

European Fishing Industry views on ongoing fisheries policy developments



We bring the fish!

Over 80.000 large and small EU vessels **work together** to guarantee the continuity of fish supply

Big doesn't mean bad! Fleet diversity is key, we simply cannot feed 500 million people in the EU with locally produced seafood

Today, more than 200 EU recognised **Producer Organisations** are in charge of the day-to-day management of fisheries, playing an essential role in running the CFP and CMO

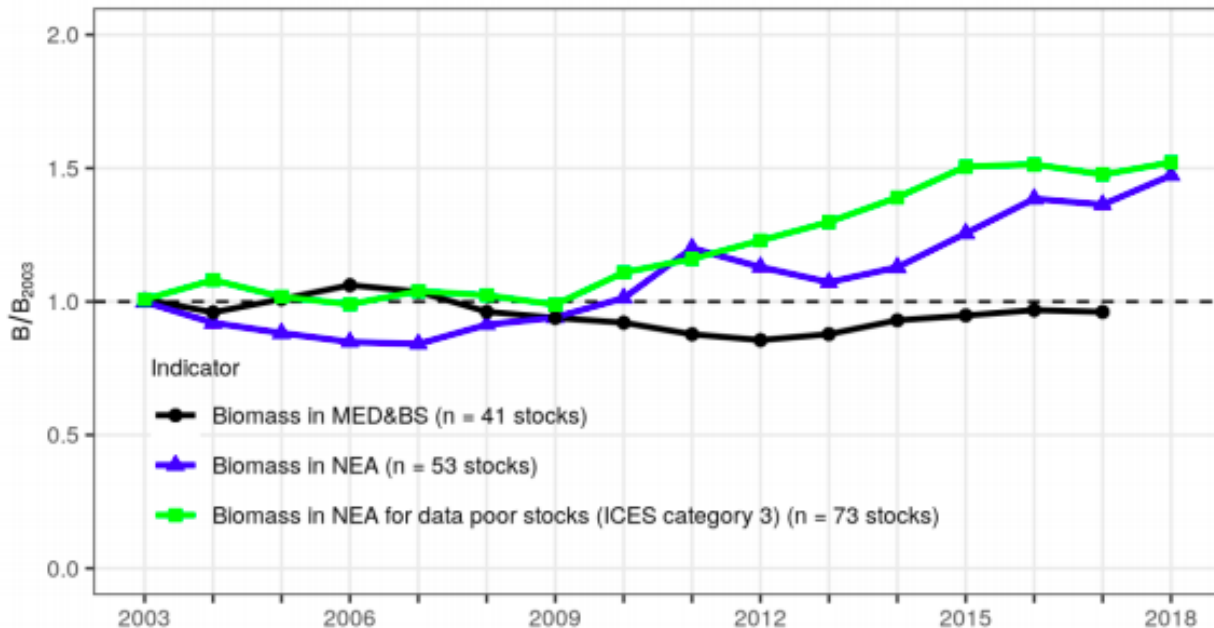
We catch around **5 million tonnes of fish** a year, mainly for human consumption

We provide **48 billion meals every year**, enough to feed every citizen in the European Union 96 times

The annual catch has a **value of € 7.7 billion**. Enough to buy six of the biggest football clubs in Europe

Safeguarding the marine environment

Trends in Biomass

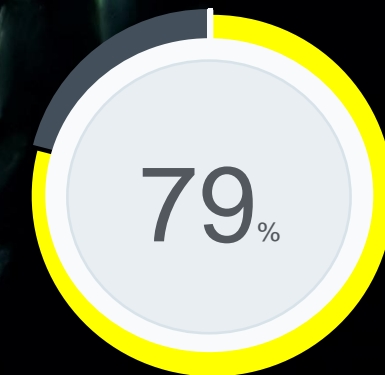
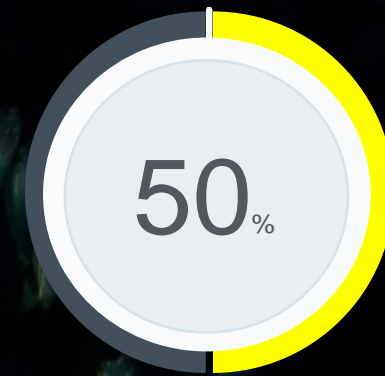


The number of **stocks at Maximum Sustainable Yield** has increased in the last 10 years **from 5 to 62** (out of 78)

Almost **100%** Landings from EU managed stocks in the Atlantic that come from catches **sustainably fished**

A 50% reduction in fishing pressure in the North-East Atlantic has led to **50% more fish in the sea** than in 2010

79% of the **fish consumed worldwide** that is sustainably caught



Keep eating wild-caught fish: It's the best way to feed the world

Wild fish is the **PERFECT PROTEIN** since wild-caught seafood does not require being artificially fed, use of water supply, antibiotics or pesticides, nor locking up in cages

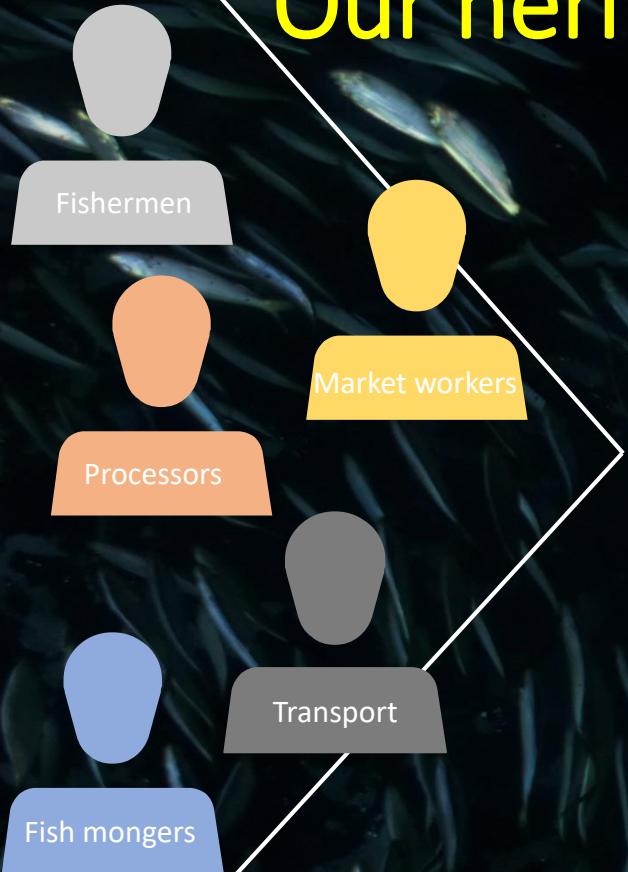
Eating wild caught fish means **CLIMATE PROTECTION** as it is by far the animal protein with the **lowest carbon footprint** thus the best option in terms of **food security**

NO MARINE FISH HAS EVER GONE EXTINCT due to commercial fishing

Wild Caught-Fish
means a
Green Deal



Our fishermen: Our heritage, our future



Many people are responsible for getting the fish to your plate

In some European coastal communities more than half of the local jobs are in the fishing sector

1 = 5

Job at sea

Jobs created at land

Europêche formally adopted a Social Partners' Agreement to transpose into EU law the ILO Convention C188 which aims to provide worldwide access to decent working and living conditions for fisheries

Let's keep supporting our more than 150 000 men and women directly employed in the industry by consuming European fish

EU leading the road towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Sustainably manage and protect marine ecosystems

CFP is one of the most advanced fisheries policies worldwide

End illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

EU's IUU and Control Regulations are landmark policies against illegal practices & trade

Prohibit harmful subsidies

EU is already complying with WTO goals since 2007 European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

Providing food security and decent work

By nourishing people around the world with high quality protein

While upholding high quality, social, and traceability standards



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Biodiversity Strategy

Fishermen guardians of the sea

PROBLEMS

- **Discriminatory treatment** (do not mention oil, gas, dredging or shipping)
- Do not recognize at all the huge **improvements in EU fish stocks**
- **MPAs** not panacea for all ocean problems
 - **Economic benefits** of MPAs: tourism, ocean energy and recreation
 - Paper parks
- Phase out of **bottom contacting gears**

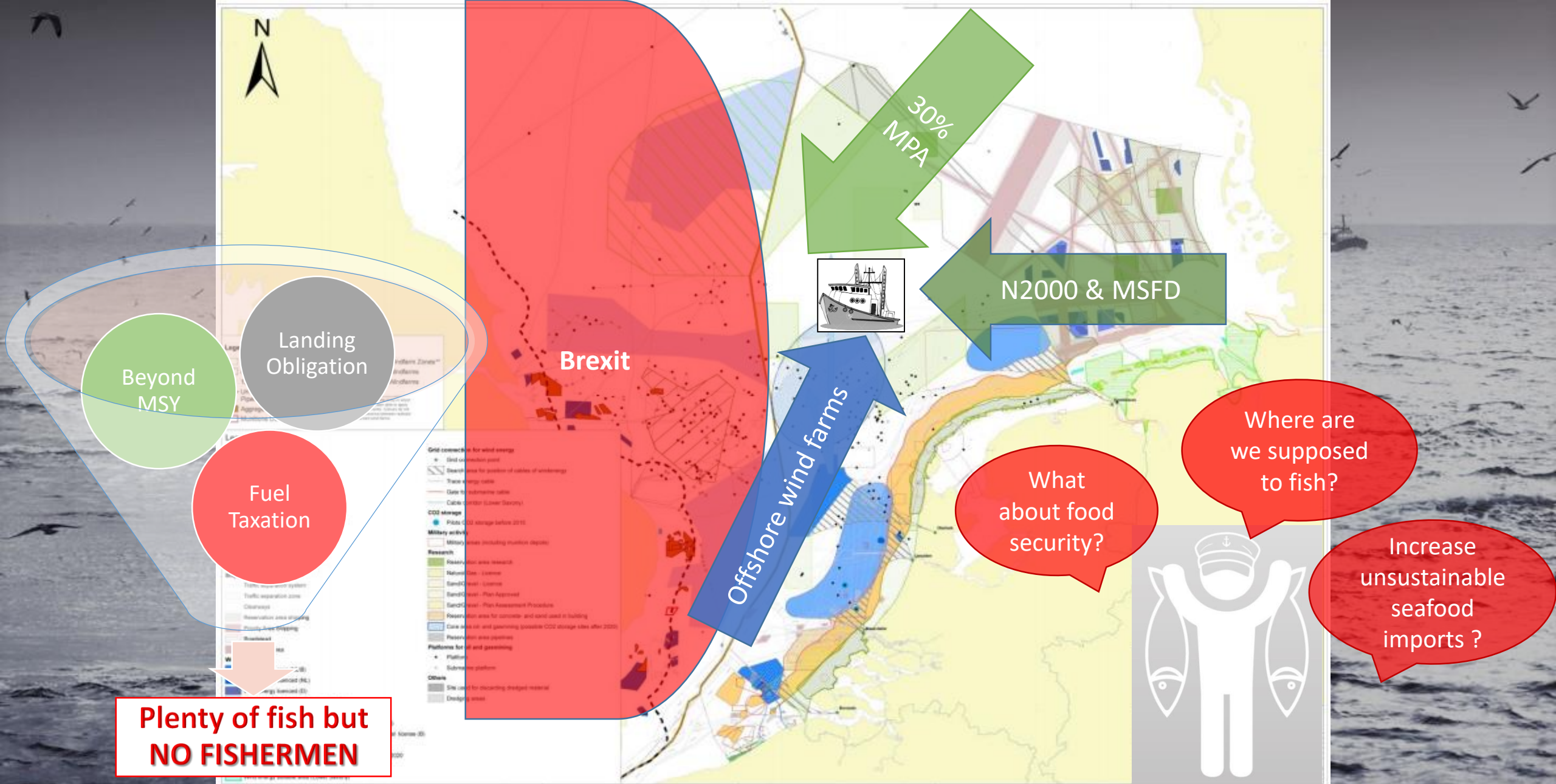


ICES should not provide advice evaluating NGO proposals nor interpret EU Laws! 

- **Fishing mortality at or under MSY**
↓ food production

INDUSTRY VIEWS

- Need to be treated on an **equal footing**
- **Fishermen: Lowest impact food producers**
 - Seafood part of the solution
 - FAO management is the best tool for conservation
- **Protect what must be protected based on science**
 - No arbitrary targets (30%)
 - Other effective area-based conservation measures
- **Fish is thriving** in bottom trawling areas
 - What about **offshore wind farms**?
- **Fmsy** already difficult to achieve
- **Bmsy / MEY** inoperative for fisheries mgmt



Farm to Fork Strategy

Sea to Plate Strategy?

Fisheries is the answer

CHALLENGES

- Drawing on the potential of sustainable seafood as a **low-carbon food source**
- **Current pandemic** showed the need to **ensure food security and long-term resilience** of food systems
- **Redefine sustainability** for fish: cannot be only MSY indicators
- **Need to eliminate trade preferences** (e.g. zero tariff quota) for fish coming from countries connected with **IUU fishing & serious labour abuses** (Vietnam FTA / ATQ China)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Fishing the most efficient, climate-smart system that provides healthy & sustainable food, while securing a decent living for EU fishermen
- **Promote EU fish** for healthy diets and reduce dependence on imports
- **Sustainable food labelling** covering **nutritional**, climate, **social** and environmental aspects of fisheries products
- Support fishers to **improve their position in the value chain and marine space**
 - More targeted use of **VAT** rates to favour healthy and sustainable food choices

Fisheries Market Policies

Enhance criteria for **traceability and import access** to the EU market.
A level playing field (logbooks vs catch certificate)

Wider seafood information on the **origin** to consumers for processed products
Change needed in the CMO Regulation

Recognise and enhance **the role of POs** to achieve the objectives of the CFP & CMO
More prominent position in preparing and implementing **Production and Marketing Plans**

Need more focus on promotion and communication on the **benefits of wild fish consumption**
Health, low impact, climate change, ...

COVID-19

THE FISHING INDUSTRY IS AN ESSENTIAL SECTOR

The sector has been hit hard
Despite, fishermen and women have been out to fish during COVID-19 to continue providing healthy products

Markets are recovering slowly

Fishing Industry welcomed quick EU support

Still call on the European Commission to take further steps:

- ✓ EXTRA-quota banking
- ✓ Injection of extra-funding (EAFRD for farmers)
- ✓ Compensate the loss of income of fishermen
- ✓ Crew changes
- ✓ Seafood promotion campaign

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Fishery Subsidies

CHALLENGES

- Reduce bureaucracy
- Increase the **budgetary envelop** (welcome the extra€500M proposal)
- **Low allocation for fleet subsidies**
- **Optional support PMPs**
- **Crew accommodation**, recreational areas, toilets, kitchen, et cetera counted as **fishing capacity**
- **WTO: fuel de-taxation schemes**
40% operational company costs
- **Energy Taxation Directive**



OPPORTUNITIES

- Continuation of **storage aid**
- Continuation of permanent and temporary **cessation & acquisition**
- We don't want to increase capacity, but to **replace polluting engines** (IMO target - 50% GHG reduction by 2030) and old unsafe vessels
- **Modernisation of the fleet**, e.g. on-board **safety, gender balance, labour conditions**, conditioned to:
 - Fishing capacity balance
 - Respect of national ceilings
 - **Entry/exit scheme**

Fisheries Control Regulation



JDPs evolution by area (2017-2018)



JDPs	Inspections		Inspections with at least one suspected infringement	
	2017	2018*	2017	2018*
NORTH SEA	9756	14439	246	185
BALTIC SEA	4637	4162	127	65
NAFO & NEAFC	115	60	5	6
WESTERN WATERS	2555	2699	122	164
MEDITERRANEAN SEA	3893	5562	205	214
TOTAL	20956	26922	705	634

3%

Infringements

*Data available on 31 January 2019. Additional data may be received later from Member States

27 February 2019

5

Landing obligation

Fishers have been forced to discard fish due to complex EU fisheries rules, market demands, quota distribution and minimum size! Not because they wanted to!

PROBLEMS

- **Choke situations**
- Underutilisation of rightful quotas
- **Labour time and costs** increase
- Selectivity has its **limits**
- Not marketable undersize fish
- **Science unable** to provide clear directions and impact
- **Changing fishing patterns** with destabilising knock-on effects (North sea cod)

POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD

- Remove non-commercial species or 0 TAC species from the TAC system while taking care of vulnerable species
- **Choke Mitigation Tool**
- Improve **quota swapping** between MS
- **By-catch pool**
- **Tolerant approach** towards the application of high survivability
- **Flexibilities in the CFP are not sufficient → Art. 15 CFP should be revised**

External Dimension of the CFP

China ranks worst IUU country

EU DWF  EU ambassadors

CHALLENGES

- Increasingly difficult to sign **SFPAs** (Asian dominance in Western Africa)
- Vulnerable position of the EU within **RFMOs**. Asian fleets get away with their position (Bigeye tuna ICCAT)
- **Fisheries restrictions through international instruments: BBNJ, CBD, CITES & WTO**
- **Need to increase DG MARE human & financial resources to take the lead on International Ocean Governance**

OPPORTUNITIES

- EU's external fishing fleet to become the **most transparent, accountable and sustainable globally** following legal reform - WWF/EJF/Oceana
- **RFMOs are a good example** of international fisheries management whose role should be reinforced
- SFPAs are the **most transparent agreements** in the world & mutually beneficial for **local communities**
- Sectoral aid linked to governance & ratification (PSMA)

Social Dimension of the CFP

EU Social Dialogue
Committee for
Sea Fisheries

PROBLEMS

- Reduction trend of **employment** (<22.000 fishing vessels less in 20y)
- Lack of **generational change**
- High number of **fatalities and accidents**
- Vulnerability of **migrant fishermen**
- **Fishing capacity** measured as GT and kW

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase the **attractiveness** and facilitate the incorporation of **young fishermen** into the industry (EMFF)
- Proposal for a Directive to **transpose the IMO STCW-F Convention** (on training and safety) into EU law
- Guidelines for the recruitment of **migrant fishermen**
- **Alignment of Trade and IUU policies with labour policy**

Many thanks for listening

Over to you

Europêche is the representative body for the fishing industry in the European Union

EAPO is the representative body for fish producers' organisations in the European Union

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

The EU fishing industry favours an EU Green Deal that is inclusive of all three pillars of sustainability, building on all the efforts and achievements made so far, and giving the recognition and promotion fishermen deserve.

Both biodiversity and food security are better served by expanding effective fisheries management and not by establishing more marine sanctuaries.

The leading by example priority of the EU is great, but what we preach internally cannot stop at the border and therefore require imported products the same level of sustainability.

The EU needs to think food. Each time the EU reduces the volume of fish captured by the European fleet, there is an automatic increase of imports.

The EU should not use global statistics disconnected the EU reality to dictate strong environmental measures or even prohibit certain fisheries operations in the EU.

Abbreviation list

ATQ	Autonomous Tariff Quota
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
C188	ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCTV	closed-circuit television
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMO	Common Market Organisation in fishery and aquaculture products
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GT	Gross tonnage
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization

Abbreviation list

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
kW	Kilowatt
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SFPA	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement
SMEFF	Sustainable Management of External Fishing Fleets
STCW-F	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
WTO	World Trade Organization