

Overfishing and subsidies

A vicious cycle

THREE TIMES TOO MANY BOATS



Sustainable

Overfishing

The European fleet has the ability to catch two to three times^[ii] more than what the ocean can provide sustainably and subsidies have overwhelmingly contributed to keeping Europe's oversized fleet alive.

TYPES OF SUBSIDIES^[iii]

Good: Beneficial

These subsidies enhance the growth of fish stocks by supporting sustainable fisheries management, monitoring and control or data collection.

Ugly: Ambiguous

These subsidies can lead to positive or negative impacts on the fishery resource, depending on the design of the program.

Include fisher assistance programs, start-up aid, support of aquaculture development, and community development programs.

Bad: Capacity enhancing

These subsidies stimulate overcapacity and overfishing through artificially increased profits that further stimulate effort and compound resource overexploitation problems.

Include fuel subsidies, boat and port construction and modernization.

[ii] European Commission. 2008. Press Release: Common Fisheries Policy: Commission launches a mid-term review.

[iii] Sumaila R et al. 2010. A Bottom-Up Re-Estimation of Global Fisheries Subsidies. University of British Columbia, Canada.

3 TO 4 OUT OF 10 SUFFERED LOSSES

A 2009 assessment found that 30 to 40 % of the fleet segments suffered losses each year from 2002 to 2008^[iv]. Subsidies keep these unprofitable fishing fleets afloat with taxpayer money.

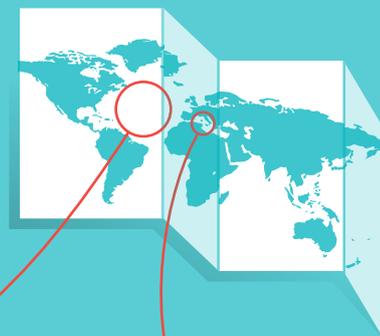


Only a handful of EU fleets are profitable without public support, and most are either running losses or returning low profits.

[iv] Joint Research Centre, Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (2010): The 2010 Annual Economic report of the European Fishing Fleet.

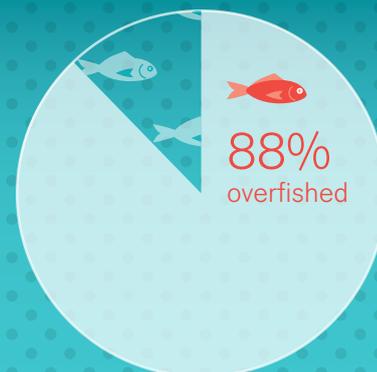
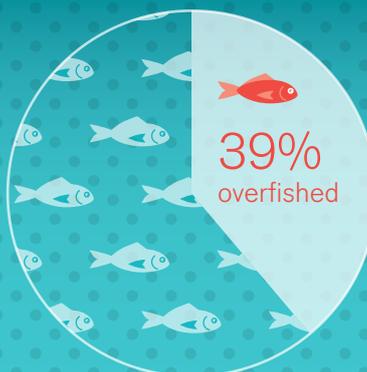
STOCKS IN 2012

In the EU in 2012 39% of 41 assessed stocks in the Atlantic and over 88% (75 of 88 stocks assessed) in the Mediterranean are overfished^[i]. Despite the precarious condition of fish stocks, the EU continues to provide its fishing sectors with massive subsidies.



Atlantic

Mediterranean



[i] European Commission, 2012 Communication From The Commission to the Council concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2013, COM(2012) 278 final.