

# The contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture to food security

**Challenges and Opportunities for the Fisheries Sector**

Brussels, EESC, 14 November 2024

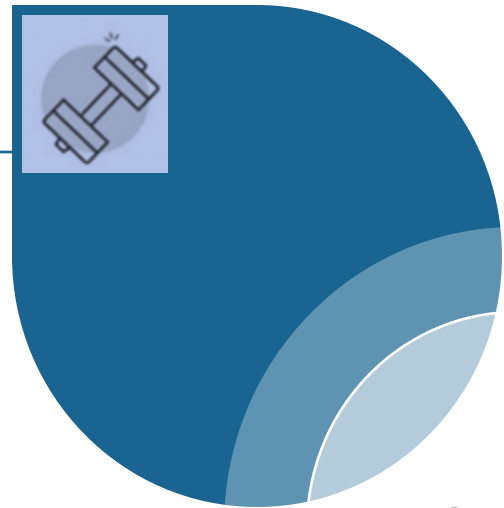
## STRENGTHS

- Stock recovery
- Fleet balance
- Lower emissions
- Responsible fishing
- Perfect protein

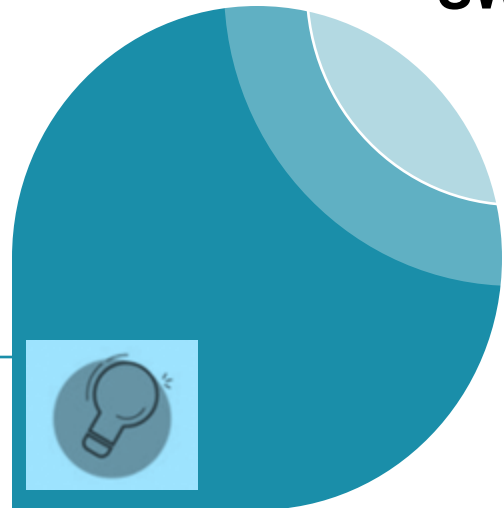


## OPPORTUNITIES

- Food sovereignty
- CFP – human element
- Healthy diets
- Circular economy
- Decarbonisation
- Due diligence & forced labour standards



## SWOT



## WEAKNESSES

- Fleet reduction
- Ageing crews & generational gap
- Increased operating costs
- Ever-increasing bureaucracy
- Disproportionate EU policies
- Spatial squeeze & area closures
- Lower seafood consumption rates
- Deficient market recognition of origin



## THREATS

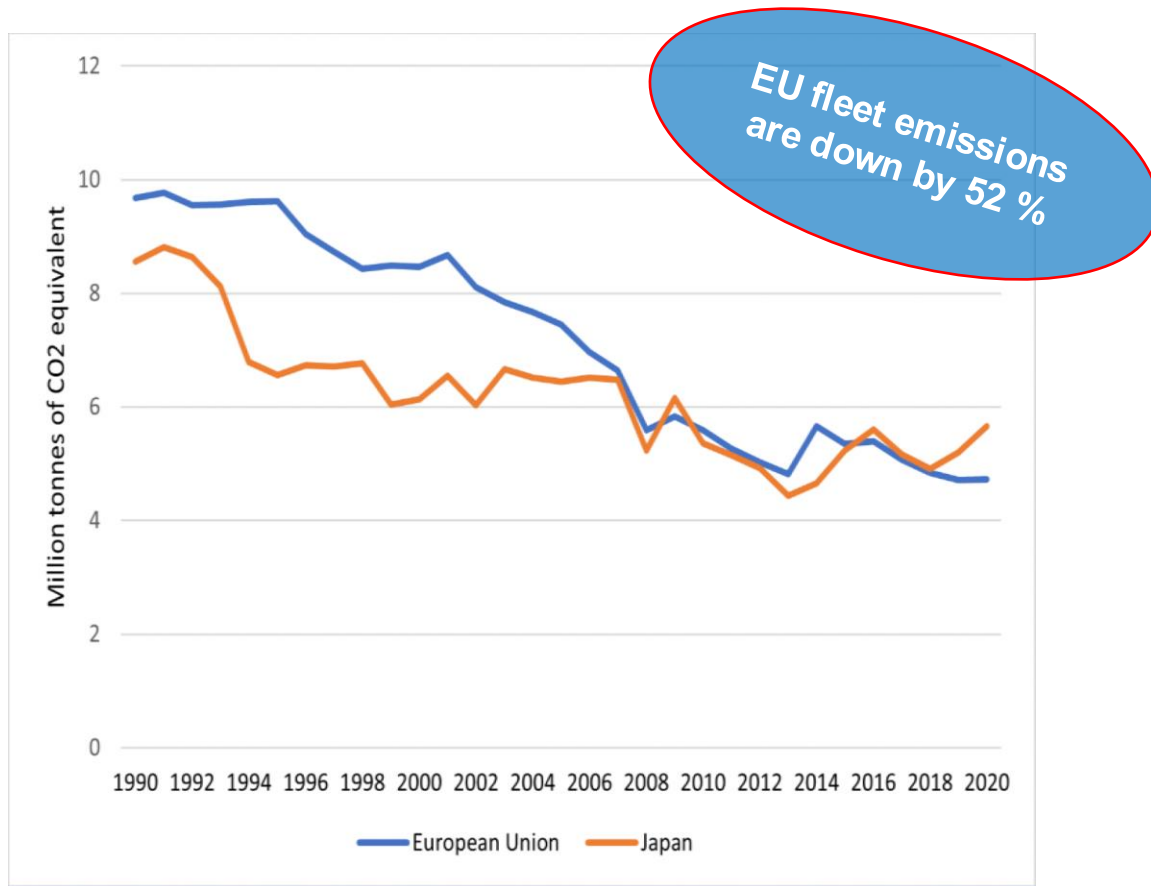
- Geopolitical & economic situation
- First-sale prices volatility
- Unlevel playing field - Unfair competition
- Climate change
- Reduced access to 3<sup>rd</sup> country's waters
- Increased natural fish mortality and predation



## EU Fisheries – State of Play

# Fighting against climate change

## Fisheries CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU 1990-2020

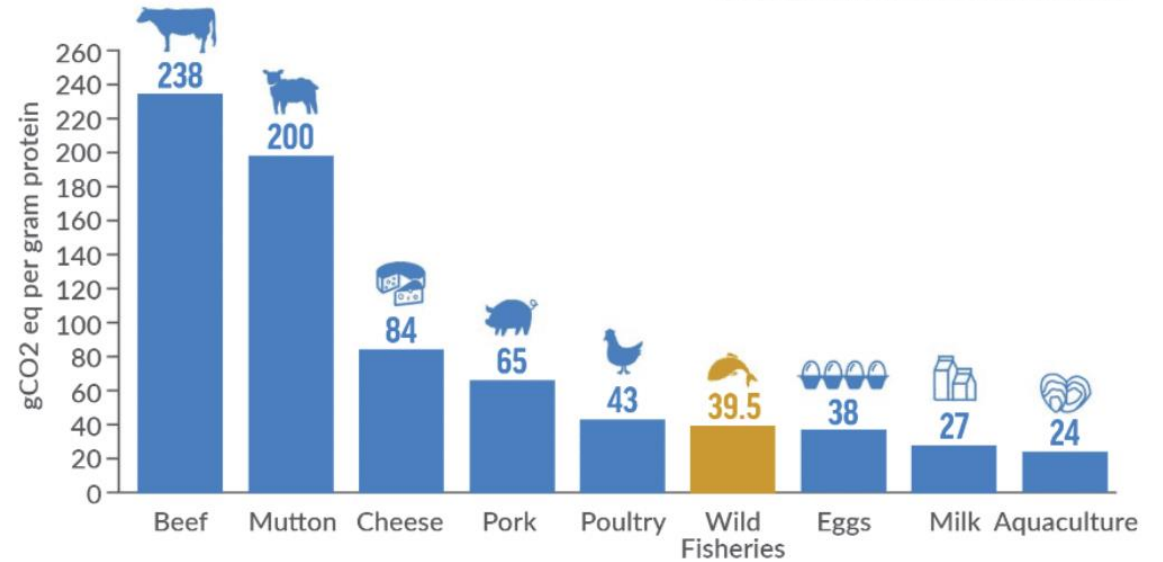


Source: UNCTAD (2023) based on UNFCCC (2023)

## Seafood: a key to climate solutions and healthy diets

### Wild seafood has a lower carbon footprint than red meat, cheese, and chicken

CO<sub>2</sub>e Emissions of Protein Sources



Sources: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03889-2>  
<https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.aaq0216>

# Lives at sea matter

Prioritizing Safety &  
Well-being of Fishers



DIRECTIVES



COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EU) 2017/159

of 19 December 2016

implementing the Agreement concerning the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 of the International Labour Organisation, concluded on 21 May 2012 between the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (Cogeca), the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche)

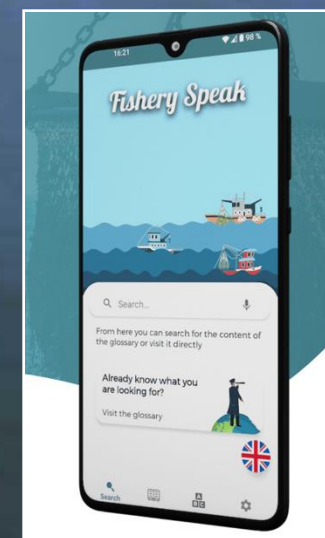


## VR-ME

Virtual Reality for Maritime Emergencies



## Catching THE Potential



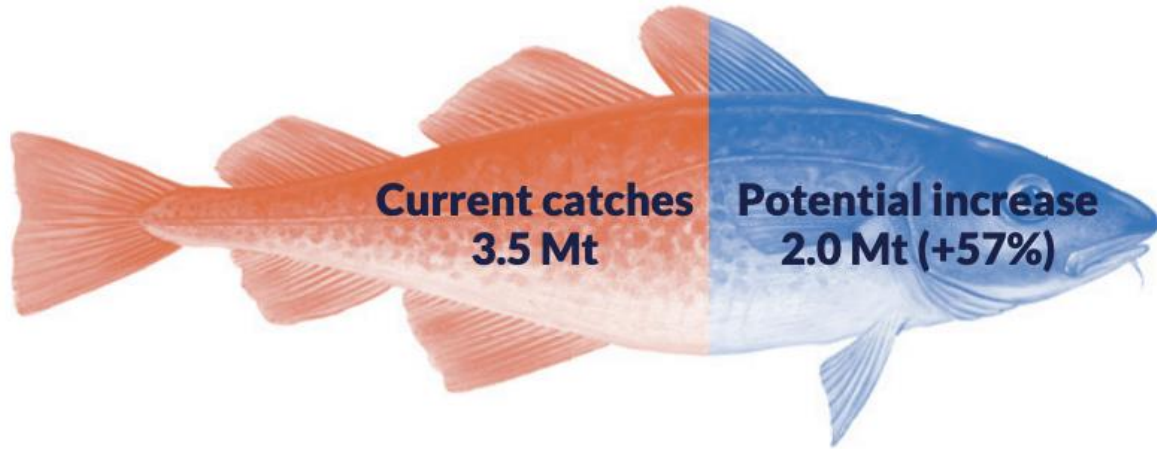


## Achieving Sustainable Fisheries

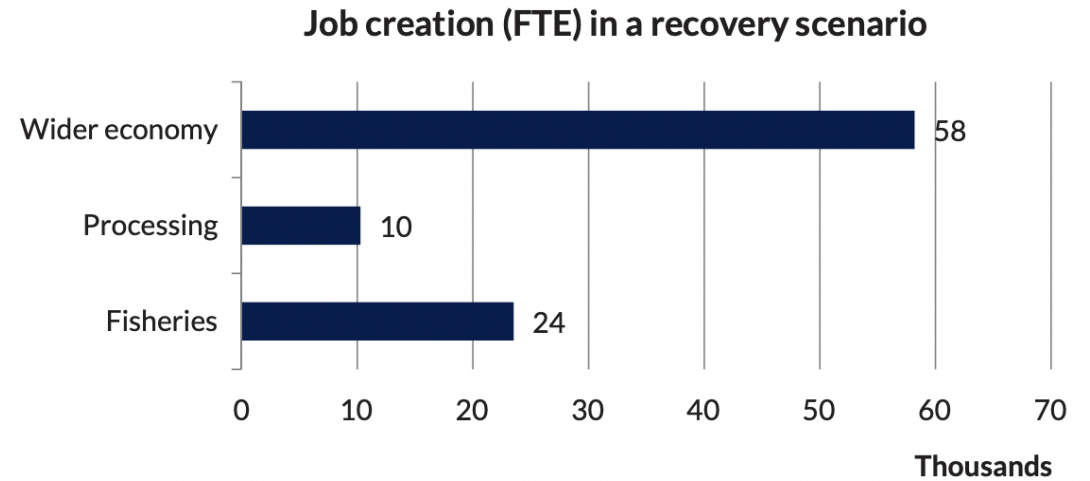
- 50% reduction in **fishing effort** in 20 years (historic lows)
- 5 TACs set in line with **MSY** in 2009 vs more than 60 at present
- 99% Atlantic **landings** from EU-managed stocks = sustainable
- 37% overall increase in stock **biomass** (2003-2022)

# The eternal promise

MSY = more fish, more money, more jobs

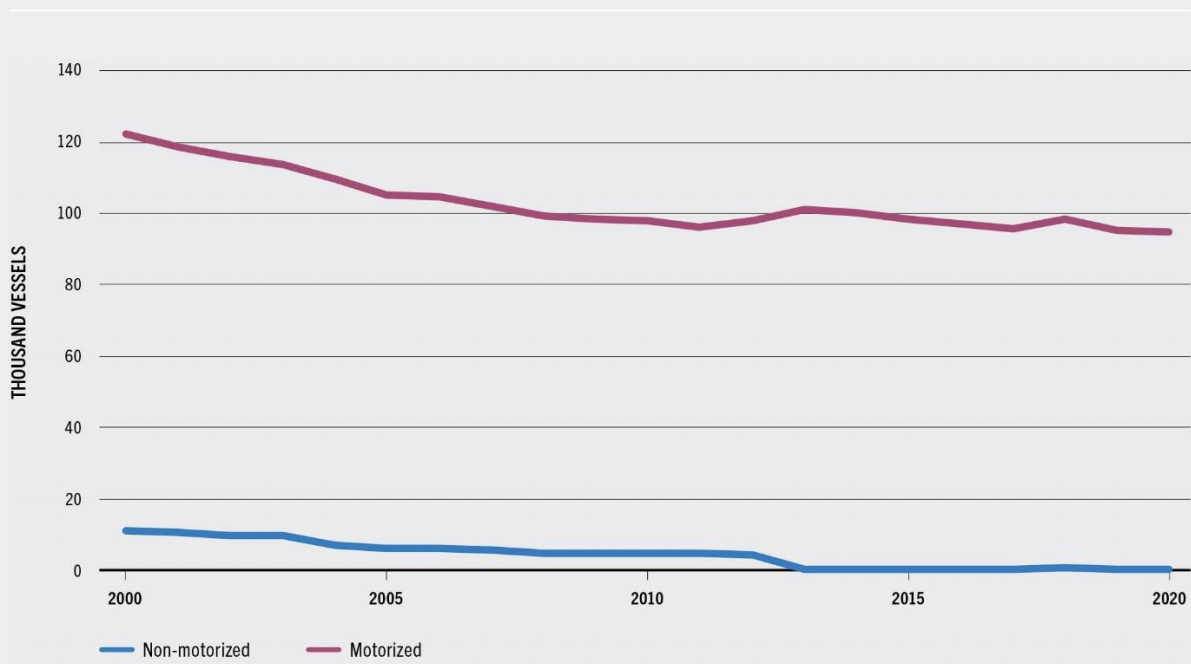


\*359 fish stocks included in the analysis.

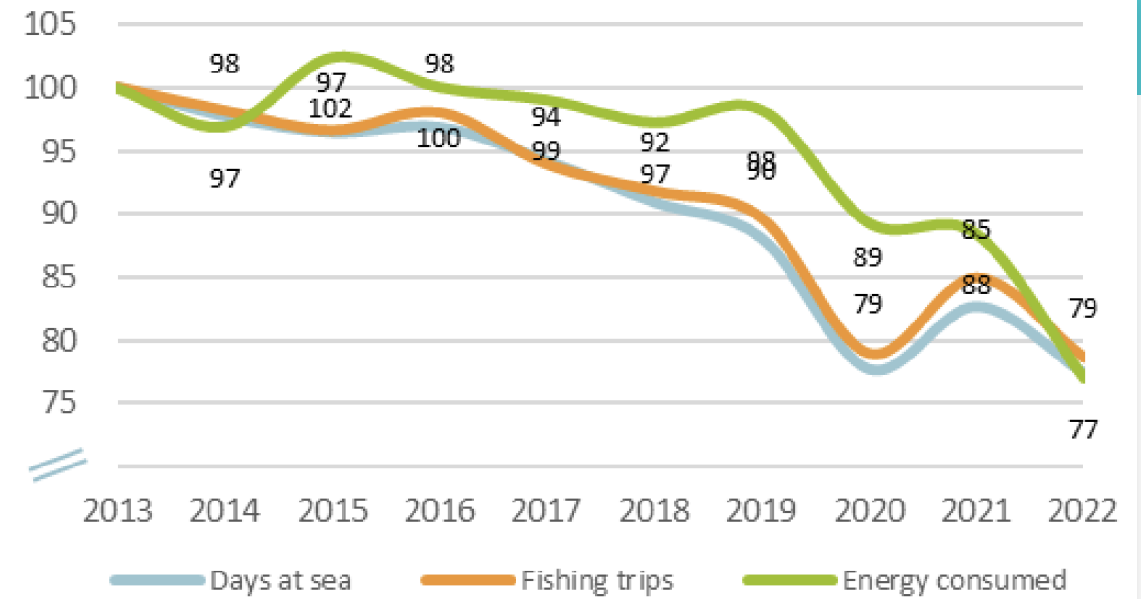


# Fleet & Fishing effort decline

**FIGURE 29 FISHING FLEET SIZE BY MOTORIZATION STATUS, EU-27, 2000–2020**



SOURCE: FAO.



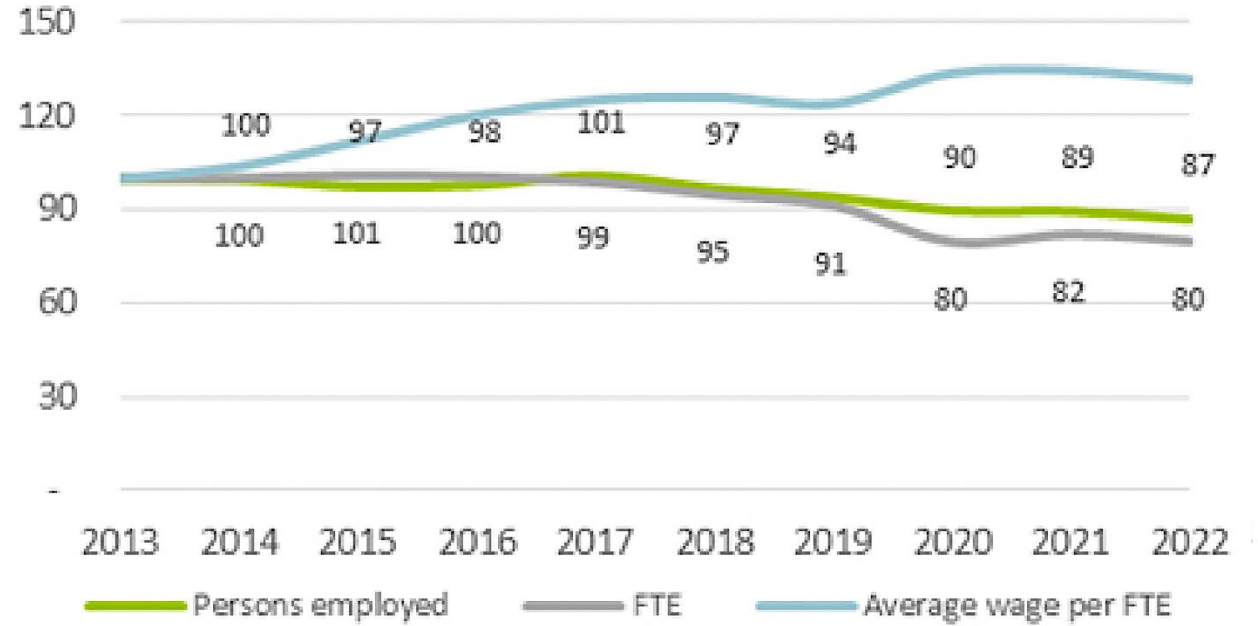
**28% Fleet reduction**

Average age: 31.5 years

Only 52,830 vessels remain active



## EU fishing fleet workers



# Aging crews – Generational Gap

- 20% reduction full-time employees (FTE) 2013-2022
- Lack of generational change despite salary improvements

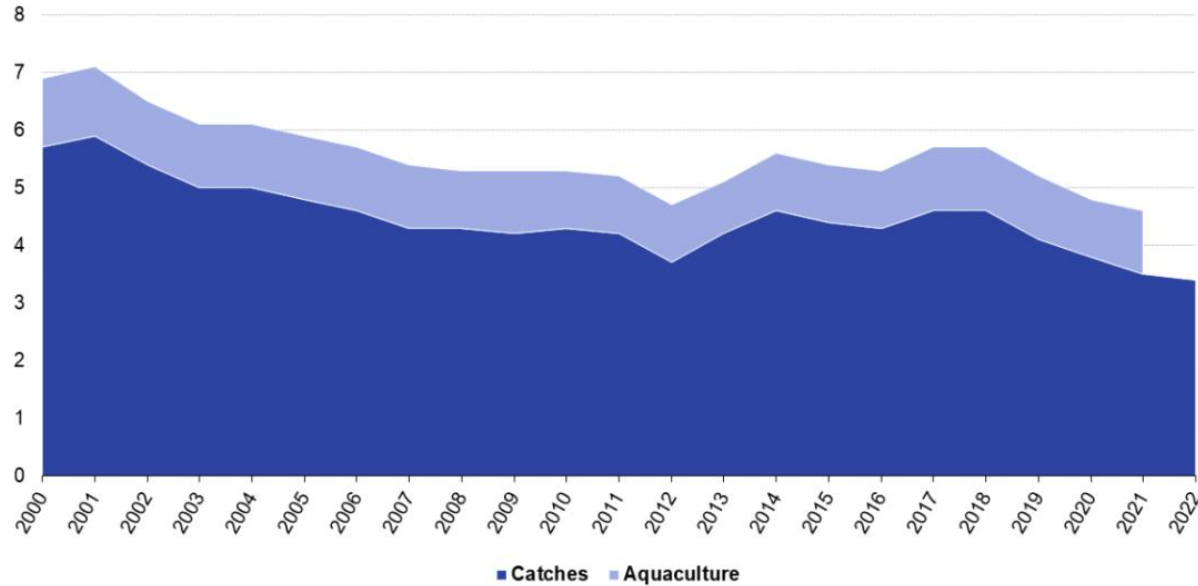


# Food Production

## Food sovereignty / self-sufficiency **in decline**



**Total production of fishery products**  
(million tonnes of live weight, EU, 2000-2022)



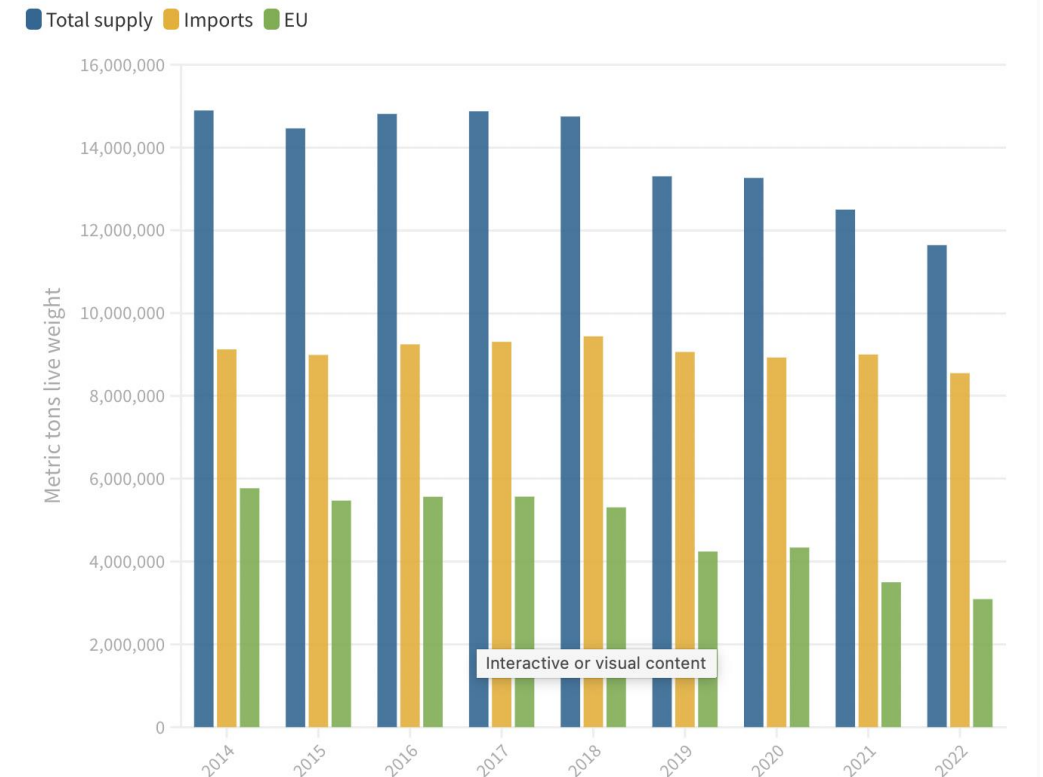
Note: Substitute years have been used where there are a limited number of confidential data for catches and aquaculture.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish\_ca\_main, fish\_aq\_q and fish\_aq2a)



European Union hits record-low levels of seafood self-sufficiency as dependence on imports grows

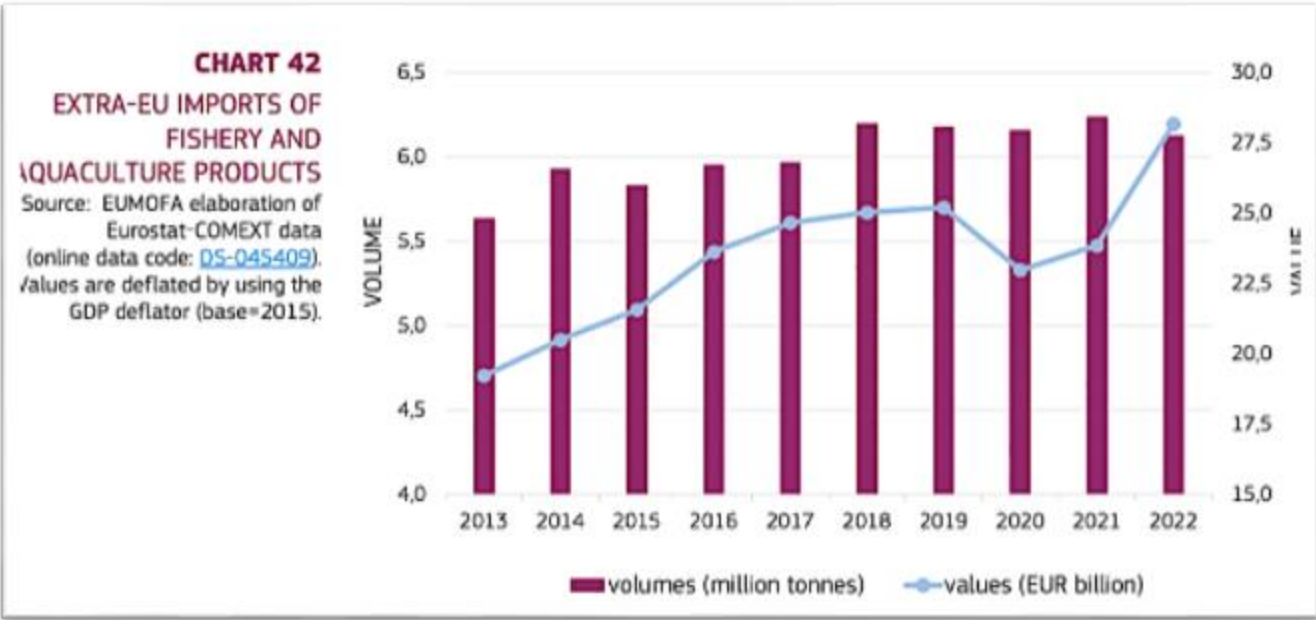
The bloc is now dependent on imports for over 70% of all its seafood needs.



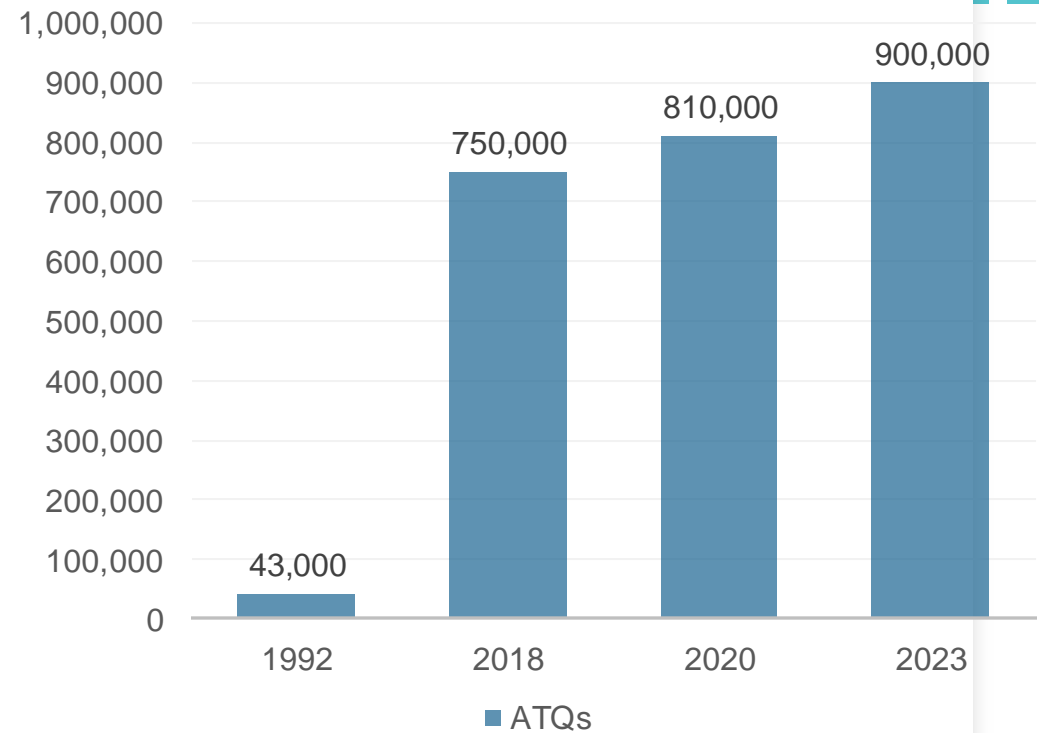
Interactive or visual content

# Food Production

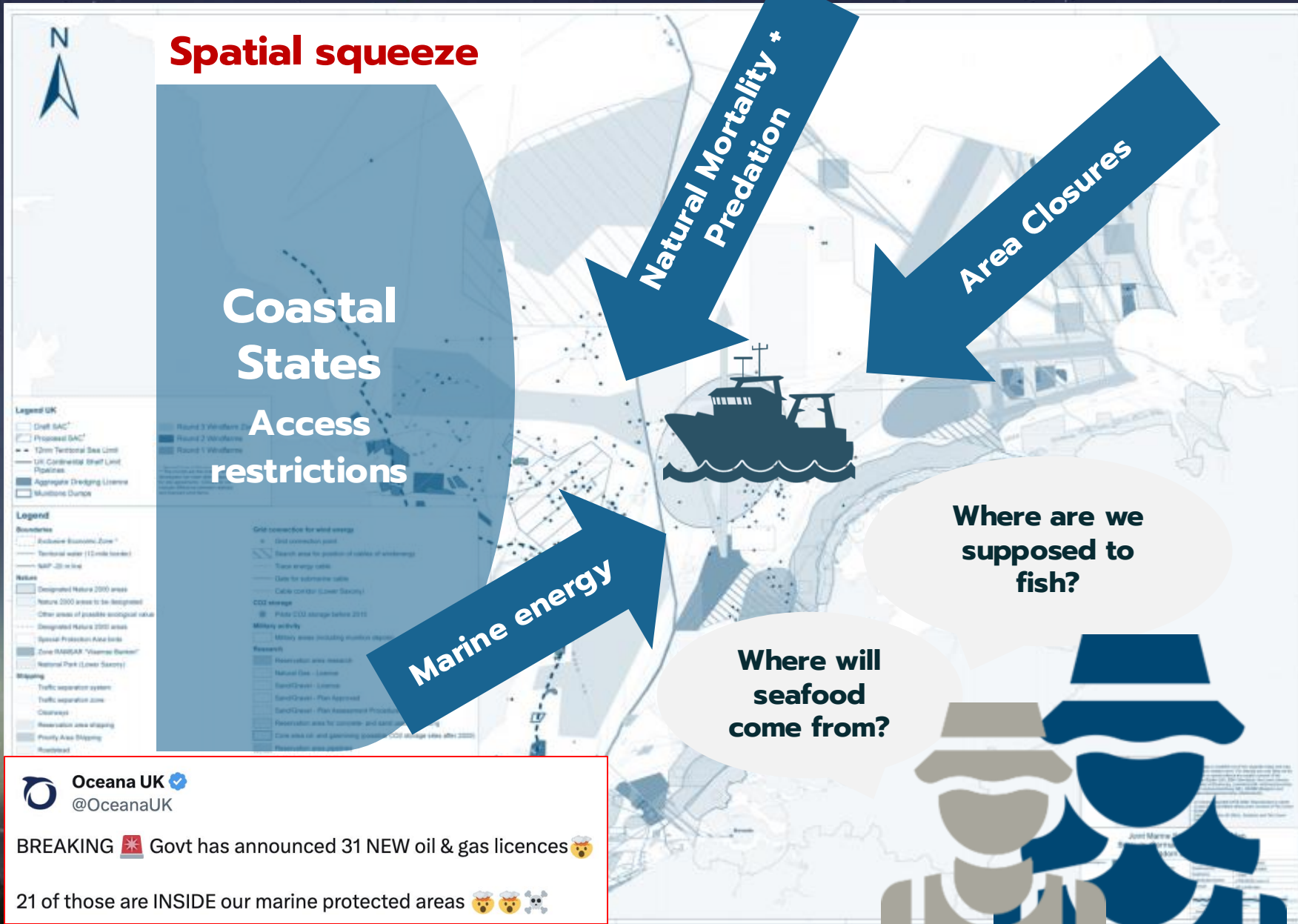
## Growing EU seafood dependency



### Autonomous Tariff Quotas



# Maritime Spatial Planning



 **Oceana UK**   
@OceanaUK

**BREAKING**  Govt has announced 31 NEW oil & gas licences 🤖

21 of those are INSIDE our marine protected areas 🤖🤖🤖

## Real-time camera observation in the trawl fisheries (Technofish)

DTU Aqua  
National Institute of Aquatic Resources



# Innovation Vs destructive campaigns



## NEW POWER SOURCES CONFIRMED FOR TWO NEW-BUILD EUROPEAN FISHING VESSELS



### Study on Circular Design of the Fishing Gear for Reduction of Environmental Impacts

EASME/EMFF/2018/011 Specific Contract No.1



### New Trawl Gear Demonstrates Catch Increases and Less Impact on Seabed

by editor | Dec 4, 2023 | Featured News, Latest News, Norwegian Fishing Industry

### Defining state-of-the-art fishing gear

ICES advises the EU on innovative fishing gears. Gear experts have assessed benefits and impacts of innovative gear on marine ecosystems, sensitive habitats, and selectivity of fisheries.

CatchCam is an underwater video camera that lets fishermen see their gear in action

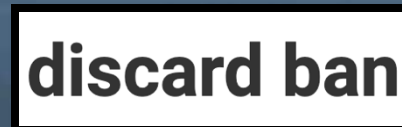
Recognising the species of each fish thanks to artificial intelligence  
©Wageningen University and Research



Port of Scheveningen, Netherlands. Foto: KIMO

### – Raises awareness

According to Michael Mannaart, who is the international Liaison Officer at KIMO International, and has been involved in the scheme of the Netherlands since 2014, Fishing for Litter has removed more than 5000 tonnes of marine litter from our oceans the past years.



SeinePrecog is a system for recognizing fish species, and fish size in purse seine fisheries based on optical and hydroacoustic technologies.

# Socio Economic Climate

THE NETHERLANDS

## DECIMATING THE DUTCH FLEET

The Dutch beam trawl fleet is about to be cut dramatically, due to a combination of high fuel prices, loss of fishing grounds, resistance in Danish, Norwegian and UK waters, relatively poor catches and strict NOx measures in the future.

*Willem den Heijer*



Netherlands

In January 2022 there were 72 large beamers under the Dutch flag. This figure had not changed much over the last five years, but insiders are fairly sure there will be only 35 left by next year – possibly even fewer than that.

## 15 Irish fishing vessels scrapped so far in decommissioning scheme

by editor | Apr 30, 2023 | Irish Fishing Industry, Latest News



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## Spanish fishing shipowners ask to activate aid for scrapping

Seafood Spain

Published Apr 7, 2022

## ANNOUNCEMENT 14 Dec 2022



Germany

In December 2022, the European Commission approved a German financial grant scheme to compensate vessel owners for the permanent cessation of fishing vessels in the context of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU.



fiskerforum.com

[https://fiskerforum.com/scraping-underway-at-bordeaux-yard...](https://fiskerforum.com/scraping-underway-at-bordeaux-yard)



France

## Scrapping underway at Bordeaux yard - FiskerForum

Apr 7, 2023 — A total of ninety French fishing vessels are expected to be scrapped under the Individual Support Plan (PAI) introduced by Secretary of State ...

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# The Fishing Daily

YOUR INDUSTRY, YOUR NEWS TODAY



Denmark

## Thirty-one Danish fishing vessels to be scrapped due to Brexit fallout

by editor | Dec 21, 2022 | Danish Fishing Industry, Latest News

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# LA NAZIONE

Accedi



Italy

Cronaca Demolizione delle barche 'Avremo metà pescherecci'

3 feb 2024

Home > Grosseto > Cronaca > Demolizione delle barche 'Avremo metà...

## Demolizione delle barche 'Avremo metà pescherecci'

Secondo Manai (Federpesca) è questa la conseguenza più immediata dei 74 milioni stanziati dal Fondo Europeo Affari Marittimi per la "rottamazione".



# Way Forward

## Competitive fisheries

- CFP reform: update & recalibrate
- Revise landing obligation & fishing capacity
- Simplify & reduce bureaucracy
- Vision for food production
- Address spatial squeeze
- Secure access to 3<sup>rd</sup> countries' waters
- Strengthen image & attractiveness



# Way Forward

## Sustainable fisheries

- Address climate change, pollution, acidification, plastics and shifting fish stocks
- Zero tolerance for IUU fishing and labour abuse
- Rebalance 3 pillars of sustainability
- Treat environmental & socio-economic advice on an equal footing: MSY policy
- Respect for all gears
- Strike balance between environmental protection and maintaining fishing activity (e.g., Nature Restoration)

# Way Forward

## Decarbonisation & Energy transition

- Support technological innovation 
- Stop emotional fish bans 
- Fleet renewal plan
- Adequate funding
- Tax incentives: energy transition & sustainable food systems





# Way Forward

## Level Playing Field

- Ensure equal treatment for all blue economic sectors
- Equal standards for fleets operating in international waters
- Equal treatment for EU & non-EU seafood
  - Sustainable food systems
  - Mirror clauses
- Link fisheries management to market access

Europêche is the  
representative body for  
the fishing industry  
in the European Union

<http://www.europeche.org> 

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Consume wild-caught seafood  
Is good for your health  
Is good for our planet



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