



## PRESENTATION FOR WEBINAR ON DECARBONISATION

Welcome everybody I am your moderator today: Flaminia Tacconi senior lawyer at ClientEarth working on decarbonization and fisheries subsidies.

'Given the actual context of climate and biodiversity crisis and the urgent need to change our whole economic model to a less polluting, less resources intensive and less energy intensive one, including in the fisheries sector, I start with a few words of introduction inspired by a famous visionary and adapted to the topic of the day:

“Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the European values of solidarity and justice. And I have a dream for the EU fisheries sector of an energy transition that is socially and environmentally JUST.

I have a vision for a decarbonisation of the fisheries sector that progressively leads to a greenhouse gases neutral fisheries using less energy intensive gears and less destructive fishing gears. Decarbonisation will go hand in hand with a transition towards low impact fisheries allowing the ocean and fish to play their role as climate regulators and natural carbon sinks and to thrive as part of a healthy marine ecosystem. Coastal communities will thrive thanks to the sustainable activities of their local fishers but also thanks to the beauty of the marine environment they will feel responsible for, will protect, honor and valorize. Fisheries will primarily be dedicated to fish for human consumption and consumers will have learned to eat less but better seasonal fish that has been sustainably fished in EU waters.

This exciting and needed decarbonization process started with the publication by the European Commission of the Energy transition Action plan in February 2023 and the launch of a stakeholder dialogue in June 2023. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, the first stakeholder workshop

will take place and will address the financing of the energy transition through crucial questions such as the respective roles of public funding and private funding, their complementarity and the challenges of each financial stream.

We expect other thematic workshops to follow. This dialogue is designed to support the European Commission in developing a roadmap for decarbonisation of the fisheries sector with targets and hopefully deadlines that will be embraced and included in the overall national plans and priorities for decarbonization in general. The European Commission has also promised to develop a guidance for the financing of the energy transition. In the same spirit of dialogue and exchange ClientEarth and Oceana have organized this short webinar as active actors of this very dialogue.

We are excited to hear how financing decarbonization should work from our 3 speakers:

**Arielle Sutherland-Sherriff Policy Advisor** at Oceana Europe working on sustainable fisheries management with an education background in oceanography and coastal management will present Oceana's vision for financing the just transition towards net-zero sustainable EU in particular through having clear financing priorities and criteria.

**Charles Berkow** Policy Analyst at the **Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre since 2019**, economist by academic training and environmental policy generalist for about 3 decades with extensive experience in government, politics, NGOs NOW Studying fisheries policy will present five ground rules for decarbonization from an economic perspective (talk about the sticks of financing decarbonization):

**Brian O'Riordan** is **Policy Adviser at LIFE (Low impact fishers of Europe)** and will present the perspective of Small scale artisanal fishers in the exiting and challenging path of decarbonization.

## CONCLUSIONS :

### **Arielle:**

Decarbonization means not just fewer emissions, but also fewer ecosystem impacts with precise environmental and social criteria for allocating public funding.

### **Charles :**

Financial measures to decarbonise the fishing fleet will be more expensive and less effective **Unless** fishing stocks are restored and **Unless** subsidies in the form of fuel tax exemptions are removed

### **Brian:**

Decarbonisation of the EU fishing fleet on its own will contribute next to nothing to GHG emission reduction and be costly and complicated. Rather, decarbonisation needs to go hand in hand with a more profound fisheries reform to establish a fit for purpose 21st century fisheries sector future proofed against global warming and associated climate change impacts, compatible with Blue/ Green Economy development, supporting decent livelihoods and providing socio-economic benefits in coastal communities.

Thank you to all of you for joining this webinar (including Dave Walsh for all the technical support), we would like to share with you our new

website called Decarbonise Now where you can find various reports and information related to the topic and we all look forward to the upcoming workshop of the Commission on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.