>Prof. Simeon Nikolaev: He made a brief presentation of the work of 'Grigor Antipa' Institute on the collection of data on fishing in the Black Sea, and focused on three significant projects in Romania: the first concerns the infrastructure along the Black Sea coast, the second – the infrastructure along the Danube delta, and the third, lead by the Ministry of Agriculture – on marine waters. Also important for the Institute is the Blacksea4fish project, under which for 2020 expeditions for determining the areas of the habitats of the veined rapa whelk are planned.</p> <p>, Prof. Nikolaev made presentations on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- „Landing sites, determined by the Romanian laws“;</li> <li>- „Selectivity regarding fishing gear for demersal fishing – fishing gear for catching goby“.</li> </ul> <p>There were comments on what the veined rapa whelk in the Black Sea should be classified as – an invasive species or a species that constitutes an economic resource.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/doc/minutes-wg-1-20-02-2020-en-bg.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/doc/minutes-wg-1-20-02-2020-en-bg.pdf</a></p>
Ex Com meeting	21.02.2020	Astor Garden Hotel, Varna, Bulgaria	<p>It was proposed that the General meeting should be held in Romania, Constanta, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020, as set in the Action program of BISAC for 2020, in accordance with the following agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening the meeting, electing a chairperson and a person to take the minutes and act as a teller;</li> <li>2. Approving the report on the activity for 2019;</li> <li>3. Approving the financial statements for 2019;</li> <li>4. Discussions concerning the financial position of BISAC;</li> </ol>

			<p>5. Determining the topics for the Round table in 2020;</p> <p>6. Miscellaneous;</p> <p>The chairman presented the report on the activity of the association for 2019, prepared by the Secretariat of BISAC; the report was put to the vote as to whether it should be presented to the General meeting in this form for approval.</p> <p>Mrs. Ivelina Balanova presented the financial statements for 2019 to the MB of BISAC. The meeting was attended by Mr. Yuliyen Gotsev who had prepared the auditor's report for the Association for 2019. The funding received from DG MARE for 2019 amounted to 157 000 EUR, which is 6100 EURO or 3% less than the funding for 2018. The biggest reduction of the costs is in the head for meetings and organizing meetings. For 2019, BISAC did not utilize the received amount and 10 552 EURO have to be refunded.</p> <p>Mrs. Michaela Candea-Mirya made an overview of the recommendations sent in 2019 by BISAC and the received replies. Last year, six recommendations were sent by BISAC to the member-states and DG MARE, as well as a letter concerning the status with the auxiliary boats in Romania. The recommendations issued are available on the website of BISAC.</p> <p>It was resolved that the meetings of working groups 3 and 4 that the initially planned dates – 14th and 15th May – should be moved on to 9th and 10th June, as they coincide with the European day of the sea and the meeting of GFCM in Cyprus.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Round table should be organized in Bulgaria on 17th September 2020, and Working group 5 at BISAC should be rescheduled from 29th September to 18th September in Bulgaria, immediately after the Round table.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/doc/minutes-ex-com-21-02-2020-en-bg.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/doc/minutes-ex-com-21-02-2020-en-bg.pdf</a></p>
EFCA AC	17.03.2020	Via videoconferenc e	<p>On behalf BISAC MR Daniel Buhai attended the meeting with the following agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State of play (CURRENT SITUATION)</li> <li>2. EFCA`s Annual Report 2019</li> <li>3. EFCA`s Single Programming Documents (PD): SPD 2020 implementation and Draft SPD 2021</li> <li>4. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board</li> </ol>

			<p>5.AOB ( any other business)</p> <p>The first 4 points were presented by EFCA staff and at point 5 each member said a brief speech about his main specific concerns.</p> <p>Mr Buhai raised two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need to relax the LO in our area according to Reg.1224/2009.</li> <li>2. The need for clarification/better definition of "auxiliary fishing boat" which in Romania became an important topic.</li> </ol>
Inter-AC Secretariats Extraordinary meeting - COVID-19	26 March 2020	Via videoconference	<p>On behalf BISAC Mrs Mihaela Candea Mirea attended the meeting with the following agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administrative and Financial matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of budget re costs incurred as a result of cancellation of meetings</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Technical and policy issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedures of online consultation for adoption of advice</li> <li>- Use of virtual meeting IT tools (MS Teams, Google Docs...)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3 AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report from EFCA Advisory Board Meeting (VC, 17 March 2020)</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>LDAC is investigating tools for more dynamic consultation since physical meetings are not possible at the moment. Tools are fine but depend on members' cooperation and IT literacy.</p> <p>The BISAC is using ZOOM.</p>
Working group meeting BISAC- COVID -19	14 April 2020	Via videoconference	<p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-zoom-meeting-14-04-2010-en.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-zoom-meeting-14-04-2010-en.pdf</a></p> <p>The aim of the meeting of the working group is to discuss ways in which fisheries can be supported and assisted in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Mr. Yordan Gospodinov presented an overview of the current situation in Bulgaria, in particular the situation of the fisheries sector in the country, and the consequences for the sector of the measures taken by the government. The closing of restaurants and hotels affects the whole branch and restrict fishing activities, because the market has</p>

			<p>shrunk substantially, and some fishermen do not have the necessary equipment and facilities to freeze their products. As for fish bred as aquaculture, this subsector is still stable as the process is over the full year. As regards the movement of people, 'green light' has been given to people from the sector who travel on business, as well as to the movement of goods in the country and for export. Fish and fish products are included in the list of basic foods for Bulgaria.</p> <p>Mr. Florin Luchian presented an overview of the situation in Romania, which is similar to that in Bulgaria, with the difference that the number of cases and fatalities of Covid-19 in Romania is higher. The Romanian government has imposed stricter and more restrictive measures, and has extended the period of the said measures until 13th May. Since the outbreak of the pandemics and the beginning of the emergency situation, the number of the unemployed in the country has reached 1.5 million people. In a conversation with the Minister of Agriculture, he was told that currently no measures for supporting the fisheries sector are being considered or implemented.</p> <p>Mr. Stoyan Kotov- from the Directorate of Maritime and Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of Bulgaria, explained that the two packages that EC has developed in the past several weeks, actually constitute and update of Art.35 and Art.57 regarding mutual support funds. The second package of the measures is aimed at a change of the so called 3+, and it provides are more targeted support; currently this package is to be adopted at a meeting of the Coreper commission (the commission of permanent representatives of each member-state). Through discussions with representatives of the sector and experts of the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry (MAFF), it has been identified what is important and applicable to the sector in Bulgaria – unfortunately, the first package turns out to be inapplicable to the country, but the second one can be applied and new measures can be developed under the programme (CFP) in order to help the sector. In the second package, regarding the measure for temporary suspension of fishing activities, Art.33 of Regulation 508, the situation with COVID 19 is projected in the time frame as determined by the EC from 1st February to 31st December 2020. Thus the temporary suspension of fishing activities can be met, and the main requirement regarding this measure for Bulgaria is difficult to fulfill – the requirement for an activity of 120 fishing days in the last two calendar years. According to the first estimations of MAFF, this measure will apply to about one hundred most active fishermen /fisheries/ in the Bulgarian register, which is a very small percentage. This is due to the seasonality of the fishing activities in Bulgaria. Regardless of the small number of fishing boats, the government is ready, after the second package of measures is approved, to modify the programme so as to include Art.33, which is not currently included. Another important modification for Bulgaria refers to Art.55 of Regulation 508, where the currently valid article on health-related measures is amended so as to provide for compensation granted to aquaculture producers for the reduced production. The said compensation for reduced production would be inadequate to meet the current needs, because the actual problem is mostly connected with the decrease in sales and capital flow. The immediate problems such producers face are connected with the payment of</p>
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Inter-AC Secretariats	28 April 2020	Via videoconference	<p>On behalf BISAC Mrs Mihaela Candea Mirea attended the meeting with the following agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Content and timeline for drafting the terms of reference of ACs consultation, and issues related to the AC rotation system;</li> <li>2. The EC work during the COVID crisis</li> <li>3. European Commission's consultation to ACs: follow up of joint letter</li> <li>4. Role of Inter AC Secretaries</li> <li>5. Brexit: UK membership</li> <li>6. Update on Financial Workshop and financial guidelines</li> <li>7. Update on the 40% group complains about ACs work</li> <li>8. Feedback on the interpretation solutions for online meetings</li> <li>9. AOB</li> </ol> <p>Patricia Sanchez, EFCA, informed that the draft report from EFCA Advisory Board (17 March) is now in procedure for possible comments and will be circulated once approved. Regarding the AC rotation system at the Administrative Board, Patricia Sanchez stated that the rotation system is more or less random, but taking into account the status of "older" (more experienced) ACs and younger ones – usually the duos of primary and alternate ACs consist of one older and one younger AC. She noted that no AC is obliged to take over representation. If certain AC is unwilling to represent other ACs, this can be arranged between the ACs and EFCA simply informed about the change.</p> <p>Tamara Talevska, NSAC, reminded that the Financial workshop will now take place remotely on 12 June. All questions and additional agenda items to be proposed to the COM by 29 May.</p>

			So far none of the ACs have made use of online interpretation services. It was agreed that as soon as one does, to share their experience with other ACs. For a more efficient coordination the ACs have established a Whatsapp group with AC secretaries.
Extraordinary Ex. Com meeting	27.05.2020	Via videoconference	<p>Meeting held to clarify on BISAC's members what measures have been taken by Member States to assist the fisheries sector, given the situation with COVID 19. In addition to members of the BISAC, the meeting was attended by representatives of the DGMARE of European Commission - Mr. Stylianos Mitolidis Head of Unit D2, Mrs. Pinelopi Belekou Unit D1, Mrs. Monika Adamova, and, Mr. Christian Badiou Unit D2. Mr. George Stefan, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Romania, Mr. Stoyan Kotov Director of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MAFF), Assoc. Prof. Galin Nikolov Director of Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA), Burgas, from ANPA Constanta - Mr. Aurel Maxim, Mr. Konstantin Petrov - Coordinator of the GFCM Regional Office for the Black Sea.</p> <p>Mr. Stoyan Kotov, Director of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MAFF) of Bulgaria, comment on the measures taken by the Bulgarian administration in support of the Fisheries Sector. He explained that about 2 months ago the EC proposed a package of measures to deal with the COVID 19 pandemic. After the adoption of amendment of EMFF Regulation 508/2014, MAFF believes that it provides an opportunity to act in 3 directions.</p> <p>☐ The first direction is related to the temporary cessation of fishing activity – EMFF Article 33, as the subject of support may be the fishing vessels with not less than 120 fishing days for the last two calendar years. On the basis of these criteria set out in the amended EMFF Regulation, the MAFF establishes that around 100 fishing vessels can be compensated for the temporary cessation of their fishing activities.</p> <p>☐ The next measure is related to public health – EMFF Article 55 and is designed to support the aquaculture sector because of suspended or reduced production activities. Calculation of the losses of aquaculture farms is based on a decrease of at least 20% of the turnover per month (set in the terms of application under the measure) as compared to the average of the monthly turnover in 2019 or the arithmetic average turnover in the month of 2019, 2018 and 2017.. 560 affected aquaculture enterprises have been identified under this measure.</p> <p>☐ The third measure is related to the processing enterprises – EMFF Article 69 of the amended EMFF Regulation. The method of calculation of those affected is identical to that of the measure for aquaculture.</p> <p>Mr. George Stefan, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Romania, explained that in Romania the amount of money for each measure is currently being discussed and by June 5 the Ministry expects to receive proposals and comments from the fisheries' associations. Romania identifies its aquaculture sector as larger and more important</p>

			<p>than the fishing sector. There are 1000 aquaculture farms in the country. The method of evaluation of the measure for support of aquaculture farms will be the same as that in Bulgaria, but the comparison will be made between the period from March 16 to May 14, 2020 as arithmetic mean compared to the same period for 2017, 2018 and 2019.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex-com-27-05-2020-en-dg.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex-com-27-05-2020-en-dg.pdf</a></p>
DG Mare financial seminar	12.06.2020	Via videoconference	<p>On behalf BISAC the meeting was attended by Mrs Elena Peneva, Mrs Mihaela Candea-Mirea and Mrs Ivelina Balanova. Was explained the new rules for financing ACs and the new Criteria of funds' allocation for Advisory Councils. According them BISAC will receive up to 200 000 EUR per year.</p>
Extraordinary Ex. Com meeting	16.06.2020	Via videoconference	<p>The meeting was convened to decide when and where to hold the BISAC's GA meeting and the meetings of WG 3 and WG 4. The Ex. Com decided as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Group 3 - Implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive; mainly D1, D3 – Commercial fish and shellfish; D4 – Guidelines 4: Food chains; D10 – Marine waste; should be held on 7th July, at 13:30 hrs.;</li> <li>• Working Group 4 – Status of the harvesting of the white rapa whelk, prospects, development of harvesting, relevant data, markets, harvesting/fishing techniques, incidental catch – should be held on 8th July, commencing at 10:00 hrs.;</li> <li>• The General meeting should be held on 9th and 10th July, in accordance with the agenda approved at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee, commencing at 13:30 on 9th July.</li> </ul> <p>Also was discussed the situation with the collectability of the membership fees, as well as the fact that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the association are experiences difficulties paying their membership fee.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex-com-16-june-2020-en.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex-com-16-june-2020-en.pdf</a></p>
Roundtable - preventing by-catch of common dolphins and harbour porpoises in fisheries	26.06.2020	Via videoconference	<p>On behalf BISAC the meeting organized by DG MARE and DG ENV was attended by , Mrs Mihaela Candea-Mirea and Mr Marian Paiu.</p> <p>As yet, the EU does not have a set of agreed or unified management objectives across its policies and directives. Our advice also highlights that, in terms of dolphins and porpoises, protection measures will only be effective when they have been applied over a longer period of time. As the EU can only implement emergency measures for a period of six months (with a possible six month extension), ICES advises that these short-term emergency measures can only be considered as a first step toward longer term measures for small cetaceans.</p>

WG 3 meeting	7 July 2020	Pomorie, Bulgaria	<p>The moderator and chair of the working group, Mrs Mihaela Căndea-Mirea, introduced the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>: Mr Marian Paiu introduced the topic: Supporting the implementation of the MSFD in the Black Sea by establishing a regional cetacean monitoring system (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) to achieve an ecological status good (GES). The project is co-financed by the European Commission through DG Environment and was implemented with the cooperation of 9 partners from the Black Sea countries and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat (Agreement for the Conservation of Black Sea Cetaceans [Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic] with headquarters the Monaco.</p> <p>BISAC members took into account the recommendation prepared by the NWWAC (Northwest Water Advisory Council) on the implementation of the Single Use Plastic Directive and the operational aspects of the Waste Collection Plan.</p> <p>Discussions remain as to whether BISAC should support this recommendation.</p> <p>Discussion of EC decisions on setting standards for the circular design of fishing gear follows. The idea is for fishing gear to be durable and long-lasting, specially adapted to the aggressive conditions of the marine environment.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-wg-3-07072020-en.pdf">https://www.blaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-wg-3-07072020-en.pdf</a></p>
WG 4 meeting	8 July 2020	Pomorie, Bulgaria	<p>Mr Yordan Gospodinov made a presentation on the subject: Rapana, turbot and Black Sea shark fishing, present and perspectives. Fishing opportunities for EU and third country vessels in the 12-mile zone, in the 24-mile zone and after 24 miles in the waters of Bulgaria and Romania. "Catches of commercially fish and crustacean species were presented, with a focus on catches of rapana, Black Sea shark and turbot.</p> <p>Mr. Gabriel Popescu from ANPA Romania similarly provided information on rapana catches: for 2017, 2018 and 2019 there are 9,245 thousand tons, 7,3 thousand tons, respectively 6.8 thousand tons. Turbot catches for 2017 are 43 tons for 2018. - 57 tons, for 2019 - 53 tons. Catches of Black Sea sharks for 2017 are just under 2 tons, for 2018 - 520 kg, for 2019 - 576 kg.</p> <p>Mr Anton Antonov, a researcher with extensive experience in benthic aquatic organisms, was given the floor. He explained that the Black Sea, due to its low salinity, allows the development of zooplankton, which is food for rapana, and rapana larvae eat the larvae of bivalves. It is believed that the oyster in the Black Sea was destroyed by the rapana. The next victim of rapana is the black mussel, because it destroys mussel reefs and leaves behind empty rocks. Now, a new species of green algae is located on these rocks and this is why the mussel cannot attach on the rocks. Mussel reefs used to be full of life, but now they are deserts.</p>

		<p>After the black mussel population has dropped dramatically, the rapana begins to feed on white sand mussels, and when there is not enough food, it feeds on shrimps. Currently, the reproduction of the rapana is in all sizes, but before being fished commercially, it was only in large specimens.</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violin Raykov: Rapana is established as a supreme predator and breeds in huge numbers. In the Black Sea, it has found comfortable habitats and many victims to feed with. It has long been debated whether this is just an invasive species or a resource, but it should be noted that it also creates problems in the field of fishing. It is obvious that the black mussel has reduced its population to a critical minimum. This is due to both rapana and other contaminants. To the question of whether the Black Sea ecosystem can return to its original state - the answer is - no. There are a number of bivalves that have completely disappeared due to pollution, fishing and the large mass of rapana. The income from catching rapana is temporary, because in the Black Sea there are not so many species that rapana feeds on, and its reserves will inevitably decrease. The opinion of scientists is rather to work for the development of aquaculture and not only with black mussels. Microbiotopes should be created in NATURA 2000 areas where mussel stocks can be restored.</p> <p>Discussions about the Black Sea shark followed:</p> <p>The following proposal for a recommendation to the EC emerges from the discussion on the Black Sea shark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting a pilot study on the distribution and behaviour of Black Sea sharks;</li> <li>• Based on the study, specific measures will be proposed to the authorities aiming at the conservation of the species;</li> <li>• Based on the proposed measures, specific actions will be decided, not only for Bulgaria, but for the entire Black Sea.</li> </ul> <p>About rapana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrying out a large-scale study initiated by the EC and GFCM, which will show the state of the resource, the operational stock and the ecological situation.</li> </ul> <p>As for the Black Sea turbot - with this kind of thing they are clear: there are quotas, periods of prohibition and the stock of the resource is known.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-wg-4-08-07-2020-en.pdf">https://www.blaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-wg-4-08-07-2020-en.pdf</a></p>
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General Assembly meeting	9-10 July 2020	Pomorie, Bulgaria	<p>Presentation and adoption by the GA of the report on the BISAC activities for 2019, prepared by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Adoption of the financial report of the BISAC for 2019 by vote.</p> <p>Discussions on the financial condition of the BISAC follow. Financial assistance was requested from the governments of Bulgaria and Romania, but the Bulgarian side refused and the Romanian side did not respond.</p> <p>This year BISAC is having great difficulty in collecting membership fees. The reason is the COVID -19 pandemic.</p> <p>The situation in Romania is very difficult this year. The marine fisheries sector will not receive state aid, and the prices of purchased products have fallen by 30%. Freshwater aquaculture is a priority for the Romanian state, and the fishermen from the Black Sea fall on the 2nd place.</p> <p>There will be discussions about when and where this round table will be organized. One limitation is the situation with COVID 19 and the ambiguities regarding the measures that countries take for the movement of people across the border. Was decided the final topic for the round table: "Port facilities - a milestone for the sustainable fishing development in the Black Sea".</p> <p>Members discussed whether to support the NWWAC (Northwest Water Advisory Council) Recommendation on the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive and the operational aspects of the Waste Collection Plan. A vote was taken in support of this recommendation.</p> <p>Discussion about the Working groups that BISAC has to convene to the end of the year: these are Working Groups 2, 5 and 6. Organization of Working Group 2 was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. And the subject of NATURA 2000 is very important for both Bulgaria and Romania.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ga-9-10-07-2020-en.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ga-9-10-07-2020-en.pdf</a></p>
MAC webinar Voluntary sustainability claims	13-15 July 2020	Via videoconference	<p>On behalf of the BISAC, the meeting was attended by Mrs Mihaela Candea- Mirea.</p> <p>A collection of examples of good practices as well as some challenges in other parts of the EU were presented.</p>

WG 5	30 September 2020	Bulgaria, Varna, hotel Astor Garden	<p>Ms Mihaela Candea-Mirea presented the previous activity of BISAC in 2019, as well as excerpts from a presentation by Mr Laurence Cordier from - DG Mare - Unit D4, held on 10-10-2019: "Review of the EU control system of fisheries - new provisions on traceability". The following changes to the traceability provisions can be seen as more significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification of the rules on lots of fishery and aquaculture products - new Article 56a;</li> <li>Connecting a specific batch of fishery products to a specific landing by an EU fishing vessel - issuing an identification number of the fishing trip;</li> <li>Digitisation - traceability information, recorded and transmitted electronically;</li> <li>Imported and processed products are also covered;</li> <li>Clear definition of the scope of traceability provisions;</li> <li>Digitisation of IUU catches and introduction of a catch certificate (CATCH).</li> </ul> <p>The scope of the lot rules and traceability information shall apply to fresh and frozen fish, fillets, dried, salted, smoked fish, crustaceans and molluscs, as well as canned fish, crustaceans and molluscs. Excluded from the field are flour made from fish, crustaceans and molluscs, unfit for human consumption or feed and algae.</p> <p>Mr. Florin Luchian – the secretary General of the BISAC explained that in Romania, too, large ships are mainly controlled - they are monitored by the captains and the border police. One hour before the ship enters the port of landing, the master is obliged to call the ANPA inspector. But this requirement does not apply to small boats.</p> <p>Some members addressed the topic of recreational fishing and the amount of fish that fast boats catch. According to unofficial data, it can weigh up to 100 kg per trip, which is IUU fishing. These boats usually leave at night and often happen to destroy fishing nets. At the same time, the law on fisheries and aquaculture lacks a text to control the activity of these fast boats, as they are not on the register of fishing vessels. These scooters and speedboats are 20 miles inland. They need to be monitored by national fisheries agencies, but they do not have this capacity. He also congratulated the classification of water in the Black Sea in Romania and the question is why this is not happening in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Following the discussions in the working group, some recommendations appear:</p>
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WG 6.	01 October 2020	Bulgaria, Varna, hotel Astor Garden	<p>From March 2020, Romania started a water classification procedure and so far the country has already identified 3 areas with "A" classification .</p> <p>Regarding the landing obligation, the joint recommendation prepared by NAFA Bulgaria and ANPA Romania and consulted with BISAC for the capture of turbot and the high survival of small caught individuals is also important. According to the scientific opinions presented by IRR - Varna and the Grigore Antipa Institute - Constanța, turbot has a high viability, after the individuals are caught in the net and in trawl fishing. Based on this statement, the two agencies recommend by way of derogation from art. 15.1 of Regulation 1380/2013, that the landing obligation should not apply to turbot in demersal and trawl nets. The reason is that the Black Sea turbot should only be fished with bottom gillnets. The minimum mesh size is 400 mm, which excludes the possibility of catching undersized fish. Despite this high selectivity of fishing gear, a small number of undersized individuals can be caught. The usual practice is to check the nets every 2-4 days, to lift the fish and to put the net back in the water. The scientific opinion is that, during this period, the turbot is still alive and unharmed and, in case of return to the water, its chances of survival are very high (approximately 90%).</p> <p>All quantities of turbot must be recorded in the fishing logbook. The format of the journal is in accordance with Annex VI to EC Regulation 404/2011. In accordance with CFP rules, landings of fish and other aquatic organisms will also be recorded in the logbook.</p> <p>On the meeting was also discussed an order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, № 211 of 28.07.2020, on the organization and functioning of the Register of registered buyers in the fisheries sector in Black Sea and that from 2021 the first buyer can be only a legal entity with fiscal registration in Romania. Within the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, NARA [ANPA], a register of buyers is established, which includes all buyers who have received a certificate of competency issued by ANPA, which is issued free of charge. A certificate of competence can be obtained by any natural / legal person authorized with the registered office and fiscal identification number in Romania.</p> <p>The subject of defining NATURA 2000 sites in Bulgaria and Romania, the fact that they occupy an extremely large area and overlap with traditional fishing grounds, has been raised again.</p>

Ex. Com meeting	02 October 2020	Bulgaria, Varna, hotel Astor Garden	<p>Determination of the date, place and agenda for holding General assembly meeting;</p> <p>Determination of the number and topics of the working groups in 2021. In the working groups in 2021, more general topics are set, while the focus groups will deal with more specific issues. This is done in order to orient the work of the BISAC to better results and more accurate recommendations.</p> <p>Discussion and determination of the budget of the BISAC, which for 2021 amounts to a total of EUR 177,050, such as the revenue from membership fees for 2021 should amount to EUR 17 705.</p> <p>Discussion concerning the A draft of the BISAC Work Program for 2021, and adoption by the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Presentation of the financial condition of BISAC at the moment. And comments from the members of the BISAC and debates on what sanctions should be imposed on associations that do not pay their membership fee, or pay it in part.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex.com-02-10-2020-en.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-ex.com-02-10-2020-en.pdf</a></p>
EFCA Advisory Board meeting	09 October 2020	Via video conference	<p>The meeting was attended by the chairman of the BISAC – Mr Yordan Gospodinov and Mrs Mihaela Candea-Mirea.</p> <p>The agenda for the meeting was the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction and state of play. ACs: state of play.</li> <li>2. EFCA’s Annual work programme 2020 implementation.</li> <li>3. EFCA’s draft Single Programming document: Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and Annual work programme 2021.</li> <li>4. The way forward: draft Single Programming document: Multiannual work programme 2022-2026 and Annual work programme 2022.</li> <li>5. How to enhance the interaction of EFCA with its Advisory Board?</li> <li>6. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the Administrative Board of EFCA.</li> <li>7. AOB.</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Pascal Savouret, Executive Director of EFCA, opened the meeting. The Advisory Councils introduced what topics they have been working on in terms of fisheries management and control. Ms. Mirea Candea introduced BISAC’s summary for our work. She mentioned that we had been working on landing obligation, landing ports, first sale centers and improvement of monitoring and control. EFCA also presented the implementation for annual work</p>

			programme 2020 and the multiannual work programmes mentioned above. EFCA's work will continue to revolve around four strategic areas: operational coordination, risk assessment and data analysis, compliance with international provisions capacity building and support to coast guard functions. Regarding point 5 from the agenda, a lot of ACs expressed their wish for closer cooperation with EFCA, and discussed inviting EFCA to their meetings so that they can provide clarity on some issues they have. The meeting concluded with presentations regarding EFCA's objectives, and feedback that EFCA received from some of the ACs.
High-level meeting: Building together a new strategy for Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture.	3 November 2020	Via video conference	From BISAC, Ms Mihaela Mirea attended the meeting.  Details of the conference and the high level representatives that participated can be found at: <a href="http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1322081/">http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1322081/</a> .
GA meeting BISAC	3 and 4 November 2020	Via video conference	The meeting of the General Assembly could not be held in person, in Constanta, Romania, as planned, due to the anti-epidemic measures imposed on the Romanian state on November 2, 2020 and the restriction of foreigners entering the country. The meeting took place via video link, and the Secretariat of the Bulgarian side and two of the members of the General Assembly met in the office in Varna.  The Chairman of the BISAC presented the two letters sent by DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the EC to the directors of NAFA, Bulgaria and ANPA Romania, with a request to provide financial assistance to BISAC.  Adoption of the BISAC Work program for year 2021.  Revision of the Rules of procedure, discussion of the new rules.  On the second day the meeting was attended by Mr Stefan George - State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Romania, who explained that the letter of financial support for BISAC, it is available to the Ministry, which will provide assistance for 2021.

			<p>Discussion about the lack of representation of the SSF organisation from Romania in the BISAC – due to the high amount of the membership fee.</p> <p>The withdrawal of the Association of Traders of Fishery Products - Tomis, Romania from membership in the BISAC because the not payment of the membership fees for 2 years and their non-participation in the meetings of the BISAC.</p> <p>Discussion concerning the order № 211 / 28.07.2020 of the Ministry of agriculture and rural development of Romania on the organization and functioning of the Register of Registered Buyers of the Black Sea Fisheries Sector. Interpreting this order, it is concluded that only a trader registered in Romania can buy fish and fish products in the country, ie if an EU company wants to buy fish from Romania and has no tax registration in the country, it is not be able to do so. And the contradiction in the order because it says that one first-sale center must buy from another first-sale center. Mr. Yordan Gospodinov explained that there is obviously a misunderstanding in the translation. In Bulgaria, any EU company can buy goods from a center for first sale, market, exchange, market or factory and does not need to make a tax registration in the country. There are registered buyers in Bulgaria, but this only applies to the domestic market. Mr. Stefan Gheorghe: requested the coordinates of his respective counterpart in Bulgaria in order to specify the precise and harmonized policy of the two countries in accordance with European legislation. He declared that the two Member States must work together, as has been the case with the general recommendation on turbot.</p> <p>Adoption of the BISAC budget for 2021 and determination the membership fees for 2021. For fisheries organizations, the membership fee for 2021 will be 2065 EUR, and for OIG – 300 EUR.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/index.php?page=general-assembly">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/index.php?page=general-assembly</a></p>
Round table meeting BISAC	5 November 2020	Via video conference	<p>Black Sea Advisory Council (BISAC) together with the non-governmental organization Mare Nostrum held a round table "Port facilities - a key factor for the sustainable development of Black Sea fishing", with the following agenda:</p> <p>10:30 - 10:45 - Registration of participants;</p> <p>10:45 - 11:00 - Introductory speech - Dr. Yordan Gospodinov, Chairman of BISAC;</p> <p>11:00 - 11:15 - Presentation of the existing waste management infrastructure in the Port of Constanta, Costel Stanca, Director of the Seaport Administration, Constanta;</p> <p>11: 15-11: 30 - General presentation of the project, Angelica Paiu, NGO Mare Nostrum;</p>

			<p>11: 30-11: 45 - Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, Joel Bazyuk, Deputy Director of Global Ghost Gear Initiative - presentation of a recording;</p> <p>11: 45-12.00 - Presentation of the European obligations for waste management, Mihaela Mirea, NGO Mare Nostrum;</p> <p>12:00 - 12:15 - Presentation of the initiatives undertaken so far by the BISAC on the topic of marine litter - Mr. Yordan Gospodinov, Chairman of the BISAC.</p> <p>12:15 - 12:45 - Challenges and needs - discussion.</p> <p>The purpose of this round table was to identify ways to effectively manage waste from fishing activities. It also aims to raise awareness in addressing this issue, as well as to change practices by demonstrating solutions for marine litter disposal.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by Mr. Stefan Gheorghe - State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania and Mr. Costel Stanca, Director of the Seaport Administration in Constanta.</p> <p><a href="https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-rt-en-5-11-2020.pdf">https://www.blsaceu.eu/en/doc/minutes-rt-en-5-11-2020.pdf</a></p>
Pre-Inter-AC meeting	25 November	Via video conference	<p>On behalf of the BISAC, the meeting was attended by Mr Yordan Gospodinov, Mrs Elena Peneva and Mrs Mihaela Candea- Mirea.</p> <p>All the Advisory Councils took part in the meeting. Each of them briefly presented their way of working and the challenges they face. Mrs Mihaela Mirea presented BISAC, she mentioned that the Black Sea AC is a small and relatively new Advisory Council. It has a Management team and working groups. Some focus groups will be established next 2021 year. Minority positions are included in the recommendations. Despite COVID, the BISAC have had a productive 2020 year of meetings.</p>
"Common Maritime Agenda Regional Stakeholders Conference.	10 December 2020	Via video conference	<p>On behalf of the BISAC, the meeting was attended by Mrs Mihaela Candea- Mirea. There were discussed several potential flagship projects in Black Sea area. BISAC supported the following idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquaculture</li> <li>- Establish common regulations</li> <li>- support for fishermen in terms of pilot projects, knowledge and funding</li> <li>- close monitoring of impact on marine litter and biodiversity</li> <li>Fishery</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- digitalization of reporting, monitoring and control, including for Small scale Fishery</li> <li>- research for climate change, invasive species and incidental catches impact on fisheries</li> </ul>
The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020	14 December 2020	Via video conference	On behalf of the BISAC, the meeting was attended by Mrs Mihaela Candea- Mirea. The new publication is presented and can be consulted at: <a href="http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1364435/">http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1364435/</a> .