

#RestoreOcean

MAKING RESTORATION & FISHERIES GO HAND IN HAND

The EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL) is in its final stage of negotiations, where the European Parliament and the Council of the EU will agree a final law. The positions of these two institutions are similar, but the Parliament's version of the law goes one step further when it comes to fisheries.

The NRL is the EU's legacy moment to protect marine life and biodiversity for generations to come. As well as benefitting our blue planet, it will help protect jobs in the marine sector, keep food systems running, and fight climate change.

COME TAKE A DEEP DIVE WITH US...

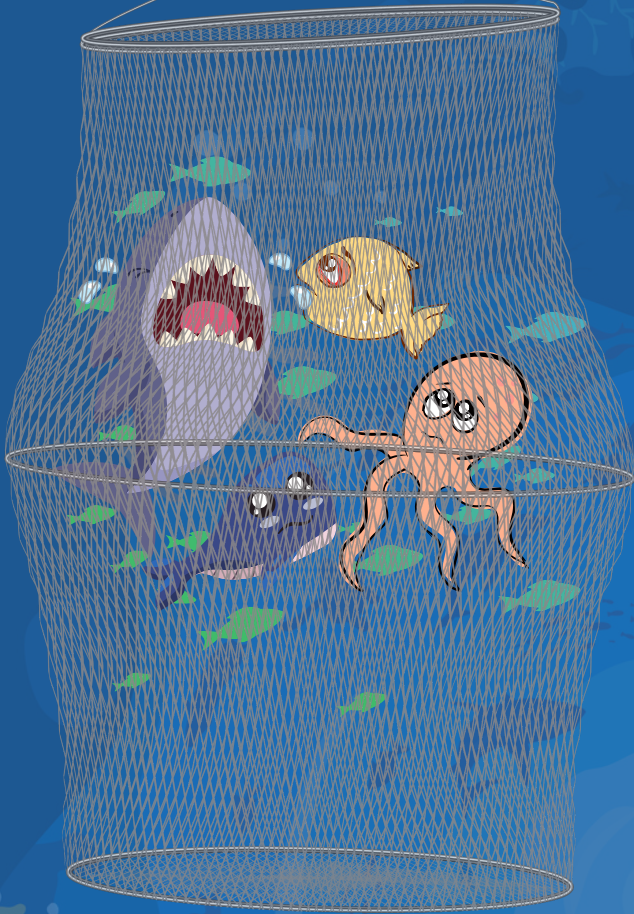
WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WANT?



The NRL sets legally binding rules to restore nature that will involve changes to how industries exploit the ocean, including the fishing industry. But there is already a law in place to manage fishing in the EU: the Common Fisheries Policy (or CFP).

The Parliament's version of the NRL includes a measure that would mean the two laws – NRL and CFP – work in harmony with each other, by having EU Member States jointly solve problems that occur when the fishing practices of one country negatively impact the restoration efforts of another. This process is known as the Joint Recommendation procedure.

WHY DO WE NEED THIS?



The Joint Recommendation procedure is already part of the CFP, but Member States are only encouraged to use it, which has led to it being rarely applied. The Parliament's text aims to resolve this issue by requiring Member States to find joint solutions when there is a conflict between marine restoration and harmful fishing like bottom trawling and dredging.

Currently, EU Member States are failing to meet their legal commitments to protect nature. A lack of political will, slow action and little-to-no communication between Member States, have contributed to harmful destructive fishing continuing in marine areas that have been singled out as needing protection. In the words of the European Environment Agency, "commercial fisheries interests were favoured over nature conservation requirements".

The Parliament version of the NRL includes measures to solve this problem.

SO WHAT NOW?



While the Parliament's NRL text tackles this problem, it was not included by the European Commission in their first version of the law or by Member States as part of the Council position, in an attempt to maintain the status quo. As negotiations between the different EU institutions are underway, the Council of the EU and the European Commission need to match the ambition of the European Parliament by agreeing to a law that is fit for purpose for the ocean, and listen to the voices of scientists, businesses, and young people across the EU calling for nature restoration.

WITH THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, IT'S TIME FOR EU LEADERS TO WALK THE TALK ON THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS!