

**The Fisheries Secretariat is looking to hire a
NGO ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORT OFFICER
to coordinate the work of NGOs in EU fisheries advisory councils**

The Fisheries Secretariat (FishSec) is a Stockholm based organisation that exists to protect and restore marine ecosystem services, working at European and international level. Together with the North Sea Foundation (based in Utrecht, the Netherlands) and Seas at Risk (based in Brussels) we are implementing a project aimed at improving the effectiveness of NGOs in fisheries Advisory Councils through collaboration and additional support.

Background

In Europe, fisheries are managed under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, which puts an increasing emphasis on a regional approach to fisheries management. Policymakers (both in the EU Member States and the European Commission) are obliged to obtain advice on certain management measures from regional fisheries Advisory Councils (ACs), which consist of different groups of stakeholders including fisheries organisations and environmental organisations. ACs have been established in the Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, North Western Waters, South Western Waters, Pelagic stocks and the Long Distant fleet. New ACs are under development for the Black Sea, outermost regions, aquaculture and markets.

As determined by the Common Fisheries Policy, 60 % of the seats on ACs are allotted to representatives of fishermen and the processing and marketing sectors and 40 % to representatives of other interest groups such as environmental organisations and consumer groups. ACs should adopt recommendations by consensus, but where consensus cannot be reached, minority views (often those of environmental NGOs) should be noted.

The strength of the NGO voice and the level of consensus varies from AC to AC, but there is room for improvement in most ACs towards respectful working relationships and consensus between the fisheries sector and other interest groups. Participation in the ACs allows NGOs to identify important policy developments at an early stage and to bring relevant science and innovative solutions to fisheries, leading to better AC advice and recommendations. There is a need to strengthen the voice and efficiency of NGOs in the ACs by sharing technical knowledge, information on topical issues and processes, and developing strategic approaches and solutions in collaboration with the involved NGOs. The NGOs active in the ACs are a diverse group with varying priorities and focus and with different needs for support in their AC work.

Purpose of the job

We are seeking an NGO Advisory Council support officer who is eager to take up the challenge to strengthen the role of NGOs and maximise their impact on the development of EU fisheries policy, by providing targeted support to NGOs working in the European fisheries Advisory Councils.

This is a new role, and while some basic responsibilities are clear, there is an exciting opportunity to shape and influence the direction and scope of the job.

The NGO AC support officer will report to an advisory board consisting of five members from different NGOs active in ACs.

Main responsibilities

Enhance knowledge sharing:

- Prepare and organise an annual meeting of NGOs active in ACs to share experiences and discuss relevant policy topics. Follow through on actions arising from the annual meeting, including the development of joint key policy positions through consultation with and input of NGOs.
- Facilitate technical knowledge sharing and coordinate joint statements on issues that affect NGOs on several ACs. Potentially also draft and edit joint positions and statements, under the guidance of AC members who have particular expertise or interest in issues such as Natura 2000 sites, MSY, marine spatial planning, minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS), the landing obligation or multi-annual management plans.
- Create and manage an online library that contains relevant AC legislation, specific AC statutes and rules, relevant policy legislation on the issues discussed in ACs and a shared online calendar.

Support process improvement:

- Conduct a regular health check on ACs and develop actions to improve the processes and working climate within them, identified e.g. at the annual meeting such as on transparency and representation. Help develop solutions and approaches that can be shared across ACs.
- Facilitate regular communication between NGOs in different ACs and organize recurring meetings (either teleconferences or physical meetings) to share information on procedural and content issues between NGOs in different ACs.
- Outreach to NGOs working in ACs to identify needs for support and coordination and to identify priorities.

Qualification, experience, knowledge

- Higher education in and/or ample experience with fisheries policy and fisheries biology.
- Minimum three years' experience with related projects, experience with an AC an asset.
- Good understanding of the functioning of the EU institutions, regional Member State groups and ACs, and the role of NGOs.
- Good knowledge of the European fisheries sector and related policies.
- Excellent spoken and written English; knowledge of other languages an asset.
- Project management and coordination experience.

Competences

- An extrovert person with excellent communication, networking and negotiation skills.
- A diplomatic character who is culturally and strategically sensitive – i.e. sensitive to the different needs, strategic approaches and cultures of different organisations.
- Strong organisation and coordination skills.
- A proactive self-starter who is able to work independently.
- Demonstrated ability to engage others, and to foster effective and efficient collaboration and communication.
- A strategic thinker who keeps oversight and can prioritise.
- Output oriented and committed to quality of work.
- Flexible.

What we offer

We offer a part-time position (50%) under a one-year contract, with the possibility of renewal, starting as soon as possible. Our offices are based in Stockholm, Utrecht, or Brussels. Other options may also be possible.

How to apply

Send a letter explaining your motivation and how you meet the job requirements, together with a report/blog/website or any other written material relevant to the job and representing well your writing skills, together with your CV to info@fishsec.org

Deadline for applications: 10 January

Interviews will be conducted: 25/26 January in Brussels

Only candidates selected for interview will be contacted. Thank you for your understanding.