

The European Union's fisheries footprint



3 OUT OF 4
SEAFOOD PRODUCTS
CONSUMED IN THE
EU COME FROM
CAPTURE FISHERIES

As a major fishing power and seafood consumer, the EU's environmental, economic and social footprint covers the planet. This puts a responsibility on Europe to lead on delivering good fisheries governance at a global level.

The EU is the world's:

- fifth-largest producer of fish products
- largest seafood market
- biggest seafood importer, by value

The EU is a major market for seafood products. In 2011, it consumed 12.3 million tonnes, with a value of €52.2 billion. It imports 24% of the world's seafood products, by value.¹

In 2011, EU overall production of wild and farmed fish amounted to 6,143,294 metric tonnes. Around 80% came from catches of wild fish, the other 20% from aquaculture.² This equates to 3.5% of global production, a decrease from 4.4% in 2009. In 2011, EU catches represented just over 5% of world catches, which was a decrease on previous years.

Just over one-third of the EU's demand for seafood is met by EU vessels fishing in EU waters, the high seas, and the waters of non-EU countries including developing countries. **The other two-thirds** come from EU aquaculture and imports from all over the world.

Around 700 EU fishing vessels fishing abroad represent a quarter of the capacity in tonnage of the EU fleet register. They come from France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

EU fishing companies and EU citizens operating abroad are also involved as owners of, or crews on, vessels flying non-EU flags such as in joint ventures with foreign companies outside the EU. A European Parliament document from 2012 refers to an association representing EU fishing interests abroad, in which 118 companies operated 321 vessels flying 24 different non-EU flags that caught almost 500,000 tonnes of fish a year, mostly destined for the EU market.³

¹ The EU fish market (2014) *European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products*, p.1

² European Commission (2012) *Facts and Figures*

³ European Parliament (PE478.693) 2.3.2012

Ensuring fair fisheries futures



THE EU HAS
FISHERIES
AGREEMENTS WITH
11 COUNTRIES
AMONG THE LEAST
DEVELOPED

see map overleaf

'Fish continues to be one of the most-traded commodities worldwide. It is especially important for developing countries, sometimes worth half the total value of their traded commodities'¹⁰

Fisheries supply 15% of the animal protein in our diets and more than 50% in many of the least-developed countries in Africa and Asia.¹¹

Releasing the 2014 edition of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, its director-general said the report highlighted: "the significant role that fisheries and aquaculture plays in eliminating hunger, promoting health and reducing poverty. Never before have people consumed so much fish or depended so greatly on the sector for their wellbeing".¹²

The increasing demand from both developed and developing countries is leading to unsustainable levels of fishing; conservation rules are being disregarded and marine ecosystems are being destroyed.

Only political will to put in place a fair and sustainable fisheries governance framework can deliver healthy fish stocks and marine ecosystems that will continue to provide seafood and other services to humanity.

In the post-2015 development agenda, we have a unique opportunity to better value natural resources and healthy ecosystems as a foundation for poverty eradication, as well as equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

The EU must champion this agenda and ensure at the very least that its fishing activities neither endanger the sustainability of fish resources nor undermine food security internationally.

¹⁰ FAO report (2014) www.fao.org/3/a-i3720e.pdf

¹¹ WWF Position paper (2015) *Securing our Future*

¹² Ibid: José Graziano da Silva, director-general, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation p.iii

EU commitments on sustainable development



FISHERIES
AGREEMENTS MUST
BE OF MUTUAL
BENEFIT TO THE EU
AND THE COUNTRY
CONCERNED

The Lisbon Treaty⁴ provides the legal context for a number of policies. This is reflected in the new Common Fisheries Policy.

On the environment:

*'Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.'*⁵

On development cooperation:

*'Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.'*⁶

These obligations have been reflected in the so-called External Dimension (or International Affairs) component of the 2014 EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Most EU interaction and negotiations in this field involve relations with developing coastal states, including a number of the least-developed countries in the world.

In terms of EU fisheries agreements that allow EU fleets to fish in the waters of non-EU countries, the CFP stipulates that such agreements must be 'of mutual benefit to the Union and the third country concerned, including its local population and fishing industry'.⁷ Thus, EU fisheries must not in any way endanger the sustainability of marine resources or undermine food security in partner countries. Environmental requirements include applying precautionary and ecosystem approaches to ensure that fisheries management 'restores and maintains' fish stocks 'above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield'.⁸

⁴ The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

⁵ Lisbon Treaty, Article 11

⁶ Ibid, Article 208

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of 11 December 2013

⁸ Lisbon Treaty, Article 2

EU influence over fisheries activities beyond EU waters



THE EU IS
NEGOTIATING
NEW BILATERAL
AGREEMENTS

The EU participates in all tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). It's a party to the agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (IDCP) and nine area-based RFMOs or conventions. And it participates in two advisory bodies.

The EU is also a party to:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- All leading multilateral agreements.
- Three bilateral fisheries access agreements with northern countries involving reciprocal access to fish resources.
- Nineteen fisheries agreements involving EU sectoral support, mostly with developing countries in Africa, the Indian Ocean and in the western and central Pacific.
 - Six among the latter are dormant or currently going through a renegotiation process.
 - Among the active agreements, 10 concern exclusively tuna and three are multi-species (access to tuna and other species).

Political will remains strong in the EU to extend and consolidate the fishing activities of its fleets in distant waters, under fishing agreements.

Payment for access to the waters of non-EU countries comes from both the EU and shipowners. The so-called sectoral support is funded exclusively by the EU, paid in instalments and made on condition that the partner country delivers on the objectives agreed by both parties on the use of the funds. The EU is required to 'closely monitor progress'.¹³

This support should be targeted at capacity building in scientific research institutions, governance and strengthening the local fishing industry including small-scale fishing. It is defined by both parties according to needs.

Successful delivery of these legal provisions will require closer coordination both internally between EU Fisheries and Development policies and externally with partner countries.

¹³ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of 11 December 2013, Article 32.2



The EU in international fisheries



BILATERAL
AGREEMENTS
MUST MEET ALL
INTERNATIONAL AND
EU OBLIGATIONS

The EU has all the right mechanisms at its disposal to meet its legal and political commitments towards an international fisheries governance framework that is fair and sustainable.

RFMOs: The EU plays an active role in five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and 11 non-tuna RFMOs⁹ whose task is to enable members throughout the world to agree on the best way to conserve fish stocks and manage fisheries (see maps, overleaf). Among its duties, the EU is required to help strengthen the effectiveness of RFMOs through decisions based on the best available scientific advice, and to encourage compliance.

SFPAs: The CFP also requires its bilateral agreements (or sustainable fisheries partnership agreements) to meet all international and EU obligations.

IUU regulation: The EU Regulation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries is combating practices that destroy marine ecosystems. Such damage threatens food security in the poorest coastal communities.

Development policy: The EU Development Policy aims to improve food security and reduce poverty in the world while promoting sustainable fisheries management. The EU is the biggest aid donor in the world, which gives it the potential (through a more joined-up approach in its action to better support its fisheries partners in developing countries) to strengthen their capacity and expertise in fisheries management and to help them participate in multilateral bodies.

⁹ European Commission (2014) *Facts and Figures*

WWF FAIR FISHERIES FUTURES



Fair fisheries futures
Why the EU must lead on
sustainable international fisheries

UK

WWF-ORG.UK

THE EU'S FISHERIES FOOTPRINT

EU fisheries partnership agreements and tuna regional fisheries management organisations

Sustainable development: core principles

UNIVERSALITY

The management of global public goods and global risks requires collective decision-making and action.

EQUITY

Equitable access to opportunities, rights, and basic goods and services including natural resources, is fundamental to a human-rights-based approach to development and poverty eradication.

INTEGRATION

Synchronised approaches to multi-lateral frameworks can help to meet ambitious goals, improve policy coherence for sustainable development and avoid duplication of efforts.



**BUILD IN
TRANSPARENCY
ACROSS POLICIES
AND AGREEMENTS**

WWF ASKS

Given the internal and international legal obligations and commitments that frame Europe's fisheries abroad – in particular, the 2014 Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – WWF believes there is a clear obligation on the EU to:

- Ensure consistency and coherence across EU policies, objectives and commitments in EU bilateral and multilateral fisheries action so as to maximise its influence and impact at all levels.
- Target EU action in a way that's likely to help improve and strengthen the international governance of fisheries.
- Frame negotiations to ensure that environmental protection is embedded in all aspects of decision-making on fisheries and is the responsibility of all actors to deliver.
- Build in transparency across policies and agreements and expect the same standards from partners to ensure accountability in the use of a public good, such as fish resources.
- Address deficiencies in scientific data and ensure that European fishing activities do not jeopardise long-term sustainability in circumstances where data is inadequate.



**ENSURE THE
PARTNER COUNTRY
HAS AN EFFECTIVE
FISHERIES STRATEGY**

In addition, the EU must guarantee transparency and improve communication on EU objectives and priorities around meetings in regional and international fisheries organisations. To do this they must:

- Encourage partner countries to collect and communicate required scientific and other data to RFMOs, so that the best-informed conservation and management decisions can be taken.
- Seek to extend pre- and post-meeting dialogue with stakeholders in the EU and in external partner countries to include developing coastal states that participate in RFMOs and, for a number of them, also have bilateral fisheries agreements with the EU.
- Communicate outcomes and share lessons with stakeholders.

The EU must ensure that fisheries agreements are of mutual benefit to both parties. In the case of the partner country, this includes its local population and fishing industry paying attention to artisanal fishers. And ensure that the CFP, regional and international obligations and provisions are fully met by vessels flying an EU flag and/or EU nationals engaged in fishing activities under public or private agreements or joint ventures. To do this they must:

- Conclude agreements with coastal states only when all necessary information has been provided to establish the availability of surplus in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). This includes full transparency on all the fishing licences already sold or allocated to other Distant Water Nations fleets so as to establish that the overall level of fishing effort in the country's waters does not undermine sustainability of fish resources or threaten food security in the country.
- Ensure that EU fleets active under fisheries agreements increasingly meet the financial cost of access to countries' EEZs.
- Extend the scope of evaluations to include socio-economic aspects of the local fleets, including the artisanal fleet, in relation to EU fishing activity in developing countries – with regard to provisions such as the right to food and the human rights clause.
- Ensure the partner country has an effective fisheries strategy or can demonstrate that it is in the process of developing such a strategy. And take account of national priorities, including on food security, in negotiating access for EU fleets.
- Check that EU fisheries action in the partner countries is coherent with action under the development, environment, trade and foreign affairs policies.

As guardian of the treaties, the European Commission must monitor and, where required, take action against Member States that fail to ensure compliance with CFP rules by their vessels and/or citizens engaged in fisheries outside EU waters. This is to be done without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the flag state.



WCPFC
Western and Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission

IATTC
Inter-American Tropical
Tuna Commission

ICCAT
International Convention for the
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

IOTC
Indian Ocean
Tuna Commission

CCSBT
Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

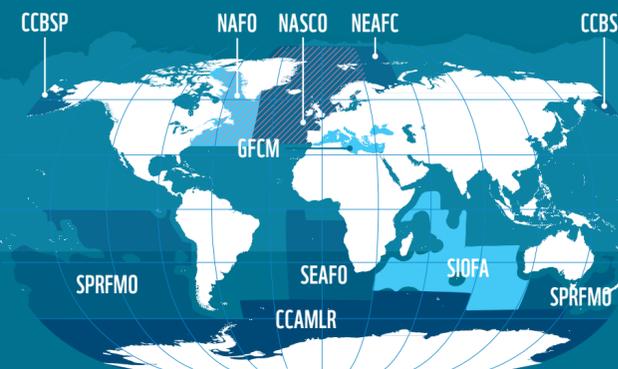
WCPFC
Western and Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Multi-species agreements (mixed) | Tuna agreements West Africa | Tuna agreements Indian Ocean | Tuna agreements Pacific Ocean | 'Dormant' agreements* | Northern agreements |
| 1 Guinea-Bissau | 4 Senegal | 9 Comoros | 13 Kiribati | 14 Mozambique | 20 Faroe Islands |
| 2 Morocco | 5 Cape Verde | 10 Madagascar | | 15 Micronesia | 21 Norway |
| 3 Greenland | 6 Côte d'Ivoire | 11 Mauritius | | 16 Solomon Islands | 22 Iceland |
| | 7 São Tomé e Príncipe | 12 Seychelles | | 17 Mauritania | |
| | 8 Gabon | | | 18 The Gambia** | |
| | | | | 19 Equatorial Guinea** | |

UNCTAD least-developed countries

Maps adapted from *Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy*, European Commission, 2014
* Agreements where no protocol is in force ** Long-term dormant

¹⁹ Available fish resources in the waters of a country that the country does not catch itself



Non-tuna RFMOs

- CCAMLR** Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- CCBSB** Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
- GFCM** General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
- NAFO** Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
- NASCO** North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
- NEAFC** North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- SEAFO** South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
- SIOFA** South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- SPRFMO** South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation