FISH FOR THE FUTURE

BEGINNERS’ GUIDE ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

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For 30 years, the Common Fisheries Policy has failed to end overfishing and discards...

2 OUT OF 3 EU FISH STOCKS ARE OVER FISHED

62% OF EU ATLANTIC STOCKS OVER FISHED

82% OF MEDITERRANEAN STOCKS OVER FISHED

1.7 MILLION TONNES FISH DISCARDED EACH YEAR

equivalent of a quarter of perfectly edible fish caught in the EU (23%) are thrown back dead into the sea

60% THE EU IMPORTS MORE THAN HALF OF THE FISH IT CONSUMES

Despite this Member States have allowed catching fish at levels on average 40% above those recommended by scientists, for the past 10 years...

Member State Catch Levels

40% OVERFISHED
...with disastrous consequences for fishermen, the environment and European consumers alike...

**LANDINGS HAVE DECREASED BY 26% IN TEN YEARS**

Overfishing and discards prevent fish stocks to recover. As a consequence, the average size of fish has steadily declined over the past 20 years.

**OVERFISHING IS DESTROYING BIODIVERSITY**

which affects coastal tourism and costs €865 million per year.

There is still no data available for 65% of EU stocks, despite a requirement on Member States to collect data.

Overfishing led to the loss of over 30% of jobs in the EU catching sector in 10 years.

Consequently, wages of fishing crews are below national average and steadily declining.

**TO DATE, ONLY 22 STOCKS ARE FISHED AT SUSTAINABLE LEVELS**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sustainably Fished</th>
<th>Unsustainably Fished</th>
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<td>1992</td>
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**EU FISHERMEN**

**EU AVERAGE**

Consequently, wages of fishing crews are below national average and steadily declining.
...But we can put an end to the mismanagement of EU fisheries and help the sector prosper...

Rebuilding stocks and maintaining them above 'Maximum Sustainable Yield' from 2015 will result in 80% of stocks reaching sustainable levels by 2020.

If we reach 80% of sustainable stocks by 2020...

Stock sizes could increase by up to...

15.76 million tonnes

+80%

Fishing opportunities could increase by up to...

588,000 tonnes

EU fishing net profit margin

x 3.5 increase

Ending overfishing could result in an additional 100,000 jobs in the fishing and processing sectors

In turn, crew wages would increase by...

2017

76% wage increase

2022

131% wage increase

= 1,000 new jobs
... So, how do we rejuvenate the fisheries sector and protect our marine environment?

Support stock recovery above Maximum Sustainable Yield

- **Definition**: MSY is the largest catch that can be taken from a fish stock over an indefinite period without harming its future reproduction capacity.
- Achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield by 2015 would:
  - Curb overfishing.
  - Ensure long term sustainability of the stocks.

**STOCKS ABOVE MSY =**
More, bigger fish > Easier to catch > Less fuel needed > Higher profit > Increased wages > healthier marine environment

Support a ban on discards

- **Definition**: Discards are fish that are thrown overboard during fishing operations.
- A discards ban would:
  - Encourage fishermen to fish more selectively.
  - Increase commercial catches and reduce bycatches.
  - Allow smaller fish and juveniles to grow and enable stock recovery.

Involve local experts in regionalised fisheries management

- Stop micromanagement from Brussels and restrict EU decisions to setting management targets and deadlines.
- Let those most concerned about their fisheries have more influence on decisions (Fishermen, Scientists, NGOs).
- End "one size fits all" policy and adapt rules to best fit each fishery and sea basin.
- Empower regions and Member States to design measures needed to reach centrally decided long term targets.

End wasteful subsidies, support selective fishing and restore fishermen's independence

- Since 1994, 3 billion Euros have been spent to scrap vessels and reduce overcapacity, yet overcapacity has increased by 3% each year.
- The sector is dependent on subsidies and tax payers’ money.
- Subsidies should be conditional on achieving the objectives of the CFP, and be directed towards improving gear selectivity and the provision of scientific data, etc.

€3,000,000,000
We Members of the European Parliament have the responsibility to act in support of change...

The Common Fisheries Policy is in codecision for the first time

The European Parliament’s Fisheries committee is expected to vote in November 2012

The Common Fisheries Policy is only reformed once every 10 years

The European Parliament is expected to vote in January 2013

LET US NOT WASTE THIS ONCE IN A DECADE OPPORTUNITY. SUPPORT FISH FOR THE FUTURE TO CHANGE THE CFP AND SAVE EUROPEAN FISHERIES

Contact Fish for the Future:
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http://fishforthefuture.eu/

Sources:
European Commission
Eurostat
Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)
New Economics Foundation
European Court of Auditors