

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2056(INI)	Procedure completed
Small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives		
Subject 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
		 PIMENTA LOPES João	10/05/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	
		 BARTOLO Pietro	
		 KARLESKIND Pierre	
		 D'AMATO Rosa	
		 ILČIČ Ladislav	
		 CONTE Rosanna	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
		Chair on behalf of committee	11/11/2021
		 ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ Lucia	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	

Key events			
20/05/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/2022	Vote in committee		

09/12/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0291/2022	Summary
18/01/2023	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/01/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0019/2023	Summary
19/01/2023	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2056(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/06038

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE699.311	11/11/2021	EP	
Specific opinion	EMPL	PE693.810	22/11/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE703.080	20/12/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0291/2022	09/12/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0019/2023	19/01/2023	EP	Summary

Small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the own-initiative report by João PIMENTA LOPES (GUE/NGL, PT) on the small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives.

Strengthening small-scale fisheries along the value chain

Members take the view that the future of small-scale, coastal and artisanal fishing depends not only on long-term and sustainable measures, but also on immediate, meaningful and effective measures to increase fishers profit margins also through higher quota allocations in line with scientific advice. They consider that it necessary to enhance the organisational and commercial capacities of the sector and the professions attractiveness, to provide training and targeted support for young people and to improve operating conditions, in particular for the inclusion of women on board vessels and in the sector more generally, and to strengthen its position in the supply chain.

The report calls on the Commission, therefore, working in close cooperation with the Member States, to establish and implement support mechanisms, within the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) framework, for small scale, artisanal and coastal fisheries that make it possible to tackle the specific problems in this part of the sector.

The future of small-scale fishing requires that its specific nature should be recognised in the CFP and the present instruments be adapted in order to meet the needs of this sector.

Stressing that small-scale fisheries are the weakest segment along the value chain and marketing arrangements often tend to favour the interests of the buyer rather than the fishers, Members affirm the need to strengthen and shorten the sectors value chain between the producer and the consumer, thereby increasing the opportunities for direct sales from fisher to consumer and reducing the number of intermediaries in order, ideally, to reach the point where the producer is able to supply the final customer directly.

The report also points out the need for an ambitious revision of the CMO Regulation with the aim of increasing its contribution to the sectors income and to market stability, as well as to improve the marketing of fishery products and increase their added value. In this context, Members stress the importance of creating certified seafood labels and fisheries product brand mechanisms, as well as of increasing traceability in the supply chain, which would in turn improve information to consumers, encouraging them to buy locally and sustainably sourced seafood and raise their awareness of SSF products.

Improving operating conditions and guaranteeing the future of small-scale, artisanal and coastal fisheries

Members welcome the fact that the EMFAF provides the possibility to support the modernisation, replacement or acquisition of newer engines that emit less CO₂, including engines using new energy-efficient technologies, and the conversion of petrol engines. They call on the Commission and Member States to ensure equal tax conditions at international level and continue to exempt the fishing industry from fuel taxation.

Given the current extraordinary inflation of fuel prices, Members propose that extraordinary measures could be envisaged by the Member States to provide aid to the small-scale, coastal and artisanal fisheries segment for the expected rising production costs. Moreover, the report urges Member States to allocate funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to investment in the small-scale coastal fleet with the aim of helping fishers and operators who do associated work, mainly women, such as net menders, shore-based assistants and packagers, and workers.

With a view to improving the execution rate of EMFAF financing and ensuring that small-scale fisheries have access to support, it is necessary to look into and implement measures to streamline procedures, thereby reducing the red tape, complexity and approval time surrounding applications.

Member States are urged to ensure the full implementation of EU standards and regulations in relation to safety, labour and living conditions on board fishing vessels.

In addition, the future of small-scale fishing requires that EU regulations ensure a regulatory environment that strengthens the position of fishers in the supply chain and provides investments for the long-term sustainability, stability and economic competitiveness of the sector. The report points out the need for economic and social protection during non-fishing periods and in the event of disasters that hamper activities. There is a need for mechanisms providing for wage compensation for lost earnings during such periods.

For generational renewal, the sector should put in place attractive conditions for young people and women.

Small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives

The European Parliament adopted by 408 votes to 66, with 44 abstentions, a resolution on the small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives.

In 2019, the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector in the EU-28 consisted of a fleet of 42 838 vessels which represented only 7.5 % of the gross tonnage and 5.4 % of the landed weight across the Member States overall and employed 62 650 fishers, accounting for 75 % of the active fishing ships and 48 % of crew.

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) does not provide small-scale fisheries with clear and differentiated legislative support to help them achieve socio-economic viability. Nor have Member States put in place effective measures for this type of fishing.

Strengthening small-scale fisheries along the value chain

Members take the view that the future of small-scale, coastal and artisanal fishing depends not only on long-term and sustainable measures, but also on immediate, meaningful and effective measures to increase fishers profit margins also through higher quota allocations in line with scientific advice. They consider that it necessary to enhance the organisational and commercial capacities of the sector and the professions attractiveness, to provide training and targeted support for young people and to improve operating conditions, in particular for the inclusion of women on board vessels and in the sector more generally, and to strengthen its position in the supply chain.

Parliament calls on the Commission, therefore, working in close cooperation with the Member States, to establish and implement support mechanisms, within the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) framework, for small scale, artisanal and coastal fisheries that make it possible to tackle the specific problems in this part of the sector.

The future of small-scale fishing requires that its specific nature be recognised in the CFP and that the present instruments be adapted in order to meet the needs of this sector. There is a need to develop a common, more comprehensive and adequate definition of small-scale, artisanal and coastal fishing.

In particular, Parliament recommended the following:

- strengthening and shortening the sector's value chain between producer and consumer, thereby increasing the possibilities for direct sales from fisher to the consumer, ideally so that the producer can serve the final customer directly;
- ensure a fairer and more appropriate distribution of added value along the sector's value chain and consider the use of forms of intervention similar to guaranteed prices and target prices, in order to improve fishers incomes;
- take action at EU or Member State level to defend or create markets of origin, thereby advocating preferential short circuits for traditional products;
- promote and defend the qualities of small-scale fish, such as freshness, seasonality, cultural heritage and sustainability, and increase support for these products in trade fairs, small shops and catering, so as to maximise the value of fisheries products and foster local development;
- set up a training programme for the hotel, restaurant and catering sector to improve knowledge of seafood products and good practice in protecting resources.

Parliament also points out the need for an ambitious revision of the CMO Regulation with the aim of increasing its contribution to the sectors income and to market stability, as well as to improve the marketing of fishery products and increase their added value. In this context, Members stress the importance of creating certified seafood labels and fisheries product brand mechanisms, as well as of increasing traceability in the supply chain.

Improving operating conditions and guaranteeing the future of small-scale, artisanal and coastal fisheries

Members welcome the fact that the EMFAF provides the possibility to support the modernisation, replacement or acquisition of newer engines that emit less CO₂, including engines using new energy-efficient technologies, and the conversion of petrol engines. They call on the

Commission and Member States to ensure equal tax conditions at international level and continue to exempt the fishing industry from fuel taxation.

Given the current extraordinary inflation of fuel prices, Members propose that extraordinary measures could be envisaged by the Member States to provide aid to the small-scale, coastal and artisanal fisheries segment for the expected rising production costs.

In addition, the resolution calls for:

- allocating funds for investments in the small-scale coastal fleet under the Recovery and Resilience Facility with the aim of helping fishers and operators carrying out ancillary work, who are mainly women, such as net menders, shore-based assistants and packagers, and workers;
- providing specific support under the EMFAF for the small-scale fisheries sector for the installation of storage, freezing and refrigeration facilities and for maintaining the cold chain from the vessel to the final consumer.

Parliament believes that the support granted by Member States in the context of the implementation of the EAGF should be mobilised to address structural deficiencies with a view to helping to increase fisheries incomes, promote employment with rights in the sector and ensure fair prices for producers.

Members stressed the need to:

- implement measures to streamline procedures for accessing EMFAF thereby reducing the administrative burden associated with applications;
- renew and modernise the small-scale fleet with a view to improving safety and living conditions on board vessels, improving their energy efficiency and making this segment more environmentally friendly;
- ensuring a regulatory environment that strengthens the position of fishers in the supply chain and provides investment in the long-term viability, stability and economic competitiveness of the sector.

The resolution pointed out the need for economic and social protection during non-fishing periods and in the event of disasters that hamper activities. There is a need for mechanisms providing for wage compensation for lost earnings during such periods.

For generational renewal, the sector should put in place attractive conditions for young people and women.

Transparency				
PIMENTA LOPES João	Rapporteur	PECH	09/12/2021	WWF
D'AMATO Rosa	Shadow rapporteur	PECH	23/11/2021	WWF European Policy Programme
PIMENTA LOPES João	Rapporteur	PECH	18/11/2021	European Commission - DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
PIMENTA LOPES João	Rapporteur	PECH	27/07/2021	FAO
PIMENTA LOPES João	Rapporteur	PECH	13/07/2021	WWF