



КОНСУЛТАТИВЕН СЪВЕТ ЗА ЧЕРНО МОРЕ  
/КСЧМ/

CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA  
NEAGRA

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### **WORK PROGRAMME FOR BISAC**

**Period: [01.01.2023] to [31.12.2023]**

#### **Background**

The Black Sea Advisory Council (BISAC) is a non-profit legal entity for public benefit, established on 20.07.2015 pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities. The society is registered under the Bulgarian legislation with headquarters in Varna – Republic of Bulgaria. The society has established a second office in Constanta - Romania.

The composition of the General Assembly includes 19 members who are associations, non-governmental organizations and societies whose activities cover all major areas of fisheries in Bulgaria and Romania - catches of fish and other aquatic organisms, aquaculture, processing, import and export, retail and wholesale of fish and fish products. Members of BISAC also include environmental NGOs and other stakeholders having activities related to the sea.

The Executive Committee of the BISAC is composed of 10 members, of which 6 are fishing organizations and 4 organizations from the group of other interested parties, respecting the 60/40 principle:

1. NGO "MARE NOSTRUM", Romania
2. Marine fishing association "Marea Neagra", Romania
3. Association of marine fishing Tomis, Romania
4. Association "RO-PESCADOR", Romania
5. Association Ivan Patzaichin - Mila 23, Romania
6. National association Bulgarian Black Sea, Bulgaria
7. Association of the fish products producers - BG Fish, Bulgaria
8. Association "MENA", Bulgaria
9. European fishermen Association in the Black Sea, Bulgaria
10. NGO "Institute for regional strategies", Bulgaria

At the present, a performance review of BISAC is being carried out by Sratagma OOD company and the results will be released at the end of 2023.

#### **Mission and objectives of the BISAC**

The Black Sea Advisory Council will continue its efforts to play an active role within the Common Fisheries Policy.

In 2023, the BISAC will continue working on the topics set out in the Work Program for 2022 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 Strategy 2030, 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;
- 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
- The strategic guidelines for a sustainable aquaculture in the EU.

### **General Principles of Action**

The 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 BISAC will follow the work of the EU and the GFCM and will participate in key meetings in 2023.

The BISAC will continue its cooperation with other Advisory Councils and take benefit of sharing knowledge and experience in other sea basins.

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.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to fisheries are 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.

In 2023, BISAC will retake their activity to enhance the exchange of experience with other advisory councils through visits, common meetings and actions.

## **BISAC WORK PRIORITIES**

### **Overarching long term and short term work priorities (at least 3 priorities)**

#### **Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems**

1. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts in fisheries and the Russian aggression against Ukraine impacts in fisheries in view of the evolving maritime security situation, as well as monitoring of impacts; Fuel crisis and support to the sector, green deal and decarbonisation of fishing fleets (REPower Strategy)
2. Fisheries management such as, implementation of the landing obligation, the turbot discard plan, TAC and quotas for turbot and sprat, measures on piked dogfish and rapana, both at EU level and regional level within the GFCM ; recommendations to be provided; Further work on fisheries management following the ecosystem approach;
3. Implementation of multiannual management plans (MAPs) for turbot, sprat, piked dogfish, new MAPs for other priority species in Black Sea fisheries, recommendations to be provided;

4. The fight against IUU fishing activities in the Black Sea - Identify risks and the extent of “illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” by operators of all nationalities and provide recommendations on how to prevent, deter and eliminate such activities; Traceability and catch certification schemes, such as the regional pilot project for turbot;
5. Biodiversity, vulnerable marine ecosystems and sensitive species in the Black Sea; Fishing activities and interactions with sensitive vulnerable species, mitigation of by-catches (i.e. cetaceans, sturgeons), discards and by-catch data, improved selectivity of gears, technical measures, recommendations to be provided; participation in the pilot projects on cetaceans bycatch in turbot gillnet fisheries
6. Climate change and impacts to marine fisheries, non-indigenous species;
7. Small-scale fisheries, specificities of the Black Sea and implementation of the GFCM RPoA-SSF; recommendation to be provided on the protection of SSF and valorisation of catches;
8. Recreational fisheries, state of play, fish stocks, fishing gears/techniques, legal framework, national licencing or registration regimes, catch reporting, interaction with commercial fisheries, recommendations to be provided.
9. Promote digitalization in fisheries;
10. Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC)
11. Participation of all stakeholders, especially fishermen, in the debate on the adoption or modification of management plans for marine protected areas and territories. In this way, they will be involved in the management of these protected management plans by adopting a protected area management approach.
12. Identification of restricted areas where traditional fishing with high selectivity equipment can be allowed.

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

1. The maritime spatial planning plan must integrate a wealth of information. Consultations should be held with the scientific community, the administration, the economic sector, civil society, etc. To complete and modify the circumstances and provisions for the activities set out in the Maritime Space Plan. In this sense, a change of marine protected areas can be achieved through the provisions of European, Bulgarian and Romanian laws and through their planning and management.
2. Socioeconomic assessment of fisheries for turbot, clams, sprat, piked dogfish, red mullet and rapana in both Member States

#### **Work priorities identified for each Working Group and Focus Group (where available)**

##### **Working Groups**

- WG 1 – Selectivity of the fishing gear
- WG 2 – Climate change effects in fishery
- WG 3 - Technology transfer for a sustainable aquaculture
- WG 4 – Fisheries and aquaculture interactions with wind renewable energy sea farms - in the context of MSP
- WG 5 - Blue Economy jobs and training of future fishers' generations
- WG 6 – Opportunities for certification in fisheries. Digitalisation in fishery.

##### **Focus Groups**

- FG 1- Small scale and recreational fishery.
- FG 2- New invasive species
- FG 3 - Rapana fishery

- FG 4 – By catch of vulnerable species
- FG 5 - Opportunities and needs for decarbonization in the Black Sea
- FG 6 - Fishery and sea aquaculture evolution in pandemic and war years

**Other issues of interest if any:**

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 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 BISAC shall focus on these issues within its planned meetings and shall build up on the achievements of the working groups.

**Planned recommendations for year 2023:**

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
1	Certifications in fishery applied in the Black Sea	Art 35, (c) strengthen the competitiveness of the Union fishery and aquaculture industry, in particular producers;	WG 6 - Opportunities for certification in fisheries. Digitalisation in fishery.	March
	Application of digitalisation in Black Sea fishery	Art 36. FG 1- Small scale and recreational fishery	WG 6 - Opportunities for certification in fisheries. Digitalisation in fishery.	March
	Registration regimes of recreational fishery, catch reporting and interaction with commercial fishery	Art 7. Measures for the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources	FG 1- Small scale and recreational fishery	April
2	Fisheries impact of the new invasive species	Art 27. Research and scientific advice	FG 2- New invasive species	April
3	Fishery and sea aquaculture evolution in pandemic and war years	Art5, p5. (f) contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities, bearing in mind coastal fisheries	FG 6 - Fishery and sea aquaculture evolution in pandemic and war years	June

		and socio-economic aspects;		
4	Research and innovation for a sustainable aquaculture	Art 2. (e) promote the development of sustainable Union aquaculture activities to contribute to food supplies and security and employment;	WG 3 - Technology transfer for a sustainable aquaculture	July
5	Fisheries and aquaculture interactions with wind renewable energy sea farms - in the context of MSP	Art5, p5. (f) contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities, bearing in mind coastal fisheries and socio-economic aspects;	WG 4 Fisheries and aquaculture interactions with wind renewable energy sea farms - in the context of MSP	July
6	Needs identification for decarbonization in the Black Sea.	Art2. 3. The CFP shall implement the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management so as to ensure that negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem are minimised, and shall endeavour to ensure that aquaculture and fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment	FG 5 - Opportunities and needs for decarbonization in the Black Sea.	October

#### Planned participation to Commission public consultations

Topic/subject	Link with the CFP	Deadline for the EU Survey (if available)	Planned date for adoption (if available)
According to the EC calendar and BISAC topics of interest			

#### BISAC planning of meetings

**BISAC PLANNING OF MEETINGS (from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Date (for the first 6 months, please provide precise dates)</b>	<b>Topics /subjects of meeting</b>	<b>Type of meeting (physical/planned/hybrid)</b>	<b>European Commission participation requested (yes/no)</b>	<b>If Commission participation requested, specific issues to be dealt with</b>	<b>Priority for a Commission participation (from 1 to 4) (1= highest priority)</b>
1.	22.02.2023	WG 6 - Opportunities for certification in fisheries. Digitalisation in fishery.	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	3
2	22.02.2023	FG 1- Small scale and recreational fishery	hybrid	yes	Challenges for SSF, continuation of the previous year's work. state of play, fish stocks, fishing gears/techniques, legal framework, national licencing or registration regimes, catch reporting, interaction with commercial fisheries, recommendations.	2
3	23.02.2023	Executive committee	hybrid	yes	Presentation of an audit certificate for the performed audit for 2022, final activity report for 2022	1
4	28.03.2023	WG 2 - Climate change effects in fisheries	hybrid	yes	climate change effects on fisheries in the Black Sea, challenges, continuation of the previous year's work	3
5	28.03.2023	FG 2- New invasive species	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	1

6	29.03.2023	General assembly meeting	hybrid	no	Approval on 2022 audit, final activity report, updated list of members.	
7	09.05.2023	FG 3 - Rapana fisheries	hybrid	yes	Regional research plan, fleet, operators, data reporting, landings, trends, trade	1
8	10.05.2023	WG 5 - Blue Economy jobs and training of future fishers generations	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	2
9	11.05.2023	FG 6 - Fishery and sea aquaculture evolution in pandemic and war years	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	2
10	24-25.05.2023	European maritime day				
11	28.06.2023	WG 3 - Technology transfer for a sustainable aquaculture	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	2
12	29.06.2023	WG 4 - Fisheries and aquaculture interactions with wind renewable energy sea farms - in the context of MSP	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	2
13	27.09.2023	FG 5 - Opportunities and needs for decarbonization in the Black Sea.	hybrid	yes	New Wg for BISAC	1
14	28.09.2023	Executive Committee	hybrid	yes	Preparation of GA, presentation of activities in 2023, Proposals for 2024	3
15	22.11.2023	WG 1 – Selectivity of the fishing gear	hybrid	yes	future fishing gear changes in the Black Sea	2
16	22.11.2023	FG 4 – By catch of vulnerable species	hybrid	yes	ways to limit by catches	2

17	23.11.2023	General Assembly meeting	hybrid	yes	Adoption of the WP for 2024, adoption of the budget proposal for 2024	2
18		46th annual session of GFCM	planned			