



Paris, 7 April 2025

POLITICAL OPINION

on the public consultation launched by the European Commission on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy

- ① The Senate European Affairs Committee,
- ② Having regard to Articles 3, 4, 38 to 44 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- ③ Having regard to the call for contributions with a view to an evaluation launched by the European Commission on 20 June 2024, entitled "Common Fisheries Policy - evaluation", Ares(2024)4456852,
- ④ Having regard to the public consultation launched by the European Commission on 27 January 2025, entitled "Common Fisheries Policy - Evaluation",
- ⑤ Having regard to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom, which was signed on 30 December 2020 and entered into force on 1st May 2021,
- ⑥ Having regard to the World Trade Organisation agreement on fisheries subsidies, adopted at the twelfth Ministerial Conference (CM12) on 17 June 2022,

- ⑦ Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/83 of 25 January 1983 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources,
- ⑧ Having regard to Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive),
- ⑨ Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products,
- ⑩ Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC,
- ⑪ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No° 1006/2008,
- ⑫ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures amending Council Regulations (EC) No° 2019/2006 and (EC) No° 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No° 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No° 894/97, (EC) No° 850/98, (EC) No° 2549/2000, (EC) No° 254/2002, (EC) No° 812/2004 and (EC) No° 2187/2005,

- ⑬ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and establishing the financial rules applicable to these Funds and to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy,
- ⑭ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004,
- ⑮ Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation (EC) No° 1224/2009 and amending Council Regulations (EC) No° 1967/2006 and (EC) No° 1005/2008 and Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2017/2403 and (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control,
- ⑯ Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 11 December 2019 entitled "The European Green Deal", COM(2019) 640 final,
- ⑰ Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 1st June 2022 entitled "Towards more sustainable fisheries in the European Union: state of play and orientations for 2023", COM(2022) 253 final,
- ⑱ Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 21 February 2023 entitled "EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries", COM(2023) 102 final,

- ⑲ Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 21 February 2023 entitled "The Common Fisheries Policy now and in the future: Fisheries and Oceans Pact towards sustainable, science-based, innovative and inclusive fisheries management", COM(2023) 103 final,
- ⑳ Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 18 January 2024 on the state of implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future prospects (2021/2169(INI)),
- ㉑ Having regard to the European Senate Resolution N° 120 (2011-2012) of 3 July 2012 on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy,
- ㉒ Having regard to the political opinion of the Senate's European Affairs Committee of 24 May 2023 on the protection of the French fishing industry and the measures recommended under the "EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries" and the Commission's response of 11 August 2023,
- ㉓ Having regard to European Senate Resolution N° 35 (2024-2025) of 17 January 2025 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention of plastic granulate losses in order to reduce pollution caused by microplastics,
- ㉔ Whereas the European Union and the Member States exercise shared competence in the field of fisheries, with the exception of the conservation of the biological resources of the sea, which falls within the exclusive competence of the Union ;
- ㉕ Whereas the European Union is the world's third largest producer of fisheries and aquaculture products and most of its Member States have access to the sea, but it is also the world's largest importer of fisheries and aquaculture products ;
- ㉖ Considering that France has major maritime assets, with more than 5,000 km of coastline in France and its overseas territories, that it is the third largest producer of fisheries and aquaculture in Europe and that, as such, the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in all their diversity, play an essential role in the dynamism and attractiveness of coastal areas, contributing to their economic and social development, as well to the food sovereignty of France and the European Union

- ②⑦ Considering that the European Union must reduce its dependence on imports from third countries, in particular in order to strengthen the security of food supply chains;
- ②⑧ Considering that the common fisheries policy must pursue a threefold objective: environmental, economic and social ;
- ②⑨ Considering that the Common Fisheries Policy, initiated in 1983, is one of the most integrated policies of the European Union and that its current framework, adopted in December 2013, aims to sustainably exploit fisheries resources, preserve the marine environment, ensure the security of food supply and guarantee a fair standard of living for communities dependent on fishing and aquaculture ;
- ③⑩ Considering the various tools introduced by the 2013 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy aimed at guaranteeing its sustainability objectives, while ensuring its economic and social viability, as well as the approach adopted in favour of regionalisation of decision-making ;
- ③⑪ Whereas the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) contributes to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and supports national and local initiatives to ensure the economic development of the sector, while respecting environmental objectives;
- ③⑫ Considering the efforts made in recent years by French fishermen, scientists and regional and local authorities to promote the recovery of fish stocks and ensure the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture activities, and to adapt the size of the French fishing fleet to Community requirements;
- ③⑬ Considering the consequences of Brexit on the Common Fisheries Policy, which has significantly reduced Community waters, leading to repercussions on the allocation of fishing rights within the European Union and penalising the activity of European fishing vessels, particularly French ;
- ③⑭ Considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's aggression against Ukraine on energy prices, which have had a major impact on the fishing industry, reducing profitability and increasing operating costs, particularly due to high fuel prices;

- ③⑤ Considering the effects of climate change on the fisheries sector, notably through the migration of fish populations and other commercially exploited marine species;
- ③⑥ Considering the initiatives taken by the European Commission to restrict bottom trawling in protected marine areas, as part of its " Action Plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems ", despite the economic and social consequences of such a ban, which would pose a substantial risk to the viability of the French and European fishing industries and would therefore inevitably undermine the Union's food sovereignty;
- ③⑦ Considering the next Oceans Pact, due to be presented by the European Commission in June 2025, which should provide a single reference framework for coordinating all policies relating to the oceans, while strengthening the governance, sustainability and competitiveness of the European blue economy ;
- ③⑧ **On the overall framework of the Common Fisheries Policy and its principles**
- ③⑨ Supports the objectives of the common fisheries policy as set out in the regulation on the common fisheries policy; considers, however, that it is necessary to adopt a global approach to all the texts governing this policy in order to take stock of them and propose a revision ;
- ④⑩ Welcomes the considerable progress achieved under the Common Fisheries Policy in terms of the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the improvement in the state of stocks; consequently, welcomes the overall positive assessment of the Community policy for the fisheries sector as a whole;
- ④① Considers that efforts to ensure the sound management of fish stocks should be continued and that the strategies implemented should be adapted in the light of the most recent scientific data and analyses;
- ④② Observes that the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy has revealed imbalances between the three pillars: environmental, economic and social, and that socio-economic interests and food sovereignty issues have been insufficiently taken into account within this framework;

- ④③ Stresses that the fisheries sector is facing new challenges, such as the effects of climate change, pollution, in particular the accumulation of microplastics in the oceans, competition for maritime space and geopolitical tensions; stresses the need to assess these issues when reviewing the Common Fisheries Policy;
- ④④ Considers that the Common Fisheries Policy must remain a major pillar of Europe's blue economy, while speeding up its adaptation to the challenges of sustainability of fish stocks, socio-economic sustainability of the sector, generational renewal and decarbonisation of fleets; that it must also better protect and develop local fishing industries;
- ④⑤ Calls for the revision of the regulation on the common fisheries policy to be preceded by an in-depth impact study including a detailed analysis of the socio-economic implications for fishing enterprises; notes that the late publication of implementing texts is detrimental to fishing enterprises in terms of the predictability of their activities;
- ④⑥ Calls on the Commission to take better account of the diversification of economic models for fishing activities in the revision of the regulation on the common fisheries policy, in particular by reconsidering the current indicators defining small-scale coastal fishing, in order to take better account of its specific socio-economic characteristics;
- ④⑦ Considers that reducing energy dependence on fossil fuels, and consequently exposure to energy price volatility, must be a priority of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to meet the European Union's environmental and economic challenges;
- ④⑧ Calls on the Commission to take better account of conflicts of use in Europe's maritime space, in particular the installation of offshore wind farms in fishing zones, which may disturb marine ecosystems and reduce the space available for fishing;
- ④⑨ **On the governance of the Common Fisheries Policy**
- ⑤⑩ Welcomes the regionalisation approach adopted under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which allows for more appropriate and decentralised management of fisheries resources;

⑤① Considers it essential to strengthen the regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy and to involve all stakeholders in the fisheries sector in the decision-making process, particularly in drawing up and monitoring multiannual plans, in order to ensure more accurate and appropriate management of marine resources;

⑤② Calls on the Commission to ensure better coordination between European policies and fisheries policy, to take account of the socio-economic impact of environmental regulations and, where necessary, to provide for accompanying measures;

⑤③ **Measures implemented under the Common Fisheries Policy**

⑤④ Notes that stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector deplore the inadequate implementation of the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy, which has not allowed full use to be made of certain flexibilities provided for in the texts, in particular the exemptions applicable to the landing obligation;

⑤⑤ Invites the Commission to review the architecture of the tools of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to strengthen their coherence, better ensure the balance between its three fundamental pillars and respond to the new challenges facing the fisheries sector

⑤⑥ Calls for the maximum sustainable yield to take greater account of mixed European fisheries, incorporate the impact of global warming and strengthen the ecosystem approach;

⑤⑦ Stresses the need to monitor the effects of climate change on fish stocks and their movements; considers that the data collected should be taken into account in the quota allocation system;

⑤⑧ Notes that the landing obligation has not proved to be really effective and that it has a significant impact on the economic profitability of fishing enterprises because of the constraints imposed on them; consequently, calls on the Commission to revise the implementing rules;

⑤⑨ Calls on the Commission to revise the definition of fishing capacity by separating the indicators of power and tonnage, in order to adapt the regulatory framework to the requirements of modernisation and decarbonisation of European fleets;

⑥① Considers it necessary, as part of the revision of the regulation on the common fisheries policy, to simplify certain existing measures, which are considered too complex by professionals and companies in the sector, and to increase operational flexibility ;

⑥② **On the European Fund for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture**

⑥② Calls for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund to be maintained in the next multiannual financial framework and for its scope for intervention to be extended in order to contribute more effectively to the modernisation and decarbonisation of fishing vessels; stresses the importance of strengthening support for research and development (R&D) in the common fisheries policy; hopes that access to pre-financing for projects in the small-scale fisheries sector will be improved by simplifying procedures;

⑥③ Deplores the difficulties encountered by fishermen in the outermost regions in gaining access to aid granted under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), intended for small vessels and the modernisation of their fleets; calls for this fund to be adapted in greater depth to the specific conditions under which fishing activities are carried out in each outermost region;

⑥④ **Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the outermost regions**

⑥⑤ Calls for the regulatory framework of the common fisheries policy to be adapted to take better account of the specific characteristics of the outermost regions (ORs), in accordance with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and to introduce greater flexibility in the implementation of this policy in these territories;

⑥⑥ Considers that this adaptation should recognise the virtuous nature of small-scale fishing as practised in the overseas territories and consider its economic, social and environmental potential, with a view to regional development;

⑥7 Fisheries relations with the United Kingdom and third countries

⑥8 Points out that the review of the Common Fisheries Policy must fully incorporate the consequences of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union in order to guarantee the future of European fisheries;

⑥9 Supports the maintenance of the *status quo* concerning access for European ships to UK waters after the deadline of 30 June 2026; considers that the maintenance of this *status quo* is a condition for the relaunch of relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom ;

70 Calls for consideration to be given, as part of the negotiations on the new Trade and Cooperation Agreement 2026-2030, to revising the current system of annual negotiations on fishing quotas between the European Union and the United Kingdom with a mechanism based on multiannual programming

71 Is concerned about Jersey's unilateral decision to make annual licences for access to fishing zones subject to financial charges from ¹January 2025 ;

72 Calls on the Commission to ensure fair competition between the European Union and third countries in the fisheries sector.