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Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 7:44 PM
To: MARE CFP CONSULTATION
Subject: Contribution to the consultation "Citizen"

Munich, 15.10.2009

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a biology student I am very concerned about the sustainability of European Fishing operations. European fishing vessels operate nearly everywhere on the globe in international waters, so European Policy has a worldwide impact on fish-stocks. Former healthy populations decline from overfishing everywhere, the best known examples are the depletion of Blue fin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea, or the near extinction of Atlantic cod on Canada's East coast, which aren't recovering, in spite of a long lasting catch embargo.

If we do not learn from our mistakes the structure of the oceans ecosystems will change in a way that we cannot predict.

There are methods to keep the oceans in a state in which they are economically stable on a high level of productivity. For example we should install a network of protected areas in national, and in the future, international waters. There, depleted fish stocks could regenerate and build populations which thrive. Older and therefore bigger fish would migrate over the borders of the protected area and could be fished. There are many examples where fishermen benefit most from marine reservation, for example around the Galapagos or in small parts in the Mediterranean. There they are able to fish on a higher level of productivity than before the installation of the reservation.

Maybe there should also be a maximum size of fishing vessels which should be under the size of today's big fabrication vessels. In that way the total collapse of single populations could be prevented and there would be more smaller vessels which need a bigger workforce, which would end in greater tax payments and so on. As a result the fish prices would rise but in the end it would be a small price to preserve fish populations for ourselves. Maybe after a few years of lower pressure on fish stocks they have the chance to recover and there would be a bigger supply on seafood which leads to lower prices.

The European Union has to act, before it has to deal with the results of its failures, which will cost more, or in other words will bring less money, than to spent now for preservations. In the end we cannot take more from the oceans than grows back. It is as simple as that. It is very sad and in long terms economically insufficient that the prices for a rare product , as Blue fin Tuna, explode, the rarer it gets. The European Union's policy has to act against those commercial dead ends.

Thanks

Sincerely Yours

Anselm Heidger