



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Fisheries

2011/2068(INI)

24.1.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on a resource-efficient Europe
(2011/2068(INI))

Rapporteur: Catherine Trautmann

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that on 13 July 2011 the Commission proposed a major reform of the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), which, given that its aim is to ensure that living marine resources are exploited sustainably, is a key component of the resource-efficient Europe flagship initiative;
2. Points out that, in the CFP reform package, the Commission proposes to introduce a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach in order to bring fish stocks up to healthy levels and maintain them in a healthy condition; calls on the Commission to clarify the MSY approach, in particular with regard to multi-species fish stocks;
3. Believes that the long-term aspiration should be to allow fish stocks to recover to levels that can exceed MSY and generate maximum economic yields on a sustainable and long-term basis, and therefore calls on the Commission to undertake such research as is necessary and then to bring forward proposals to build on the current proposals for CFP reform and move towards a position that will be environmentally and economically more advanced;
4. Agrees with the Commission's view, as outlined in the CFP reform package, that the practice of throwing unwanted fish overboard is a waste of resources; points out, however, that, with a view to improving the situation, consultations need to be held with fishermen and other stakeholders in order to find solutions adapted to the reality of their working conditions; calls on the Commission to strengthen the measures to conserve over-exploited fish stocks, so as to ensure that the activities of the EU fishing industry are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable;
5. Recognises that fleet overcapacity remains one of the main obstacles to achieving sustainable fisheries; takes the view, however, that the Commission's current proposal for the introduction of transferable fishing concessions as a means of reducing fishing capacity and increasing the economic viability of fisheries at no cost to the taxpayer remains highly controversial, in particular in the light of the impact that the possible concentration of fishing capacities in the hands of a reduced number of actors could have on marine ecosystems and on the economy of the sector;
6. Emphasises the social and economic importance of small-scale coastal fleets in certain regions and calls for specific measures to support green, smart and inclusive growth and contribute to sustainable, low-impact fishing and aquaculture;
7. Points out that the EU fishing fleet is a major user of fossil fuels and that further progress needs to be made in the field of eco-design, in particular with a view to developing more efficient and cleaner engines for fishing vessels;
8. Recalls that the resource efficiency flagship initiative also encompasses the protection of

ecosystems; points, in this connection, to the research and development efforts that need to be made in order to produce more selective fishing gear, and to the potential synergies between stock management and conservation of protected species;

9. Emphasises that the EU's external actions, in particular in its external commercial relations, must be consistent with the principles and objectives of the CFP and must provide a level playing field for the fishing and aquaculture industries of the Member States.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.1.2012
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Kriton Arsenis, Alain Cadec, Chris Davies, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, Carl Haglund, Ian Hudghton, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Werner Kuhn, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Ulrike Rodust, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Struan Stevenson, Catherine Trautmann
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Ioannis A. Tsoukalas
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz