

Brussels, 14 November 2025
(OR. en)

15236/25

PECHE 392

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 17 November 2025 Call for a Revision of the Common Fisheries Policy Information from Spain on behalf of Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain

**AOB Item from Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland,
Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain for
AGRIFISH Council of 17 November 2025**

Call for a Revision of the Common Fisheries Policy

Background Document

Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain take the opportunity of this Council to call for revision of the Common Fisheries policy.

Since its adoption in 2013, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has achieved significant progress in promoting the sustainable management of marine resources across the European Union (EU). Built on the best available scientific advice, the CFP has played a key role in the recovery and long-term conservation of fish stocks, establishing itself as a cornerstone of EU fisheries governance over more than a decade. It has also given EU the framework to exert a needed influence in regional fisheries management organizations that contributed to the improvement of fish stocks at a global scale.

However, several structural shortcomings have emerged that jeopardize the very objectives set for the CFP. These stem largely from an insufficiently coordinated and fragmented regulatory framework — spread across numerous primary and secondary legal acts — that led to increasing legal uncertainty and administrative burdens for stakeholders, while undermining the achievement of CFP targets. As for the latter, for instance, the EU fishing fleet is ageing (with an average vessel age of over 30 years), remains highly dependent on fossil fuels, and struggles to attract new generations and women. Over 70% of seafood consumed in the EU is imported and essential maritime and fisheries infrastructures, such as shipyards, schools and training centers are closing down, threatening thousands of direct and indirect jobs in coastal regions where sometimes up to 20–30% of local economies depend on these activities.

The context in which the CFP operates has become increasingly complex over the past decade. Geopolitical tensions, wars, impacts of climate change, growing competition for maritime space, all recalled in the European Ocean Pact, pose new challenges to the EU fishing sector. These evolving realities demand a policy framework capable of addressing critical issues such as food security and sovereignty, high social and environmental standards. At the same time, the CFP must ensure the survival and well-being of coastal communities, where the fisheries sector is an important economic, social and cultural driver.

A timely and ambitious reform of the CFP is now both urgent and necessary. Only through a renewed, integrated, and future-proof policy can the EU ensure the long-term environmental and socioeconomic viability of its fisheries sector and coastal communities in an increasingly complex and uncertain global landscape.
