

Oktober 2013

Kära ledamot av Europaparlamentet,

Som medlemmar av det internationella forskarsamfundet, skriver vi till er med stor oro om tillståndet i Europas hav. Reformen av den gemensamma fiskeripolitiken (GFP) och Europeiska havs-och fiskerifonden (EHFF), har gett Europeiska unionen (EU) en stor möjlighet att stoppa det globala överfisket genom en betydande minskning av subventioner till Europas fiskerinäring.

Vi uppmanar dig som folkvald företrädare för EU:s medborgare att använda ditt ledarskap till att vägleda Europaparlamentet i denna globala utmaning. Överfiske utgör ett av de största hoten mot marina ekosystem. Vår erfarenhet av att studera havens ekosystem och fiskets påverkan på dessa har gett oss möjlighet att bevittna de stora förändringar som skett i den marina miljön och dess utnyttjande. Under de senaste årtionden, har utvecklingen inom fiskets teknik lett till att fiskefartyg fiskar längre och djupare än någonsin¹, och fångar ohållbara mängder fisk². Många fiskbestånd, däribland arterna överst i den marina näringskedjan, har utarmat till den grad att endast en bråkdel av deras historiska nivåer finns kvar³.

Historiskt sett har offentliga stöd bidragit till att öka Europas fiskekapacitet genom massiv finansiering av nybyggnation av fartyg⁴. Som en följd av detta uppskattas Europas fiskeflotta vara två till tre gånger större än vad ett hållbart fiske skulle tillåta⁵, medan 39% av vetenskapligt bedömda fiskbestånd i Nordostatlanten och mer än 88% i Medelhavet förblir överfiskade⁶.

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

Ändå vill många europeiska medlemsländer fortsätta att bidra med stora summor till deras fiskesektor. Dessa subventioner orsakar sådana starka ekonomiska incitament till överfiske att minska dem är en av de viktigaste åtgärder som kan vidtas för att bekämpa överfisket⁷. I en rapport från Världsbanken⁸ drogs slutsatsen att subventioner förstärker sektorns "fattigdomsfälla" genom att skapa incitament till ökade investeringar och fiskeansträngning i ett redan överbelastat fiske. De ekonomiska förlusterna i de globala fisket till följd av ineffektivitet (inklusive bidrag) och överfiske uppgår till upp till 50 miljarder dollar per år (34,2 miljarder euro). Reformen av EHFF utgör ett perfekt tillfälle att avskaffa miljöskadliga subventioner till fiskesektorn för stödperioden 2014-2020 och därmed positivt förändra det europeiska fisket.

Väljer man istället att fortsätta att spendera offentliga medel på miljöskadliga subventioner kommer det europeiska fisket att gå djupare in i krisen. EU måste sluta ge direkta subventioner till sektorn, såsom medel för nya motorer, nybyggnation och modernisering av fartyg, samt stöd för att fartyg står i hamn. Istället bör offentliga medel spenderas på sådant som gagnar allmänheten och ger samhällsnytta som till exempel kontroll av efterlevnaden av förvaltningsregler, datainsamling, forskning och analys av Europas fiskbestånd.

Vi uppmanar dig att använda ditt ledarskap för att uppnå ett lyckat resultat i EHFF förhandlingarna och visa världen att Europaparlamentet kan spela en konstruktiv roll för att lösa globala problem.

Vänligen,

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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