



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

(November 2024)

(Sub) Report of activities developed during the Second semester

Action 1:

Interaction with ICCAT to improve management and status of the target stocks (swordfish and blue shark) via collaboration with SGP-MAPA and DG MARE

Action 1

Summary

In the second quarter the following activities:

- Attendance to several ICCAT technical meetings (June-November 2024).
- Special issue on the long line fishing industry produced by the specialized publication *Industrias Pesqueras*.
- Participation in the key event in the framework of the European Commission's impact assessment consultation "*Improving the protection of sharks through sustainable fisheries and trade*".

FIP Blues members attended various ICCAT meetings in relation to the species of your interest swordfish, blue shark and shortfin mako shark. To the SCRS Swordfish Working Group Panel 4 as they presented the final results of the North Atlantic swordfish management strategy evaluation (MSE). With the intention to facilitate discussions and decision-making for adoption of a management procedure (MP) at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission in November 2024. The SCRS Swordfish Species Group has worked collaboratively to develop and test several CMPs. Three CMP types remain, as agreed by Panel 4 in October 2024. MCC9 and MCC11 are modified versions of the MCC CMPs developed in 2023, updated to include more steps to improve performance relative to the new combined index. ICCAT Commission in November has adopted new TACs for North Atlantic swordfish, setting a TAC of 14,769 t for the period 2025-2027 ([ICCAT Rec 2024-10](#)). These unprecedented measures, the result of extensive collaboration between scientists, managers and stakeholders, should ensure long-term sustainable and profitable fisheries for these stocks. The ICCAT roadmap for MSE was updated, which now includes the new MSE processes starting in 2025 for North and South Atlantic blue shark. As for the Shortfin Mako shark, there is good news as several meetings will be held in 2025 and FIP Blues members will be present.

In September 2024, as usual every year, "*Industrias Pesqueras*" magazine takes the opportunity of a Special Longline Fleet to carry out an in-depth review of the current situation of this segment in which the FIP Blues members participate. In "A fleet on the brink", we discuss with all the longline OPPs (Orpago, Opanapa, Opromar and Burela), as well as with shipowners and marketers, the delicate moment the sector is going through after a summer in which all the alerts have been triggered by the historic fall in the price of swordfish.

On July 9, 2024, with the aim of responding to the [European Citizens initiative "Stop Finning -Stop the Trade"](#) advocating for a ban on the trade of shark fins inside and outside the EU, a delegation from DG Mare visited Vigo to meet and learn about the reality of surface longliners. Representatives of the FIP Blues fisheries improvement project actively participated in the meeting organized by the European Commission in Vigo, at the headquarters of the European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA, where the Stop Finning-Stop the Trade citizens' initiative was discussed. During the four-hour event, attendees explored the environmental, social, and economic impacts of proposed EU measures to enhance shark protection. Topics ranged from enforcing current fishing regulations to introducing sustainability certifications, bilateral agreements, and a potential EU-wide ban on the import and export of detached shark fins. The fishing industry maintained that current practices are "fully sustainable".

ACTIVITY/TASK/ACHIEVEMENT

Attendance to several ICCAT technical meetings (June-November 2024).

Subject & Aim

In accordance with our aim of increasing presence and participation in ICCAT meetings, FIP Blues members attended, as part of the EU delegation (CPC in ICCAT) several meetings of the Working groups, SCRS, Panel 4 intersessions and plenary of the Commission meetings.

Although this fact sheet is reported in Action 1, it is a crosscutting task that feeds all actions of FIP Blues, as explained in previous Reports.

During this semester meetings of high relevance for the Principle 1 indicators have taken place. The results and scientific conclusions of those were the base for the final decisions adopted in the plenary of the Commission in November 2024.

FIP Blues have attended the following meetings during this semester:

- > INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE) (*Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 6-9 May 2023*).
- > ATLANTIC BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (*Hybrid/Madrid (Spain) 17-21 June 2024*).
- > SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP MEETING (*hybrid/Madrid (Spain), 17-18 September 2024*).
- > MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS) (*hybrid/Madrid (Spain), 23 - 27 September 2024*).
- > AMBASSADORS WEBINAR ON NORTHERN ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE (SWO-N MSE) (*online, 4 October 2024*) Spanish - 15:00-16:00 Madrid time
- > PANEL 4 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4 ON NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE (*Online, 8 October 2024*).
- > ICCAT THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (*9-10 November 2024*) AND 24th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (*11-18 November 2024*)

Results/Outcome

- FIP BLUES continues to be present in those discussions and gaining first-hand knowledge of the topics that are directly related to the development of the FIP actions.
- Increasing presence with ICCAT (WGs, SCRS and Commission) by attending the most relevant meetings for the fishery and increasing interaction with ICCAT (through SGP and DGMARE).
- ICCAT has adopted implementing new Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs) for northern Atlantic swordfish.
- The ICCAT roadmap for MSE was updated, which now includes the new MSE process to start in 2025 northern and southern Atlantic blue shark.

Attendees/Participants/key players

- FIP Blues members and technical staff.
- ICCAT staff, SCRS scientists, Delegations from CPC (Contracting Parties), fisheries managers, fishing industry representatives, NGOs.
-

Date

See the list of meetings above.

Documents of proof-Evidences

- [Report](#) of the 2024 Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE) (*hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 6–9 May 2024*). FIP Blues attendees are listed on page 27 of the “List of Participants”: Aintzina Oihenarte.

Webinar host invited you to be panelist for INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)

Technical staff <no-reply@zoom.us>
Para Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga

Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.

invite.ics
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Traducir mensaje a: Español No traducir nunca del: Inglés Preferencias de traducción



Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
Webinar host invited you to be panelist for INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE).

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)

Date & Time	Every day, 5 occurrence(s)
May 6, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
May 7, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
May 8, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
May 9, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
May 10, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	

Webinar ID: 848 4311 3986
Participant ID: 346915
Passcode: 858299

Description: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)
Topic: Interseasonal meeting of Swordfish Species Group (including MSE) / Réunion interseasonale du Groupe d'espèces sur l'espadon (incluant la MSE) / Reunión interseasonal del Grupo de especies de pez espada (incluye la MSE)
Date and time: 6 - 10 May 2024, 9:00 to 18:00 hours (Madrid time), with two 30-minute breaks, one at 10:30 and the other at 16:00, plus a break for lunch between 13:00-14:30.
Files: <https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/js/FIzbd4MsGXc8W5a>
PASSWORD: p8m9NakC7x
Duration: 09:00, if work cannot be completed on a given day, the meeting may be extended another 30 minutes.

- [Report](#) of the ICCAT 2024 Atlantic Blue Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting (hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 17-21 June 2024). FIP Blues attendees are listed on page 62 of the “List of Participants”: Estíbaliz Martinez de Lagos Guevara, Aintzina Oihenarte.

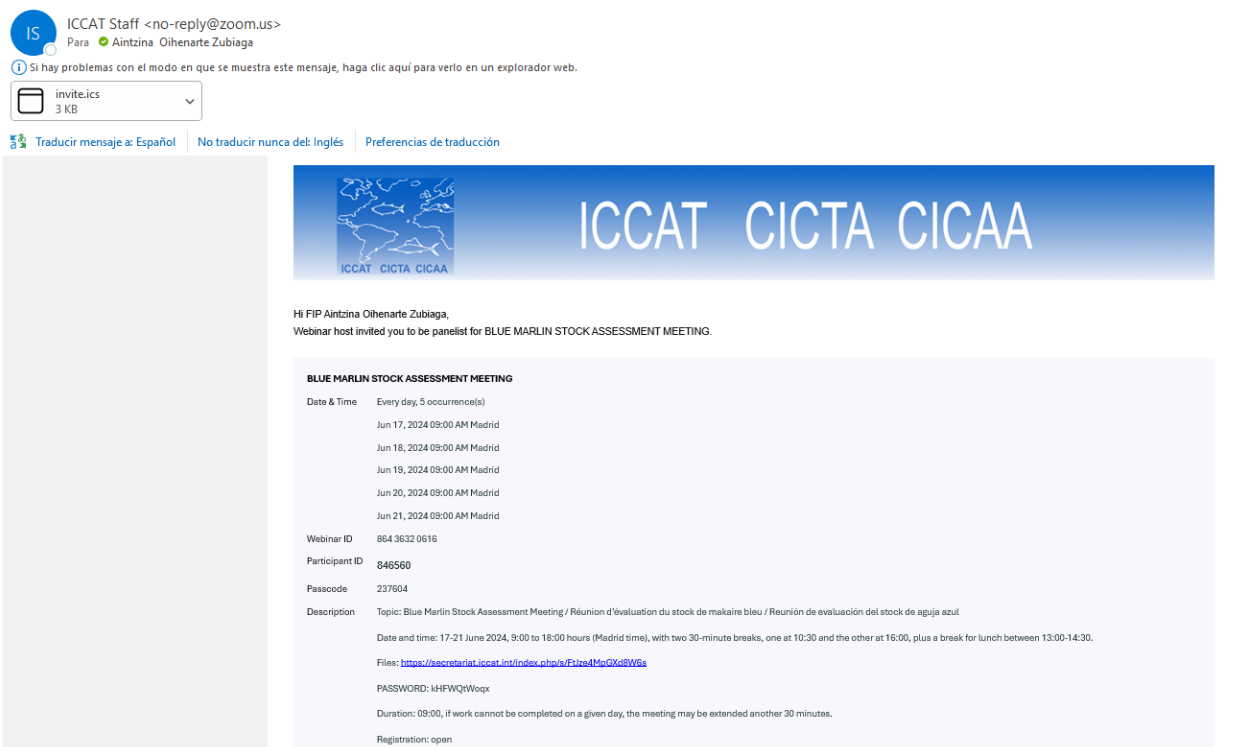
Webinar host invited you to be panelist for BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

ICCAT Staff <no-reply@zoom.us>
Para Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga

Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.

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Traducir mensaje a: Español No traducir nunca del: Inglés Preferencias de traducción



Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
Webinar host invited you to be panelist for BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING.

BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

Date & Time	Every day, 5 occurrence(s)
Jun 17, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
Jun 18, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
Jun 19, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
Jun 20, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	
Jun 21, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid	

Webinar ID: 864 3632 0616
Participant ID: 846560
Passcode: 237604

Description: Topic: Blue Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting / Réunion d'évaluation du stock de makaira bleu / Reunión de evaluación del stock de aguja azul
Date and time: 17-21 June 2024, 9:00 to 18:00 hours (Madrid time), with two 30-minute breaks, one at 10:30 and the other at 16:00, plus a break for lunch between 13:00-14:30.
Files: <https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/js/FIzbd4MsGXc8W5a>
PASSWORD: kHFWQWooqx
Duration: 09:00, if work cannot be completed on a given day, the meeting may be extended another 30 minutes.
Registration: open

- ICCAT Webinar Swordfish Species Group (September 17, Madrid).



Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:

SWORDFISH	
Date & Time	Sep 17, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid
Webinar ID	834 8404 3797
Participant ID	1295005
Passcode	752928
Description	Swordfish Species Group / Groupes d'espèces sur l'espadon / Grupo de especies de Pez espada. Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/LC5LKo7Xr2fDC4r Password: JjqQStYwsJ

- ICCAT Webinar Sharks Species Group (September 18, Madrid).



Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:


SHARKS	
Date & Time	Sep 18, 2024 02:30 PM Madrid
Webinar ID	889 7091 0250
Participant ID	2066080
Passcode	213098
Description	Sharks Species Group / Groupes d'espèces de requins / Grupo de especies de Tiburones. Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/LC5LKo7Xr2fDC4r Password: JjqQStYwsJ

- ICCAT Webinar Billfish Species Group (September 20 and 21, Madrid).

[SPAM] Reminder: BILLFISH starts in 1 day

ORGANIZACIÓN <no-reply@zoom.us>
Para departamentotecnico@fipblues.com

Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.

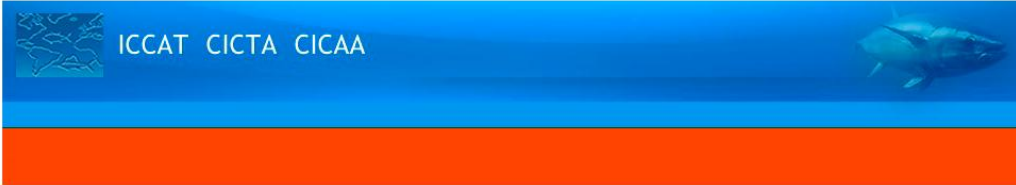


Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:

BILLFISH	
Date & Time	Sep 20, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid
Webinar ID	827 5276 9202
Participant ID	1331848
Passcode	199550
Description	Billfish Species Group / Groupes d'espèces d'istiophoridés / Grupo de especies de peces picudos. Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/LC5LKo7Xr2fDC4r Password: JjQqStYwsJ

Add to: [Google Calendar](#) [Outlook Calendar \(ICS\)](#) [Yahoo Calendar](#)

Tema: Billfish Species Group / Groupes d'espèces d'istiophoridés / Grupo de especies de peces picudos



Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 week:

BILLFISH	
Date & Time	Sep 21, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid
Webinar ID	827 5276 9202
Participant ID	1331848
Passcode	199550
Description	Billfish Species Group / Groupes d'espèces d'istiophoridés / Grupo de especies de peces picudos. Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/LC5LKo7Xr2fDC4r Password: JjQqStYwsJ

- [Report](#) of the MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS) (September 23,24,25,26 and 27, Madrid). FIP Blues attendees are listed on page 354 of the “List of Participants”: Aintzina Oihenarte.

Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Date Time: Sep 23, 2024 09:00 AM Madrid

Every day, until Sep 27, 2024, 5 occurrence(s)
 Sep 23, 2024 09:00 AM
 Sep 24, 2024 09:00 AM
 Sep 25, 2024 09:00 AM
 Sep 26, 2024 09:00 AM
 Sep 27, 2024 09:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
 Daily: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/98592348724?tk=V5DPtKEdzXsPL6WqWYQhTAU9f9FyDpXgou-gSKUjDQcAAAAljPGHbZBN3B8UktPvWtCwFoZTZWfWV6bip3AAAAA&pwd=ymicxb01F7mCuBb1qP6DRcPpCfZTx_1

Topic: MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98592348724?tk=V5DPtKEdzXsPL6WqWYQhTAU9f9FyDpXgou-gSKUjDQcAAAAljPGHbZBN3B8UktPvWtCwFoZTZWfWV6bip3AAAAA&pwd=ymicxb01F7mCuBb1qP6DRcPpCfZTx_1

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.
 Passcode: 801400

Description: Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) / Réunion du Comité Permanent pour la Recherche et les Statistiques (SCRS) / Reunión del Comité permanente de investigación y estadísticas (SCRS).
 Documents/Documents/Documentos: <https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/nQOznjRlNgtAzQg>
 Password: QNPwDDxtt

- AMBASSADORS WEBINAR ON SWO-N MSE October 4, 2024, 15:00-16:00 Madrid time.

Reminder: AMBASSADORS WEBINAR ON SWO-N MSE starts in 1 hour

Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us>
Para departamentotecnico@fipblues.com

Este mensaje se ha respondido o reenviado.
Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.

Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 hour:

AMBASSADORS WEBINAR ON SWO-N MSE	
Date & Time	Oct 4, 2024 01:00 PM Madrid
Webinar ID	958 6969 5395
Participant ID	619003
Passcode	942014
Description	AMBASSADORS WEBINAR ON NORTHERN ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE (SWO-N MSE) (online, 4 October 2024) English - 13:00-14:00 Madrid time French - 14:00-15:00 Madrid time Spanish - 15:00-16:00 Madrid time

Add to: [Google Calendar](#) [Outlook Calendar \(ICS\)](#) [Yahoo Calendar](#)

You can **cancel** your registration at any time.

Please submit any questions to: Ai.kimoto@iccat.int
Thank you!

WAYS TO JOIN THIS WEBINAR

- [Report](#) of the Panel 4 Interessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish MSE (Online, 8 October 2024). FIP Blues attendees are listed on page 9 of the “List of Participants”: Aintzina Oihenarte.

[SPAM] Reminder: PANEL 4 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON NORTHERN ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE starts in 1 day

Organización <no-reply@zoom.us>
Para departamentotecnico@fipblues.com

Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.



ICCAT CICTA CICAA

Hi FIP Aintzina Oihenarte Zubiaga,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:

PANEL 4 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON NORTHERN ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE	
Date & Time	Oct 8, 2024 12:00 PM Madrid
Webinar ID	872 2090 0579
Participant ID	892595
Passcode	890574
Description	Panel 4 Interessional Meeting on Northern Atlantic Swordfish MSE / Réunion interseccion de la Sous-commission 4 sur la MSE pour l'espadon de l'Atlantique Nord / Reunión intersecciones de la Subcomisión 4 sobre la MSE para el pez espada del Atlántico norte. Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/g26onwb5jBjXZbx

Add to: [Google Calendar](#) [Outlook Calendar \(ICS\)](#) [Yahoo Calendar](#)

Documents/Documents/Documentos: <https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/g26onwb5jBjXZbx>

Password: gG2kyJNsYf

You can **cancel** your registration at any time.

- ICCAT THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (9-10 November 2024) AND 24th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (11-18 November 2024). FIP Blues attendees are listed on page 38 of the document GEN-008 “[List of Participants](#)”: Estíbaliz Martínez de Lagos Guevara, Aintzina Oihenarte

Webinar host invited you to be panelist for THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (9-10 November 2024) AND 24th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (11-18 November 2024)

Organización <no-reply@zoom.us>
 Para departamentotecnico@fipblues.com

Responder Responder a todos Reenviar ma 05/11/2024 23:23

Message retransmis el 06/11/2024 04:41.
 Si hay problemas con el modo en que se muestra este mensaje, haga clic aquí para verlo en un explorador web.



H FIP Antònia Oñativela Zubiega
 The host of THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (9-10 November 2024) AND 24th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (11-18 November 2024) has invited you to be a panelist for the webinar.

Thank you!

THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (9-10 November 2024) AND 24th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (11-18 November 2024)

Date & Time: Every day until Nov 18, 2024, 10:00am GMT+0

- Nov 9, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 10, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 11, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 12, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 13, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 14, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 15, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 16, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 17, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia
- Nov 18, 2024 09:00 AM Nicotia

Webinar ID: 816 3038 1564

Participant ID: 2454965

Password: 107111

Description: Third Interseasonal Meeting of Panel 1 (9-10 November 2024) and 24th Special Meeting of the Commission (11-18 November 2024) / Tercera Reunión Inter Sesiones de la Sub-comisión 1 (9-10 noviembre 2024) y 24º Reunión Especializada de la Comisión (11-18 noviembre de 2024) / Troisième réunion inter-séances de la Sous-commission 1 (9-10 novembre de 2024) et la 24^{ème} Réunion Spécialisée de la Commission (11-18 novembre de 2024).

Documento: <https://www.iccat.org/en/2024/index.html#ip>



ACTIVITY/TASK/ACHIEVEMENT

Special issue on the long line fishing industry produced by the specialized publication *Industrias Pesqueras*. Interviews, opinions and article from FIPBLUES members.

Subject & Aim

"Industrias Pesqueras" is a leading magazine dealing with fisheries and fishing industry affairs with national and international scope. The September 2024 edition includes a special "Longline Fleet" section. A summary of the current situation of this fishing gear:

- In "A fleet on the brink", we discuss with all the longline OPPs (Orpagu, Opnapa, Opromar and Burela) FIP Blues members, as well as with shipowners and marketers, the delicate moment the sector is going through after a summer in which all the alerts have been triggered by the historic fall in the price of swordfish.
- There is talk of a management plan that would lead to temporary moorings for the fleet, a measure that still does not generate the necessary consensus.
- Another threat on the horizon is the Stop the Finning - Stop the Trade citizens' initiative, which calls for a ban on shark fins from the EU.



Results/Outcome

- It proposes measures: the reactivation of aid for storage and a definitive commitment to the communication of these species, as a matter of urgency.
- Definitive measure: the sector has put a proposal on the MAPA's table to decommission 35% of the fleet, a total of 45 units.
- The sector warns of the risk of relocation and that third countries, with other standards, would take its place.

Participants

- The magazine staff.
- Technical staff from OPPs FIPBLUES, shipowners and marketers.

Date

September 2024

Documents of proof

[IP en septiembre: radiografía a los retos del palangre; la oportunidad del selenio y todo sobre SMM 2024, en el nuevo número de Industrias Pesqueras](#)

ACTIVITY/TASK/ACHIEVEMENT

Participation in the key event in the framework of the European Commission's impact assessment consultation "Improving the protection of sharks through sustainable fisheries and trade".

Subject & Aim

With the aim of responding to the European Citizens initiative advocating for a ban on the trade of shark fins inside and outside the EU, a delegation from DG Mare visited Vigo to meet and learn about the reality of surface longliners. Representatives of the FIP Blues fisheries improvement project actively participated in the meeting organized by the European Commission in Vigo, at the headquarters of the European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA, where the Stop Finning-Stop the Trade citizens' initiative was discussed.

Among the policy scenarios proposed by DG MARE, the following were discussed:

- Maintain the current status quo with strengthened measures;
- Establish certification for shark imports and exports in the EU;
- Bilateral agreements aimed at securing the commitment of these countries to legal and sustainable supply of shark products;
- Ban the marketing of loose shark fins in the EU.

Results/Outcome

- The lesson learned from the event was that there are still people who remain largely ignorant of the work FIP Blues fleet comply with the appropriate laws and legislations.
- The need to demonstrate what FIP Blues does.

Participants

- Representatives of FIP Blues.
- Organized by the European Commission.
- FIP Blues project promoters, processors, traders.
- NGOs and scientists.
- Authorities.
-

Date

9 July 2024

Documents of proof



