

Financing the just transition towards net-zero, sustainable EU fisheries



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Tackling the climate crisis: EU leadership



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COM(2023) 100 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

On the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector

EU targets and commitments:

- 55% reduction in net GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- Net-zero by 2050
- Roadmap to net-zero fisheries by 2024

2023 Update - global progress falls short of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, risking Paris Agreement goals

Need: national climate action at the climate/ocean/biodiversity nexus

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Ocean as an ally in climate/ocean/ biodiversity nexus

- Ocean: key ally in climate_action

Tackling biodiversity loss is critical for Paris Agreement goals

- Decarbonise the entire value chain of fisheries food production for just transition to zero-carbon practices

Adopt a systems/ecosystems-based approach that considers the whole life cycle value chain

- Manage fish using an ecosystem approach
- Recognize aquatic food's role in carbon cycle and for food security



United Nations

OceanDialogue2023



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

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15 September 2023

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Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice

Ocean and climate change dialogue 2023

Informal summary report by the co-facilitators of the Ocean and
Climate Change Dialogue 2023–2024

Summary

The ocean dialogue was mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session and took place on 13–14 June 2023 in conjunction with the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (5–15 June 2023), Bonn, Germany. This informal summary report, prepared by the co-facilitators of the ocean dialogue provides a summary of the discussions that took place on the two topics, chosen in consultation with Parties and observers: first, coastal ecosystem restoration, including blue carbon, and second, fisheries and food security.

The ocean dialogue offered a vital space for enhancing collaboration, understanding and building ocean-based climate action, illustrating needs, opportunities and case studies as well as highlighting key messages and ways forward.

EU fisheries in the climate/ocean/biodiversity nexus

- EU fleet emits ~6.94M tonnes of fuel CO2 eq emissions annually
- Fuel costs = up to 60% operations
- Fleet financial vulnerability without reducing fossil fuel dependence
- Other sources of CO2 emissions: packaging, transport, frozen storage...
- **Unsustainable practices:** deplete stocks, disrupt food webs, BCP, weaken ecosystem resilience...
- 2020 CFP/MSFD target unmet to restore healthy fish and shellfish stocks in Europe

The screenshot shows the European Environment Agency (EEA) website. The main navigation bar includes 'Topics', 'Analysis and data', 'Countries', 'Newsroom', and 'About us'. A search icon is visible in the top right corner. The featured article is titled 'Status of marine fish and shellfish stocks in European seas', published on 01 Sept 2022. Below this, there is a section for a report titled 'Adapting postharvest activities in the value chain of fisheries and aquaculture to the effects of climate change and mitigating their climate footprint through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions', funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The report lists several partner organizations: Wageningen University & Research, MRAG Europe, ZITI, IPMA, CSIC, DTU (Technical University of Denmark), ILVO, THÜNEN, MRAG Limited, Cefas, Marine Institute, BIOR, MIR (Morski Institut Rijeka), and SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences). To the right, a snippet from the journal 'Global Change Biology' is shown, featuring an article titled 'Commercial fishery disturbance of the global ocean biological carbon sink' by Emma L. Cavan and Simeon L. Hill, published on 18 December 2021.

((Bianchi et al. 2021; Stafford et al. 2021; Alma Maris-Consulting. (2023) EEA. (2022);(2020);(2019); EC. (2023); UNFCCC (2023)).

Funding opportunities for net-zero EU fisheries

The EU funding tools:

- The EMFAF (e.g. CLLD – bottom-up approach)
- Horizon Europe
- European Regional Development Fund
- The Innovation Fund
- EU Hydrogen Bank
- REPowerEU

National level support through State aid

Private investment can fill gaps

Support for: training, research, pilot projects, tech development, biodiversity protection & restoration, CFP implementation...



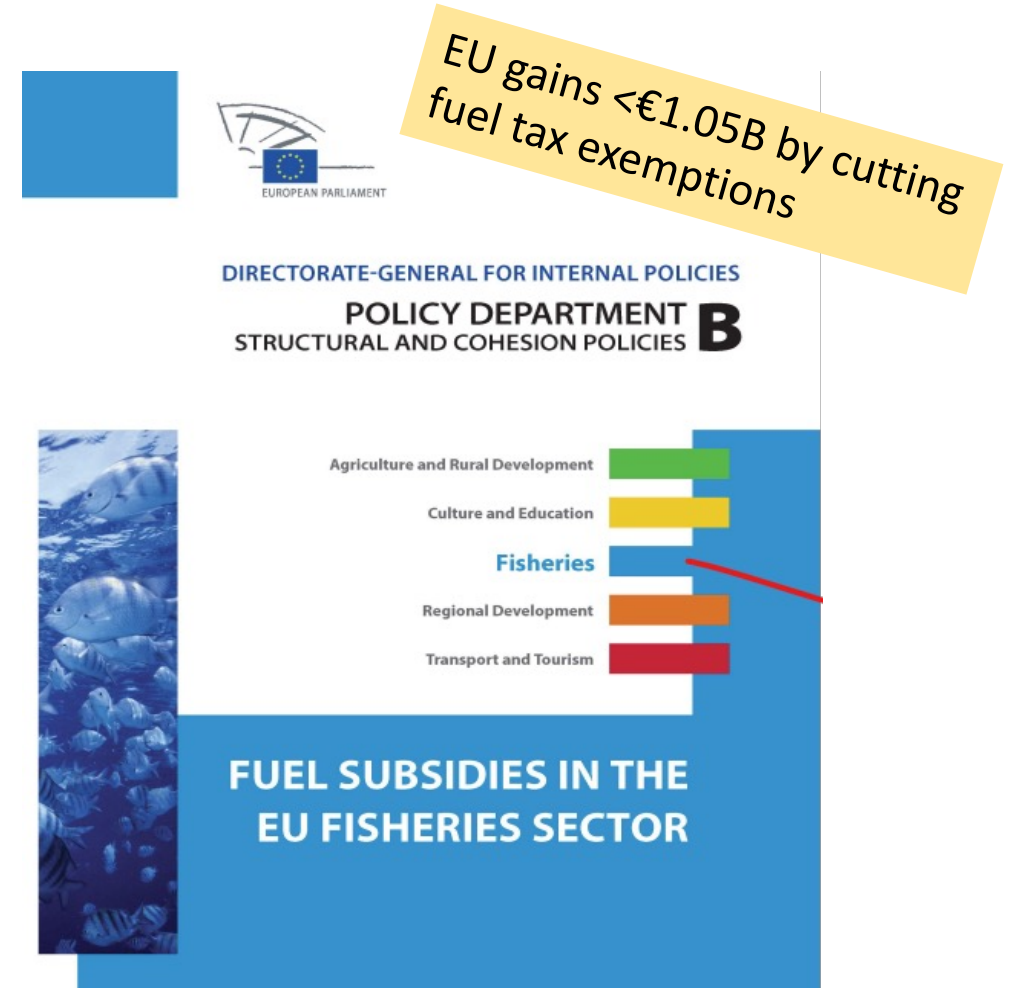
Funding challenges for net-zero EU fisheries:

2014-2021: 20% EMFF on SSCF, 80% on large fleets...

EU provides €700M-€1.3B/year fuel tax subsidies to fishing fleet...reduces investments in zero-carbon

Lack of clarity on funding costs, opportunities, and access pathways

Unclear policy signals and no net-zero policy roadmap





Guiding principles for funding:

Meeting societal needs within planetary boundaries

- 1) **Funding criteria** towards net-zero, sustainable fishing and nature-valuing + **Transition away from fossil-fuels**
- 2) **Just funding to low-impact**
- 3) **Clear information on available funds and access pathways** with clear net-zero policy roadmap
- 4) **Robust fund monitoring and reporting**

Areas for funding support:

- 1) **Pilot projects:** sustainable, net-zero fishing + conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems and blue carbon ecosystems
- 2) **Robust GHG emissions tracking & reporting system** across the value chain
- 3) **Better implementation of existing fisheries regulations:** EBFM approach, ending overfishing, sustainable allocation of fishing opportunities...
- 4) **Net-zero training and education** programmes
- 5) **Zero-Energy Guidelines: sustainability criteria** for zero-carbon energy sources

 Parliamentary question - E-002359/2023 Download ▾

Article 17 of the CFP Regulation as a tool to support the energy transition of EU fisheries
26.7.2023 > Answer in writing

Question for written answer E-002359/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), Caroline Roose (Verts/ALE), Grace O'Sullivan (Verts/ALE), Benoît Biteau (Verts/ALE)



The implementation of ecosystem-based approaches applied to fisheries management under the CFP

EASME/EMFF/2018/011 Specific Contract Lot 1 No.1
EASME/EMFF/2018/011 Specific Contract Lot 2 No.3

Final Report

June 2022

European Maritime Safety Agency



UPDATE ON POTENTIAL OF BIOFUELS IN SHIPPING

BY ABS, CE DELFT & ARCSILEA

EMSA/Biofuels - 2021/2022 - 4837444
Date: 26/09/2023 (updated version)



Take home messages:

- To tackle climate-biodiversity crisis: cut fishing emissions + fishing impacts on ocean
- Funding for net-zero fisheries is available - **Act now**
- Overcome challenges: clear rules, guide and transparent fund tracking
- Re-direct funds from destructive practices to a zero-carbon economy and nature valuation





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World's Oceans



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