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Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 1:14 PM
To: MARE CFP CONSULTATION
Subject: Contribution to the consultation - Citizen

Section 5.4 Trade and markets – from catch to consumer

-How could market mechanisms be used to encourage the development of fisheries that are market efficient as well as sustainably exploited?

The Green paper identifies the low price of fish to consumers as a significant part of the problem and outlines a few contributing factors to this situation. However, the paper does not identify the most important reason why consumers pay so little: the cost of fish to the end consumer is highly subsidised by the EU.

Under normal market conditions, the price of fish will be influenced by scarcity and rise, reducing demand. Because this has not been allowed to happen, the most basic law of the marketplace, supply-and-demand, has been skewed. Not only do consumers not pay the actual cost of bringing that fish product from the sea to their plate, they also do not pay the externalised costs of that fish, including pollution, decimation of fish populations and CO2 emissions (as you rightly point out).

The perpetuation of this situation at a time when fish stocks are plummeting is baffling. Surely we should be moving away from the idea that every single citizen can have everything they wish for at a rock-bottom price as it just isn't feasible and is putting incredible pressure on our natural resources and ecosystems.

I hope you find my contribution useful and best of luck with the consultation process.

Kind regards,

Tara Connolly