

European Union and its Member States submissions

The role of seafood in global food security

EUROPEAN UNION

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The fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger together with the right to have access to adequate, safe, sufficient and nutritious food was recognized at the third UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20¹. Furthermore, the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in achieving food security was also stressed². In this context, at Rio+20, States recommitted to meet the 2015 target as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis through the development and implementation of science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the status of the stock and to manage by-catch and discards.

Fish

and 4.000 full

In the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, the state of knowledge about fish stocks is improving gradually, though further progress needs to be made towards the objective at exploiting stocks in conformity with MSY. Until 2012 the state of 85 stocks was assessed with respect to MSY and the proportion of overfished stocks was found to be 88%. This is similar to the situation in the North-East Atlantic in 2008.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements

Bilateral fisheries agreements between the EU and third countries constitute a highly regulated and transparent framework for fishing activities of the EU fleet in third-country waters. Current Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs) aim to create a partnership to promote sustainable fisheries, based on the best available scientific advice and information on the cumulative fishing effort in the waters concerned and have the objective to allow EU vessels to fish only surplus resources in the exclusive economic zones of a number of third countries, in line with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. They constitute a transparent legal framework which aims to ensure that fishing activities of EU fleets are respectful of the stock status, of the environment and ecosystems and do not compete with local fishermen communities. Through these FPAs, while obtaining access to the surplus resources of third countries, the EU provides financial and technical support for the sustainable development of the fisheries sector of

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delivers essential public goods and services such as protection from natural hazards for the growing coastal population and carbon storage in the form of 'blue carbon' sinks such as mangrove forests, sea grass beds and other vegetated ocean habitats, -which can sequester up to five times the amounts of carbon absorbed by tropical forests (Nellemann et al., 2009).

2.23 The Challenge

due to coastal and offshore mining, oil and gas extraction, coastal and riparian zone development, pollution from land-based sources, which are often not adequately managed.

Sustainable development, based on the pillars of ecological, social and economic sustainability, entails reconciling several intersecting agendas. Often agendas are promoted that reflect either the economic, or social or conservation objectives. However, there is a clear need to address all three pillars concurrently. There is also a need to link institutions that deal directly or indirectly with ocean issues across spatial and jurisdictional scales in ways that are efficient and effective, avoiding duplications and conflicts.

National governments can play a key role in addressing these challenges, acting on their own and in concert with others through international treaties including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other regional mechanisms such as the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP). FAO is working on many fronts to find solutions to these problems. Major areas of activity include, for example, development and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, eco-labelling and certification, cooperation with CITES on commercially-exploited aquatic species, management of by catch and discards and others.

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth highlights solutions for meeting this balance between growth and conservation with a view to delivering actionable approaches towards projects for scaled-up action.

Balancing private sector growth and equitable benefits for communities

More than 38 million people are directly employed by capture fisheries, including marine and inland fisheries. Over 90% of these work in small-scale fisheries, primarily in developing countries. Globally, fish provide about 3 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein. In some countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Bangladesh, Ghana and I-251(Fo)7n1 0 0 1 465.22 328.25 Tm[]TJ8o, 77(p)5T66(eith)TJETBT1 T1 0 0 1 um1, 77(p)5a50 Tcid4(-)-25

Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth (ACOFB, 2013) is "Ensuring that opportunities for blue growth do not marginalize small scale, local community- level fisheries and aquaculture." Along the same lines, in the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, members of the international community agreed to "encourage the private sector to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for the youth, including through partnerships with small and medium enterprises as well as cooperatives." These objectives require policies that create incentives for producers and consumers to adopt sustainable practices and behaviour.

These principles for private sector growth and equitable benefits are also enshrined in a number of internationally adopted instruments developed to guide policy makers in decision-making on development in fisheries, namely the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Right to Food Guidelines, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).

Another common issue of the ABNJ and coastal fisheries which directly affects overfishing is the large number of harmful subsidies that have resulted in marine capture fisheries underperforming as a global asset. Perverse subsidies to the fisheries sector (such as for vessel construction and fuel tax waivers) reduce the real costs of fishing and enable fishing to continue when it would otherwise be unprofitable. The Sunken Billions study⁷⁰ shows that the difference between the potential and actual net economic benefits from marine fisheries is in the order of \$50 billion per year - equivalent to more than half the value of the global seafood trade. The cumulative economic loss to the global economy over the last three decades is estimated to be in the order of two trillion dollars. In many countries the catching operations are buoyed up by subsidies, so that the global fishery economy to the point of landing (the harvest sub-sector) is in deficit.

From small-scale artisanal fisheries to large-scale industrial fisheries, and whether in national waters or ABNJ, the related issues of who has the right to exploit the fishery's resources and the nature of that right are a key part of the sustainable management of the resource. The expe1(5 0 0 1 r1(rig)7(h)3(t)-5(us(ex)7(p

2.5. Turning the Tide: delivering solutions

Restoring the health of the world's oceans is a global challenge that can be solved. The challenge is to accelerate efforts to implement the commitments the world has already made and to seize this opportunity for the global economy. The institutional failures that have created the conditions for "The Tragedy of the Commons" with open access to ocean resources can be addressed effectively. A growing number of examples from around the world have shown that global coordinated action to increase investment can unlock the oceans' economic potential, benefiting millions of people.

Taken altogether, whether addressing growth and conservation, private sector and equitable benefits for communities or ABNJ and EEZ, these solutions should also help address fundamental ocean issues such as:

(a) Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture; *with a view towards:* (i) Significantly increasing global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental risk to stimulate investment; and (ii) Enabling the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing and by encouraging responsible governance of tenure.

(b) Critical coastal habitat and biodiversity protection, *with a view towards:* (i) Halving the current rate of natural habitat loss and reducing habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management; (ii) Increasing marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and (iii) Conserving and restoring natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

(c) Pollution Reduction, *with a view towards:* (i) Reducing pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and (ii) Supporting implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess agricultural nutrients, and further develop consensus for identifying cost-effective interventions to reduce these pollutants.

Oceans and food security need to be at the heart of sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts. Healthy productive oceans are vital to global human welfare and are therefore part of the solution.

3. The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will focus on surfacing solutions to meet the needs of countries to restore their oceans and use them to alleviate poverty, share prosperity and better absorb global shocks.

The Summit will emphasize Three Thematic Areas (growth and conservation; private sector and equitable benefits for communities; ABNJ/EEZ) with a view towards breaking down silos in the world of ocean policy and action while promoting integrated approaches. The Summit will focus on how to use this shared understanding to develop action-oriented partnerships, frameworks for existing and new financing mechanisms, and models for good governance.

3.1. Key Objectives

@ scale to deliver healthy oceans for every country.
@ the obligations embedded in UNCLOS.
y themes to serve as inputs to the post-2015 sustainable development framework.

3.2. Summit Logistics

Timing, program and location:
The Government of the Netherlands will host *The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth*

Further information on the Summit will be available on the website:
www.globaloceansactionsummit.com