

Terms of references

For

A Focus Group to consider a BSAC definition of small-scale vessels and which indicators could be used to establish what share such vessels represent of a Member State's fishing fleet

Objective

In response to the attached letter from the European Commission¹, the Executive Committee decided, on 25 January 2024 in Warsaw, to set up a Focus Group to propose a suitable BSAC definition of small-scale fishing vessels as well as indicators to establish what share such vessels would represent of a Member State's fishing fleet.

As proposed in the Executive Committee, the Focus Group must examine whether it would be appropriate for BSAC to apply the ad-hoc definition used in the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EU) 2021/1139 which defines the concept of "small-scale coastal fishing" as:

"fishing activities carried out by marine and inland fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006."

The Focus Group may also propose an alternative definition based on transparent and objective criteria.

In relation to representation of small-scale fishers, the Focus Group must keep in mind that an organization can have members with vessels of different sizes which could qualify as large-scale as well as small-scale and, in as much, such organizations can represent both large and small-scale fleets.

Constitution

The Focus Group is up in line with the Best Practises, specially point 5.

The Honorary Chair of the BSAC General Assembly chairs this focus group.

Timeline

The Focus Group presents a report with suggestions to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

In all event, the Focus Group Chair will make a progress report at the BASC 2024 ordinary General Assembly.

¹ <https://www.bsac.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/BSAC-Response-Art-4-DR-2015-242.pdf>