

EU UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement

Second meeting of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries

Wednesday 27 October 2021 | 14:00 – 16:00 CEST / 13:00 – 15:00 BST

Virtual (EU Host)

Minutes of the meeting

Item 1: Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

The EU, as host, welcomed both delegations to the second meeting of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF). The Parties adopted the provisional agenda for the meeting.

Item 2: Presentation of delegations

The co-chairs introduced their respective delegations (see Annex 1 for the full delegations lists).

Item 3: Exchange of views on developing a work plan for the SCF and its interplay with the upcoming consultations (including development of guidelines on special stocks)

The Parties took note of their shared view that meetings of the SCF could take place at least four times each year, with the work frontloaded in the first nine months in light of annual consultations taking place in the final months of the year.

The Parties noted the list of tasks allocated to the SCF by the TCA as well as the further commitments specified in the Written Record of fisheries consultations between the UK and the EU for 2021. Both Parties underlined the importance of taking forward priority issues, including the development of guidelines on special stocks.

The UK co-chair presented a discussion paper setting out an indicative work plan for the SCF. The EU co-chair took note of the categorisation and indicative timeframes suggested by the UK paper.

The Parties committed to progressing on the tasks assigned to the SCF as efficiently as possible after conclusion of the annual consultations for 2022.

Item 4: Exchange of views on possible thematic configurations of working group

The Parties took note of the UK's suggestions on possible thematic categories for any future working group established under the SCF and noted that the EU is in the process of finalising its mandate on establishing such a working group.

The Parties agreed to engage in discussions once the EU has a mandate, with a view to reaching mutual agreement on the establishment of a working group and its possible thematic configurations. The Parties noted the possibility to use a written procedure to establish the working group, if agreement is reached in good time.

Item 5: Exchange of views on Procedure for the notifications by Parties under Art. 496(3) and lessons learned

The Parties noted that Article 496(3) requires each Party to notify the other of new measures likely to affect the vessels of the other Party before those measures are applied, allowing sufficient time for the other Party to provide comments or seek clarifications. The co-chairs noted that numerous notifications had been exchanged to date and exchanged views on how this process could be improved. The Parties agreed to continue discussions in the coming months with a view to developing a notifications protocol.

Item 6: Timing and preparation by Parties of the next SCF meeting

Both Parties noted that they are entering a busy period with several annual fisheries consultations on the setting of total allowable catches (TACs). The Parties shared the view that the next meeting of the SCF could take place in the first quarter of 2022.

Item 7: Any Other Business (AOB)

The EU raised an AOB point on access to waters. Both Parties welcomed the opportunity to give an overview of the state-of-play on this issue. The Parties reiterated that they will continue to engage in talks on the matter.

Item 8: Closure

*Approved by the Joint Secretariat of
the Specialised Committee on Fisheries*

Annex 1: List of participants in the second meeting of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries

EU delegation (36)

- EU Co-Chair of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- European Commission Officials
- European External Action Service Official
- Delegation of the European Union to the UK Officials
- Representatives of EU Member States

UK delegation (31)

- UK Co-Chair of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- UK Government Officials from DEFRA and Cabinet Office
- UK Government DEFRA Legal Advisors
- Scottish Government Officials
- Northern Ireland Executive Officials
- Welsh Government Officials
- Isle of Man Government Officials
- Government of Jersey Officials
- States of Guernsey Officials
- Marine Management Organisation Officials
- UK Mission to the European Union Officials