

Oktober 2013

Kære medlem af Europa Parlamentet,

Som medlemmer af det internationale forskersamfund skriver vi til dig fordi vi er meget bekymrede over tilstanden for de europæiske have. Reformerne af den Fælles Fiskeripolitik (FFP) og den Europæiske Hav- og Fiskerifond (EHFF) har givet den Europæiske Union (EU) en stor mulighed for at spille en afgørende rolle i at stoppe det globale overfiskeri med en væsentlig reduktion af subsidier til fiskerisektoren.

Vi opfordrer dig, som valgt repræsentant for borgerne i EU, til at bruge dit lederskab til at påvirke Europa Parlamentet ved at sætte fokus på denne globale problemstilling. Vores marine økosystemer er udfordrede, og overfiskeri udgør en af de alvorligste trusler mod deres produktivitet. Vores erfaring i at studere havenes økosystemer og fiskeri har gjort at vi over årene har været vidne til betydelige ændringer der har fundet sted i det marine miljø og dets udnyttelse. På blot få årtier har udviklingen af fiskeri-teknologi optimeret fartøjer<sup>1</sup> på den måde at de fanger store mængder af fisk; mængder som ikke længere er bæredygtige<sup>2</sup>. Mange fiskebestande, herunder arter som er i toppen af fødekæden, er overfiskede, således at bestandene idag kun udgør en brøkdel af deres tidligere niveauer<sup>3</sup>.

Historisk set har subsidier bidraget til at øge kapaciteten af EU's fiskeriflåde ved at finansiere bygning af nye fartøjer<sup>4</sup>. Som konsekvens heraf er EU's fiskeriflåde skønnet til at være to til tre gange større end hvad et bæredygtigt fiskeri egentlig ville kunne tillade<sup>5</sup>; 39 % af de vurderede

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<sup>1</sup> E. Norse et al. (2012) Sustainability of deep-sea fisheries, *Marine Policy* 36: 307–320

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): more than 85 percent of the world's fisheries are now overexploited, fully exploited, significantly depleted or recovering from overexploitation in FAO. (2012) *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture – 2012. Part 1: World Review of fisheries and aquaculture.* Rome

<sup>3</sup> R. A. Myers & B. Worm. (2003) Rapid Worldwide Depletion of Predatory Fish Communities. *Nature* 423: 280-283; J. A. Hutchings & J. D. Reynolds. (2004) Marine fish population collapses: consequences for recovery and extinction risk. *BioScience* 94: 297-309; R. A. Myers et al. (2007) Cascading effects of the loss of apex predatory sharks from a coastal ocean. *Science* 315: 1846–1850.

<sup>4</sup> The construction of fishing vessels was subsidized under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), which lasted from 1994 to 2006

<sup>5</sup> European Commission. (2008) Press Release: Common Fisheries Policy: Commission launches a mid-term review, Brussels. IP/08/1339.

fiskebestande i det nordøstlige Atlanterhav og mere end 88 % af fiskebestandene i Middelhavet er overfiskede<sup>6</sup>.

Men på trods af den uholdbare tilstand af havene, fortsætter mange af de europæiske medlemsstater med at yde betydelige tilskud til deres fiskerisektor. Disse subsidier er stærke økonomiske incitamenter til overfiskeri, så ved at mindske dem skabes et af de mest betydningsfulde tiltag der kan gøres for at bekæmpe overfiskeri<sup>7</sup>. En rapport fra Verdensbanken<sup>8</sup> konkluderer at inputsubsidier styrker sektorens “fattigdomsfælde” ved at skabe incitamenter til større investeringer og fiskeriindsats i allerede overbelastede fiskerier. Det økonomiske tab i globale fiskerier som følge af ineffektivitet (herunder subsidier) og overfiskeri, udgør op mod 50 mia USD om året (34,2 EUR). Den aktuelle Europæiske Hav- og Fiskerifond udgør en perfekt mulighed for at fjerne de miljøskadelige subsidier til fiskerisektoren for 2014-2020 støtteperioden og dermed ændre kursen for det europæiske fiskeri.

Ved at fortsætte med at bruge offentlige midler på miljøskadelige subsidier vil bringe det europæiske fiskeri ind i en endnu dybere krise. EU er nødt til at bevæge sig væk fra direkte flådesubsidier, såsom midler til nye motorer, bygning eller modernisering af fartøjer, eller at lade fartøjer lægge i tomgang i havnen. I stedet for skal de offentlige penge bruges til almenvellet og fokuseret på kontrol af overholdelse af forvaltningsreglerne, dataindsamling, videnskabelige forskning og vurderinger af fiskebestande.

Vi opfordrer dig til at bruge dine evner og dit lederskab til at opnå et vellykket resultat i EHFF-forhandlingerne og vise verdenen, at Europa Parlamentet kan spille en konstruktiv rolle i at løse problemer af global betydning.

Med venlig hilsen,

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission (2013) 319 final Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2014

<sup>7</sup> U.R. Sumaila et al. (2010) A bottom-up re-estimation of global fisheries subsidies, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, 12, (3): 201-225.

<sup>8</sup> R. Arnason, K. Kelleher and R. Willmann (2008) *The Sunken Billions: The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform*. The World Bank, Washington DC.

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