

Working Program of the Black Sea Advisory Council - BISAC

2019

General Guidelines

The 2019 Work program of BISAC is based on the commitments set by the Bucharest Declaration (2016) and on the Sofia Ministerial Declaration, the 10-years action plan towards sustainability of Black Sea fisheries, signed at the High Level Conference on Black Sea fisheries and Aquaculture (06-07.06.2018, Sofia, Bulgaria).

The BISAC will closely follow the work of the EU and the GFCM and will participate in key meetings in 2019.

In the context of the implementation of current GFCM Recommendations and of the preparation of future proposals for Recommendations concerning Black Sea, with regard to the multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries, the fight against IUU fishing, the pilot project on joint control and inspection scheme in the Black Sea, research plan on rapana fisheries, BISAC will act as a forum for dialogue and discussion with stakeholders and will facilitate regionalization and cooperation between Member States, while continuing to work closely with the European Commission.

The main focus of BISAC working program, throughout the year should be:

1. Common Fisheries Policy

BISAC will continue to review and analyze the challenges ahead in the light of the implementation of the CFP reform, working closely with the Member States and the European Commission responding actively to consultations.

2. Cooperation

Establishing close regional cooperation between BISAC and the other Black Sea riparian countries at a technical level.

Enhancing cooperation between Member States administrations in terms of BISAC involvement in the preliminary decisions and resolutions for the establishment of the management plans related to Black Sea fisheries. In this context BISAC will also follow the revision of the fisheries legislation in the Member States,

3. Natura 2000

Participating through active involvement in the preparation of the Black Sea Fisheries management plans related to NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas, with regard to NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas - analysis of size, characteristics and restrictions and access to fishing activity in the marine protected areas of Member States. BISAC will be active and will participate to discussions with regard to fisheries restricted and marine protected areas ensuring an effective protection of the Black Sea.

4. GFCM MoU

The ongoing cooperation of BISAC with the GFCM is expected to be formalized in the upcoming intersession period. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Advisory Council and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) will be signed and implemented.

5. BISAC Working Groups

Additionally: Supporting the activities of the BISAC working groups (two WGs).

- Selectivity in demersal fishing and compliance with the landing obligation;
- Fisheries Management Plans within the NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas;
- Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for the Black Sea;
- Integrated marine use management - maritime spatial planning;
- Further work on the management of fisheries ecosystems;
- Implementation of landing obligation;
- Implementation of turbot multiannual management plan;
- Actions to enhance the fight against IUU fishing;
- State of play of rapana fishery, i.e. perspectives, evolution of catches, related data, markets, fishing techniques, bycatches;
- State of play of piked dogfish catches, targeted or not fisheries, evolution of catches, related data, bycatches;
- Assessment of the socio-economic conditions in fisheries in Member States, in particular related to turbot, white mussels and rapana catches;
- Data collection and implementation of actions and initiatives aimed at maintaining a system of safety, health and control of small-scale fisheries and commercial fishing, in order to create better conditions, taking into account all the fisheries sub-sectors : aquaculture, landing , first sale centers, processing, storage, transport, trade and traceability centers.
- Recommendations on priority species to develop and establish GFCM multiannual management plans.
- Recreational fisheries and state of play.
- Marine litter and possible solutions;

Other issues of importance to the Black Sea Advisory Council :

1. Small-scale fisheries

Small-scale fisheries will be discussed within the framework of a working group for 2019, being focused on the following priority areas:

- Promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors;
- Protection of the environment
- Implementation of the GFCM Regional Plan of Action for SSF

2. Interinstitutional cooperation

The BISAC shall maintain close cooperation and continue to work jointly with the Commission, the European Parliament, GFCM, EFCA, Science and Technology Committees and Advisory Boards of the respective ministries, scientific research institutes, as well as related projects and activities .

3. Collaboration with scientists

Furthermore, the BISAC shall try to achieve even closer cooperation with the scientific community, working on joint projects aimed at keeping the discarding of fish to minimum, and involving in project focused on technical improvements to selectivity. BISAC will also facilitate on its capacity the BlackSea4Fish project.

4. Multiannual Management Plans

The BISAC shall contribute and work towards the adoption of multiannual management plans in Black Sea.

The Black Sea Advisory Council (BISAC) shall continue its efforts to play an active role within the Common Fisheries Policy. BISAC shall focus on these issues within its planned meetings, and shall build up on the achievements of the working groups .

Meetings / activities planned, that should be included in the budget for:

BISAC meetings – 2019*		
General Assembly	Varna	21 and 22 03.2019
	Constanta	29 and 30. 10.2019
Executive Committee	Varna	19 and 20.02.2018
	Constanta	17.05.2019
	Constanta	26 and 27.09.2019
Working Group 1 (Fishing opportunities in Marine Protected Areas)	Varna	18.02.2018
	Constanta	15.05.2019
	Constanta	25.09.2019
Working Group 2 (Sustainable fishing – gears and resources.)	Varna	20.03.2019
	Constanta	16.05.2019
	Constanta	28.10.2019
Roundtable (not specified yet)	Constanta	July
Roundtable (not specified yet)	Place	November

* Management meetings during the year, if needed (priority should be given to the Executive Committees).

BISAC representation in 2019 meetings*		
43 rd GFCM annual session	Greece	October/November
IUU day	Italy	June
Inter-AC meeting		
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*non-exhaustive list