

EU fisheries policy – latest developments and future challenges

Topic 3: EXTERNAL DIMENSION

Martín ARANDA
AZTI (Spain)
with
Sébastien METZ
Sakana Consultants (France)

24/09/2019

Presentation for the Committee on Fisheries

1

Structure of the presentation

- 1. External dimension**
- 2. Latest developments**
- 3. Future challenges**
- 4. Case studies**
 - Case study 7: The SFPAs with Mauritania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau
 - Case study 8: The EU and fisheries governance in tuna RFMOs
 - Case study 9: The EU and its cooperation in international fisheries governance
 - Case study 10: The *Brexit* and fisheries
- 5. Conclusions**
- 6. Recommendations**

24/09/2019

Presentation for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2

1. The external dimension (I)

- Around 20% of the EU fish catches are taken **beyond EU waters**
- **Long-distant** fishing grounds have provided fish to Europe long before the CFP
- The EU long-distant fleet comprises around **300 vessels** fishing in the world main fishing grounds



24/09/2019

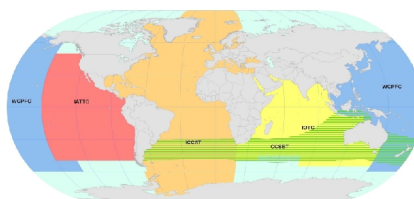
Presentation for the Committee on Fisheries

3

1. The external dimension (II)

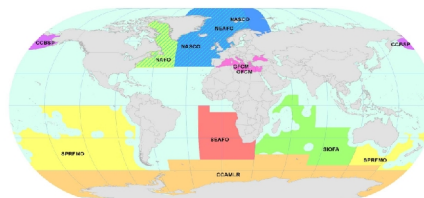
The EU participates in 6 tuna RFMOs:

ICCAT; IOTC; IATTC; CCSBT;
WCPFC



The EU participates in 9 non-tuna RFMOs:

CCMLAR; GFCM; NAFO; NEAFC;
NASCO; SEAFO; SIAFO; SPRFMO



SFPAs: 7 tuna and 5 mixed protocols, plus 2 Northern agreements

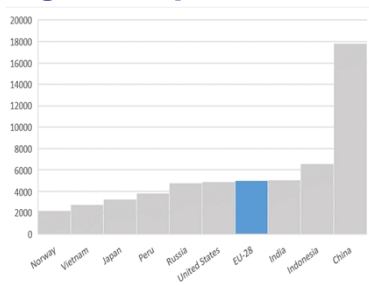
24/09/2019

Presentation for the Committee on Fisheries

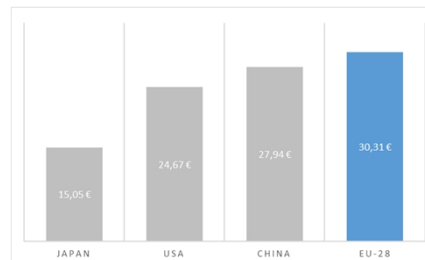
4

1. The external dimension (III)

1. EU is the world's fourth largest fish producer



2. EU is the largest market for fisheries



24/09/2019

Presentation for the Committee on Fisheries

5

1. The external dimension (IV)

Besides the *EU fleet presence* in oceans and its *huge market*, the EU counts on other strengths to **influence sustainable fishing** around the globe:

Institutional capacity:

- Institutional and regulatory **framework** (CFP Basic Reg., Reg. on Management of External fleets, Reg. on the Control agency, others)
- **Scientific** apparatus (STECF, research institutes)
- **EU delegations**

Funds:

- EMFF
- EDF and others

24/09/2019

Presentation for the Committee on Fisheries

6

2. Latest developments (I)

Since the last **reform** in 2013 (and even before) the EU has adopted measures aimed at:

- Adding other priorities to the ever-present market supply needs. Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPA) ⇒ **Sustainable** FPA. Development of fisheries in the coastal states is a priority.
- Sustainable Management of **External Fishing Fleets (SMEFF)** aims to facilitate a **more effective control** of operations beyond EU waters.
- Creation of the **Long Distant Advisory Council (LDAC)**

2. Latest developments (II)

A number of proposals to Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in RFMOs

- Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (**IUU**) fishing
- Reduction of fleet **overcapacity**
- End of **destructive** fishing practices

Other activities

- **Voluntary** contributions to RFMOs
- Programmes/projects at **regional level**

3. Future challenges (I)

- Growing **overcapacity**
- **IUU** fishing
- **Allocation** of fishing opportunities mechanisms
- Incorporating a more **holistic approach** to fisheries management (ecosystem considerations, socio-economic aspects)

3. Future challenges (II)

- Maritime **areas without** regulatory frameworks
- **New** exploitable **resources** and sharing of benefits
- **Social** sustainability in fisheries, especially working conditions

4. Case studies (I)

Case study 7: Tuna RFMOs

- Two large interest groups exist, and **lack of consensus** may jeopardize adoption of CMMs
- Initiatives to establish **allocation mechanisms** are in its infancy and divergent positions prevail
- Legitimate **aspiration to develop** fisheries in developing countries impedes **freezing of capacity**
- Some other initiatives have progressed e.g. **banning driftnets** in EEZs (pictures)



4. Case studies (II)

Case study 8: SFPAs with Mauretania, Senegal & Guinea Bissau

- Coastal states **lack scientific and technical means** to address their needs
- Strong pressure over **EU fleets**, but third countries are not subject to similar regulations
- **Transparency** in the use of funds use in development (sectoral support)

4. Case studies (III)

Case study 9: The EU and its cooperation in international fisheries governance

- EU is a **natural leader** for ocean and fisheries governance
- Initiatives and funding are currently in place
- There is a need to continue **enhancing cooperation** with other large donors to achieve the **objectives**: fight against IUU, elimination of subsidies, freeze overcapacity, social dimension

4. Case studies (IV)

Case study 10: The *Brexit* and fisheries

- Institutional frameworks are in place to cooperate for a sustainable exploitation of **shared stocks**
- The **allocation key** (relative stability) requires a **revision** to better reflect the changing distribution of stocks (zonal attachment)
- Unilateral exploitation may impede sustainable exploitation, thus **cooperation is needed**

5. Conclusions

- The EU is well placed **to lead** international fisheries governance, in cooperation with other international parties.
- New solutions to old and emerging issues require reinforced cooperation in **capacity building** (technical, scientific, regulatory), and coordination in funds use.
- Development of **allocation** criteria based also on socioeconomic and environmental factors are required.
- **Brexit** raises fears about access of EU fleets to the UK EEZ. Non-cooperation by the parties might lead to the **unilateral** setting of quotas. *Brexit* may offer an opportunity **to revisit** old allocation keys.

6. Recommendations

- Continue to help **strengthening institutional capacities** in developing regions, this is needed to help all parties to meet international commitments.
- Concession of **aid through SFPAs** should be conditioned to the fulfillment of **transparency requirements** (what, where, when and how much third fleets fish?) and the adoption of **rules common to all actors**.
- Enhance **cooperation** since is a key element when it comes to **manage shared resources** at bilateral and international levels.
- **Coordination with other major donors** at international levels and within the EU is needed to **avoid overlapping** in the use funds involved.