

Scale Matters; Quality Counts

Securing sustainability through the CFP Reform

We, the undersigned organisations, representing artisanal coastal and inland fishworkers, development and environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, share a common interest in placing European fisheries on a sustainable footing by supporting the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in ways which ensure the recovery of fish stocks and habitats, the promotion of best practice, a just allocation of fishing access based on social and environmental criteria, and an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from these activities.

New fisheries policies that reward best practices with preferential access to fish resources, and target capacity reduction programmes so as to eliminate the most harmful fishing methods would go a long way to placing European fisheries on a more sustainable footing.

This was recognized in the European Parliament resolution on the Green Paper adopted in February 2010. The resolution highlighted that, although local fishing communities should be given primary access to fish stocks, access rights should no longer be based solely on the criterion of historical catches. Rather, environmental and social criteria should gradually be introduced to determine who should have access to fishery resources, where the use of such criteria could foster a dynamic that would lead to improved fishing practices and a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable fishing industry.¹

A significant proportion of the European fleet is small in scale and fishes in a non-intensive manner, using a range of seasonally diverse fishing methods on a range of species, with a relatively low impact on the ecosystem. This artisanal segment of the coastal and inland fisheries generates considerable ancillary jobs and provides the social, economic and cultural fabric that sustains many communities, where it makes an important contribution to food supplies and political, social and economic stability. This has been highlighted in the 2009 Statement from the Brussels Workshop on Common Fisheries Policy Reform in the European Union and Small-Scale Fisheries² and in the 2010 A Coruña Statement³, amongst others. However, the qualitative aspects of different fishing gears and practices have been largely overlooked by the Commission in its reform package.

Coastal artisanal fishers are likely to be marginalised under the compulsory regime of Transferable Fishing Concessions as proposed by the Commission. Such a regime will favour the most economically powerful enterprises rather than the most sustainable fishery activities. However, if treated fairly, managed responsibly and given well defined fishing access, these kinds of fishery activities have the potential to deliver healthy fisheries and sustainable livelihoods over the long-term.

European Commission projections show employment in the fish catching sector is set to decline by 60% over the next 10 years, with the heaviest losses falling on the artisanal sector, which employs around 65% of the fisheries workforce.

¹ European Parliament report and resolution on the Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (2009/2106(INI)), Paragraph 40.

² http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/usefulDocs/docs/english/%3C1257843507383%3EBrussels_Workshop_Final_Statement.pdf

³ <http://www.ocean2012.eu/acorunadeclaration>

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We therefore call on the Members of the European Parliament, the Member States of the EU, and the Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs to turn the tide by:

- Providing priority access to fish resources to those who fish in the most environmentally and socially sustainable way. Sustainability criteria should rank access to resources, favouring those who have the least impact on the marine environment, who can demonstrate compliance and who operate within and contribute to local communities;
- Revoking the compulsory nature of the proposed Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFCs) scheme and providing a range of tools to be selected and adapted to enable the allocation of access to fishing opportunities based on sustainability criteria;
- Including firm timelines for the development and adoption of multiannual plans that apply the appropriate measures through genuine bottom-up, participative co-management processes, through co-management committees, and giving due weight to sustainable development while ensuring the involvement and collaboration of all segments in the sector and stakeholders; and
- Establishing and applying clear conditions and protocols to avoid conflicts between different users targeting shared stocks or common fishing grounds.

Signed by:

1. 40+ Fishing Boat Association
2. 5 Terre Academy
3. Acció Natura
4. Amigos de la Tierra España
5. An Taisce
6. Archipelagos, Institute of Marine Conservation
7. Associació de Naturalistes de Girona (ANG)
8. Asociación de Armadores de Artes Menores de Catalunya (ADAMEC)
9. Asociación de Defensa Medioambiental Salvemos Monteferro
10. Asociación para la Investigación del Mar (AIMARES)
11. Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo e Conservação dos Elasmobrânquios (APECE)
12. Associació Catalana d'Oceanògrafs i Oceanògrafs (ACOIO)
13. Association des Ligneurs de la Pointe de Bretagne
14. Associazione Locale-Globale
15. Ateneu Juvenil, Cultural i Naturalista de Girona
16. Baltic Environmental Forum
17. Baltic Wolf
18. BirdLife Europe
19. Birdwatch Ireland
20. BLOOM association
21. Blue Ventures
22. Bridport Commercial Boatowners and Fishermen's Association
23. Cadgwith and Helford Fishermen's Association
24. Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association
25. Càtedra de Estudios Marítimos, Universitat de Girona
26. Centre d'Etude, de Recherche-Action et d'Appuis pour le Développement (CERAD)
27. Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)
28. Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)
29. Coastal Fisherman Union of Rethymnon
30. Coastwatch Europe
31. Cofradía de Pescadores de Cedeira
32. Cofradía de Pescadores de l'Estartit
33. Collectif Bar Européen
34. Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Var
35. Community Atgaja
36. Community of Arran Seabed Trust Limited
37. Confédération Africaine des Organisations de Pêche Artisanale (CAOPA)
38. Confraria de Pescadors de Sitges

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39. Cooperativa Porto de Abrigo
40. Coral Cay Conservation
41. Cornish Handliners Association
42. Danish Society for a Living Sea
43. Danmarks Naturfredningsforening
44. Deepwave
45. DEPANA - Lliga Per a la Defensa del Patrimoni Natural
46. Deutsche Umwelthilfe
47. Dingle Oceanworld
48. Donegal Small Islands Fishermen
49. Eastbourne Fisherman's Protection Society
50. Ecologistas en Acción
51. Eko-Unia
52. Enalia Physis - Environmental Research Centre
53. Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology
54. Environmental Information Center
55. Estonian Sportfishing Federation
56. EuroNatur
57. European Network for Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture (AKTEA)
58. Fair Oceans
59. Federación Galega de Cofradías de Pescadores
60. Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
61. Fish Fight
62. Fishermens Federation for Small-scale fishery in Sweden (SYEF)
63. Fishing For Jobs
64. Fondazione Cetacea
65. Fundació ENT
66. Fundació Mar
67. Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible
68. Fundacja Sprzatanie Świata - Polska
69. Galway Atlantaquaria
70. Gent del Ter
71. Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere e.V. (GSM)
72. Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine
73. Global Water Partnership
74. Goede Vissers
75. Greenhouse Malta
76. GreenLife
77. Greenpeace
78. Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente GEOTA
79. Grups d'Estudis Socials, Universitat de Girona
80. Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
81. Iberian Biodiversity
82. Institut de Medi Ambient de la Unversitat de Girona (IMA – UdG)
83. Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA)
84. International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
85. Irish Bass
86. Irish Seal Sanctuary
87. Irish Wildlife Trust
88. Irukandji Aquatik Films
89. Kenna EcoDiving
90. Klub Gaja
91. Latvian Anglers Association
92. LiffeySound Radio
93. Liga para a protecção da natureza
94. Lighthouse Foundation
95. Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux
96. Lithuania Association
97. Lithuanian Entomological Society
98. Lithuanian Fund for Nature
99. Lithuanian Ornithological Society
100. M.E.E.R.
101. Marefondum
102. Marevivo
103. Marine Conservation Society
104. Marine Network of Friends of the Earth, England Wales and Northern Ireland - MARINET
105. Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (Medasset)
106. Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers

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107. Mediterrània-CIE
108. Mudeford and District Fishermen's Association
109. National Association of Small Boat Owners of Iceland
110. National Sea Life Centre Bray
111. Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
112. Nature Trust (Malta)
113. Natuurpunt
114. Nederlandse Elasmobranchen Vereniging
115. Nederlandse Netwerk voor Vrouwen in de Visserij VinVis
116. NEREO
117. Netherlands Inland Fishers Association
118. New Economics Foundation
119. New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
120. Noé Conservation
121. North West Traditional Fishermen
122. Observatori de deute en la Globalització
123. OCEAN2012
124. Oceana
125. OceanCare Switzerland
126. Oceanográfica: Divulgación, Educación y Ciencia
127. ONDARROA 12 MILLA
128. Orford and District Inshore Fishermen's Association
129. Our Earth Foundation
130. People Uniting and Generating Aid for Development (PUGAD)
131. Pew Environment Group
132. Plataforma rural - Alianzas por un mundo rural vivo
133. Polish Ecological Club
134. Poole & District Fishermen's Association
135. Pro Wildlife e.V.
136. Professional Fisheries Association of Fourni Korseon "O Glaros"
137. Prud'homie de Pêche de La Seyne-sur-Mer
138. Prud'homie de Pêche de Sanary
139. Quercus (Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza)
140. Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando"
141. Rede de colectivos Foro Social de Cangas
142. Reef Check
143. SCIAENA - Marine Sciences and Cooperation
144. Scottish Creelers and Divers
145. Sea First Foundation
146. Seas At Risk
147. Share the World's Resources
148. Shark Trust
149. Sharklab
150. Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity
151. Societat Catalana d'Educació Ambiental
152. SOS Grand Bleu
153. South Coast Fisherman's Council
154. Stichting de Noordzee
155. Submarinistas en Acción
156. Sustainable Development Initiatives (DVI)
157. Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust
158. Swale Fisherman's Association
159. Swanage Fishermen's Association
160. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
161. Tethys Research Institute
162. The Fisheries Secretariat
163. The Gowienica Rivers Association
164. Union Intersyndicale des Petits Métiers de Pêche de Méditerranée (UIPMPM)
165. Verdegaia
166. Veterinaris Sense Fronteres (VsF)
167. WWF
168. Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori