

Working Program of the Black Sea Advisory Council - BISAC

2020

General Guidelines:

In 2020 BISAC will continue to operate and expand the topics set out in the Work Program for 2019. It is based on the commitments set by the Bucharest Declaration (2016) and by 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 in Sofia, Bulgaria on 06-07.06.2018.

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 and on turbot catch certification 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.

At the same time the BISAC will follow the work of the EU and the GFCM and will participate in key meetings in 2020. To this end, BISAC will actively participate in the consultations for the GFCM Strategy post 2020 and the intersessional meeting on the new GFCM strategy. The BISAC will be actively involved in the post-Sofia High Level Conference on Black Sea fisheries that will be held in October 2020, in Georgia, to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Sofia Ministerial Declaration.

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.

2. Cooperation

Enhancing cooperation between Member States administrations in terms of BISAC involvement in the preliminary decisions and resolutions for the establishment of the management plans and measures related to Black Sea fisheries.

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.

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. Specific priorities

- Small-scale fisheries, specificities of the Black Sea and implementation of the GFCM RPoA-SSF;
- Further work on the management of fisheries following ecosystem approach;
- Interactions with the marine ecosystem, protection of sensitive habitats and species and the prevention of by-catches, including through better selectivity of gears;
- Recommendation on selectivity of fishing gears to protect sensitive species and to mitigate by-catches (eg, sharks, cetaceans, seabirds, etc);
- Vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Black Sea;
- Implementation of turbot multiannual management plan, including monitoring control and surveillance measures, catch certification scheme and fight against turbot IUU fishing;
- Actions to enhance the fight against IUU fishing in the Black Sea;
- State of play of piked dogfish catches, targeted or not fisheries, evolution of catches, related data, bycatches;
- Assessment of the socio-economics of fisheries in Member States, in particular related to turbot, white mussels, sprart, dogfish, red mullet and rapana catches;
- Recommendations on GFCM priority species to develop and establish GFCM multiannual management plans, technical and conservation measures;

Recreational fisheries and state of play, including species, national licencing regime, fishing gears/techniques.

Therefore BISAC will implement the following Working Groups

- WG 1 - Selectivity in demersal fishing and compliance with the landing obligation;
- WG 2 - Fisheries Management Plans proposal within the NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas;
- WG 3 - Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for the Black Sea: mainly D1- cetaceans, D3 – Commercial Fish and shellfish, D4 – Descriptor 4: Food Webs, D10 – Marine litter;
- WG 4 – State of play of rapana fishery, i.e. perspectives, evolution of catches, related data, markets, fishing technics, bycatches;
- WG 5 – 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.

- WG 6 – Implementation of landing obligation;

Other issues of importance to the Black Sea Advisory Council:

1. Interinstitutional cooperation

The BISAC shall maintain close cooperation and continue to work jointly with the Commission, the European Parliament, GFCM, EFCA, EU Advisory Councils, Scientific Committees and Advisory Boards of the EU and of both Member States mainly Ministries, scientific research institutes, and related projects.

2. Collaboration with scientific and research Institutes

Furthermore, the BISAC shall closely cooperate 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 and mitigation of bycatches. BISAC will also facilitate on its capacity the BlackSea4Fish project.

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 .

BISAC 2020- PROVISIONNAL PLANNING*

Title	Date	Place	Issues to be addressed
WG 1 – Selectivity in demersal fishing and compliance with the landing obligation;	20 February	Varna, Bulgaria	Ways to improve fishing tools
ExCom	21 February	Varna, Bulgaria	Approval on documents, preparation of GA, analysis of the WG activity from 2019, Statute changes proposals
WG 2- Fisheries Management Plans proposal within the NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas;	17 March	Constanta, Romania	Existing Management plans, proposal from fisheries
GA	18-19 March	Constanta, Romania	Approval on audit from 2019, Final activity report, Updated list of members, Statute changes adoption
First technical consultation of stakeholders on aquaculture investment in the Black Sea	9-10 April	Burgas, Bulgaria	GFCM

WG3 – Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for the Black Sea: mainly: D1-cetaceans D3 – Commercial Fish and shellfish, D4 – Descriptor 4: Food Webs, D10 – Marine litter;	14 May	Tulcea, Romania	Presentation of the descriptors, Discussion on the Good Environmental Status
WG4 – State of play of rapana fishery, i.e. perspectives, evolution of catches, related data, markets, fishing technics, bycatches;	15 May	Tulcea, Romania	Follow up of the WG from 2019
SGSABS benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy	20-24 July	Trabzon, Turkey	GFCM
Meeting for establishment of an Aquaculture Observatory for the Black Sea	15-16 September	Trabzon, Turkey	GFCM
WG5 – 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.	29 September	Constanta, Romania	Follow up from the WG from 2019, Presentation and discussion on the documents from the Traceability workshop from 2019 – Brussels
ExCom	30 September	Constanta, Romania	Preparing of GA, presentation of activity in 2020, Proposals for 2021
Ninth meeting of the WGBS	30 September-2 October	Burgas, Bulgaria	GFCM
Black Sea Conference	5-6 October	Georgia tbc	GFCM - Review of Sofia declaration
Inter-AC	November	Brussels	
44 th GFCM annual session	2-6 November	Tirana, Albania	GFCM

WG6 – Implementation of landing obligation;	18 November	Varna, Bulgaria	Follow up from the WG in 2019, Presentation of new documents and progress
GA	19-20 November	Varna, Bulgaria	Adoption of the WP for 2021, adoption of the budget proposal for 2021

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

*non-exhaustive list