



**EUROPEAN UNION COMMITTEE  
Sub-Committee D  
(Environment and Agriculture)**

**CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

18 January 2008

**REVIEW OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY**

**Introduction**

The House of Lords European Union Committee will be conducting an Inquiry, via its Environment and Agriculture Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee D), that aims to review the progress of the Common Fisheries Policy since it was reformed in 2002.

The Inquiry has been motivated by a recognition that the objectives of the 2002 CFP Reform – i.e. “to provide for sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources and of aquaculture in the context of sustainable development, taking account of the environmental, economic and social aspects in a balanced manner” – have not been fully achieved. There is consequently a need to review that reform within the context of a number of initiatives at the EU and domestic levels.

Among those initiatives are the 2007 Communications from the Commission relating to discards, bycatch and rights-based management<sup>1</sup>, the European Commission proposal for a Regulation on IUU (Illegal, Undeclared and Unregulated) fishing<sup>2</sup>, the forthcoming European Commission proposal to modernise and recast the Control Regulation, broader discussions as regards a review of the CFP and decisions on marine legislation at the domestic and EU level.

The purpose of the Committee’s inquiry is to assess the application of the 2002 reform, within the context outlined above, looking at where the reform has been demonstrated to be successful and identifying weaknesses.

In light of the evidence taken, the Committee’s intention is that such an assessment and any recommendations emerging from it should feed into EU and domestic debates on future reform of the CFP and on relevant domestic legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication on A policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries, COM (2007) 136, 28.03.2007 and Communication on rights-based management tools in fisheries, COM (2007) 73, 26.02.2007

<sup>2</sup> COM (2007) 602, 17.10.2007

## **The issues**

Against this background, the Committee hereby invites you to submit written evidence to the Inquiry. The Committee would find it helpful if, in addition to any general issues you may wish to raise, you would focus on a number of specific issues. It is recognised that those submitting evidence will not necessarily have an interest in all the questions and may therefore wish to be selective. The issues are:

### Conservation/Management

1. Chapter II of Regulation 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>3</sup> introduced new methods of ensuring conservation and sustainability, including recovery plans, management plans and emergency measures. To what extent have these been effective?
2. A wide range of management tools are available to fisheries managers. What are your views on the following tools:
  - Total Allowable Catches
  - Effort limitation, including “days at sea”, marine conservation areas and real-time closures
  - Rights-Based Management tools
  - Technical Conservation Measures
3. To what extent have current management tools increased the levels of discards and bycatch? What is your view on how these problems can best be tackled?
4. Do you consider that fisheries management policies may need to adapt to climate change? If so, how might this be achieved?

### Control and Enforcement

5. Chapter V of Regulation 2371/2002 lays down the responsibilities of the Member States and the Commission as regards the control and enforcement of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy. The recent Court of Auditors Report on the control, inspection and sanctions systems relating to the rules on conservation of Community fisheries resources was very sceptical of the systems currently in place. What is your view of the efficacy of the systems in place? To what extent has the Community Fisheries Control Agency already assisted in improving matters?
6. The European Commission has regularly highlighted how serious infringements of the CFP are penalised differently across the Community. This was a matter that was also raised by the Court of Auditors<sup>4</sup> and sanctions were included in the recent Commission Proposal in IUU fishing. What is your view on the issue?

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<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC) 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (OJ L 358 31.12.2002 p. 59-80)

<sup>4</sup> European Court of Auditors, Special Report 7/2007 on the control inspection and sanctions systems relating to the rules on conservation of Community fisheries resources.

## Structural Policy

7. Chapter III of Regulation 2371/2002 obliged Member States to put in place measures to adjust the capacity of their fleets in order to achieve a stable and enduring balance between such fishing capacity and their fishing opportunities. To what extent has this been successful?
8. The new fisheries structural fund, the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), has now come into force. What has been your experience thus far with the new instrument?
9. What are your views on the possible impact on EU fisheries structural policy of WTO-level discussions as regards subsidies in the fishing sector?

## Governance

10. As a result of Regulation 2371/2002, Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) were established to advise the Commission on matters of fisheries management in respect of certain sea areas or fishing zones. What is your assessment of the success thus far of the RACs? What is your view on their future evolution?
11. How do you consider EU fisheries should ideally be governed? How appropriate and feasible do you consider a regional management model to be?

## **Guidance for those submitting evidence**

Submissions of evidence should be sent to:

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Tel. (020) 7219 4579  
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Submissions should be copied to:

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Emailed submissions in Word format are preferred.

The deadline for receipt of submissions of written evidence is **22 February 2008**. Please ensure, when submitting evidence, that you include relevant contact details, that your evidence is dated and that you make clear whether it is submitted on a personal basis or on behalf of an organisation.

Short submissions (6 pages of A4 size type or less) are preferred. Longer submissions, where these are judged necessary, should be accompanied by a summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. If drawings or charts are included, these should be black and white and of camera-ready quality.

All evidence submitted becomes the property of the Committee and may be printed and published. You may publish your evidence yourself, but in doing so you should indicate that it was prepared for the Committee.

The Committee will invite some of those submitting written evidence to appear before it in order to give oral evidence, usually at Westminster and in public session.

This is a public Call for Evidence and you are invited to bring it to the attention of other groups or individuals who may not have received it and who may have a contribution to make to the inquiry. It is open to any individual or group to submit written evidence, subject to the guidance set out above.