

European Fisheries Technology Platform holds the kick off meeting on the 18th of May in Vigo.

On May 18th in the frame of the NAVALIA Exhibition, in Vigo, there will take place the official Kick-off meeting of the European Fisheries Technology Platform (EFTP). This one is an initiative of the European fishing sector set up with the aim to integrate all the relevant stakeholders in the process of research, technological development and innovation, to modernize the fishing activity and to make it more sustainable and long-term competitive.

The importance of the European fishing activity in the international context and of Europe as market for fish and seafood products, give special relevance to the start up of such an initiative. The EFTP will be opened for the participation and involvement of the European catching sector and of other economic activities directly related with fisheries. It will also integrate universities and research organisations and centres, NGOs and all those entities and agents involved in and with interest in the technological progress of the European fishing activities.

Technology Platforms are tools oriented to joint efforts and adopt common positions regarding R&D and Technological Innovation priorities for a given industry or a specific knowledge and/or technological area. They seek, among other things, to approximate further the research activities and policies to market trends and needs.

The complex European fisheries sector is one of those in which the technological gap and the European paradox on R&D become more evident. Europe has a very relevant fisheries business network and socio-economic mass on one hand, and on the other hand, the technical capacity and resources with potential for implementing R&D and Technology Innovation activities in this sector in certain fields is world-class recognised. However, yet public-private collaboration, to make that capability yield greater impact on the competitiveness of the sector, is clearly underdeveloped. The EFTP is established with a vocation of turning this situation putting together and integrating an important critical mass of resources and capabilities ready to be mobilized to turn the European fishing industry in a more competitive and sustainable sector.

For the last year, more than thirty organisations from different European countries have been collaborating and providing their support to design and set up the EFTP and to be ready for holding a public kick off meeting on the 18th May in Vigo.

The aim of the EFTP kick off meeting is to transmit to a wide and relevant audience, how every interested agent can get involved in the establishment of the Platform.

The members of the EFTP Task Force Group, thank the organisers of Navalia and the e-fishing congress, for the opportunity given by fitting the EFTP event in their agendas, and wish a successful response to the call, and also wish to motivate the stakeholders to join the initiative and achieve a good level of representativeness in the short term, as this is one of the key success factors.

Those interested can get more information and register to attend the event at www.eftp.eu