



## **SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT**

(December 2023-May 2024)

Report of activities developed during the semester

### **Action 1**

**Harvest and Management strategy-FIP tasks and Interaction with ICCAT**

## **Action 1**

### **Harvest and Management strategy-FIP tasks and Interaction with ICCAT (and other fisheries related institutions).**

#### **Main tasks/achievements/progress**

- > Updated control measures in the ICCAT area and Bluefin tuna management plan. 29.11.2023
- > Integration of OPNAPA in "Interfish-España": the four OPPs forming FIPBLUES totally integrated in a single sectorial association for long-line fleet. 20.12.2023
- > EU adopts the "EU Action Plan: protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries". 18.01.2024
- > Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257: Fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and for EU fishing vessels in EU waters and certain non-EU waters. 11.1.2024
- > Attendance to "Fish-X: Modernising EU Fishing Vessels with Digital Tools". 26.01.2024
- > Participation in the first meeting of the year of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council) in Brussels. 30-31.01.2024.
- > High level meeting with the Secretary General of Fisheries of the Spanish SGP (General Secretariat for Fisheries- Directorate General for Sustainable fisheries- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) to deal with the management of the blue shark fishery. 20.02.2024
- > Update/adoption of measures for the EU fleets operating in ICCAT area. 26.02.2024
- > Proactive role in the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) on tuna and tuna like stocks and RFMOs. "Working Group 1: Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and RFMOs (ICCAT).05-07.03.2024
- > Attendance to the fisheries webinar on "Protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the EU" 06.03.2024
- > Participation and Presentation delivered in the 2024 second Meeting of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council). 02-03.04.2024.
- > TV report on ORPAGU and long line fisheries items, plus an interview to the president of this OPP
- > Meeting of FIP Blues organizations (OPPs) with researchers from AZTI to discuss the challenges of the fishery and analyse potential technical collaboration with the fleet
- > New progress in the management of blue shark fishery: establishment of an equitable distribution of the Spanish quote in ICCAT among the fleet to avoid "Olympic fishing".

### **Activity/task/achievement:**

Updated control measures in the ICCAT area and bluefin tuna management plan

### **Subject & Aim**

The Fisheries Commission of the EP approved the update of the control measures in the ICCAT area.

Main measures related to the FIPBLUES fleet are:

- Capacity limits: each state member should draft their annual plan by 31 of January 2024 indicating their management measures for the seine and long line fleet.
- Deadline for communication of catches of tropical tunas each three months: 15 April, 15 July, 15 October, and before the 15 January of the following year.
- Rule for readjusting of quotes limits no used or overused.
- Member States will also need to set up data collection programmes to ensure accurate reporting of catch, effort, size and discard data for billfish and sharks to ICCAT.
- The control sheets will be sent to the Commission, including information on the actions taken at national level in terms of catch monitoring, conservation and management of these species.
- Rules for release of shortfin mako shark.
- Communication of permitted landings of South Atlantic shortfin mako shark each month within 15 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
- EU countries must report annually to the Commission on SMA discards (dead/alive) and total catches.
- Reduce/avoid interactions with sea turtles and the correspondent guidelines for safe sea turtle handling and release practices.

### **Results/Outcome**

- More control and regulations from the UE to reinforce ICCAT management regulations.
- Progress of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
- Technical and administrative regulations which increase fisheries control, transparency and monitoring.
- More legal security for fishing operators.

### **Participants/key players**

EU member states

- Fishing operators, OPPs, ministry for fisheries affairs, etc.

### **Date**

29.11.2023

### **Documents of proof/Evidences**

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231127IPR15432/updated-control-measures-in-the-iccat-area-and-bluefin-tuna-management-plan>

<https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-77919-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Pesca>

### Activity/task/achievement:

Integration of OPNAPA in “Interfish-España”: the four OPPs forming FIPBLUES totally integrated in a single sectorial association for long-line fleet.

### Subject & Aim

INTERFISH is a Spanish association representing the fish value chain companies (fishing industry, fish processors and fish marketers).

The four OPPs from FIP Blues are gathered now in this association, being one of its aims working in social responsibility, resources efficient managing to guarantee the economic, social and environmental sustainability. Therefore, the total integration in a single sectorial association of the long-line fleet is achieved.



### Results/Outcome

-Relevant agreement of these four organizations of the long-line fleet from Galicia (Spain) into an interprofessional association to optimise efforts.

-Common objective to jointly progress in sustainable fisheries, production and commercialization, the necessary R+D+i in all production and commercial processes and the defence of its interests before public and private entities.

### Participants/key players

EU member states

-Fishing operators, OPPs, ministry for fisheries affairs, etc.

### Date

20.12.2023

### Documents of proof/Evidences

<https://interfish.es/interfish-espana-consigue-la-vertebracion-del-sector-pesquero-de-palangre-de-superficie/>

[https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-78177-seccion-Sector\\_Pesquero](https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-78177-seccion-Sector_Pesquero)

### Activity/task/achievement:

EU Action Plan: protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries

### Subject & Aim

European Parliament resolution on the EU Action Plan: protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (2023/2124(INI)).

This text states in the preamble that is urgent to take action to protect marine ecosystems at global and EU level to reverse their decline by tackling all human and natural pressures within our capabilities, supporting the positive recovery of fish stocks, species and their habitats and encouraging scientific studies, research and development, as well as supporting fisheries and techniques that ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, with the full involvement of operators, local authority representatives, civil society and coastal communities, which provide an essential contribution to this global objective. Main topics conspired to act in are:

- Protection of the environment and sustainability
- Consistent approach with existing regulations
- Restoring marine ecosystems
- Marine protected areas (MPA)
- Legal implications of the Commission's action plan
- Socioeconomic aspects and food security
- International action and reciprocity

**Working with the fisheries**, which, among other actions, deals with the following aspects to enhance marine sustainability.

- Supports ongoing efforts to improve the selectivity of fishing techniques and to reduce its environmental impact;
- highlights the positive examples of restoring species stocks in protected areas while maintaining fishing activities;
- highlights the role of fishers as 'guardians of the sea', their commitment to restoring fish stocks and their contribution to the recovery of marine ecosystems;
- Highlights the importance of including all relevant stakeholders, from fishers to civil society representatives, in the decision-making process and implementation of actions that contribute to the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and that can support sustainable and resilient fisheries;

### Results/Outcome

FIPBlues is in line with those challenges and they are being already developed as part of the work plan. So, as part of the EU, this constitutes another progress in transparency and commitment with the sustainability of the fisheries.

Our fishing industry is this way recognised as proactive in sustainability.

### Participants/key players

Members of the EU Parliament

### Date

02.03.2023

### Documents of proof

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0046\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0046_EN.html)

## Activity/task:

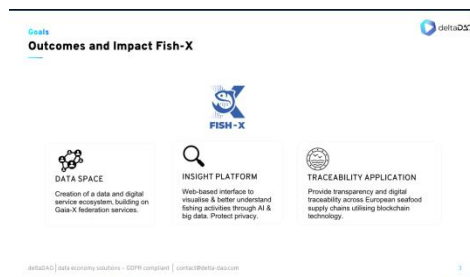
Attendance to "Fish-X: Modernising EU Fishing Vessels with Digital Tools"

## Subject & Aim

Webinar of the Fish-X project held online on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, on the topic of 'Modernising EU Fishing Vessels with Digital Tools'. The three keynote speakers included Rachel Tiller, Chief Scientist at SINTEF Ocean from Norway; Kristaps Gramanis, Head of Fisheries Department, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre; and Kai Meinke, Lead of the Gaia-X Open-Source Software Community, Co-Founder of DeltaDAO AG from Germany.

Topics dealt with:

- Integration of digital tools into fisheries vessels, and how the concept of data-space could support the management of all new data sets generated by these tools.
- Use of "Gaia-X data-spaces": experiences were presented shedding light on potential pathways for enhancing collaboration and innovation within the Gaia-X ecosystem.
- "EveryFish 3D modelling" of fish.
- Digital transition of catch monitoring in European fisheries.



The discussion revolved around how digital tools can redefine and optimise various aspects of fishing operations, from real-time monitoring of fishing activities to data-driven decision-making as well as incorporation of digital tools promises to enhance overall operational efficiency. A common conclusion was that technology contributes to responsible fishing practices and the long-term health of marine ecosystems, ensuring the future of fishing activities.

The aim is to make technology useful for fishers and make their work easy.

## Results/Outcome

First-hand knowledge in relation to the use of new technologies applied to fisheries observation, species analysis, digital-AI identification of species, catch monitoring and, consequently, and the use for sustainable fisheries management.

## Attendees/Participants/key players

Fisheries scientists, technological experts, fisheries departments representatives, fisheries trainers, Software Companies, fishing industry representatives, etc

## Date

26.01.2024

## Documents of proof

Fish-X: Modernising EU Fishing Vessels with Digital Tools

<https://fish-x.eu/events/>

Email of acceptance to the event (see next page)

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Asunto: Event Reminder Today  
Remitente: events@tech.forum  
Destinatario: tecnico@fipblues.com  
Data: 2024-01-26 05:02:17



**Dear Xoán Lueiro**

We would like to remind you that the event you have registered for will take place today.

Please find the link to enter below along with other information.

**Event Name:** Fish-X: Modernising EU Fishing Vessels with Digital Tools  
**Event Date/Time:** January 26, 2024 10:00 AM (CET)

[Click here to Enter Room](#)

- We will send you updates in regards to this Alliance so you can keep up with all the latest events and news.

## Activity/Task/Achievement

Attendance and involvement in the first Meeting of 2024 of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council)

## Subject & Aim

Representatives from ORPAGU and OPP7-Burela participated in the first semester meeting of the MAC in 2024 in Brussels:



[Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules](#) dealing with issues like food fraud, resilience and sustainable of the Agri-Fish-Food Ecosystem in the EU, preparation of the draft advice on EU-level targets for food waste reduction & good practices in the fisheries and aquaculture market, consumer.

[Working Group 2: EU Markets](#) dealing in this case with trade aspects of the market like agreements and policy Instruments, Risks and Vulnerabilities in the EU Food Supply Chain, and IUU Regulation (Catch Documentation Scheme) in the context of the agreement on the legislative revision of the EU fisheries control system (reported in Annual Report 2023).

The EU Regulation establishes a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (the EUIIU Regulation) establishing a prohibition to import fisheries products, unless they comply with a catch certification scheme.

Insofar, catch certificates validated by the exporting country must accompany all seafood consignments exported by non-EU countries to the EU and include a plethora of information such as: catch species, consignment weight, details on the vessel's fishing permissions, and details on when and where the fish was caught, the flag of the catching vessel and if any processing took place. Due to the sometimes geographically remote nature of IUU fishing and consequential difficulties in monitoring and regulating the activities of fishing vessels, import controls are essential measures to prevent illegally-caught seafood from entering the EU market. Under the EU IUU Regulation Member States must submit a report to the European Commission every two years providing detailed information on the application of the EU IUU Regulation and on seafood import controls (biennial reports).

[Working Group 1: EU Production](#), dealing with Sustainability Criteria for Fishery and Aquaculture Products, validation of selected sustainability indicators and underlying methodologies and EU Marine Action Plan.

## Results/Outcome/key players

-Increasing and active presence in this cross-cutting Advisory Council in the EU, which combines our double perspective of fleet and marketers working together for the sustainability.

-Increasing presence on the scenarios where those components of the market and fisheries sustainability are discussed and draft advice submitted to DGMARE.

-To provide the view of the fishing industries of FIPBLUES and collaborate with the AC.

## Attendees/Participants

Juana Parada (ORPAGU) and José Beltrán (OPP7-Burela)

## Date

2024.01.30-31

## Documents of proof-Evidences

The text above also contains the hyperlinks leading to the meeting agenda and documents.



### Activity/Task/Achievement:

Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257: Fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and for EU fishing vessels in EU waters and certain non-EU waters

### Subject & Aim

Adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 fixed for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and for EU fishing vessels in EU waters and certain non-EU waters. This Act introduces amendments to the total allowable catches (TACs) and effort limits, and to the measures functionally linked to them. It set measures that affect the long line fleet of FIPBlues, mainly those referred to no-retention of shark species:

Chapter III, Section 3 sets the “Fishing opportunities managed by regional fisheries management organisations” for the ICCAT Convention area. Article 27 sets:

1. Prohibit to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) caught in any fishery.
2. It shall be prohibited to engage in directed fishery for species of thresher sharks of the *Alopias* genus.
3. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the **Sphyrnidae family** (except *Sphyrna tiburo*) caught in fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.
4. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) caught in any fishery.
5. It shall be prohibited to retain on board silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught in any fishery.
6. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of North Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) caught in fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.

It also sets the TACs applicable to European Union fishing vessels in areas where TACs exist by species and by area ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L\\_202400257](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202400257))

ICCAT Convention area:

- ANNEX ID, ICCAT CONVENTION AREA, Table 1
- ANNEX VI, ICCAT CONVENTION AREA

### Results/Outcome

- Improved sustainable management measures for the EU fleet in ICCAT.
- Progress in ecosystem approach under scientific criteria to fisheries management and improving reporting procedures and control of the activity.
- Technical and administrative measures for fisheries monitoring and transparency.
- This regulation established measures that FIP BLUES fleet has been and is already implementing.

### Participants/key players

European Parliament, Council of the European Union, European Commission

### Date

11/01/2024

### Documents of proof Evidences

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L\\_202400257](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202400257)

## ACTIVITY/TASK

High-level meeting with the Secretary General of Fisheries of the Spanish SGP (General Secretariat for Fisheries-Directorate General for Sustainable fisheries- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) to deal with several affairs about the management of the blue shark fishery.

## Subject & Aim

Meeting with SGP: Representatives from the 4 OPPS forming FIP Blues met in the headquarters of the Ministry in Madrid with the Secretary General, Mrs Isabel Artime and team, to deal with the mid-term management of blue shark (BSH) fisheries

The talks were focused on:

- The situation and management of the fishery of sharks in RFMO (mainly the blue shark fishery in ICCAT). Challenges for the fishery.
- Observers programme and scientific observation for the sustainability of the fishery
- The management of the fishery of blue shark in ICCAT area, TAC and national quotes distribution.
- Criteria for shark species with TAC-Quotes.
- The inclusion of BSH in Appendix II of CITES and the bureaucratic procedures for commercialization.
- Potential collaborative experimental campaigns in improved gears,
- Data: progress in electronic observation and data quality, the importance of a robust data base for the management of species, the relevance of improving the data collection, the progress of the FIP Blues, etc.
- The value and progress of FIP Blues.

The Secretary General also highlighted the benefits of the FIP BLUES and referred to as a good example of collaboration between associations in the fishing sector for the common objective of sustainability of the fishery. It is also worth to mention that Mrs Artime highlighted that since the Observer Programme was established in 2017, the SGP and the industry have been working closely on different scientific tasks, which is already being implemented as a guarantee of the sustainability of the longline fleet gathered in FIP Blues.



## Results/Outcome

- Strengthening relation with the SGP on key topics to improve the sustainability of the fishery.
- Acknowledgement of the work carried out by FIPBlues to improve its performance and standards to improve the sustainability of the fishery.
- Proactive collaboration industry-administration in all managerial, control and scientific aspects of the fishery.

## Participants

- SGP: the Secretary General, Mrs Isabel Artime and her team.
- FIPBLUES OPPs representatives: Juana Parada (ORPAGU), Sergio López (OPP7-Burela), Edelmiro Ulloa (OPNAPA), Juan Martín (OPROMAR).

## Date

20.02.2024

## Documents of proof

- <https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/la-secretaria-general-de-pesca-aborda-la-gesti%C3%B3n-a-medio-plazo-de-la-pesquer%C3%ADa-de-tintorera/tcm:30-675835#prettyPhoto>
- [https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/240220sgpreunionpalangresuperficie\\_tcm30-675839.pdf](https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/240220sgpreunionpalangresuperficie_tcm30-675839.pdf)
- <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia.php?id=78989>

### Activity/Task/Achievement:

Update/adoption of measures for the EU fleets operating in ICCAT area

### Subject & Aim

- Adoption of the new Regulation amending a 2017 text (EU/2017/2107) laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the area covered by the Convention of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the 2023 regulation
- New catch limits established.
- National plans updated by January 2024.
- Member states operating in ICCAT also to report deadline for tropical tunas fishing, for ICCAT control.
- Authorisation and reporting: member states shall issue fishing authorisations to large-scale catching vessels flying their flag to fish North and Southern Atlantic albacore; moreover, South Atlantic albacore catches must be reported to ICCAT by member states
- Specific fishing authorization for EU vessels fishing albacore and swordfish in North Atlantic (and South Atlantic for swordfish).
- Control rule for reallocation of uncompleted fished quote of albacore, swordfish and bigeye tuna in North.
- Data collection for sailfish including discards (dead and alive) in order to support stock assessment.
- Set national data collection programs to guarantee precise report of catches, effort, size and discards (mandatory) of Istiophoridae (marlins) and sharks to ICCAT. Control sheets including national management-conservation measures and monitoring.
- Provisions for the safe handling and recommended release practices for sea turtles and shortfin mako sharks. Reduce interaction with marine turtles.
- Monthly report on authorised landings of shortfin mako of the South Atlantic, plus annual report on dead discards, releases, and total catches.
- Data collection and reporting to ICCAT in the case of certain catches, to help assess the situation of stocks.
- Updated rules for the use and operational handling of vessels monitoring systems.
- Provisions on improving health and safety rules for ICCAT observers for transshipment at sea

### Results/Outcome

- Improved sustainable management of EU fleets in ICCAT.
- Progress in ecosystem approach under scientific criteria to fisheries management and improving reporting procedures and control of the activity.
- Effective control over the use of our valuable marine resources and enforcement of rules.
- Technical and administrative measures for fisheries monitoring and transparency.
- These regulation established measures that FIP BLUES fleet has been and is already implementing.

### Participants/key players

European Parliament, Council of the European Union, European Commission

### Date

26/02/2024

### Documents of proof Evidences

- Approval: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/26/updated-fisheries-measures-in-the-iccat-area-council-gives-final-green-light/>
- The regulation itself is linked above.
- <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-77919-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Pesca>
- [https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-78821-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica\\_de\\_Pesca](https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-78821-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica_de_Pesca)

## Activity/Task/Achievement

Participation and proactive role in the meetings of “Working Group 1: Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and RFMOs (ICCAT) of the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC).

The **Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC)** is an EU fisheries stakeholder body co-funded by the European Commission and recognized by the CFP Regulation (UE) No 1380/2013 as an organization aiming a European Interest. Established in 2004, LDAC is one of the eleven European Union fisheries’ bodies for stakeholders’ participation.

LDAC mission is to provide advice to the European Institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party, or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates, as well as trade policy and international market for fish products. Its main goal is to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources.

## Subject & Aim

This activity is related to FIPBlues Action 1 aiming at increasing presence and involvement with and within institutions and bodies related to ICCAT and other RFMO and deliver the vision from the industry in the numerous discussions taking place.

**33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of LDAC Working Groups: WG1 Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and its RFMOs and WG5 HORIZONTAL ISSUES** The results-conclusions are taken into consideration by EU’s DGMARE (the CCP in ICCAT) to prepare its positions in the ICCAT Commission and SCRS in the annual meetings.

In this first meeting of 2024, specific affairs of interest for FIPBlues were:

### [Working Group 1: Highly Migratory \(Tuna and Tuna-like\) Stocks and its RFMOs](#) (5.03.2024).

6. ICCAT – Atlantic Ocean.
  - 6.1. Report on outcomes of ICCAT 2023 Annual Meeting (Egypt, 13-20 Nov) – DG MARE
  - 6.2. Report on attempts to establish an Inter AC work cooperation for 2024 and beyond.
  - 6.3. Way forward: timeline and allocation of tasks for drafting advice.
7. Conservation and Management Measures on Sharks at Tuna RFMOs.
  - 7.1. Presentation on NGO views and proposals for debate in future advice - Dr. Iris Ziegler
  - 7.2. Longliners' views on conservation and management measures and restrictions on shark trade (by FIPBlues member of a OPP: oral presentation)
- 7.3. Q&A – debate from the floor

### [Working Group 5: Horizontal Issues](#) (6.03.2024).

To follow closely the legislative developments and implementing acts of new EU Control Regulation plus amendments to IUU Regulation regarding implications for distant water fleets including e-CC and CDS, monitoring of transshipments, MoT for tuna PS, EMS and CCTV.

6. Update on EU Revised Fisheries Control Systems
  - 6.1. EU control regulation: specific items of interest for external fishing fleets
  - 6.2. Questions to DG MARE on latest developments on implementation of Catch Documentation Scheme & IT-CATCH in light of revised Fisheries Control and IUU regulations
  - 6.3. Debate from the floor: identification of elements for potential advice



## Results/Outcome

- Increasing iterative involvement of FIP Blues members in EU fisheries advisory council.
- OPPs from FIP Blues provide the views of the industry on conservation and management measures and its involvement with swordfish and blue shark fisheries sustainability.

-Discussions and common conclusions from all stakeholders (industry, authorities, researchers, NGOs) provide the basis for advice to the EU on ICCAT related affairs.

-FIP Blues members continue to consolidate its proactive involvement in fisheries management for and at the same time increasing the visibility of the FIP itself.

#### **Attendees/Participants**

-Representatives of OPNAPA, OPP7Burela and ORPAGU.

-LDAC Secretariat staff, EU-DG Mare technical staff, representatives of other OPPs and fisheries organizations, researchers, public managers, NGOs.

#### **Date**

05-07.03.2024

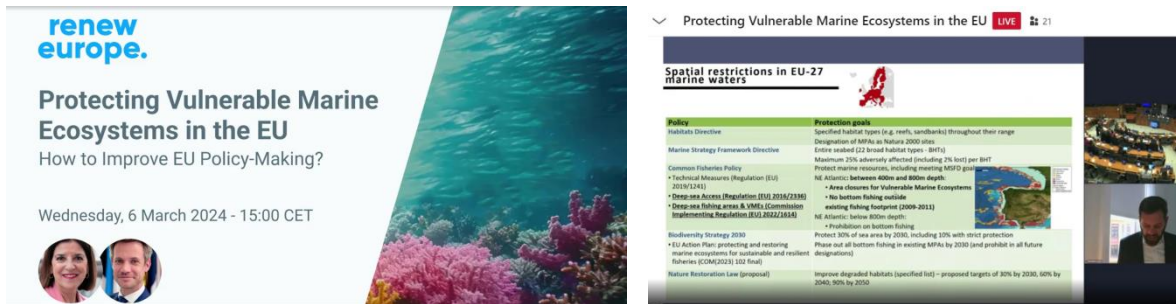
#### **Documents of proof/Evidences**

Hyperlinks to documents above

## Activity/task:

Attendance to the fisheries webinar on "Protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the EU"

## Subject & Aim



The image shows a promotional banner for the webinar "Protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the EU" on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 15:00 CET. It features the "renew europe." logo and a vibrant underwater scene with pink coral. To the right is a screenshot of the webinar interface, displaying a slide titled "Spatial restrictions in EU-27 marine waters" with a table of policy goals and a map of Europe.

Policy	Protection goals
Habitats Directive	Specified habitat types (e.g. reefs, sandbanks) throughout their range
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Designation of MPAs as Natura 2000 sites
Common Fisheries Policy	Entire seabed (22 broad habitat types - BHTs)
Technical Measures (Regulation (EU) 2019/2481)	Maximum 20% adversity affected (including 2% lost) per BHT
Deep-sea Access (Regulation (EU) 2018/2388)	Protect marine resources, including meeting MSP2020 targets
Deep-sea Fishing areas & VMEs (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2444)	At least 20% of seabed between 400m and 800m depth
Biodiversity Strategy 2030	At least 30% of seabed between 400m depth
EU Action Plan protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (COM(2021) 102 final)	Phase out all bottom fishing in existing MPAs by 2030 (and prohibit in all future designations)
Nature Restoration Law (proposal)	Improve degraded habitats (specified list) - proposed targets of 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040, 90% by 2050

Webinar focused in the relation of fisheries and policy-making to better protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in the EU waters (VME).

VMEs are groups of species, communities or habitats that may be vulnerable to impacts from human activities. Speakers said that by demonstrating a commitment to conservation, the EU has implemented stringent fisheries management tools, but, considering the growing fishery area-closures experienced across European seas and the resulting spatial constraints on fishing grounds, and consider that it is necessary to shape decision-making rooted in the best available science, including comprehensive socio-economic analysis and active engagement with the sector.

### PROGRAMME

15:00-15:05 Welcome & Introduction // Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, MEP and PECH Coordinator

15:05-15:50 Panel discussion // Moderated by Pierre Karleskind, Chair PECH committee,

#### Scientific Panel

Mr José Manuel González Irusta, IEO // Francois Bastardie, DTU Aqua

"Examine the socioeconomic effects of safeguarding Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the EU alongside enhancing scientific processes and stakeholder involvement"

Prof. Gonzalo Rodríguez, Coordinator of the fishing economics and natural resources research group at the University of Santiago de Compostela

#### Stakeholder Panel

Mr Matthew Gianni, Co-founder, political and policy advisor, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Mr Iván López van der Veen, President of EBFA

15:50-16:00 Moderate Discussion

Reaction from European Commission, Fabrizio Donatella, DG MARE Director

16:00-16:25 Q&A discussion with participants

16:25-16:30 Closing remarks

The event with policymakers, and key stakeholders from the sector and from academia, was organized in the context of the recent discussion in the European Parliament on the determination and closure of certain marine areas to fisheries. The industry and members of the EU parliament fisheries commission expressed its commitment with sustainable fishing and seafood production while minimising the impact on the marine ecosystems.

### Results/Outcome

First-hand knowledge of relevant discussions on planning of Marine Ecosystems in EU and impact on fisheries.

Scientific-technical explanations on how the different fishing metiers may affect those VME from scientists from IEO, AZTI and DIU.

Advices in sustainable fisheries management by scientists.

### Attendees/Participants/key players

DG MARE Director, fisheries scientists, university researchers, fishing sector, policy makers, members of the EU Parliament, etc

**Date**

06.03.2024

**Documents of proof**

<https://www.linkedin.com/events/7170078184665784320/comments/>

<https://www.reneweuropegroup.eu/events/2024-02-20/protecting-vulnerable-marine-ecosystems-in-the-eu-how-to-improve-eu-policy-making>

## Activity/Task/Achievement

Participation and presentation on FIP Blues in 2024 second Meeting of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council)

## Subject & Aim

Representatives from the OPPs participated in

### “Working Group 1”

Draft Minutes Working Group 1 - 31.01.2024

WG1 Chair - Presentation - 03.04.2024

STECF - Presentation - Sustainability Indicators for Fishery Products - 03.04.2024

### “Working Group 2”:

DG MARE - Presentation - New Traceability Rules - 02.04.2024

Ecorys - Presentation - Risks and Vulnerabilities of EU Food Supply Chain - 02.04.2024

Outlaw Ocean Project - Presentation - China - 02.04.2024

“Working Group 3”: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules” and exposed the progress of FIP Blues to the MAC members.

DG SANTE - Presentation - Ban of Bisphenol A - 02.04.2024

DG ENV - Presentation - PEFCR Fish Products - 02.04.2024

DG MARE - Presentation - EU Aquaculture Campaign & TasteTheOcean - 02.04.2024

[FIP Blues – Presentation of the progress of the FIP - 02.04.2024](#)

See Minutes of the Meeting (pages 14-16).



## Results/Outcome/key players

-Increased and proactive presence in this cross-cutting Advisory Council of the EU, which combines our double perspective of fleet and marketers/producers (ANECTEAM) working together for the sustainability.

-Constant presence in the scenarios where those components of the market and fisheries sustainability are discussed and draft advice submitted to DGMARE.

-To provide the view of the fishing industries and the value chain of FIPBLUES and collaborate with the AC.

## Attendees/Participants

Juana Parada (ORPAGU), Sergio López (OPP7-Burela), Xoán Lueiro (FIP technician),

## Date

2024.04.02-03

## Documents of proof-Evidences

The text above contains the hyperlinks to the Meeting agenda and Minutes.



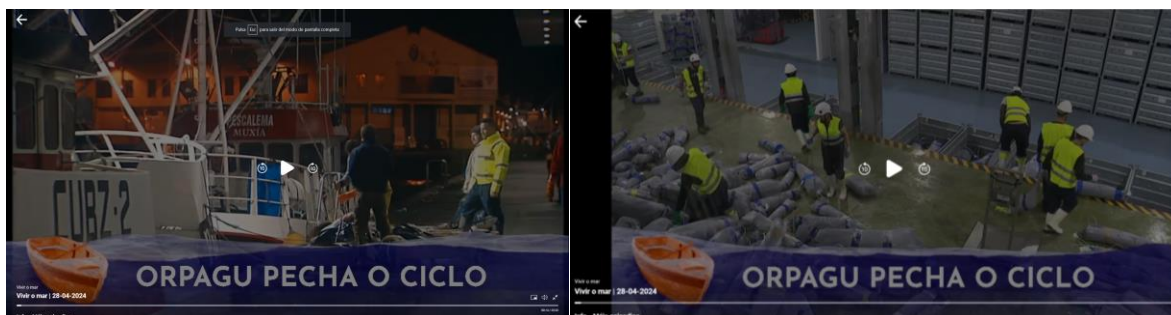
## ACTIVITY/TASK

TV report on ORPAGU and long line fisheries items, plus an interview to the president of this OPP

OPP: Organización de Productores Pesqueros (Fisheries' Producer Organisation), as named in EU.

## Subject & Aim

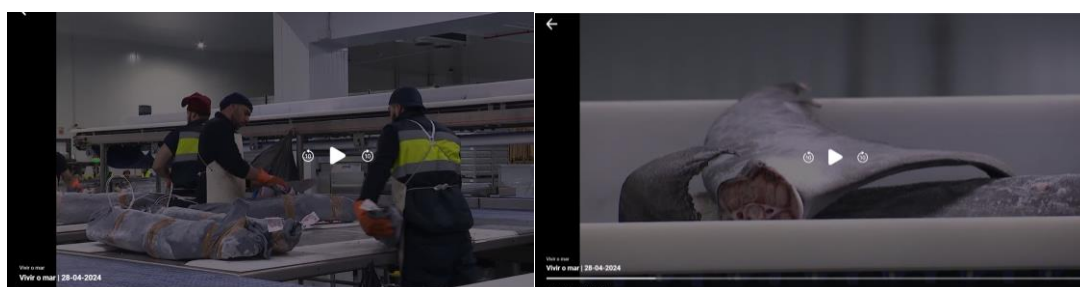
“Vivir o Mar” is a TV program broadcasted by the RTVG (Radio Televisión de Galicia), the public Galician Television channel. “Vivir o mar” is a specialized program on fisheries and the fishing industry aiming at showing and analysing the development and challenges of the sustainable exploitation of the sea resources. In this chapter the new facility the OPP has built for the storage and fish processing of their catches is shown. The report shows the handling and processing of swordfish and blue shark according to the regulations, in which it can be observed the shark enter the factory with the fins attached to the body and then is cut to prepare the fish product. This way the industry shows the total compliance with the rules and regulations on the matter.



In addition, the program makes an interview to Joaquín Cadilla, the president of ORPAGU, who speaks about the challenges the fishing companies are facing in accordance to their commitment with fisheries sustainability as well as the economic affairs of the OPP.



He also explained this fleet did not and does not make finning, and the good practices of the fishers and transformers. He gives an explanation on how the issue of finning raised in the world of some fisheries, which was not the case of this fleet, which always fished for the whole body and not for the fin, alike of other less or no regulated fleet operating in international waters. He also reflects on fisheries management, ICCAT stock assessments, regulations, fair level playing field in international fisheries and markets, compliance with management and regulation frameworks, etc.



### Results/Outcome/key players

- Outreach of the fishing industry and its firm commitment with the sustainability of the fishery.
- A new intervention in the media meaning increased transparency and showing the traceability of their products. *In situ* evidence of FIP Blues fleets complies with legislation and do not do “finning”. Fins are removed only in the factory when processing the fish.
- The socio-economic relevance of this fishery at local coastal communities in Galicia.
- The view of the industry is spread to a relatively high share of audience.

### Participants

Joaquín Cadilla, president of ORPAGU.

ORPAGU factory staff.

“Vivir o Mar” technical staff (Program of the public company TVG (Televisión de Galicia))

### Date

28.04.2024

### Documents of proof/Evidences

See TV report, from minute 00:30-13:35, on <https://www.agalega.gal/videos/139495-vivir-o-mar-28-04-2024/>

## ACTIVITY/TASK

Meeting of FIP Blues organizations (OPPs) with researchers from AZTI to discuss the challenges of the fishery and analyse potential technical collaboration with the fleet

## Subject & Aim

[AZTI](#) is a research centre in fisheries, marine environment and food technology that develops fisheries research provides cutting-edge and value-added products and technologies grounded in sound science and research.

Technical meeting of the members of the coordination board of FIP BLUES (fishing organizations representatives) with fisheries researchers in order to present current advances in sustainability of the fishery, progress made by the fleet and FIP Blues, fishing management issues in RFMO, technical advances for field research and sharks ecology and potential actions in common, challenges of the fishery, etc. Attendee discussed current topics concerning the management of blue shark and swordfish fisheries as: the integration of fishers knowledge and scientific bases in stock assessment, potential management recommendations, the situation of short fin mako in the Atlantic, the need for more data to make the best decisions for the fishery, progress in electronic tagging, devices, etc.



Talks revolved around the scientific study AZTI is currently performing to increase the knowledge of the ecology of blue shark and short fin mako in the Bay of Biscay (North East Atlantic, West European coast) as part of the northern stocks of both species. The general objective of that study is to characterise the dynamics and migration patterns of blue shark and short fin mako in that European marine region and identify areas of interaction (incidental catches of other local fleets) to develop management measures leading to a reduction in fishing mortality of these species. As for FIP Blues, they explained the good practices set by the fleet in order to safe release of non-target sharks (all, except blue shark) to allow survival of those by-catches, fishing strategies, the collaboration with researchers of the IEO and other institutions, etc. AZTI and FIP went through possible research activities on sharks to develop jointly in the next months: co-design a sampling and biological data collection strategy, collection of spatial data and habitat modelling on fishing areas and gears, identification of areas of overlap with the species of interest, creation of a photo-identification and aerial observation database, participate in pilot tagging, dissemination of results in working groups and international congresses, etc.

## Results/Outcome

Increased interaction with researchers

Exploration of collaboration with AZTI technical/scientific campaigns

The view and the know-how of the sector are increasingly taken into account to integrate in studies.

## Participants/key players

Members of the FIP Blues board

AZTI researchers

Marine Instruments co. technical staff

## Date

14.04.2024

## Documents of proof-Evidences

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/organizaci%C3%B3n-de-palangeros-guardeses-orpagu-926658160/recent-activity/all/>

## ACTIVITY/TASK

New progress in the management of blue shark fishery: talks for setting an equitable distribution of the Spanish quote in ICCAT among the fleet to avoid “Olympic fisheries”.

## Subject & Aim

As a result of the talks between the SGP (General Secretariat for Fisheries-Directorate General for Sustainable fisheries- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and the industry represented by the 4 OPPs, a new system of quote allocation for Spanish fleet is going to be set in 2025.

The SGP launched a consult to the industry on a modification of the decree that regulates the activity in national fishing grounds to collect opinions on how the quota blue shark should be managed to prevent an “olympic fishing” in order to prevent depletion of the tonnes allocated to Spain by ICCAT before the end of the year. According to the proposal BSH quote would be equitably apportioned among the vessels of the 4 OPPs. This way, by setting an equitable distribution of the Spanish quote for vessels operating in ICCAT managers prevent potential “olympic fisheries”, ensure a better management and planning of the fishery. This will benefit the fishery itself and the fishers as they can plan the fishing effort for the whole year in the whole Atlantic Ocean. By adopting this measure, the fishing effort is more distributed spatially, achieving a broad distribution and so geographically less concentrated.

This means another step forwards in the sustainable management of the fishery in accordance with the results of the assessment of the stock.

## Results/Outcome

More fair distribution of the quote among partners and clarification of the fishing plan for each vessel owner for the coming years.

As a result of this, there will be less pressure on the stock in some specific zones.

Fruitful collaboration between the public manager authority and the industry resulting in an improved management strategy at national level.

## Participants

-SGP-DG for Sustainable Fisheries and RFMO.

-FIPBLUES' OPPs: ORPAGU, OPP7-Burela, OPNAPA, OPROMAR.

## Date

15.05.2024

## Documents of proof

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/somosmar/2024/05/14/agricultura-quiere-repartir-cuota-quenlla-evitar-pesca-olimpica/00031715705605011511986.htm>

[https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2024/05/15/pesca-repartira-cuotas-tintorera-atlantico-102374647.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR0oHmiS85ge82PrL7TzZy1GCj\\_nA\\_AAarXaaLPKhZPEkH1fs3Mwj\\_rNea8k\\_aem\\_AccyLKn\\_r-ydCnZj0Hyj\\_WurR9lioOPABkTdvrr0ovz9O1dxNQeR25BQuFUgB67KyOm9\\_OmvfiSz-2eSH4yj2ycyA](https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2024/05/15/pesca-repartira-cuotas-tintorera-atlantico-102374647.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR0oHmiS85ge82PrL7TzZy1GCj_nA_AAarXaaLPKhZPEkH1fs3Mwj_rNea8k_aem_AccyLKn_r-ydCnZj0Hyj_WurR9lioOPABkTdvrr0ovz9O1dxNQeR25BQuFUgB67KyOm9_OmvfiSz-2eSH4yj2ycyA)