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Sent: mercredi 27 mai 2009 20:48
To: MARE CFP CONSULTATION
Subject: Contribution to the consultation - Citizen

The problem with most legislation is that it is often very hard for the people it affects to understand it and interpret it.

Action 1 :

Any Common Fisheries Policy reform must therefore be to produce new rules, regulations and guidance written in simple terms so that there is clarity about what it means. Clarity of meaning and purpose is therefore paramount to acceptance and understanding. Write the new guidance for the users of that guidance.

The problem with most exploited fisheries is the tragedy of the commons . Every fisherman is competing with every other fisherman for a limited resource. The rule amongst fishermen is that “ I must get it before anybody else does”

Action 2 :

The competitive element of exploiting the fisheries resource must be removed or significantly reduced to prevent overfishing and over exploitation.

Traditional fisheries management has focused on protecting the fishing industry not the fish. This has clearly failed as both the fishing industry and the fish populations have been severely impacted.

Action 3 :

It is time to place the health of the fish population and the ecosystem they rely on at the heart of the new approach to fishing. If there are well structured, healthy populations of fish which are protected and maintained as the priority then there should always be enough resource for fishermen to earn a sustainable living. Fish first is the only way forward.

Fishery value to the local population has always focused on the value of dead fish for consumption.

Action 4 :

The true socio-economic value of both commercial and recreational fisheries must be fully recognized in terms of how they benefit local communities. It is often the case that protecting a fish population for recreational use provides a far superior income to the local economy than commercial exploitation. The best value of the resource to the local economy must include all forms of fishing and angling.

Commercial Fishing has traditionally focused on quantity over quality leading to over exploitation.

Action 5 :

Future fisheries management must focus on the landing of less fish of a better quality. Not only will this reduce exploitation but it will keep prices higher for fishermen.

The targeting of small species of fish like sandeel and anchovy by industrial fishing fleets has compounded the collapse of the larger predatory fish stocks as well as impacting marine birds and marine mammals.

Action 6 :

The practice of industrial scale fishing for small fish species must be phased out and cease.

Inshore waters are the nursery grounds of many commercial fish species and have been over exploited.

Action 7 :

Inshore coastal waters must receive the highest form of restricted fisheries management in order that their productivity can be maximized at all times.

Commercial Fishermen are hunters seeking profit in a competitive environment.

Commercial fishermen must be incentivised to protect fish populations whilst undertaking sustainable exploitation to earn a living and produce seafood.

I hope you find these comments useful.

Mark W Pilcher