



October 3, 2011

In light of the ongoing discussions on the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), we are pleased to share a copy of a discussion paper on reforming the EU fisheries subsidies. This paper was prepared by an independent consultant with support from BirdLife Europe, Greenpeace, Oceana, Ocean 2012, Seas at Risks and WWF.

The report looks back at the promises made on fisheries subsidy reform during the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) review in 2002 and analyses whether the promises were delivered during the implementation of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in 2007-2013. It suggests ways in which the EMFF and the new CFP more broadly could be reformed.

While there have been some past successes in terms of redirecting EU fisheries subsidies towards more sustainable spending, there continues to be a need to press for further improvements given the critical and declining state of fish stocks and marine ecosystems. Specifically, the structural aid under the EFF still suffers from fundamental problems, contradictions and inefficiencies, while achieving a sustainable balance between resources and fishing pressure remains a distant hope.

In times of financial austerity, the ineffectiveness of fisheries aid is brought into sharp focus as is the overall cost to society of both fisheries subsidies and broader fisheries management failures. EU decision makers have an unparalleled opportunity in the ongoing CFP reform process and the preparations for the next EU budget period 2014-2020 to take effective and necessary steps in order to meet the goals of increasing resource efficiency and halting biodiversity loss by 2020. Anything less will contribute to the continued decline of European and global marine and freshwater ecosystems as well as the European fisheries sector.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the paper's findings and recommendations. We hope you find the paper useful in your ongoing deliberations on the EMFF and the CFP.

Sincerely

Tony Long
Director
WWF European Policy Office
tlong@wwf.eu
Tel: +322 743 8805

On behalf of:

Angelo Caserta, Director, BirdLife Europe
Monica Verbeek, Executive Director, Seas at Risk
Jorgo Riss, Director, Greenpeace European Unit
Xavier Pastor, Executive Director, Oceana Europe
Uta Bellion, Coordinator, Ocean 2012



For comments and questions please contact:

Aimee T. Gonzales
WWF International
agonzales@wwfint.org
+41796927973

Anne Schroeer
Oceana
aschroeer@oceana.org
+4530463625

Markus Knigge
Senior Advisor to the Pew Environment Group
markus.knigge@ocean2012.eu
+491788007278

Saskia Richartz
Greenpeace
saskia.richartz@greenpeace.org
+32495290028

Tatiana Nemcova/Bruna Campos
BirdLife Europe
Bruna.Campos@birdlife.org
+32492888127

Vera Coelho
Seas at Risk
vcoelho@seas-at-risk.org
+32485731086