

A new independent study – **Socio-Economic Benefits of a Bold EU Fisheries Reform** - commissioned by WWF, is the first to examine the future potential benefits or losses, of the fisheries sector from a purely EU perspective.



Fisheries management in the EU is unsustainable now and has been for the past 30 years. Many fish stocks are depleted, with low reproduction levels and fish numbers falling. In other words we are taking fish from the sea at a rate faster than they can be replaced.

UP TO 80% MORE LANDINGS AND EXTRA INCOME, IN JUST 10 YEARS

If politicians vote for a bold and ambitious Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform that will, together with the proper implementation, allow the fish stocks to recover, in just 10 years from now, we could start seeing huge benefits. By 2022, EU fishermen could be landing an additional 2.8 million tons sustainably caught fish and generating an extra income of €2.1 billion per year for the fisheries sector - around 80% more - than if past trends are allowed to continue.

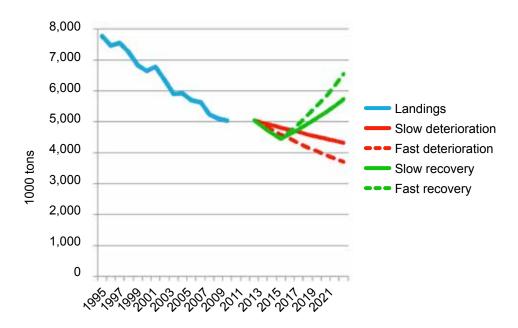
By enabling stocks to return to sustainable levels, an increase in catches, profit and income should naturally follow.

Based on past trends (1995-2009), scientific data and a number of basic assumptions, the study that has been produced by Framian BV, presents four future scenarios up to 2022 and their consequences on the fishing industry:

- Two worst-case "deterioration" scenarios, of which the *Fast Deterioration* is based on a continuation of the past trend of landings, with no reform of the CFP (red lines in fig. 1).
- Two best-case "recovery" scenarios, of which the *Fast Recovery* is based on a bold and ambitious reform of the CFP (green lines in fig. 1).

Figure 1.
Shows the historical landings of EU-27 during 1995-2009 and the assumed development of fish catch under the report's four scenarios. 'Fast Recovery' is the best possible scenario and the result of an ambitious CFP reform.

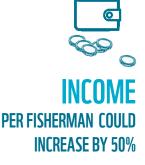
Source: FAO FishStatJ, 2011 and report's assumptions.





The study presents some stark conclusions. If fish stocks and the fishing industry continue to decline **without further CFP reform**, then by 2022:

- EU fishermen will land 1.4 million tons of fish less compared to 2009 a decline of about 30%.
- EU fishing fleets could decrease by as much as 20%.
- 50,000 fishermen could have lost their jobs across the EU a 30% drop in employment, compared to 2009.



On the other hand, if a **bold and ambitious CFP reform** is voted, and properly implemented, leading to recovery of fish stocks, then by 2022 (compared to continuing past trends):

- EU fishermen could land up to 2.8 million tons more sustainably caught fish an increase of around 80%.
- EU fishing fleets could generate an extra income of €2.1 billion per year for the fisheries sector around 80% more.
- Income per fisherman could be up to 50% higher on average than it is today.

Figure 2.
Summary of the findings of the four scenarios (2 deterioration and 2 recovery) and potential impacts on key socio-economic indicators compared to the situation in 2009.

	2009 situation	Deterioration scenarios in 2022	Recovery scenarios in 2022
Landings (million tons)	5.1	3.7 - 4.3	5.7 - 6.5
Generated income (€bn)	3.6	2.6 - 3.0	4.1 - 4.7
Income per fisherman (€ 1000)	23	25 - 26	30 - 34



## **FUNDING THE CHANGES**

The proposal for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) allocates €6.5bn to the, "sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries areas." This budget will be matched by a somewhat lower amount from the national contributions. This means that between, €10bn - €11bn will be available, i.e. approximately €1.5bn annually. These are very significant resources, at a time when all EU governments are forced to cut public spending. Efficient and effective use of these resources must be assured.

# **WWF CONCLUSIONS**

WHAT?

**EU** fisheries have the potential to be highly productive. A longterm stable supply of fish can guarantee profit for industry and income for fishermen, but only if fish resources are managed sustainably.

WHEN?

Now is the time to put the much needed policy and financial structures in place to allow marine environments time to recover and become healthy and plentiful once more.

THE LONGER THE WAIT, THE HIGHER THE PRICE OF RECOVERY WILL BE IN FUTURE.

## WHAT DO POLITICIANS NEED TO DO?

EU politicians must choose an ambitious reform that will contribute to the recovery of the marine environment, fish stocks and rebuild a healthy fishing industry in Europe - where economic, social and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. At a minimum this will require the new CFP to ensure:

- 1. Ensures fish populations are above levels which can support **maximum** sustainable yield (BMSY) by 2015;
- **2.** Establishes **multi-annual plans by 2015** and fishery-based comanagement groups involving all stakeholders;
- 3. Enhances **cooperation at regional level** on sustainable management of fish stocks;
- 4. Stops the wasteful practice of discarding unwanted fish while bringing unwanted catches close to zero by 2018 at the latest; and
- 5. Limits subsidy payments to sustainable fishing practices.





#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.wwf.eu

For more information:

www.wwf.eu/fisheries

### **Contact:**

### Sarunas Zableckis

Policy Officer European Marine and Fisheries Policy WWF European Policy Office szableckis@wwf.eu +32 (0)491 563 414