

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2099(INI)
Common fisheries policy : improving scientific and technical advice for its management	
Subject 3.15 Fisheries policy	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		23/04/2003
		PSE LAGE Carlos	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		10/07/2003
		V/ALE LUCAS Caroline	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2534	13/10/2003

Key events			
27/02/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	C(2003)0625	Summary
05/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/10/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
20/01/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
20/01/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0023/2004	
10/02/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0083/2004	Summary
10/02/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2099(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/19622

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		C(2003)0625	27/02/2003	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0023/2004	20/01/2004	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0083/2004 OJ C 097 22.04.2004, p. 0035-0130 E	10/02/2004	EP	Summary

Common fisheries policy : improving scientific and technical advice for its management

PURPOSE : to improve scientific advice for fisheries management. **CONTENT** : the Community must base the common fisheries policy on improved and timely scientific advice, thereby affording a firmer grounding in science than has been the case in the past. This will place more demands on the scientists and the existing scientific institutions than they can meet now and urgent improvements to the science base and its organisation are needed. The Commission has two main targets for improvements. 1) regional scientific organisations should maintain and strengthen their roles as forums for international science, methodological development, organisation of surveys and long-term, strategic advice on the scale of one or more years. To this end, the Community should better coordinate the contributions of Member States to regional scientific organisations. 2) the Community requires its own scientific advisory capacity which can provide operational advice for fisheries management within a short time-frame, to complement existing resources at the national level. The Commission proposes a short-term solution to improve the provision of advice, and outlines options for new institutional arrangements for a more solid and permanent framework for achieving this objective in the longer term. After debate in the Council and in the Parliament about this approach more detailed proposals will be developed in 2003.?

Common fisheries policy : improving scientific and technical advice for its management

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Carlos LAGE (PES, P) on the scientific and technical advice for EU fisheries management. MEPs said that it was important to strengthen the relationship between science and industry by improving consultation between scientists and the fishing industry, integrating them in a joint body at European, national and regional level. They pointed out that the Regional Advisory Councils had an important role to play in this regard and therefore called for scientists to be members of the RACs. The committee also noted that there were inaccuracies in catch data and scientific advice, and that there were differing interpretations about scientific advice received as well as the causes of problems concerning stocks. It further pointed out that these problems were compounded by the Commission's apparent unwillingness to have regard for all the scientific advice available. One solution might be to arrange for scientists to travel on fishing vessels to conduct research in locations where fishing is actually carried out. The committee argued that this would reduce differences of opinion between scientists and fishermen, which would lead to greater support for measures taken on the basis of scientific advice. The report stressed that, as EU measures based on scientific advice can have severe socio-economic impacts on fishing communities, the quality of such advice and of socio-economic impact assessments should be improved. It also urged that more resources be devoted to researching aquaculture, including environmental impact. Other recommendations included strengthening fisheries science in partnership with third countries in order to ensure that resources are developed sustainably and allocating more funds to meet the need for scientists and managers in fisheries. ?

Common fisheries policy : improving scientific and technical advice for its management

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Carlos LAGE (PES, Portugal) on scientific advice for fisheries. (Please see the document dated 20/01/04.) Parliament felt that where there are contradictions between different scientific reports, these should be put to a higher scientific body to resolve the contradictions. Parliament went on to state that the impact of fishing upon non-commercial species of all kinds (fish, sharks, turtles, birds, marine mammals) must be investigated as a priority, in conjunction with research into alterations to fishing gears and practices to decrease such catches. EU measures based on scientific advice can have severe socio-economic impacts on fishing communities. It is therefore vital to improve the quality both of scientific advice and of socio-economic impact assessments. In particular recovery plans should be subjected to a thorough scientific assessment as quickly as possible, with special attention being paid to their effectiveness. Scientific advice on aquaculture needs to be improved and systematized. Parliament suggested an advisory committee with specific responsibility for aquaculture. Greater resources should be devoted to researching aquaculture, including the generation of production and economic data and environmental impact data. Parliament stated that the need for improved scientific advice on fisheries could be met by a combination of actions, including the strengthening of ICES, with new scientists directly employed to meet EU needs, as well as by the recruitment of further staff in the Commission on a permanent official basis and also by increased use of temporary experts. Scientists should also travel on fishing vessels so as to conduct research at the locations where fishing is carried on. New fisheries, either for previously unexploited species or in new areas, must be the subject of more thorough studies to improve fisheries management by monitoring catches and establishing an appropriate fishing effort. ?