
From: Filip Volckaert [Filip.Volckaert@bio.kuleuven.be]
Sent: samedi 26 décembre 2009 10:16
To: MARE OLD CFP CONSULTATION
Subject: Contribution to the consultation â€" Citizen

Dear Commission,

I congratulate sincerely the EC with this initiative.

Overfishing represents one example too much of the "Tragedy of the Commons". Evidence for overfishing has been accumulating for too long without efficient measures (see Worm et al. 2009 Science). It is expected that under the current management regime the situation will continue to aggravate. The short and long term implications are negative as well for the natural environment as for man. Too few of us are for example aware that overfishing is impinging on the genetic heritage of the ocean (unlike farmers, fishermen catch large animals).

As an academic working for 30 years on the evolution of fish I have come to the following conclusions:

- Conservation measures are specific to the marine environment (and hence might be different from on the continent)
- Conservation measures are long term, multi-national and taken at the level of the marine basin
- Conservation measures include closures/restricted access of zones, seasons and longer periods (I'm convinced that access to at least 30% of the potential fishing area has to be restricted)
- Conservation measures are managed dynamically with the aim to recover convincingly and to crop sustainably
- Conservation measures include gear specifications (with preference of passive over active gear)
- Conservation measures are backed up by training of end-users (fishermen, management staff, industry and public) and may include economic compensation/reorientation
- Conservation measure have to be fully compliable (hence the need for e.g. satellite monitoring, international traceability of seafood products and trained lawyers).

Fortunately, there are examples of recovery (see <http://www.nodo50.org/Una-vision-distinta-de-los-piratas.html> for an extreme case).

I wish the EC the very best with this initiative.

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