

ProSea Foundation
Drieharingstraat 25
3511BH Utrecht
The Netherlands
www.prosea.info



European Commission – directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
“CFP Reform”
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
Mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu

Dear CFP Reform committee:

Please include training and education in the CFP reform. Training and education of the human factor, the individuals involved in the fishing industry, is essential for an effective transition of EU fisheries toward sustainability.

ProSea has been leading marine awareness courses for the human factor, the people who work at sea, since 2001. In 2004 ProSea started “Fishing with a Future” courses for Dutch fisheries students and a year later began the first workshops for leaders of the Dutch fishing sector, both have led to structural attention for sustainability in education. Training and education do work! Participants especially value the emphasis on ecological and financial sustainability in daily practice and the link to societal stakeholders.

The Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy Green Paper lists several questions dealing with the concepts of transferable rights, passing responsibility to catching sector, self-management, financial responsibility to catching sector, stakeholder involvement and accountability. Each of these aspects of the reform directly depend on the human factor, the individuals who comprise the fishing industry.

The EU can implement regulations and laws and can change organizational structures but if the human factor, the fishermen and the industry as a whole, do not recognize and/or realize the personal and societal advantages of sustainability and what sustainability means in daily practice, the effectiveness of these regulations, laws and structures is compromised!

Therefore, ProSea asks the CFP Reform committee to include specific sections on training and education in the next Common Fisheries Policy. The competences, knowledge and communication skills of the fishermen and processors as individuals and as interest groups are key to the success of the CFP Reform. Training is a necessary part of any CFP reform dealing with transferable rights, passing responsibility to catching sector, self-management, financial responsibility to catching sector, stakeholder involvement and accountability.

Sincerely,

Mr. Adriaan J. Bogaard
Director ProSea Foundation