



EU Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 23-24/05/2019, Brussels

Stakeholder conference on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

24 May 2019, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON TARGET 4

2.15 – 3.30 pm, Room JDE 51

BACKGROUND NOTE

TARGET 4: Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources.

Achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) by 2015. Achieve a population age and size distribution indicative of healthy stock, through fisheries management with no significant adverse impacts on other stocks, species and ecosystems, in support of achieving Good Environmental Status by 2020, as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Action 13. Improve the management of fished stocks

13a. Maintain and restore fish stocks to levels that can produce MSY in all areas in which EU fish fleets operate.

13b. Develop and implement under the CFP long-term management plans with harvest control rules based on the MSY approach.

13c. Significantly step up work to collect data to support implementation of MSY. Once this objective is attained, scientific advice will be sought to incorporate ecological considerations in the definition of MSY by 2020.

Action 14. Eliminate adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems

14a. Design measures to gradually eliminate discards, to avoid the by-catch of unwanted species and to preserve vulnerable marine ecosystems in accordance with EU legislation and international obligations.

14b. Support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, including through providing financial incentives through the future financial instruments for fisheries and maritime policy for marine ecosystems, adapting fishing activities and promoting the involvement of the sector in alternative activities, such as ecotourism, monitoring and managing marine biodiversity, and combating marine litter.

2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



2015 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Nearly half of Europe's commercial **fish stocks** remain over-exploited. The situation in the Mediterranean and Black Seas remain very worrying, however the first ever EU multi-annual plan for fish stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea has been agreed. There has also been important progress made with regard to the implementation of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. The CFP and Marine Strategy Framework Directive have, and will, play important roles towards the achievement of '**good environmental status**' of Europe's seas by 2020.

3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 4. This will feed into the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, to be delivered by the end of 2020. The discussion will address progress towards:

- securing sustainable fisheries
- protecting and restoring marine ecosystems.

The discussion will focus on the following key questions:

1. What **successes** can we identify in improving the management of fish stocks and in eliminating adverse impacts on marine species and ecosystems? How has your organisation worked or contributed towards such achievements? What have been key **factors of success**?
2. In your view, what are the **main gaps** and the **most challenging aspects** of implementation, and the likely **root causes** of failure?
3. Have the EU level biodiversity target and other relevant measures and frameworks (EMFF, MSFD, MSP) effectively supported the efforts of stakeholders and authorities to achieve sustainable fisheries?
4. What could have been done better and what are the **lessons learned**?

4. CHAIR AND PANELLISTS

Chair, moderator and rapporteur:

- **Camino Liqueste**, Marine Protection Policy Officer, DG Environment

Panellists:

- Elisa Roller, Head of Unit CFP and Structural Support - Policy Development and Coordination, DG MARE, European Commission
- Iván López, Europeche
- Brian O'Riordan, Executive Secretary, Low Impact Fishers for Europe (LIFE) Platform
- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency
- Alice Belin, Senior Marine Policy Officer, Seas at Risk