



PELAC meeting 17 March 2021

Briefing meeting on climate change and its impacts on pelagic fisheries

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BRIEFING MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON PELAGIC FISHERIES

The meeting was organised by the PELAC Ecosystem Focus Group
Coordinators of the CERES and ClimeFish projects gave presentations on the subject:

- **Information on CERES** - Please visit their website: ceresproject.eu including the synthesis report. You may find some summary information on pages 31 to 35 of the 2020 EU Blue Economy Report.

Observer notes and slides - **Climate Change Risk Analysis:**

- Regions in SE Europe and UK have highest risk to both fleets and communities;
- In other regions, risk is greatest at fleet or community level but considerable differences exist;
- Smallest vessels (less than 6 m) had much higher risk than other size classes (Mediterranean – Croatia, France, Malta and Greece);
- In regions where fleet risks dominate, prioritize increasing fleet efficiency/diversity.

Other observations were related to:

- **Projections of the effects of climate change on stocks are challenging** (e.g. fisheries effects);
- Poleward movements (and to deeper waters) are undeniable. Food web consequences starting to be tested;
- Projections suggest that direct (biological) impacts of climate change in 2050 are weaker than future policy (access) decisions and economic trends (prices are main driver). Direct climate effect is stronger in 2100;
- Some fish will be “climate winners” and some will be “climate losers”. Some dependent human communities are at risk (regional/local approach are needed);
- **Sustainability depends on long-term (2100) climate adaptation planning.**



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- **Information on ClimeFish** - Please visit their website: <https://climefish.eu/>

*Observer notes: the presentation is mainly focused on **Northern EU basins** and change in fish distribution and socio-economic analysis considered herring, mackerel and blue whiting.*

*As **major risks and opportunities related to the scenarios** are reported the following:*

- *Increased complexity in negotiations on allocation of shared stocks;*
- *Overfishing of shared pelagic stocks due to unilaterally set quotas;*
- *Reduced safety at sea due to storminess.*

Take home messages:

- *Change in spatial distribution, biomass, and catches of target species;*
- *Negative effect of overfishing on spawning biomass and total catch;*
- *Socioeconomic analysis indicate reduced profits towards 2050;*
- *Uncertainty and knowledge gaps still very present;*
- *Agreements on quota allocations necessary and suggested.*

*Additional notes: **the risk related to climate change is higher when F is greater than F_{MSY}** ; The negative impact on stocks of the **Adriatic Sea** will be worst than in other basins, because the migration of small pelagics is not allowed by geographical constraints.*

