

Work Program of the Black Sea Advisory Council - BISAC

2021

General Guidelines:

In 2021, BISAC will continue working on the topics set out in the Work Program for 2020 with regard to the Common Fisheries Policy, including its external dimension namely within the GFCM. In addition, BISAC will contribute to the priorities and goals set out in the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, namely on synergies towards sustainable fisheries in the Black Sea.

The Working program is based on:

- the Common Fishery Policy – CFP;
- The GFCM instruments, notably the mid-term Strategy, the Regional Plans of Action on small-scale fisheries and on eliminating IUU fishing, and GFCM Recommendations on conservation, fisheries management, bycatches of vulnerable species, monitoring control and surveillance, documentation schemes;
- the 2016 Bucharest Declaration and the 2018 Sofia Ministerial Declaration;
- the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea adopted in February 2020;
- The Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter adopted by the Black Sea Commission

General Principles of Action

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 2021. To this end, BISAC will actively participate in the consultations with the GFCM according to the planning of meetings in 2021 that it is expected to be confirmed.

BISAC will seek to strengthen the cooperation with other Advisory Councils, and take benefit of sharing knowledge and experience in other sea basins, in particular the Mediterranean Sea on the implementation of CFP, Landing Obligation, Technical Measures Regulation, Control and Monitoring, the fight against IUU fishing activities, Marine Litter, , labeling and catch documentation schemes.

Following the experience from previous years, BISAC will enhance the cooperation between Member States administrations in terms of BISAC involvement in planning and decision making processes for the establishment of management plans and measures related to Black Sea fisheries.

BISAC will follow the preparation of the Black Sea Fisheries management plans related to NATURA 2000 network of marine protected areas, , including - analysis of areas, characteristics, restrictions and access to fishing activity.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic , many meetings in 2020 have been cancelled or postponed, including GFCM meetings and the 44th annual session. BISAC will continue cooperating with GFCM in 2021. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Advisory Council and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) will be signed and implemented. The

BISAC will be actively involved in the upcoming GFCM Georgia Conference in 2022, a high level event that will follow up the implementation of the 2018 Sofia Ministerial Declaration and will take stock of the progress made in delivering on the new fisheries governance in the Black Sea.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to fisheries is a key issue to be addressed due to the restrictive measures taken in the EU and in the globe. The BISAC will monitor the evolving situation and possible effects to Member States' fishing sectors, collect data and relevant information and provide feedback and suggestions.

Specific priorities for 2021

Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems

- Vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Black Sea;
- Interactions with the marine ecosystem, protection of sensitive habitats and vulnerable species (i.e. sturgeons), mitigation of by-catches (i.e. sharks, cetaceans, seabirds), selectivity of gears, technical measures, recommendations;
- Implementation of landing obligation, discard plans, cases of sprat, turbot and piked dogfish and possible weaknesses identified-recommendations
- Fight against IUU fishing in the Black Sea, GFCM RPOA to eliminate IUU, Catch Certification Schemes-turbot Catch Documentation pilot scheme-recommendations;
- Further work on fisheries management following ecosystem approach;
 - Multiannual management Plans (MAPs), implementation of turbot MAP, new MAPs for other Black Sea fisheries, recommendations.
- Small-scale fisheries, specificities of the Black Sea and implementation of the GFCM RPOA-SSF, role of women in SSF, valorisation of catches, local markets, producers organizations, recommendations;
- Species of conservation concern, i.e. piked dogfish, state of play, targeted fisheries and incidental catches, catches and evolution of catches, fishing fleets, fishing gears, landing obligation, fisheries restricted areas, recommendations;
- Recreational fisheries, state of play, fish stocks, fishing gears/techniques, legal framework, national licencing regimes,, interaction with commercial fisheries, recommendations.
- COVID-19 pandemic and impacts to fisheries, monitoring of impacts, data collection, further needs

A competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy for the Black Sea:

- Socioeconomic assessment of turbot, white mussels, sprat, dogfish, red mullet and rapana fisheries in Member States

Therefore, the BISAC will implement the following:

Working Groups

- WG 1 – Landing obligation
- WG 2 – Technical measures
- WG 3 - Aquaculture
- WG 4 – MPAs, FRAs, NATURA 2000
- WG 5 - Recreational fisheries
- WG 6 - Socioeconomic dimension

Focus Groups

- FG 1- Marine fisheries and the COVID pandemic
- FG 2- Piked dogfish fisheries
- FG 3 - Rapana fisheries -
- FG 4 Marine litter

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, Member States' Authorities, national scientific research institutes and academia, and related projects.

2. Collaboration with scientific and research Institutes

Furthermore, the BISAC shall closely cooperate with the scientific community, on issues related to discards and landing obligation, on technical measures and improvement of selectivity, on bycatches of vulnerable species. 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 2021- PROVISIONNAL PLANNING*

Meeting	Date	Place	Topics - Agenda
WG 1 - Landing obligation	24 February	Constanta Romania	Follow up 2020 conclusions, state of play of implementation
FG 1 - Marine fisheries and COVID impacts			Impacts of Covid pandemic on fishing activities, financial support from Member States, needs

ExCom	25 February	Constanta Romania	Approval on documents, preparation of GA, analysis of 2020 WG activities, statute changes proposals
WG 2 - Technical measures FG 2 - Piked dogfish fisheries	16 March	Varna Bulgaria	Follow up 2020 conclusions, measures on bycatches mitigation, including vulnerable species, state of play of implementation of Technical Measures Regulation State of play, fleet, landings, data reporting, values, trends, trade, status of stock
GA	17 March	Varna Bulgaria	Approval on 2020 audit, final activity report, updated list of members, statute changes adoption
FG 3 - Rapana fisheries	12 May	Romania	Regional research plan, fleet, operators, data reporting, landings, trends, value, trade
WG 5 - Recreational fisheries	13 May	Romania	Legislative framework, interactions with commercial fisheries, species, gears, existing platforms for sharing knowledge, research and key studies, measures
WG 3 - Aquaculture	27 September	Varna Bulgaria	Legislative framework, interactions with fisheries, investments, species, the case of GFCM Aquaculture demonstration centres in the Black Sea
WG 4 - MPAs, FRAs, NATURA 2000	28 September	Varna, Bulgaria	Follow up of 2019 WG activities, conclusions, state of play
ExCom	29 September	Varna, Bulgaria	Preparation of GA, presentation of activities in 2021, Proposals for 2022
Inter ACs Meeting	October/ November	Brussels Belgium	
44th GFCM annual session	November		GFCM
WG 6 - Socioeconomic dimension	23 November	Constanta, Romania	Values and impact of fisheries at local level, SSF interaction with large scale fisheries, valorisation of SSF catches, SSF landings, role

FG 4 - Marine litter			of women, employment, producers organizations Follow up 2019 and 2020 WG conclusions, state of play, progress of mapping, Member States' joint actions
GA	24 November	Constanta, Romania	Adoption of the WP for 2022, adoption of the budget proposal for 2022

* Management meetings, if needed (priority should be given to the Executive Committees), non-exhaustive list