

Brussels, 5 December 2025
(OR. en)

16147/25

**Interinstitutional File:
2025/0235 (COD)**

**PECHE 425
CADREFIN 367
FIN 1527
POLMAR 76
CODEC 2044**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 11-12
December 2025
Establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the
Common Fisheries Policy, the European Ocean Pact and of the Union
maritime and aquaculture policy 2028- 2034: state of play
- Information from the Presidency

Conditions for Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy after 2027 – State of Play

I. Work on the proposal during the Danish Presidency

The Commission presented its proposal on the conditions for implementation of the Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, to the European Ocean Pact and of the Union maritime and aquaculture policy on 16 July 2025 (doc. ST 11757/25).

Support for fisheries, the European Ocean Pact, aquaculture and maritime policy is proposed to mainly be provided under the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security (Regulation on National and Regional Partnership (NRP) Plans).

Work on the file during the Danish Presidency focused on clarifying the Commission's suggested new framework and the proposed regulations. The Working Party on Fisheries Policy dealt with the sector-specific proposal, in various meetings in September, October and November 2025.

On 7 October 2025 the Presidency organised a technical meeting with the Commission services to address specific questions on the proposed new structure, amongst others, future funding for fisheries and aquaculture. On 17 November 2025, a technical seminar on the National and Regional Partnership Plans took place as part of the 9th meeting of the Expert Group under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). Mid-November 2025, the Commission provided a comprehensive set of written replies to written questions by delegations.

Fisheries ministers held a policy debate on future funding for the Common Fisheries Policy during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 22 September 2025. Many delegations expressed concern about the conditions for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. During the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 17 November 2025, various delegations informed about the need to ensure adequate support for the aquaculture sector and need for clear and appropriate funding for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy objectives and the European Ocean Pact under any other business.

II. Core issues for further consideration

Whereas most delegations welcomed simplification and flexibility many were at the same time also concerned whether the broad flexibility and few eligibility rules in the proposal could be at the expense of level playing field in the EU and inadequate implementation of core activities of the Common Fisheries Policy.

In general, the delegations called for clear visibility in the regulation of adequate support and priority for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, while also ensuring adequate support for the European Ocean Pact and maritime policy.

Specific concerns raised:

- the obligations under EU law as regards data collection and fisheries control and enforcement was stressed and the need to ensure that those topics were given sufficient attention and funding.
- the EU priority of aquaculture was not sufficiently reflected in the proposal and delegations asked for specific provisions regarding support for innovations and investments in aquaculture and for the fish processing industry.
- all relevant conditions and criteria should be established in the regulation and not in Commission guidelines.
- some of the proposed definitions relevant for the proposal should be revisited, like on small-scale fishing, which was considered too limiting. There were also calls for clearer rules on maximum aid intensities set out in the proposal and to clarify and re-consider the reference to international agreements as well as to the communication on The European Ocean Pact.

More generally, there were demands to add provisions to the proposal to render it more substantive and to ensure coherence between the regulation and other proposed acts, in particular, the Regulation on the National and Regional Partnership Plans.