

# **Five ground-rule considerations on decarbonising the fishing fleet**

**Charles Berkow, Policy Analyst,  
Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre**

**- presentation for the Briefing ahead of 1st  
Energy Transition in Fisheries workshop –  
Thursday 23rd November 2023**



# 1. Stronger fishing stocks

**Measures to reduce the carbon footprint of fisheries will be less effective and efficient as long as fish stocks are depleted**

- Need more energy for same amount of fish



## 2. Price for carbon emissions

**Measures to reduce the carbon footprint of fisheries will be less effective and efficient as long as fishing is exempt from EU carbon pricing**

- Less incentives for efficiency
- Less incentives for non-fossil alternatives
- Less pressure to reduce overcapacity
- More pressure on fish stocks and the environment



### 3. Synergies between climate, fish stocks and the environment

Reducing subsidies on fishing via exemptions from carbon-pricing for fuel would be good for

- The climate
- Fish stocks (via less fishing pressure)
- The marine environment

**Will the “triple win” be achieved?**

- Fisheries exempt from the ETSI
- Blockage in the ETD?
- “Level playing field” challenges in ESR, ETSII



## 4. There is a lot of air under the EU's capacity ceiling

### Green Paper 2009: Overcapacity contributes to

- Depleted stocks
- More effort needed per tonne fish
- Poor profitability
- Poor compliance

### “Technological creep” ca 2-3%/year

- Can catch the same amount of fish as 2013 with 75% of the capacity ceiling set 2013
- Some efficiency measures can increase capacity



# 5. Farm-to-fork instead of pipe-to-port

A focus on fuel use per tonne fish risks suboptimization from a climate perspective. E.g:

- Fuel use and land use impacts of growing biofuel feedstocks
- Apparent efficiency of small pelagics eaten up by the time it gets to the plate when used as fodder for farmed fish



# To sum up: Subsidies and support

## A supplement to, not a substitute for

- Measures for stronger fish stocks
- A price on carbon emissions

## Within the framework of

- National and EU capacity ceilings
- A farm-to-fork approach



# Thank you for listening!

## Contact:

*Charles Berkow, Policy Analyst*

[charles.berkow@su.se](mailto:charles.berkow@su.se)  
+ 46 (0) 70 1804461

## **Baltic Sea Centre**

Website: [su.se/ostersjocentrum/english/](http://su.se/ostersjocentrum/english/)

Newsletter: Marine news from Stockholm University

