

Fisheries

What do I need to know before I start?

The Treaty of Rome (1957; Art. 33) extended the idea of common market to agricultural products including fisheries, making it easier for Member States to trade with each other. A European Fisheries Convention was signed in 1964, establishing national sovereignty of coastal states giving it the exclusive right to fish in its territorial seas. The negotiations leading to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) began in 1976 and the policy was put in place in 1983 following long discussions and disagreements among Member States on the way to go forward. The CFP aims to ensure that fishing and aquaculture are sustainable (environmentally, economically and socially) and that a source of healthy food is available for EU citizens alongside a fair standard of living for fishing communities. The Commission's fisheries policies are currently managed by DG MARE, whose aims are to ensure the sustainable use of the ocean's resources, the prosperous future of coastal communities and of the fishing sector, the promotion of maritime policies, and the stimulation of a sustainable blue economy as well as the promotion of ocean governance at international level.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Specifically concerned with European fisheries policy-building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, you will not find a specific section concerned with fisheries but several sub-fonds comprising files relating to fisheries. Since the fonds of the Council of Ministers is organized by year, you need to browse the fonds for each year to access the specific sections (examples of files [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). You might want to search the database directly using words such as "fisheries" and "pêche" and filter the results to limit the search to the Council's fonds and find the relevant files more easily.

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will not find a specific section for fish matters but there are relevant files in several sub-fonds. You will find files concerned with the development of a common fisheries policy in the section for social affairs (example [1](#), [2](#)), for external relations (example [1](#), [2](#)), but also in the sections pertaining to the [Secretariat-General](#) (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and the [Cabinets](#) (example [1](#)). It may also be useful to consult the section related to the [DGVI Agriculture](#) and to the [DGIII Common Market](#).

[European Parliament](#)

For the early years of the European Parliament, you can look into the reports of the [parliamentary working group on fisheries](#) and of the [sub-commission on fisheries](#) and you might also want to look into those of the [parliamentary commission for agriculture](#), considering that fisheries was considered as an agricultural product and might therefore have been discussed in this agricultural commission. For the Parliament's first legislature, you can look into the sub-fonds on the parliamentary commission for agriculture which includes a section comprising the reports of the [parliamentary working group on fisheries](#). For its second legislature, you will find the proceedings and reports of the [parliamentary commission for agriculture, fisheries and food](#), and those of the [parliamentary commission for agriculture, fisheries and rural development](#) for the third legislature.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) and [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994). Various files linked to the annual reports are relevant to the study of the common fisheries policy but consultation is not available to the public due to the 30-year rule governing access ([example](#)).

[European Court of Justice](#)

According to the nature of the ECJ, this fonds includes documents dealing with judicial affairs, namely procedure dossiers and judicial sentences. You might find it interesting to consult some of dossiers dealing with marine issues, such as the cases [141/78](#) and [88/77](#) relating to sea fishing.

[European Investment Bank](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the [annual reports](#) and 'Publications' including the economic studies conducted by the EIB (example for [fisheries](#)).

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

The inventory does not include a special section for fisheries policy but the section ‘Avis’ comprises various documents (reports, articles, and position papers) pertaining to fisheries and the development of a common fisheries policy (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)). Similarly to the Council of Ministers, the inventory of the Committee is organized by year, each includes a special section ‘Avis’ (example for [1975](#)). You might also want to look into the files of the specific section for agricultural affairs as fisheries is also considered as an agricultural product (example for [1977](#)).

2) *Corporate bodies*

[Organisation for European Economic Cooperation \(OEEC\)](#)

The fonds of the OEEC includes several files relating to fisheries in Europe, particularly in relation to trade policies and the establishment of a free trade area (example [1](#), [2](#)).

[European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\)](#)

It can be useful to consult the fonds of the EFTA to understand the development of a common fisheries policy in relation to non-member countries and to study the relationship between the Community and the EFTA in this context. The files from EFTA’s [Committee for External Relations](#) are particularly relevant and the fonds includes various files relating to fish and fishing (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) but since it does not include a specific section, you might want to search the database directly using keywords such as “fisheries” and “pêche” and filter the results to limit the search to the EFTA.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noel](#)

In Noel’s private fonds, you can find a specific section on [fisheries policy](#), but also there could be something in his notes on the European Council and Commission’s meetings, as well as documents relating to the [work of the different DGs](#) during his time as Secretary-General.

[Gordon Adam](#)

In Adam’s fonds, you will find a section dedicated to [maritime affairs](#) and therein specifically to [fisheries](#) which includes files concerning Community legislation in the area of fisheries, which are extremely worthwhile considering the UK’s interest in the fishing industry and its concern with the prospect of losing its fishing rights under European Community legislation.

[François Lamoureux](#)

You may look into the archives of Lamoureux which includes a section pertaining to his work in the [Commission legal service in charge of fisheries affairs](#) from 1980 to 1984.

4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the development of a maritime affairs and fisheries policy at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of maritime affairs and fisheries on a European level.

[Michael Butler](#)

[Garrett Fitzgerald](#)

[Michael O’Kennedy](#)

[Sicco Mansholt](#)

[Michael Franklin](#)

[Edmund Wellenstein](#)

[Eugenio Pino](#)

[Louis Mordrel](#)

[François Benda](#)

[John Pearson](#)

[Ioannis Yennimatas](#)

[Yves-Thibault De Silguy](#)

[Nikolaus Van Der Pas](#)

[John Temple Lang](#)

[Juan Prat y Coll](#)

[Alan Pratley](#)