

Low impact fisheries in the context of CFP reform

Niki Sporrong, Director, FISH

A founding member of OCEAN2012

**World fisheries biggest impact
on marine environment and
often unsustainably managed**

No fishing without fish;
no fish without ecosystems

*Minimise environmental impact of
fishing activities – but how?*

What needs to change?

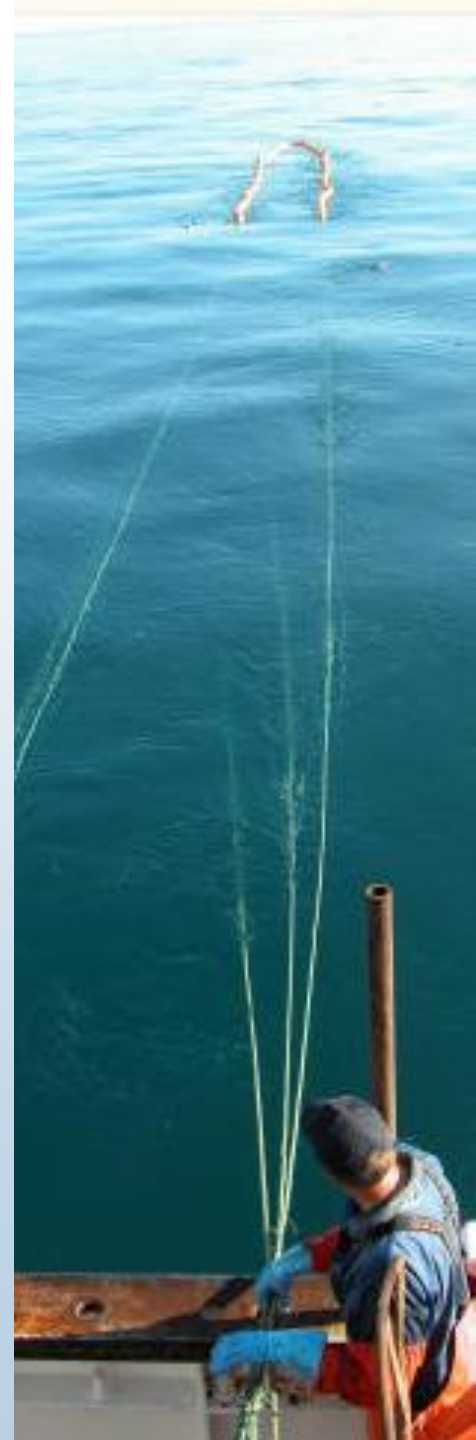
- Map overcapacity and phase out high-impact actors in fisheries in need of capacity reduction
- Better management of fish stocks
- Create policy context that provides incentives for shifting to Low Impact Fishing
- Work together with the fishing sector to find the best solutions

Hurdles identified by SAR

- Lack of knowledge
- Inflexible management system makes switches difficult
- Gear conflicts
- Costs/investment
- Reduction in total catch (passive vs active)

CPF reform should bring about policy change that creates incentives for Low Impact Fisheries and overcomes the hurdles.

Use access to the resource to create such incentives and support it with research and development of better alternatives.



Reform allocation; transform fisheries

Reward responsible fishing with priority access, giving those who utilise the public resource in the most sustainable manner a higher share of the available quota.

Access to resources

OCEAN2012 proposes a new tool as part of CFP reform: EU criteria for preferential access



- Environmental impact
- Selectivity
- Energy consumption
- Employment and working conditions
- Quality of product
- History of compliance

How would access criteria address hurdles to implementing LIF?

- Rewards responsible fishing, creating a “race to the top”
- Ensures return for the costs associated with shifting to LIF
- Creates a level playing field – no differentiation between small & large
- No financial aid from Member States required

Implementation

Gradual application by regional bodies, national and local authorities over a reasonable timeframe.

Quantitative or spatial approach i.e. by reserving either a share of the Total Allowable Catch or a part of the EEZ, to individuals or groups of vessels.

Can be applied at different levels, i.e. local, national or regional levels, preferably on a stock-by-stock basis. It could even be part of an ITR system.

Results-oriented management

Preferential access to those who most contribute to achieving the CFP targets aims to:



- Control the direction of EU fleet development [quality] promoting LIF
- Provide continuous improvement
- Avoid the problem of defining small vs large scale
- Provides the sector more influence

Results: less damage to marine environment, better working conditions in the fisheries sector and higher levels of compliance.

Other supportive CFP reform measures

- Better stock management = lower impact
- Increased funding for research necessary to support improved stock management
- Targeted capacity reduction efforts
- Objectives-based management with more regional and local flexibility in implementation
- Removal of subsidies which maintains overcapacity and high impact fisheries – fuel tax exemption

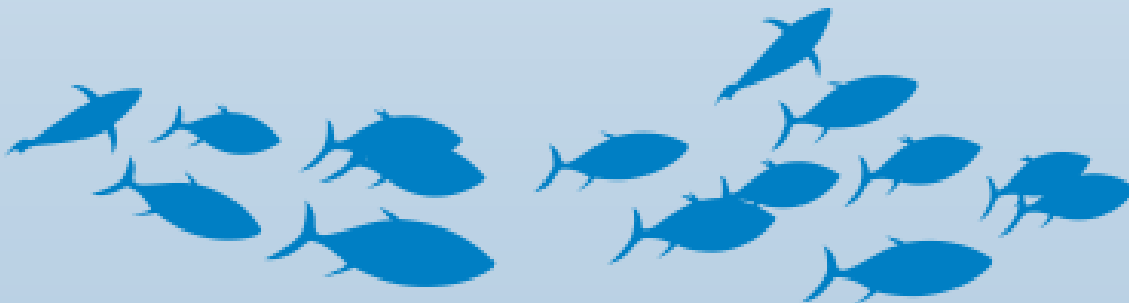
Other supportive measures, cont.

- Redirect subsidies to research, training & education promoting LIF
- Review Best Practice and spread information
- Greater involvement of sector in attempts to reduce environmental impacts
- Use MSP to address gear conflicts
- Zero discards
- Increased transparency and better access to information and decision-making processes

*Healthy ecosystems;
more fish;
more viable fisheries*

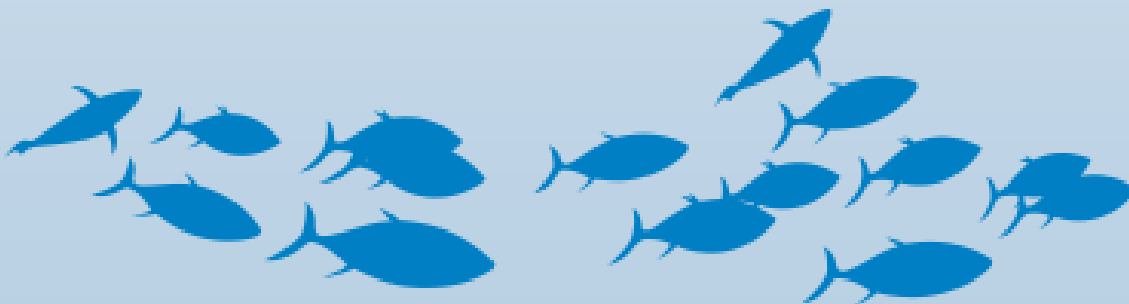
OCEAN2012

– an alliance dedicated to:
stop overfishing, end destructive fishing
practices and deliver fair and equitable
use of healthy fish stocks.



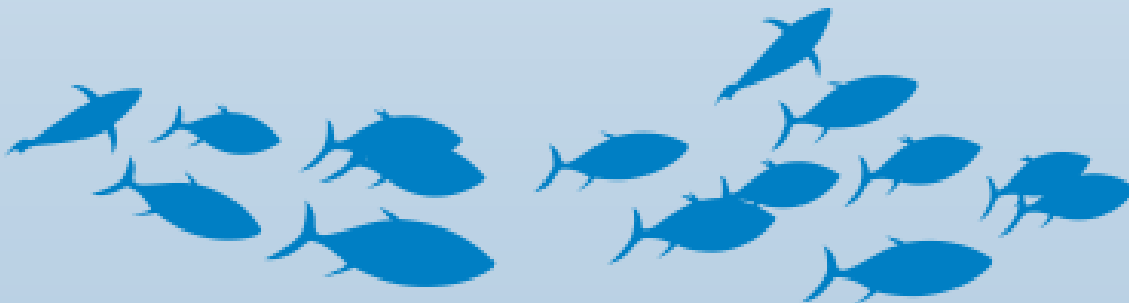
Vision OCEAN2012

Our vision is of healthy oceans with abundant fish and wildlife contributing to human well being.



Key Demands

- Prioritisation of environmental objectives
- Decision-making framework differentiating between strategic and operational management decisions
- Quantitative and qualitative capacity limits
- Access to fisheries based on environmental and social criteria, as well as compliance
- Phase out public aid that sustains overcapacity



OCEAN2012

“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress. Working
together is success.”

Henry Ford

Join us!

