



CPMR
ATLANTIC ARC
COMMISSION

Atlantic Arc Commission

Atlantic Arc Commission Fisheries & Aquaculture Group Action Plan 2016-2017



Background:

The Atlantic Arc Commission "Fisheries and Aquaculture" working group has been led by Pays de la Loire since 2013 (re-election in 2015). A new executive board was voted into office in Pays de La Loire in December 2015, and so this paper aims to revise the [previous roadmap](#) for the years 2016 and 2017.

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Atlantic regions face many challenges which cannot be met just by the Member States implementing the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Atlantic Regions are keen to participate actively in the technical and political debates within the EU to influence the shaping of the future Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

In this context, the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission member Regions are actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the current CFP. This exchange between member Regions is aimed at producing technical and policy opinions to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of fisheries and aquaculture in the Atlantic.

Over the next two years, the Atlantic Arc Commission fisheries group will be focusing on the following priorities and actions:

PRIORITY I: Defending the interests of the Atlantic Regions among the EU institutions and making influential proposals for the EU legislative framework after 2020

- **Collecting and exchanging information:** the group will monitor the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the Atlantic Arc regions, in particular its socio-economic impacts. The group will foster the exchange of information between regions to support its opinion, in particular the relevance of implementing the multiannual management plans, the obligation to land all catches (pelagic and demersal fisheries), how to achieve the MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield) target, etc. By sharing information and proposals between the group's members Regions, we should be able to reach an Atlantic Arc Commission position (on CFP and EMFF) by the end of 2016.
- **Representing interests in Brussels:** The Executive Secretariat and the Group's Chair will draw on the opinions prepared in the technical meetings to influence the debate on the future CFP in Brussels. Discussions between key MEPs, the Commission services and the Member States' Permanent Representations will be organised to convey the opinions and arguments put forward by the Working Group. Feedback will be sent to all the group's members after each major meeting.
- **Cross-cutting approach:** The positions adopted by this group will feed into other actions led by the Atlantic Arc Commission (Atlantic Strategy Working Group in particular) and the CPMR (Fisheries Intercommission Group). Discussions could be held between the groups on the Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive (MSPFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

PRIORITY II: Promoting synergies between territories, professionals and the research community

- Through the organisation of technical meetings, the Group will work to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between regional governments, representatives of professionals from the fishing / aquaculture industry and scientists. These meetings will help to flesh out the Atlantic Arc Commission's positions before they are sent to the EU institutions.
- The group will work more closely with organisations such as the *Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique* (AGLIA), Agrocampus Ouest, the South Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (CCR.S), the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (NWWAC), the Aquaculture Advisory Council, regional and departmental fisheries committees in France, and the Spanish and Portuguese *Cofradías*, etc.

PRIORITY III: Be involved in designing and implementing interregional cooperation projects

The working group will support the preparation of projects or studies at interregional level on various themes, such as:

- Socio-economic impacts related to implementing the CFP, especially with regard to jobs;
- Mobilising EU funds (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, etc.) ;
- Multi-annual management plans (links with the MSY targets, discard ban);
- “Maritime Erasmus”: exchange on European mobility schemes in the field of fisheries and aquaculture;
- Renewal of the fleet;
- Raising awareness on maritime professions and enhancing sea-related careers;
- Improving the selectivity of fishing gear and fishing practices;
- Synergies between fishing gear and the Atlantic marine environments;
- Developing sustainable fish farming practices (seawater and freshwater);
- Developing shellfish and seaweed farming and the environmental issues affecting their productivity;
- The role of women in fishing and aquaculture activities;
- Managing the maritime cultural heritage;
- Access to fish stocks and fishing rights (especially post Brexit);
- Etc.