



OCEAN2012 (www.ocean2012.eu)

In July 2011 the EU Commission unveiled proposals for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). COAST became a member of OCEAN2012 in 2010 as part of a consortium of NGOs and community groups in countries across the EU to focus on the reforms of the CFP which are due in 2012. A meeting held at the New Economics Foundation (NEF) in London in November 2011 drew together many of the UK member groups of OCEAN2012.

Below is a detailed summary of the meeting, provided by Sally Campbell of COAST:

OCEAN2012

What must the CFP work to achieve? The vision for OCEAN2012:

- Focus on the environment - for people's sake
- Focus on the economics of the past, and understand the ramifications
- Ensure good governance in place which gives good governance at local level
- Bring capacity in line with available resources and change mindsets
- Reward responsible fishing practices, for example under 10m inshore fishing and low impact fishing
- Financial subsidies- public funds for public services, not for private purses. Look at social and environmental concerns, not just economics

From July 2011 OCEAN2012 has responded to the CFP proposals and has supported reform:

- Clear target for conservation of fish stocks EU expects good environmental status by 2020. The EU signed up to the Johannesburg Agreement at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, held from 2 to 4 September 2002 reaffirming its commitment to sustainable development. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) by 2015: in population ecology and economics, MSY is, theoretically, the largest yield (or catch) that can be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period.
- Stronger commitment to follow scientific advice, including the ecosystem approach
- Integration with existing legislation
- Tackling the issue of discarding (bycatch). Minimise bycatch so less fish to discard

However in the CFP proposals:

- There is a failure to prioritise environmental sustainability
- Failure to tackle the near privatisation of fish resources
TFC (Transferable Fishing Concessions) is an area of concern. An example of regional fisheries where £122m was spent on decommissioning although the fishermen could retain their fishing rights and quotas; then with the decommissioning money buying new smaller boats and continuing fishing.
- Small scale, low impact fisheries in danger of being left behind, and not listened to by Ministers and the well-funded lobbyists of the cartel of major Producer Organisations and fishermen's organisations.
In Scotland SFF (Scottish Fishermen's Federation) and the Producers Organisations (POs) represented by NFFO (National Federation of Fisheries Organisations) have cornered the



lobby on quotas and discards (bycatch). In addition in the UK there is Seafish, which is technically a governmental advisory body for all sectors of the fishing industry, including aquaculture, but in reality just represents the interests of the large producer organisations. There is a lack of transparency internally and externally: An example from Hastings showed how the quota goes to big boats and inshore traditional boats left with Totally Allowable Catch (TAC) of 2 tonnes per month. Yet in 2006 93% of British fishing boats were under 10m, 76% of the fleet getting only 7% of the quota. How fair is that? 90% of boats <10m are not represented by Producers Organisation and have no right to quotas and not able to be a Producer organisation.

- In allocation of resources
- Subsidies allocation
- Why scientific advice is ignored

Rupert Crilly of nef (www.neweconomics.org) described the present fisheries economics as simplistic, ideological, using maximum yields with little consideration for people's wellbeing or ecosystem health; Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFC) aimed purely as maximising profit. OCEAN2012 is trying to put environmental and ecosystem services into the equation. But other facts are illuminating:

1. Fish dependence from abroad or external fleets (eg. Spanish off Africa) has been increasing the past decade.
2. Discarding. A case study on North Sea cod where discards were examined on boats for 3 years. The equivalent of 46 years of discards. Here there is a tendency to measure discards in tonnes, which then looks quite small as a tonnage and % of the catch. But if measured in terms of number of fish landed to number thrown away, 1.4 cod are thrown away for every one landed. There are also high bycatch rates, of other fish as well as birds and mammals. We showed the economic loss of current behaviours, and the need to improve our catch compositions, while minimising our environmental damage; a switch to more selective gear can result in the same tonnage caught with far fewer fish.
3. Access criteria. There are different quota allocations: gill nets 163 tonnes, 1% to cod fishing, 3% in access total, trawlers almost 35 times more access. Looking at all the costs (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, discards, all vessel financial costs, employment etc.) for every single tonne landed: smallest gill nets £865 net value. Trawlers of all sizes destroyed value (ranging from -£116/tonne of cod for the 0-12m trawlers up to almost -£2000/tonne of cod for the largest >40m trawlers).
4. Scientifically advised TACs (total allowable catch) as compared to actual TACs must be further discussed.

So what do we all need to do?

- Keep pressure on MPs and MEPs
- Need for public pressure to get decision makers to focus on key issues
- Keep fisheries issues in their minds with stories from their own areas
- Change the focus from discards to BYCATCH. Change the language to reflect what is happening- bycatch is so often the next generation
- Relate real life to these decision makers and keep fisheries stories alive, for example 31.25 million juvenile white fish of average 63gm destroyed in bycatch from Nephrops (prawn) bottom trawling in the Clyde during a 3 year research project where discards were counted for 10 months of one year.
- The UK has 27 votes in Europe, make sure they use each vote well for environmental and ecosystem sustainability. This is a once in 10 years opportunity



There were discussions to help with the understanding of some of the key issues: Small sustainable fisheries have real problems obtaining Marine Stewardship Council Accreditation. Costs are way too high and again Hastings was used as a live example of the difficulties with Moody Marine. Yet larger and clearly unsustainable fisheries are cruising through MSC accreditation, as they can afford the fees involved. This is an international issue, that small scale and sustainable fisheries are not being heard.

There was a general feeling that there is a disconnect between policy and science; OCEAN2012 wants to put science at its heart. It is a matter of regret that any scientist that writes and speaks of progressive fishery management that involved significant area controls is rubbished by the mobile fishermen's organisations, whether SFF, NFFO or SEAFISH. There is an urgency here in the situation.

So how does the EU work?

Based in Brussels

There is the European Parliament with 736 elected members. This approves the Annual EU budget together with the Council. Members sit according to regional and/or political orientation. In the UK, there are 12 Regions, 72 MEPs and 8 political groups.

There are 27 appointed European Commissioners, heading committees. PECH deals with fisheries and the Minister is Maria Damanaki. Other important ones are Environment (ENVI), Budget (BUDG), Development (DEVE) and Regional (REGI).

The Council of Europe brings together the Ministers of member countries and they are the key decision makers.

So what is the process for the new CFP?

- 13th July 2011 Draft published
- Three regulations
 1. Basics
 2. Common Market Organisation (CMO)
 3. Subsidies fund is announced on 30 November 2011, called EU Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- PECH EU Community and Council Working Groups meeting monthly

The TIMELINE: what happens and when:

- Now – April 2012 PECH and other Commissioners consider and debate the regulations. Rapporteurs draft reports with amendments.
- May 2012 PECH committee vote on amendments to the CMO (2) regulations
- July 2012 PECH committee vote on amendments to Basics (1).
- Then there is a 7 week summer recess
- During this time it is important for OCEAN2012 to meet local MEPs on the different committees, especially ENVI, DEVE and BUDG as well as PECH
- September is the VOTE on CFP changes!

Sally Campbell, COAST