



WWF

ACTION PLAN



2014



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The European Parliament has been instrumental in the recent reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

It now sets the basis to guarantee the prosperity of European seas and long term sustainability of the communities and businesses that depend on them, provided that the reform is effectively implemented. For that the Parliament must continue to be actively involved in the process. WWF has been invaluable in bringing key stakeholders together to improve the way fisheries are managed and guarantee marine resources are restored and preserved.

Chris Davies –

Former ALDE MEP and founder of the European Parliament's cross party campaign group 'Fish for the Future'

80%

of Europeans support a CFP reform which ensures that all European fish products come from sustainable stocks that are not overfished¹

RECOVER FISH STOCKS

A sound and efficient implementation of the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), supported by the European Parliament, will allow fish stocks to recover, increase food supply, and help good environmental status and fair fishing by EU fleets beyond European waters. The new CFP entered into force on 1 January 2014. It includes measures to halt overfishing, and to reduce fish discards at sea. It provides a unique opportunity for the EU to champion sustainable fisheries management within the EU and at global level.

As the main implementation tool of the CFP, regional Multi Annual Plans (MAPs) allow the design of management solutions that answer the specific needs of regional fisheries, deliver on CFP conservation goals and are consistent with EU environmental legislation. MAPs need to be designed and implemented with full involvement of all stakeholders and managed by decentralised governance with appropriate rights and responsibilities.

HOW CAN MEPs IMPROVE THIS POLICY?

- Ensure that the implementation of the new CFP meets its target of halting overfishing through the achievement of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) goal. This is the highest annual catch of a fish stock that can be sustained over time without impairing the stock.
- Ensure all Multi Annual Plans (MAPs) are based on an ecosystem approach and full stakeholder participation, and are put at the heart of fisheries management to achieve all the objectives of the new CFP, while delivering effective regionalisation.
- Ensure the EU strengthens Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and provides a model for all fisheries access agreements with developing countries.
- Ensure the European Maritime Fisheries Fund is used to improve the state of marine resources and to make fishing operations more environmentally responsive. Financial support should be allocated only to those who respect the rules.


YOUR ACTION PLAN

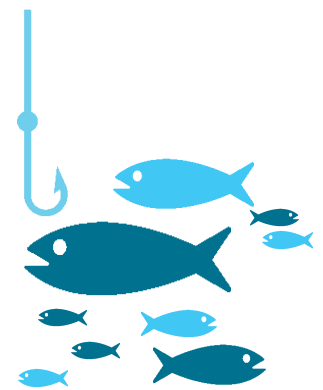
- 1 React via parliamentary reports and questions to the Commission's annual progress report on achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and on the status of fish stocks, to ensure the achievement of the MSY goal remains central in the annual negotiations on fishing opportunities between Commission and Member States.
- 2 Urge the Commission to publish a roadmap for the adoption of Multi-Annual Plans (MAPs). The European Parliament will play a key role in shaping the framework of these MAPs and ensuring implementation with no further delay.
- 3 Call upon the Commission to demonstrate that harmful subsidies are no longer in use and the fleet capacity is in line with available fishing opportunities.
- 4 Ensure that in all parliamentary discussions and resolutions dealing with EU fisheries on the high seas or in waters of developing countries, the sustainable development obligation from the Lisbon Treaty is reflected.
- 5 Ensure good collaboration between all relevant Parliament committees where fisheries policy needs to be fully integrated with other EU policies (eg. ENVI and DEVE Committees).

WE MUST ACT NOW!

- Overfishing is widespread in EU waters. Eliminating aid that contributes to overfishing is crucial to rebuilding fish stocks and securing a viable future for the sector.
 - Over €3 billion is lost every year due to overfishing, whereas recovered stocks could support more than 100,000 jobs².
 - 41% of the assessed stocks in the North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters are still overfished. In the Mediterranean, out of 97 stocks, 91% are overfished³.
- The current European fisheries management system has failed. The top-down, centralised micro-management approach has not been adaptive or participative enough to deliver tailored measures or to ensure the right level of stakeholder buy-in. As a result, compliance has been low, and has led to the unsustainable management of fish stocks.
- The EU currently consumes 25% of the world's fish products and imports 65% of the fish products available in its internal market⁴. Thanks to the new CFP, EU fleets exploiting marine resources in third countries must act in a more transparent, equitable and sustainable way.

TIMELINE

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- By 2015:** MSY goal to be achieved where possible
 - By 2020:** MSY goal to be achieved for all stocks
 - By 2020:** good environmental status to be achieved in EU waters



€3.2 bn

the income lost every year
due to overfishing

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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