

Señor eurodiputado, señora eurodiputada:

Como miembros de la comunidad científica internacional, deseamos mostrarle nuestra preocupación por la situación de los mares europeos. Las reformas de la Política Pesquera Común (PPC) y el Fondo Europeo Marítimo y de la Pesca dan a la Unión Europea (UE) una gran oportunidad para desempeñar un papel relevante en detener la sobrepesca en el mundo mediante una reducción significativa de las subvenciones al sector pesquero.

Le instamos a que, como representante de los ciudadanos de la UE, oriente al Parlamento Europeo para afrontar este problema mundial. Los ecosistemas marinos se encuentran en un punto de no retorno y la sobrepesca constituye una de las mayores amenazas a su productividad. Nuestra experiencia en el estudio de los ecosistemas oceánicos y la pesca en el mar nos ha permitido presenciar los enormes cambios que han tenido lugar en el medio marino y en su explotación. En tan solo unas décadas, el desarrollo de la tecnología ha permitido a los buques pescar a distancias y profundidades antes inimaginables¹, capturando así cantidades de pescado que ya no son sostenibles². Muchos stocks pesqueros, incluyendo los de especies en lo alto de la cadena alimentaria marina, se han visto reducidos a una mínima parte de sus niveles históricos³.

En el pasado, las subvenciones han contribuido a incrementar la capacidad de la flota de la UE financiando con ingentes sumas de dinero la construcción de nuevos buques⁴. Como consecuencia, se estima que la flota pesquera de la UE es entre dos y tres veces mayor que lo que permitiría una actividad pesquera sostenible⁵. Un 39% de los stocks evaluados en el Nordeste Atlántico y un 88% en el Mediterráneo sufren sobrepesca⁶.

Pese al precario estado de los océanos, muchos Estados Miembros continúan otorgando significativas subvenciones a su sector pesquero. Estas suponen tal incentivo económico a la sobrepesca que reducirlas sería una de las acciones más importantes que podrían emprenderse

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

² 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.

³ 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.

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

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

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

para combatirla⁷. Un informe del Banco Mundial⁸ concluía que la aportación de subvenciones refuerza la “trampa de pobreza” del sector al incentivar mayores inversiones y esfuerzo pesquero en pesquerías que ya están sobreexplotadas. Las pérdidas económicas en las pesquerías mundiales resultantes de las ineficiencias (subvenciones incluidas) y de la sobrepesca ascienden a 50.000 millones de dólares al año (34.200 millones de euros). La actual reforma del FEMP representa la oportunidad perfecta para eliminar subvenciones perniciosas para el medio ambiente en el periodo de 2014 a 2020 y cambiar el rumbo de la pesca en Europa.

Continuar gastando fondos públicos en subvenciones perniciosas para el medio ambiente hundirá más aún a las pesquerías europeas en la crisis. La UE necesita poner fin a las subvenciones directas a la flota, como fondos para nuevos motores, construcción y modernización de buques o amarres de la flota. En su lugar, el dinero público debería invertirse para el bien público y destinarse a controlar el cumplimiento de las normas de gestión, recogida de datos, investigación científica y evaluaciones de stock.

Por ello, le instamos a que emplee todo su esfuerzo en lograr el éxito en las negociaciones del FEMP y mostrar al mundo que el Parlamento Europeo puede desarrollar un papel crucial en resolver problemas de alcance global.

Atentamente,

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

⁸ 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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