

Hyvä Euroopan parlamentin jäsen,

Kansainvälisen tiedeyhteisön nimissä haluamme esittää sinulle huolestamme Euroopan merien tilasta. Yhteisen kalastuspolitiikan (YKP) ja Euroopan meri- ja kalatalousrahasto (EMKR) uudistus ovat antaneet loistavan tilaisuuden Euroopan Unionille pysäyttää maailmanlaajuinen liikkakalastus vähentämällä merkittävästi kalastussektorin tukia.

Pyydämme teitä, Euroopan kansalaisten edustajana, käyttämään valtaanne vaikuttaaksenne Euroopan parlamentin päätöksiin tässä asiassa. Meriemme ekosysteemien tila on käännekohdassa, ja liikkakalastus on yksi suurimmista merien tuottavuutta uhkaavista tekijöistä. Olemme omien tutkimusuriamme aikana todistaneet merkittäviä muutoksia meriympäristössä ja sen hyödyntämisessä. Vain vuosikymmenten aikana kalastusteknologian kehittyminen on mahdollistanut alusten lähettämisen yhä kauemmas rannasta ja syvempiin vesiin kuin koskaan olisi kuviteltu¹, pyydystämään sellaisia määriä kaloja, joka ei ole enää kestävällä tasolla². Monet kalakannat, mukaanlukien ravintoketjun huipulla olevat, ovat ehtyneet vain murto-osaan aikaisemmasta tasosta³.

Kalastuslalle maksetut tuet ovat vaikuttaneet EU:n laivueen kapasiteetin massiiviseen kasvuun rahoittamalla uusien alusten rakentamista.⁴ Tämän seurauksena EU:n kalastuslaivaston arvioidaan olevan kaksi-kolme kertaa suurempi kuin mitä kestävyuden kannalta olisi järkevää⁵, ja samaan aikaan arviolta 39% Koillis-Atlantin ja 88% Välimeren kalakannoista on ylikalastettuja.⁶

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

Ylikalastuksesta ja merien yleisestä huonosta tilasta huolimatta, monet Euroopan unionin jäsenvaltiot jatkavat merkittävien tukien maksamista kalastussektorille. Nämä tuet toimivat niin tehokkaina taloudellisina kannustimina jatkaa liikakalastusta, että niiden leikkaaminen on yksi merkittävimmistä toimista, joilla voidaan torjua ylikalastusta⁷. Maailmanpankin raportissa⁸ todetaan, että tuotantopanostukset vahvistavat alan “köyhyysloukkua” luomalla kannustimia lisäinvestoinneille ja lisäämällä jo valmiiksi ylikalastettuihin kantoihin kohdistuvaa pyyntiponnistusta. Maailmanlaajuisesti, kalastusalan tehottomuudesta (tuot mukaan lukien) ja liikakalastuksesta johtuvat tappiot ovat jopa 50 miljardia dollaria (34,2 miljardia euroa) vuodessa. Käynnissä oleva EMKR:n uudistus tarjoaa hyvän tilaisuuden poistaa ympäristölle haitalliset tuet kalastussektorilta 2014-2020 rahoituskaudella ja siten muuttaa Euroopan kalastuskäytäntöjen suuntaa.

Jos julkisten varojen ohjaamista jatketaan ympäristölle haitallisiin tukiin, ajautuu Euroopan kalastusala yhä syvemmälle kriisiin. EU:n täytyy lopettaa rahojen ohjaaminen laivoston suoraan tukemiseen, kuten uusiin moottoreihin, uusien laivojen rakentamiseen tai vanhojen alusten nykyaikaistamiseen, tai laivojen satamassa makuuttamiseen. Sen sijaan julkisia varoja tulisi käyttää yleisen edun hyväksi ja rahat olisi keskitettävä hoitoa ja hallintaa koskevien sääntöjen noudattamiseen, tiedonkeruuseen, tieteelliseen tutkimukseen ja kalakantojen tilan arviointiin.

Kehotamme teitä käyttämään tietoa ja valtaanne, jotta EMKR-neuvotteluissa päästään onnistuneeseen lopputulokseen. Teillä on nyt mahdollisuus näyttää, että Euroopan parlamentilla voi olla tärkeä ja rakentava rooli maailmanlaajuisien ongelmien ratkaisemisessa.

Ystävällisin terveisin,

Allekirjoittaneet tutkijat

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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