SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

Priorities for environmentally responsible aquaculture in the EU

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Copenhagen workshop 12-13 June 2014

The opportunity

- Aquaculture is the only way we can ensure sustainable fish protein supply in the future.
- Aquaculture can be environmentally responsible.
- Important steps have been made to improve the sector's environmental performance
- EU aquaculture is better regulated than most uncertified aquaculture outside Europe
- Increasingly environmentally-aware seafood consumers = opportunity for the development of innovative, healthy seafood products in an environmentally and financially sustainable aquaculture industry
- Aquaculture can be profitable and sustainable - they are not mutually exclusive.

BUT – we can't leave this to chance…….

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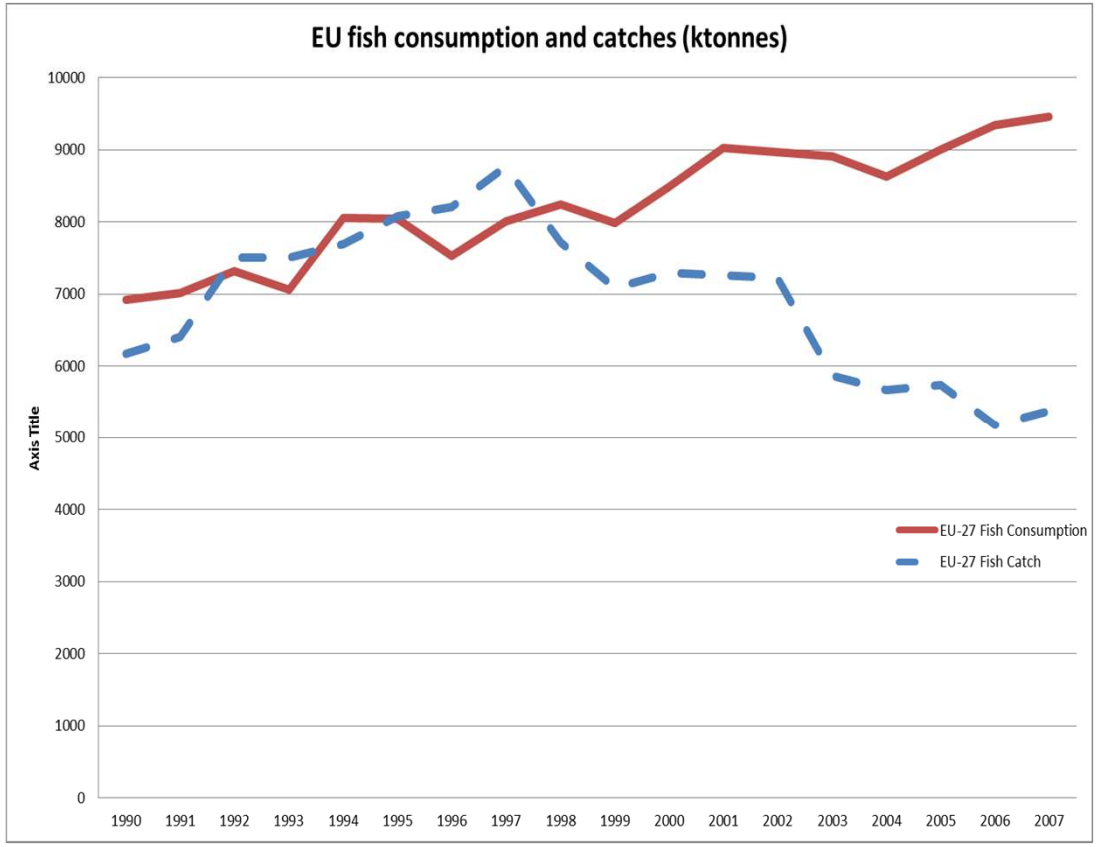
There are limits to growth



Source: European Commission

Consider why, what, how, when and where

Ecosystem based approach is key to sustainable development

NGOs want to see

- a science and knowledge-based approach
- a precautionary approach
  - Avoid irreversible effects
  - Avoid depletion of non renewable resources
  - Risk analysis
- an ecosystem-based approach
  - Carrying capacity
  - Cumulative effects
  - Including economic, environmental, social considerations.
- a polluter pays approach

Various environmental challenges remain to be solved…

- NGOs are in particular concerned about
  - the sourcing of feed and its link to overfishing,
  - the use of unknown quantities of medicals and chemicals,
  - ineffective disease management
  - the wider ecosystem effects of production which are widely unknown due to the lack of research and credible data.
  - the ranching of IUCN listed endangered species such as Bluefin tuna and European eel
  - the significant gaps in data and knowledge

- There is as yet no commonly accepted overarching EU production and labelling standard that clearly sets out requirements for ecologically sustainable production.

- Legislation requires implementation and monitoring of effectiveness – big gaps remain to be bridged

- There is no globally accepted recognised definition of “sustainable aquaculture”.

NGO key asks: minimise environmental impacts

- Ensure sustainable sourcing of feed
- Adopt technical standards for aquaculture facilities and carry out staff training
- Minimise negative impacts on biodiversity
- Reduce the impact of chemicals use
- Support the development of multi trophic aquaculture and aquaponics

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Key NGO asks: improve planning and assessing

- Ensure an ecosystem based planning and management framework, applying precautionary principle and polluter pays principle – multi annual plans, MSP, ICM
- Integrate aquaculture management and operation with environmental legislation – N2000, WFD, MSFD,
- Assess the environmental implications - SEA, EIA
- Ensure transparent and participatory governance

NGO key asks: funding and global trade

- Use public funds to support public goods, e.g. data collection, research, balanced stakeholder engagement, monitoring.
- Do not use public funds to support the expansion of aquaculture methods that lead to negative environmental impacts.
- Promote environmentally sustainable trade at the global level

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Key NGO asks: do not abuse the word 'sustainable'

- Define wider sustainable development principles (environmental, social, economic), through a stakeholder process
- Translate SD principles into measurable targets and indicators
- Agree on production and labelling standards
- Address gaps in data and knowledge


Our objective:
Sustainable seafood is the ONLY choice for consumers
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www.seas-at-risk.org