



European Commission

No 47 April 2010



# FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN EUROPE



## European Atlas of the Seas: Europe from the perspective of its seas

 **Maria Damanaki:** the new Commissioner's priorities

 **Agency:** ensuring control from the net to the plate

 **Reform:** a surprising consultation

## Shows and exhibitions

**Fiera Internazionale della Pesca,  
Ancona (Italy), 21-23 May 2010**

> For more information: [www.fieradellapesca.it](http://www.fieradellapesca.it)

## Conferences and meetings

**Conference of stakeholders on reform  
of the Common Fisheries Policy,  
La Coruña (Spain), 2-3 May 2010**

> For more information: [www.eu2010.es](http://www.eu2010.es)

**Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture,  
plenary session, Brussels (Belgium), 6 May 2010**

> For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries>

**European Maritime Day – Conference of stakeholders,  
Gijón (Spain), 19-21 May 2010**

> For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>

**FAO, Global Conference on Aquaculture,  
Bangkok (Thailand), 9-12 June 2010**

> For more information: [www.aqua-conference2010.org](http://www.aqua-conference2010.org)

## Institutional agenda

**Committee on Fisheries, European Parliament,  
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• 3-4 May 2010

• 2 June 2010

• 22 June 2010

> For more information: [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)

**Informal Council of Fisheries Ministers of the European  
Union, Pontevedra – Vigo (Spain), 4 May 2010**

> For more information: [www.eu2010.es](http://www.eu2010.es)

**Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers of  
the European Union, Brussels (Belgium), 28-29 June**

> For more information: [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

**New on  
the web**

- The site of Maria Damanaki, the new Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries > [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/damanaki/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/damanaki/index_en.htm)
- A new application: European Atlas of the Seas > <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeatlas>
- The thematic site on fisheries has a new look > <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries>
- The address of the Maritime Affairs site is still > <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>

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### Note to readers

We welcome your comments or suggestions at the following address:  
European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and  
Fisheries – Information, communication, inter-institutional relations,  
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B-1049 Brussels or by fax to: (+ 32) 2 299 30 40 with reference to  
*Fisheries and aquaculture in Europe*.  
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## Dear Readers,

Starting a new job brings with it that curious mixture of trepidation at the new challenges to tackle and excitement at the opportunities that lie ahead. That certainly applies to me, as I take up my new role as the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Naturally, I am also very honoured to have been appointed to this prestigious post.

Let me reassure you here and now that I have never been one to shirk a challenge. Indeed, I believe that every challenge can be turned into an opportunity. I am equally convinced of the need to capitalise on every opportunity that arises – especially where the future of our seas, fishing industry and maritime communities is at stake.

That future promises much in the way of opportunities, thanks in no small measure to my predecessor, Joe Borg, and his tireless commitment to make Europe's fishing and maritime sectors economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

For my part, during my term as Commissioner I intend to channel all my energies into securing a healthy and prosperous fishing industry and socially and economically viable maritime communities making their living from a thriving marine environment. This is no pipe dream: it is a vision which I believe we all share and which is there to be realised. With this vision to guide our actions, we will be able to choose the right policies and the tools to implement them. Just as importantly, we will all be pulling in the same direction as partners.

We can already see partnership bearing fruit in the fisheries and maritime policy fields alike.

The ongoing process to engineer a thorough reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – which will be the main focus of our work – began last year with a public consultation. The highly encouraging response to that consultation is ample proof of just how much Europe cares about the fate of its oceans, seas, fishermen and maritime communities. It is also indicative of how the involvement of such a vast array of individuals, organisations and institutions can galvanise a process. I am committed to ensuring that, before my term is out, we will have brought the reform to a successful completion.

The European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy is all about partnership. It takes us away from the isolated, sector-specific approach and allows us to see the bigger picture and to engage in cooperation which benefits all concerned, fosters best practice and creates synergies wherever possible. As Commissioner I want to see us harness the potential of the Integrated Maritime Policy and use it to generate blue growth and blue jobs. For too long, maritime and fisheries communities have been prone to the vagaries of the economic life – as the recent fuel crisis and the current economic downturn have made all too plain. We must strive to ensure that they can both withstand the bad times and make the most of the good times.

So the time has come to set about seeing our shared vision through to the end. We should not expect miracles overnight, and the road will be a bumpy one at times – but failure is not an option. Our task will be all the easier if we work together. I know that you share my passion for our seas, our fishing industry and our coastal and maritime communities. That is why I am confident that you will be willing partners on the journey on which we are about to embark. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

**Maria Damanaki**, European Commissioner  
for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



## □ Maria Damanaki's priorities



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**Maria Damanaki, the new Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries:** *'Only profitable fisheries can guarantee the livelihood of fishermen and their families. And for fisheries to be profitable, the seas must give fish in a sustainable way.'*

**Maria Damanaki is the new European Commissioner responsible for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. She is Greek and was born in Crete. In 1973, as a chemical engineering student, she took part in the Athens Polytechnic uprising against the dictatorship. Maria Damanaki pursued a career in the Greek Parliament as a member of the PASOK (1). The new Commissioner took up her duties on 9 February, just as preparation of the forthcoming reform of the Common Fisheries Policy reached cruising speed. This will obviously be one of her priorities.**

Maria Damanaki had an opportunity to outline her priorities at the hearing by the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries, on 19 January 2010. She identified three. The first is to implement the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). She will expand on the work carried out by her predecessor with the publication of the Green Paper in April 2009.

During her hearing, she summed up the options that seem to be emerging for the reform, mentioning the first conclusions from the consultation that closed at the end of 2009 (2). On management, she is exploring ways to decentralise decision-making with the aim of involving the sector more closely and making it accountable. She also intends to change the quota allocation system to make it a tool for striking a better balance between fleets and available resources while protecting small-scale coastal fisheries.

*'Fisheries are more than just a source of food,' she stated. 'For our coastal areas, fisheries represent security, culture and history. It is a way of life. It's a life with many difficulties, with which I'm well acquainted since I was born in a fishers' village. Only profitable fisheries can guarantee the livelihood of fishermen and their families. And for fisheries to be profitable, the seas must give fish in a sustainable way.'*

This leads to her second priority: improving application of the current CFP, particularly on sustainability and compliance. The sustainability of fisheries is a crucial objective and must be understood in its three dimensions: environmental, economic and social. The important thing is to bring stocks back up to sound levels in order to restore the sector's economic prosperity and maintain the social fabric of coastal areas. This requires strict compliance with rules, especially on catches, discards and illegal fishing.

*'In both European Union and international waters, we have to apply the rules and reverse the current trends of insufficient control and overfishing,'* she commented.

Her programme for fisheries includes: the CFP reform package, multiannual plans, a regulation on eco-labelling of fishery products, a communication to enhance the functioning of regional fisheries management organisations and targeted initiatives to intensify implementation of the CFP in all sea basins.

### Enhancing integration

The third priority of the new Commissioner is to consolidate the European Union's integrated maritime policy. Here too, the perspective is sustainable development. The aim is to better exploit the potential of the seas and oceans so as to foster economic growth and job creation while reducing the impact on the environment.

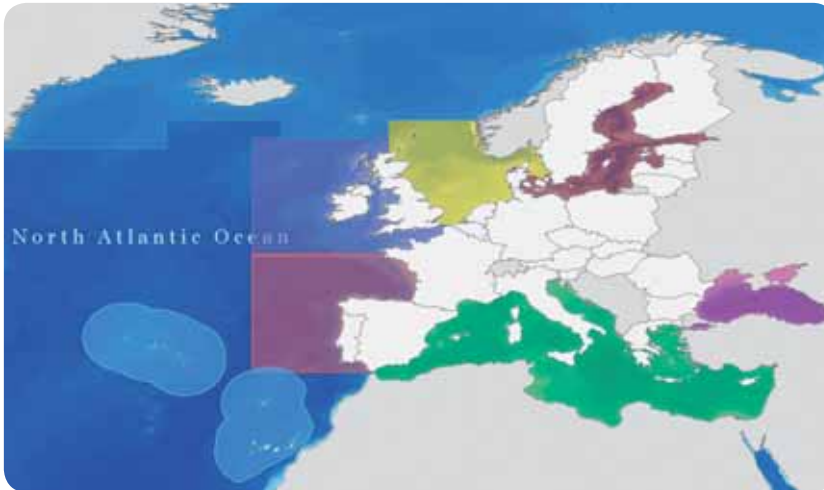
*'Coming from an island with a rich maritime tradition starting from the depths of antiquity, the Minoan civilisation, I will be proud to contribute to blue growth in Europe,'* she declared.

Maria Damanaki mentioned a number of sectors that she considers decisive for Europe's maritime future, in particular alternative energy sources, trans-European energy networks, the motorways of the sea, short-sea shipping and new marine technologies. She sees the strategic approach based on individual sea basins as essential for developing tailor-made solutions in each of the maritime regions.

The first items on the new Commissioner's programme include maritime spatial planning, integration of maritime surveillance, knowledge of the marine environment, improved maritime governance in the Mediterranean, growth and employment, and funding of future actions.

(1) Greek Socialist Party.  
(2) See article p. 10.

## Europe from the perspective of its seas



### MAP OF SEA BASINS

- North Sea
- Baltic Sea
- Celtic Seas
- Mediterranean
- Black Sea
- Very remote regions
- Arctic Ocean
- Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian Coast

Source: DG MARE

**The ambition behind the recent launch of the European Atlas of the Seas is to move beyond a strictly terrestrial vision of Europe. This Atlas offers European citizens better knowledge of its seas and of sea-related initiatives. It is also expected to help improve coordination of sea and coastal activities.**

The Atlas project was announced in October 2007 in the framework of the Blue Book that set guidelines for the integrated maritime policy. It is public, available online and very easy to use.

The European Atlas of the Seas is a free educational tool for professionals, students and the public at large. It is available in three languages (English, French and German). The user simply clicks on the subject of interest for further information, and can refine the search by zooming in on a country or sea basin or moving around on the map of Europe.

The Atlas presents all the European sea basins (Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and Black Sea) and also covers the waters of very remote regions and of the Arctic Ocean. It addresses all sea-related themes: fishing of course, aquaculture and the fishing fleet, but also scientific information (bathymetry, i.e. measurement of the depth of oceans, hydrography, etc.), environmental data (protected areas, coastal erosion, etc.) and demographic and economic information (transport, employment, etc.). The data will be updated regularly.

### Visual compilation

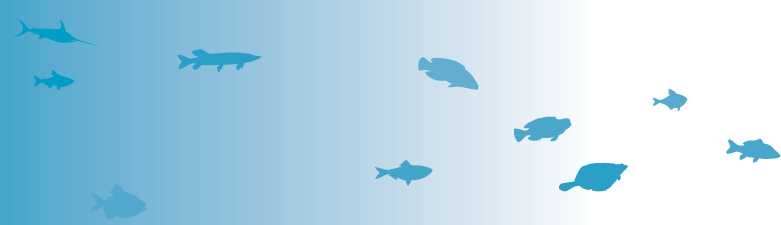
None of the data was created specifically for the Atlas. The Commission's staff gathered information related to the selected themes. All the sources are cited and are always reliable (Eurostat, European Environment Agency, FAO, etc.). An equally thorough process was followed to choose links to more complete information on certain themes.

The Atlas cannot be considered a scientific tool, however, as it is not meant to compete with tools for strictly professional use. The Commission presents it primarily as a communication tool. The idea is to give European citizens a concrete and visual approach to the seas, to enable them to become reacquainted with the maritime heritage from which they have been isolated for too long.

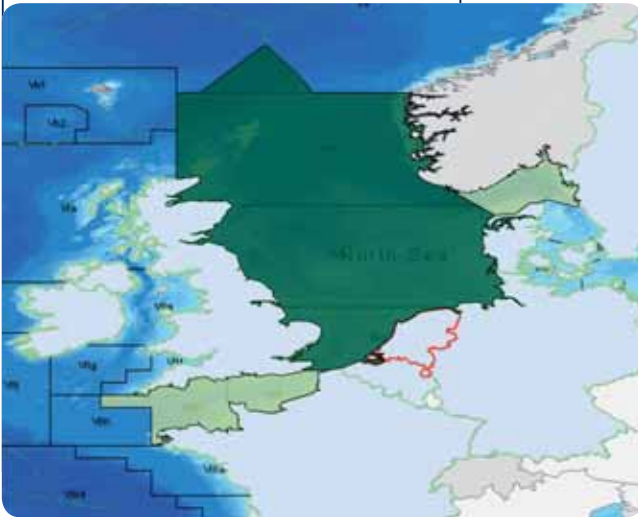
The Atlas will go online this spring to coincide with the launch of the Commission's new Fisheries site. This is just the first step, though. In May, the European Commission will open a public consultation to learn what information is considered useful, which themes need to be further developed, weak points of the Atlas, etc. At the end of the year, a new version taking account of users' comments will be launched.

With its concrete and comprehensive panorama of European seas, the European Atlas of the Seas is a very innovative tool covering a subject much broader than fisheries alone.

The European Atlas of the Seas:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeatlas>



## FISHING



### Map of European plaice quota for the Netherlands

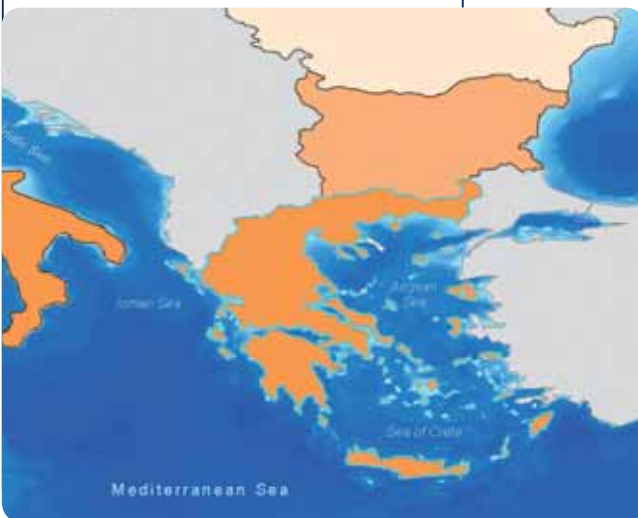
Complicated tables are no longer the only way to find information on fishing quotas allocated to a Member State or the tonnage of a given country's catches. A click on the FISHING QUOTAS tab gives the user access to the allocation of quotas by country or fishing zone, for example, the quota for European plaice for the Netherlands. Information on total consumption of stocks per fishing zone is also available. This data will be updated every three to six months. The Atlas also contains data on aquaculture. It is easy to see the distribution of fish farms by country and by species. Additional information is contained in fact sheets on common aquaculture species (rainbow trout, Pacific oyster, seabream, etc.).

Unit: percent



Source: TQONT Database

## FISHING FLEET



### Zoom in on the number and type of vessels in Greece

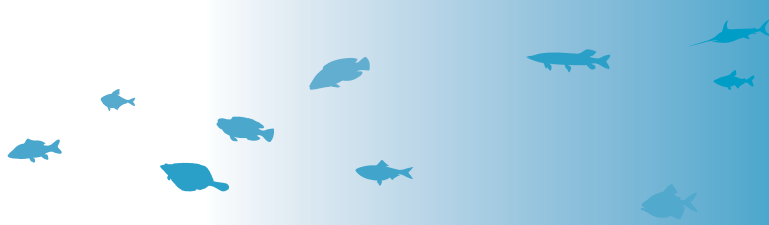
More than 45 % of the European fishing fleet is concentrated in the Mediterranean. It is in this zone that more than 250 000 European Union fishermen catch around 1.3 million tonnes of fish a year, in particular sardines, anchovies and hake. Much more local information can also be found, however. By clicking on a country, Greece for instance, the user can obtain figures on the fleet. The search can also be narrowed down further to see the fleet composition according to type of vessel or size, for instance.

Unit: number of vessels



Source: DG MARE





## ENVIRONMENT



Unit: millimetres per year

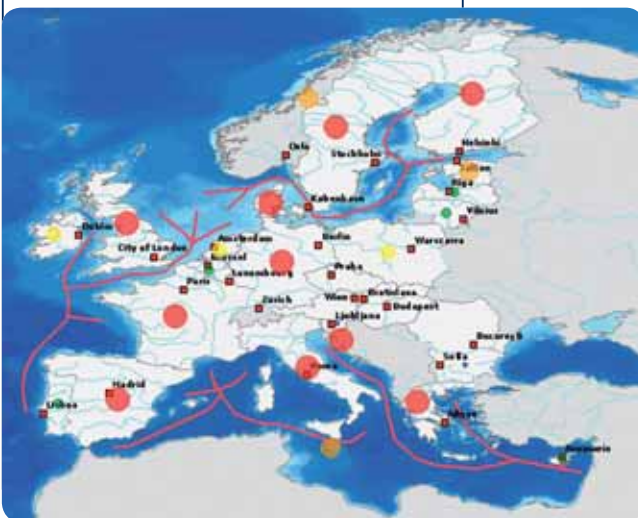


Source: EEA

### Zoom in on the index of sea level rise on the coasts of Brittany, Cornwall and Ireland

Zones of wide tidal range, the state of coastal erosion or the size of marine protected areas: these data and more are available on the different maps of the Atlas. The phenomenon of sea level rise related to climate change is also explained in an educational way. The very visual choice of computer graphics makes another finding crystal clear: the Baltic Sea region is undergoing a very distinctive natural phenomenon. After being locked in by ice for thousands of years, land areas are now growing by several millimetres every year. Information on marine ecosystems and links to the main international agreements on protection of the seas are also available in this theme.

## TRANSPORT



Unit: 1 000 passengers



Source: EUROSTAT, EuroGeographics, DG TREN

### Map of passenger traffic with indication of port size

Some 90% of the European Union's external trade moves by sea and nearly 40% of GDP of the 27 Member States is generated in areas near coasts. All these data are available in very concrete form on maps showing the different routes used by passenger and freight ships. The Atlas shows that the Baltic Sea is still a major crossroads of trade: 90 million passengers cross this sea every year and over half the trade among the Baltic countries is transported by sea. The main ports are also ranked by size. The map clearly shows that the North Sea is home to Europe's biggest ports: Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg. To complete these data, links to national, regional and local atlases are provided.

## The Agency extends its reach



Vigo is not just the seat of the CFCA. It is also the European Union's largest port. Some 160 000 tonnes of fish, molluscs and crustaceans were landed here in 2008.

**The year 2010 is an important milestone: it marks the entry into force of the reform of control of fishing activities. By improving control measures, the EU intends to enhance sustainable resource management. In Vigo, the Community Fisheries Control Agency is ready to steer this change, which will be reflected mainly in its wider intervention powers.**

On this early January day, a typically Galician rain falls on 10 local journalists standing on the *Transatlánticos* wharf, in the middle of the port of Vigo. The Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) welcomes them aboard the Triton. This patrol vessel is the latest acquisition of the Swedish coast guard. It is navigating from its Romanian shipyard to its home port on the isle of Gotland. As it passes through the vicinity of Vigo, it makes a courtesy call to the CFCA. Fisheries control will be one of the vessel's many tasks and it will inevitably work with the Agency in the Baltic and possibly in the North-East Atlantic, in the NEAFC<sup>(1)</sup> zone, in the context of international cooperation.

The visit is an opportunity for Harm Koster, Executive Director of the CFCA, to stress the importance of inspections at sea. Although the reform<sup>(2)</sup> has strengthened control of the shore-based links of the supply chain, controls at sea remain essential. A modern patrol vessel, equipped with the latest technologies and capable of executing long missions, therefore remains a crucial tool.

### Coordination

A short distance away, in the city centre, the Agency's offices are found behind the charming eclectic façade of the *Odrizola* building, where it set up its seat in 2008. In addition to offices, it has meeting rooms and a highly secure telecommunications centre. Surrounded by satellite screens, the teams that coordinate control operations set up their headquarters here when

fishing seasons are in full swing, in spring for bluefin tuna, for instance. It is also where a seining vessel engaged in a catch operation can be detected and where a transfer operation is assumed to be taking place when a satellite image shows a tugboat heading towards a fishing vessel.

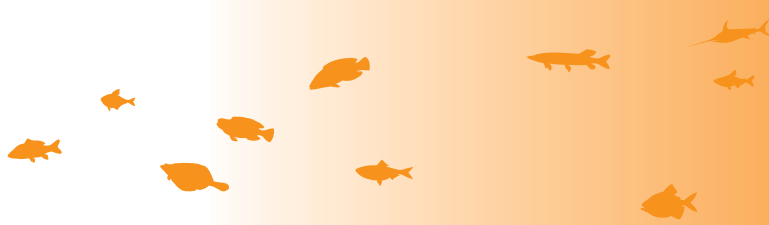
The Agency coordinates the Member States' control activities. It carries out this task mainly in the framework of common deployment plans that involve the control forces of several Member States on a particular stock or fishery. Its role is to make sure that control pressure is effective, uniform and coherent for the entire stock or fishery. It first carries out a risk analysis and uses the result to determine the resources required and to identify the stages of activity where control operations will be most effective.

### From the net to the plate

This possibility of intervening at the different stages of activity constitutes a major innovation of the reform. Until now, the Agency's responsibility stopped with first sale. In other words, it was exercised at sea, on the wharf and at auction. As soon as the fish were sold, they no longer came under the CFCA's jurisdiction. *'That limited our action'*, explains Harm Koster. *'For example, as part of our common deployment plan for Baltic cod, we wanted to organise administrative investigations focused on marketing circuits because we suspected illegal cod purchases by certain processors. But we weren't authorised to do so because this was not part of our remit. That restriction has now been removed.'*

(1) The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission regulates fisheries in the high seas of the North-East Atlantic.  
 (2) See *Fishing and aquaculture in Europe*, No 41, January 2009, pp. 4-10.





© Lionel Flageul

**Harm Koster,**  
Executive Director of CFCA.

*of the two countries concerned. They worked together successfully, discovering huge under-declarations of catches... These agents assumed that there were also infringements in tax declarations, but it turned out that the income had been declared correctly.'*

The result is equal to the effort. In the case of Baltic cod, for example, illegal catches were estimated in 2007 – at the start of the common deployment – to be equivalent to 40% of official catches. Today, they are estimated to have dropped by half. The Agency hopes to improve the situation further, particularly using its new intervention powers.

For now, the Agency is busy drawing up common deployment plans for the North Sea (cod), Baltic Sea (cod), Mediterranean (bluefin tuna) and the NEAFC and NAFO zones, and is also putting in place coordination measures to combat landings of illegal catches. It is preparing a new work programme in which its board of directors will adopt priorities for the next five years, including in the commercial segment.

The Agency can now carry out controls and inspections throughout the sector, from the net to the plate. In other words, it can dispatch inspectors to refrigerated trucks, processing plants or even fish shops or restaurants.

That implies another important change. In the past, the Agency worked mostly with seagoing forces. From now on, other law enforcement bodies will work with it to track illegal catches. In particular this will include agents in charge of financial affairs, who are the most skilled at conducting administrative investigations in the sector's commercial segment.

### **'White collars'**

*'This is going to make controls much more effective,' continues Harm Koster. 'The tax agents are used to conducting very strict controls. They are not the type to tolerate bending the rules. For fishing, we had a bit too much of a tendency to think that it wasn't serious if catches were a tad over the limit, considering fishermen's tough working conditions. As the Community Fisheries Control Agency, we are trying to convince the sector and the national authorities that a culture of compliance has to be developed. What we've seen in the past is just the opposite. With the aid of these new services, it will be easier to promote this culture.'*

In this respect, the Agency's supranational nature is a considerable strength: *'When we identify a problem, we bring together the different national services concerned',* continues Harm Koster. *'Together we determine a strategy to unmask the illegal operation and we organise cooperation. For example, we suspected a processor whose parent company was based in another Member State of trafficking in illegal catches. We organised contacts between agents of the Finance Ministries*

### **Labelling every fish?**

Vigo is not just the seat of the CFCA. It is also the European Union's biggest port. Some 160 000 tonnes of fish, molluscs and shellfish were landed here in 2008. Vigo is also mentioned most often as the port of origin by persons suspected of dealing in illegally caught fish. Obviously, the fishing port's director, Carlos Losada, is not happy with this paradox. For years he has been giving thought to ways of guaranteeing not only the legality but also the quality of the fish landed here. He came up with the idea of labelling fish individually. Each fish should be given a label when it is caught to ensure its traceability and guarantee its quality and origin. Carlos Losada's goal is to make this a European project. *'The price of unlabelled fish would collapse',* he explains. *'This is more than a label. It's a hygiene and food safety guarantee and it's also a guarantee of legal catch.'* The feasibility of this project is the subject of a study by the port authority, headed up by several institutions concerned, including the fishermen's *cofradia* (cooperative) and associations of traders, exporters and transporters. Is this a first step towards European labelling? In any case, the Council of Ministers helped advance the project with its decision to require the tracing of caught and farmed fish, from the vessel's deck or the farm. From 1 January 2011, the Member States will have to ensure that all lots of fish are identifiable and that certain information is recorded on every lot.



## Reform: a surprising consultation

**The sustainable exploitation of fishery resources is an important subject: its stakes include economic activity and employment, sustainable management of stocks, the balance of marine ecosystems, food safety and consumer health. So before launching a major reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission wished to conduct the widest possible consultation.**

The consultation ran until 31 December of last year, more than eight months after publication of the Green Paper (1) on the reform. Contributions came from every horizon and confirm very thorough reflection on the future of European fishing.

### Contributions from a range of horizons

First of all, as the Commission had hoped, the views expressed came from a variety of origins and not just fisheries professionals. Of the 392 original contributions, 113 are from 'ordinary' citizens who have no direct connections with operators in the fisheries sector. This makes up 30% of total contributions. Added to that are 1329 identical messages from individuals. This large proportion shows that fishing is no longer a matter for the sector alone but entails a vision of society that involves all European citizens.

The other responses are from professional federations, environmental protection organisations, consumer associations, social defence groups, research institutes, national, regional and local authorities, non-EU countries (Norway, New Zealand, the ACP Group of States) and obviously the bodies that usually provide input to the Commission such as the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Regional Advisory Councils.

Yet the consultation was more than merely opening a letter box. Commission agents participated in more than 80 meetings on the ground, which enabled them to meet players from the sector and debate problems and solutions with them. This was a bottom-up process: the Commission did not request any of these meetings, which were the initiative of local, institutional or private organisers.

### Realism and open-mindedness

This long period of information-gathering and debate had a positive influence on the quality of the contributions. According to the Commission staff who followed the consultation, a great deal of progress was made between the positions heard at meetings prior to publication of the Green Paper and the responses submitted. Contributors gave a lot of thought to their responses and expressed their views with considerable nuance, open-mindedness and realism. 'We don't see NGOs demanding a halt in fishing or fishermen claiming that there is no problem with resources', explains one official.



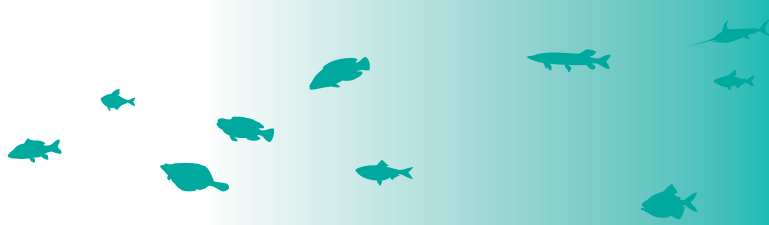
**The opinions expressed came from different horizons. Fisheries operators took part through their professional associations but many individual contributions were also received, including from ordinary citizens.**

A general view emerges in all the contributions: the need for a fundamental reform built on the principles of sustainable fisheries to ensure the continuity of stocks and the sector's prosperity. There are obviously contrasting views as well. These mostly concern how to achieve sustainability, particularly the pace of its implementation and the sacrifices that will inevitably have to be made.

Two points on which the contributions focused suggest the content of the debates ahead for the sector. The first is the need to regionalise the management process. Most stakeholders prefer to see management organised on a less centralised basis than is currently the case. The second is the way fishing capacity is managed. One of the options proposed is the introduction of individual transferable quotas and, as a corollary, the need to protect small-scale coastal fishing.

The next step in the process is already under way. The Commission is drawing up a synopsis of all the contributions as input for its impact analysis. On this basis, it is expected to propose an initial legislative package during the first quarter of 2011. This text should give rise to two years of discussions, debate and amendments in the European institutions and the Member States. Final adoption is foreseen for end 2012, with entry into force of the new Common Fisheries Policy on 1 January 2013.

(1) COM(2009) 163, April 22nd, 2009.



## The opinion of the ACFA

A telling example of the contributions received by the Commission as part of this consultation is the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA). Its contribution is the result of a compromise by all the parties represented in this body: European professional federations, employees' unions and NGOs active in environmental protection, consumer issues and development. So it is not a clear-cut opinion reflecting a single point of view, but its elements reflect the general opinion of the world of fisheries on certain key points of the reform. Here are a few examples:

**Overcapacity** – For the ACFA, the problem of overcapacity of the European fleet should not be caricaturised. The situations vary from one region to the next and some fleets are even perfectly matched to available resources. The Committee therefore notes that a one-size-fits-all solution should be avoided and even recommends management under the responsibility of the Member States. The ACFA supports the idea of collective allocation of fishing rights, but its members were unable to agree on a common position on transferable quotas. Some are concerned that such a system may encourage concentrations and be harmful to small-scale coastal fishing.

**Protection of small-scale coastal fishing** – The ACFA notes that small-scale fishing deserves special attention considering its importance in maintaining the socio-economic fabric of coastal communities. The fleet capacity management system should therefore take this aspect on board. The public authorities should help this segment adapt to the coming changes through initiatives such as micro-lending, training for women, regulations for fishing tourism and so on. As a prerequisite, however, the ACFA recommends an exhaustive study to define the concept of small-scale fishing realistically and precisely, going beyond the criteria of gross tonnage and vessel length.

**Regionalisation** – For the ACFA, the European institutions should confine their role to adopting general policy, a regulatory framework and objectives. Management measures should be transferred to decentralised executive bodies (one per maritime region), whose members would include all stakeholders. The Committee recommends an evolution in the Regional Advisory Councils, which should be expanded to include scientists and national administrations, to avoid setting up new and redundant bodies. This would entail a transitional period to ensure a smooth transfer of competences. As a preliminary, regional disparities in need to be removed and an appropriate control system adapted to this change should be introduced.

**The sector's responsibility** – The ACFA takes the view that the fisheries sector must assume greater responsibility for resource management. Producers' organisations (PO) are probably the best level for exercising this wider responsibility, which includes organising fishing activities and penalising members who fail to comply with fishing plans. The ACFA states that the PO model should be brought into general use on all of Europe's coasts. However, the Committee members representing the catch sector insist on one point: although they agree on the need to take on more responsibility, it must not be financial in nature. They should not be obliged to pay for fishing rights or to share management costs, for example.

**Sustainability** – The ACFA's members note that the three pillars of sustainable development should be given equal importance and that ecological objectives must be firmly maintained. In their view, the Green Paper lacks commitments in the social sphere, particularly employment and working conditions. The ACFA therefore urges the Commission to maintain employment in the sector and to encourage training for young people that will give them the multi-purpose skills that will enable them to find jobs in the other maritime sectors.

**Aquaculture** – The ACFA calls for special attention to be paid to aquaculture as part of the reform and reiterates its recommendations submitted on the strategy for sustainable development of European aquaculture: administrative simplification, public information campaigns, compatibility with environmental legislation, etc.

# In brief

## □ New RFMO for the South Pacific

A new regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) has been set up to manage non-tuna fish stocks in the South Pacific. It covers a vast area that extends westward from south of Ecuador to the high seas off the coasts of Australia and Papua-New Guinea and eastward to the waters of South America. This zone is exploited by numerous fleets that fish mostly for deep-water species (orange roughly, alfonsino, bluenose warehou) and offshore jack mackerel. These include fleets from China, Korea, Russia Chile, Peru, Vanuatu, Australia, New Zealand, the Faroe Islands and the European Union. The international agreement was concluded last November by a number of fishing states from the region and is set to enter into force in two to three years once the different ratification processes have been concluded. The new RFMO has already set up two working groups, one on science and the other on data and information, and it applies interim measures on pelagic and demersal fisheries.

## Profet Policy: conclusions

Profet Policy, an initiative launched in 2006 and financed by the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research, aimed to better inform aquaculture and fishing operators about the latest scientific developments that affect their sectors so as to bring innovation within reach of the greatest number. The project set up an information website ([www.profetpolicy.info](http://www.profetpolicy.info)) that presents simple technical leaflets on research developments. It also organised nine thematic and regional workshops to debate the future of aquaculture and fisheries and to facilitate exchanges of views between policy-makers and stakeholders from both sectors. The programme has come to an end and its conclusions are available on its website. The different meetings made it clear that, in addition to scientific information, the sector needs to be better informed on the many implications of the sustainability approach and on the evolution of European regulations. Speakers also stressed the importance of more immediate communication and debates among policy-makers, professionals and the public. Aquaculture operators, for example, have set up the *European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform* (EATIP) and a similar project is on the drawing board for the fisheries sector.

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