



WWF

STUDY
BRIEFING

EU

2012

PROFIT OR LOSS?

THE FUTURE OF EUROPE'S FISHERIES



A new independent study – **Socio-Economic Benefits of a Bold EU Fisheries Reform** - commissioned by WWF, is the first to examine the future potential benefits or losses, of the fisheries sector from a purely EU perspective.



2 OUT OF 3
FISH STOCKS ARE DEPLETED

Fisheries management in the EU is unsustainable now and has been for the past 30 years. Many fish stocks are depleted, with low reproduction levels and fish numbers falling. In other words we are taking fish from the sea at a rate faster than they can be replaced.

UP TO 80%
MORE LANDINGS AND EXTRA
INCOME, IN JUST 10 YEARS

If politicians vote for a bold and ambitious Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform that will, together with the proper implementation, allow the fish stocks to recover, in just 10 years from now, we could start seeing huge benefits. By 2022, EU fishermen could be landing an additional 2.8 million tons sustainably caught fish and generating an extra income of €2.1 billion per year for the fisheries sector - around 80% more - than if past trends are allowed to continue.

By enabling stocks to return to sustainable levels, an increase in catches, profit and income should naturally follow.

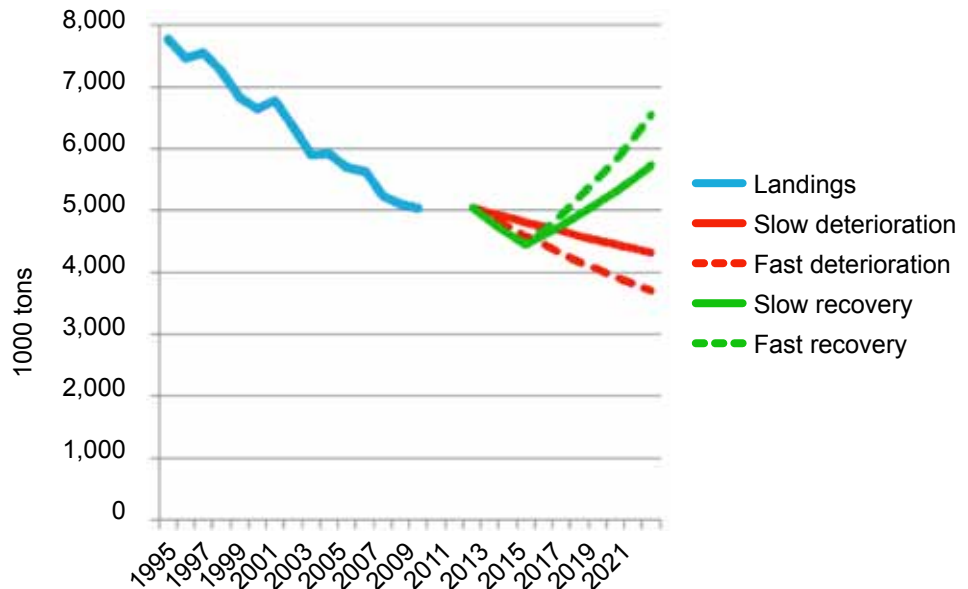
Based on past trends (1995-2009), scientific data and a number of basic assumptions, the study that has been produced by Framian BV, presents four future scenarios up to 2022 and their consequences on the fishing industry:

- Two worst-case “deterioration” scenarios, of which the *Fast Deterioration* is based on a continuation of the past trend of landings, with no reform of the CFP (red lines in fig. 1).
- Two best-case “recovery” scenarios, of which the *Fast Recovery* is based on a bold and ambitious reform of the CFP (green lines in fig. 1).

Figure 1.

Shows the historical landings of EU-27 during 1995-2009 and the assumed development of fish catch under the report's four scenarios. 'Fast Recovery' is the best possible scenario and the result of an ambitious CFP reform.

Source: FAO FishStatJ, 2011 and report's assumptions.



**50,000 JOBS
COULD BE LOST**

The study presents some stark conclusions. If fish stocks and the fishing industry continue to decline **without further CFP reform**, then by 2022:

- EU fishermen will land 1.4 million tons of fish less compared to 2009 - a decline of about 30%.
- EU fishing fleets could decrease by as much as 20%.
- 50,000 fishermen could have lost their jobs across the EU – a 30% drop in employment, compared to 2009.



**INCOME
PER FISHERMAN COULD
INCREASE BY 50%**

On the other hand, if a **bold and ambitious CFP reform** is voted, and properly implemented, leading to recovery of fish stocks, then by 2022 (compared to continuing past trends):

- EU fishermen could land up to 2.8 million tons more sustainably caught fish – an increase of around 80%.
- EU fishing fleets could generate an extra income of €2.1 billion per year for the fisheries sector - around 80% more.
- Income per fisherman could be up to 50% higher on average than it is today.

Figure 2.
Summary of the findings of the four scenarios (2 deterioration and 2 recovery) and potential impacts on key socio-economic indicators compared to the situation in 2009.

	2009 situation	Deterioration scenarios in 2022	Recovery scenarios in 2022
Landings (million tons)	5.1	3.7 - 4.3	5.7 - 6.5
Generated income (€bn)	3.6	2.6 - 3.0	4.1 - 4.7
Income per fisherman (€ 1000)	23	25 - 26	30 - 34



SIGNIFICANT FUNDS
ARE AVAILABLE TO ENSURE THE
TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES

FUNDING THE CHANGES

The proposal for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) allocates €6.5bn to the, “sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries areas.” This budget will be matched by a somewhat lower amount from the national contributions. This means that between, €10bn - €11bn will be available, i.e. approximately €1.5bn annually. These are very significant resources, at a time when all EU governments are forced to cut public spending. Efficient and effective use of these resources must be assured.

WWF CONCLUSIONS

WHAT?

EU fisheries have the potential to be highly productive. A long-term stable supply of fish can guarantee profit for industry and income for fishermen, but only if fish resources are managed sustainably.

WHEN?

Now is the time to put the much needed policy and financial structures in place to allow marine environments time to recover and become healthy and plentiful once more.

THE LONGER THE
WAIT, THE HIGHER
THE PRICE OF
RECOVERY WILL BE
IN FUTURE.

WHAT DO POLITICIANS NEED TO DO?

EU politicians must choose an ambitious reform that will contribute to the recovery of the marine environment, fish stocks and rebuild a healthy fishing industry in Europe - where economic, social and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. At a minimum this will require the new CFP to ensure:

1. Ensures fish populations are above levels which can support **maximum sustainable yield (BMSY) by 2015**;
2. Establishes **multi-annual plans by 2015** and fishery-based co-management groups involving all stakeholders;
3. Enhances **cooperation at regional level** on sustainable management of fish stocks;
4. **Stops** the wasteful practice of **discarding unwanted fish** while bringing **unwanted catches close to zero by 2018** at the latest; and
5. **Limits subsidy payments** to sustainable fishing practices.

STOP BANKRUPTING
OUR OCEANS 



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.wwf.eu

For more information:

www.wwf.eu/fisheries

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