

EU Fisheries Policies: Conservation, Trade, Social Issues and Subsidies



*Revive, Renew and Relaunch Aktea, European Network of
Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture*

EESC, Room JDE 63, Rue Belliard 99, 1040

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EU Fisheries Policies: Conservation, Trade, Social Issues and Subsidies



European Economic
and Social Committee



1. Why are fisheries so important?
2. How did we get to where are now? Lessons of History
3. What do the policies consist of?
4. Who are the policy makers and how are decisions taken?
5. How are decisions taken?
6. Where do Aktea and LIFE come in?

Why are fisheries so important?



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Less than 1% of the economy (GDP); 0.4% of employment

Strategic importance:

- Source of income, livelihoods and culture in remote coastal, notably island regions
- Anchors populations in rural areas
- Food security: EU citizens eat 25 kgs per capita per year
- EU net importer of fish
- Fisheries products represent 20% of the overall 120 billion EUR food products imported by EU



Some History: Fisheries Policies have Evolved

1957: Treaty of Rome - establishing the European Economic Community

- 6 Countries
- single market for goods, labour, services, and capital across the EEC's member states
- Fisheries an agricultural product
- Fishing vessels have equal access to waters and resources



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Objectives

- increase productivity through technical progress and the best use of the factors of production (such as labour);
- to ensure a fair standard of living for communities employed in agriculture;
- to secure the availability of supplies; and
- to enforce fair prices

Some History: Fisheries Policies have Evolved



1970s:

- UK, Ireland and Denmark join EU 1972
- Move away from equal access
- Extension of fishing zones to 200 mile EEZ 1976/77
- First common measures agreed for fishing

1983: First Common Fisheries Policy (CFP):

- 12 mile zone in territorial waters reserved for coastal and traditional fishing
- Relative stability governs allocation of fishing opportunities
- Spain and Portugal join in 1983 excluded from relative stability

1992: review/ reform of CFP:

- Overcapacity fleet: too many vessels for available resources;
- Control measures introduced
- Scrapping policy

2002: review/ reform of CFP

- Fleet still overcapacity
- Vision of the future based on a few large trawlers;
- shore based processing to provide jobs in coastal communities

2006: First Mediterranean Regulation

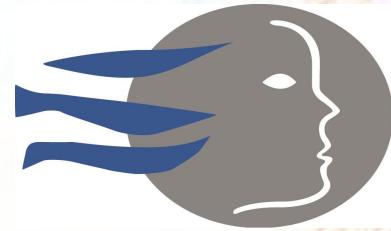
Some History: Fisheries Policies have Evolved

2014 reform:

- 14 Objectives for new CFP (Article 2)
 - Long term environmental sustainability
 - to ensure economic, social and employment benefits, availability of food supplies
 - Achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield, reduce impact/ avoid degradation of marine environment
 - Fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing
 - Promote coastal fishing

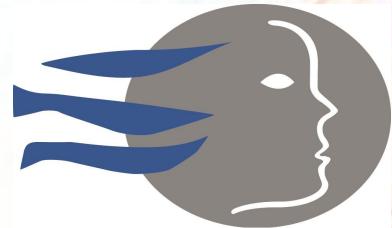
Reform of Markets Policy (CMO): importance of Producer organizations

Reform of Advisory Councils to achieve balanced representation of stakeholders



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What Does the CFP Consist of?

Basic Regulation

Market Regulation

The EMFF Regulation – the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund;

Regulations also govern:

- Fishing opportunities/ catch limits (setting the TACs),
- Technical measures for Conservation
- Fisheries Control
- Multiannual Plans (MAPs) for the main sea basins
- Mediterranean several MAPs are being developed.

Who are the policy makers and how are decisions taken?



3 Main Decision Taking Bodies

- European Commission – Executive Body
- European Parliament – Legislative Body
- Council of Ministers – Legislative Body



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Also:

- European Court of Justice

Who are the policy makers and how are decisions taken?



European Parliament

705 democratically elected Deputies

5 year term – 2019 to 2024

7 Political groups

22 Committees, including “Pech Committee”

Since 2009 Lisbon Treaty, European Parliament is “Co-Legislator” with Council of Ministers



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European Commission:

27 “Commissioners” including:

President Ursula von der Leyen, and

Commissioner for Env, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius

Appointed for 5 year term (2019 to 2024)

European Green Deal at centre of policies

Make legislative proposals



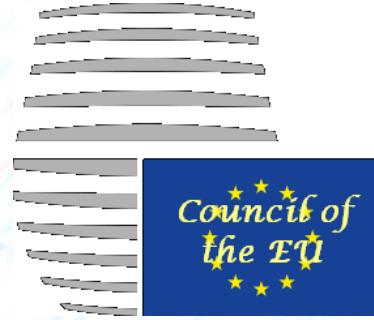
How are Decisions Taken?



Executive Body
European Commission



European Parliament



Council of the EU

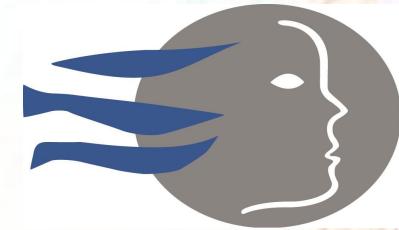


Judiciary
European Court
of Justice

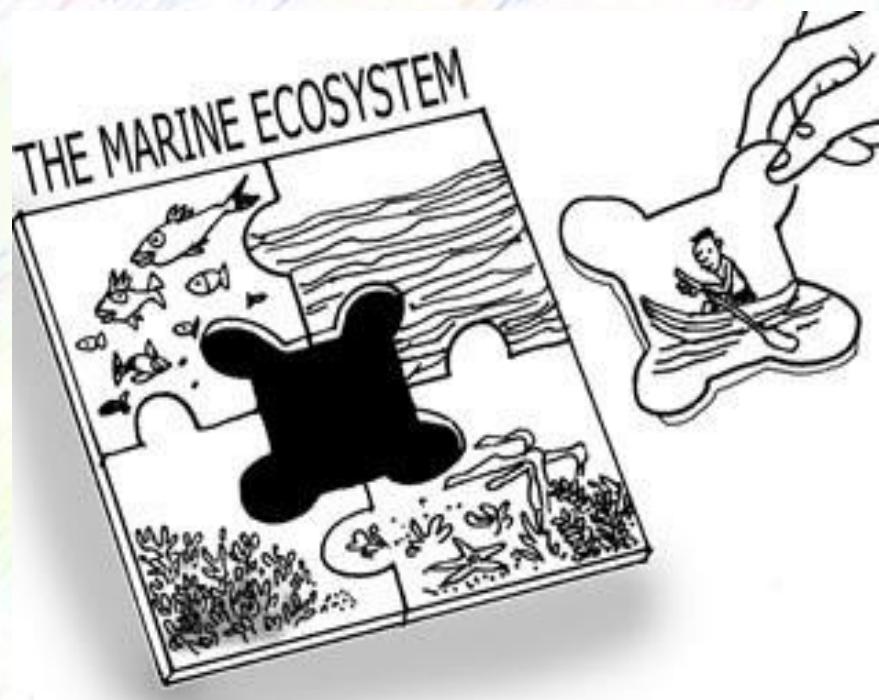
Policy Processes – formal consultations → legislative proposals

Legislative Processes → EU Laws
(Regulations, Directives, etc.)

Low Impact Fishers of Europe - LIFE



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As a professional, member based, organization engaged in decision taking processes

As an advocacy group, providing a dedicated voice for small scale low impact fishers

Providing information, capacity building and other services to small scale fishers and their organizations

Some figures to start with...

*31 Member Organizations,
over 10,000 fishers, operating
over 8000 small boats,
15 Member States, Baltic to
Black Sea*

The HOW (basic principles)

Organization of organisations run **by fishermen for fishermen**

If you're not in the **(decision-making)** room, you're nowhere

Recognize & respect the role of **women** (AKTEA)

Part of finding **solutions**, not creating problems

LIFE: Who, What, How?

The WHAT (the objectives)

Build alliances, build capacity

Ensure **rewards** for sustainable, low impact fishing (Article 17)

Redirect **subsidies** to good practice

Exert **political influence**

Work at **European, Regional and national** levels

The WHO (Membership criteria)

Fishing using **low impact gears & practices** - *Right Gear, Right Time, Right Place*

Vessel owner aboard when fishing

Positive contribution to sustainable fisheries, local economies and coastal ecosystem



Thank You!

Merci!

¡Gracias!

Obrigado!

Grazie!

Σας ευχαριστώ