



# The external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union

**Stefaan Depypere**

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# Fish has critical nutrients for the human body

**Apart from a major source of protein, fish has an even more critical value:**

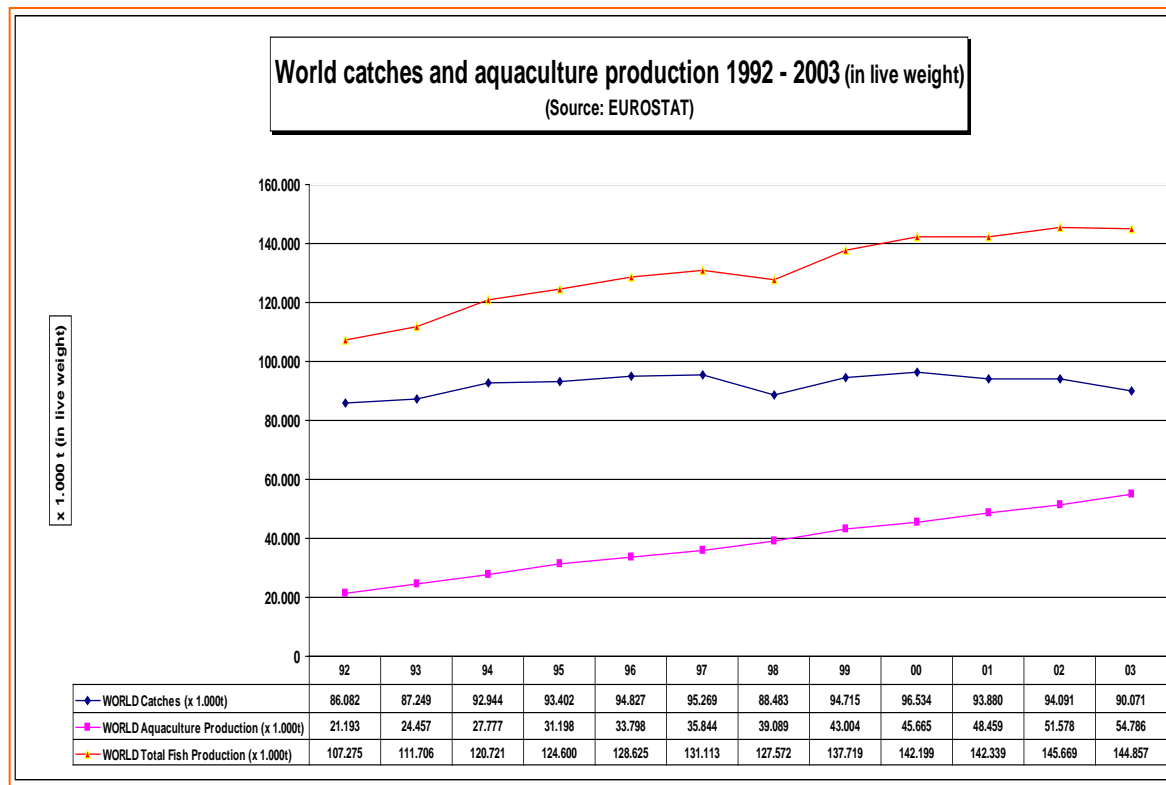
- **It contains brain-specific nutrients:**
  - the long chain (LC) omega-3 fats
  - trace elements, iodine, zinc, manganese and selenium
- **LC omega-3 fats are good for our hearts - helping to maintain:**
  - normal cardiac function
  - blood pressure
- **Humans cannot make LC omega-3 fats - Fish is the best dietary source**

# Fish and critical nutrients – omega -3s, iodine

- **DHA omega-3 fats:**
  - important for pregnant women, foetus and babies up to 2 years old
  - insufficient supplies can cause stunting, and the baby's brain never develops to its full potential
- **Iodine:**
  - deficiency is a cause of goitre and a preventable cause of mental retardation
  - in 2007 nearly two billion people had insufficient iodine intake

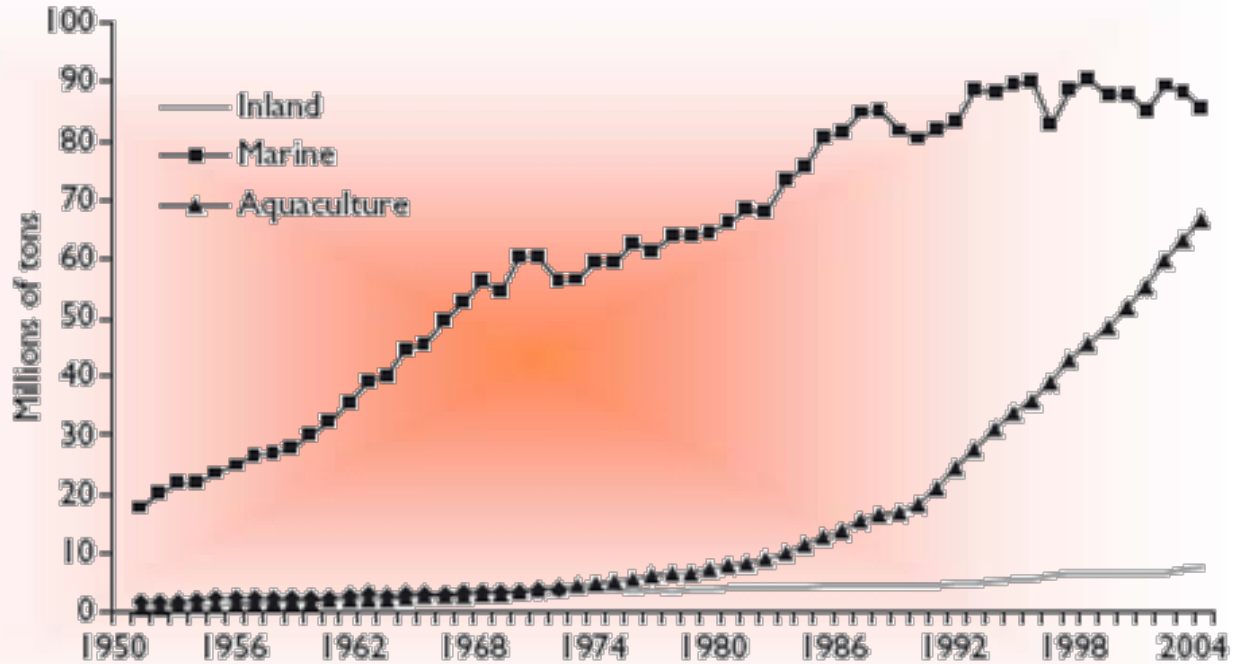


# World supply fishery & aquaculture products



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World Marine and Inland Capture and Aquaculture Production, 1950–2005



Source: FAO FishStat Plus.



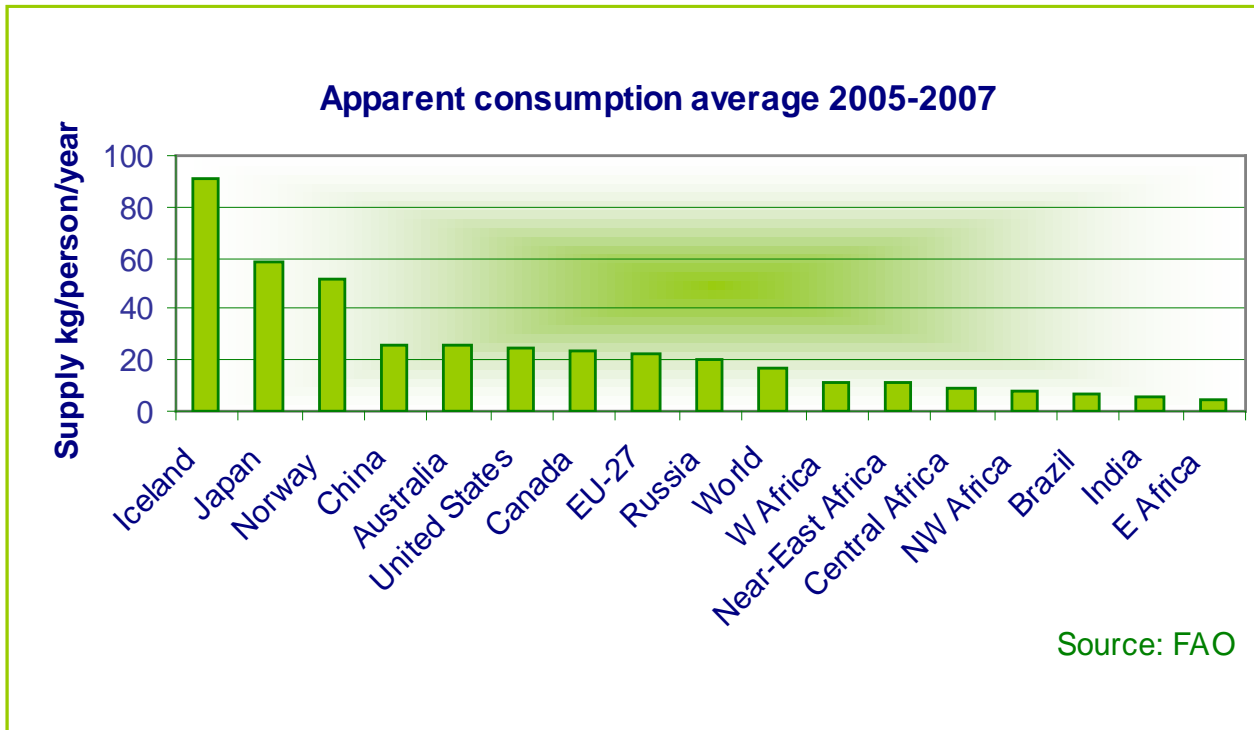
# World supply fishery & aquaculture products

- **Over the last 20 years, world marine catches have stagnated (overfishing has depleted stocks)**
- **The growth in world fish production since 1990 is due to aquaculture**
- **Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for world marine catches\*:**
  - estimated at 95 million tons per year (total capacity to produce sustainable fish)
  - corresponds to 13 kg fish supply per capita per year (world population 7 billion)
  - analysis by World Bank:  
by better managing fish stocks, production could improve considerably (MSY)

\* **Source: FAO, World Bank**



# Consumption fishery & aquaculture products



# Consumption fishery & aquaculture products

- **China and EU:** rising demand, increase in fish consumption
- **Asia:** aquaculture production responds to increasing demand
- **South America:** consumption stabilised at low levels
- **Africa:**
  - only continent with consumption in decline (less than half global average)
  - low animal protein intake as a result of low per capita incomes
  - indicator of bad nutritional quality of diet (particularly in sub-Saharan area)





# Sustainability at global level – UN & FAO

- **UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), 1982:**
  - coastal states to ensure proper conservation and management of living resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs, 200 nautical miles; territorial waters, 12 nautical miles) to prevent overexploitation
  - states fishing on the High Seas to ensure that harvested species are restored/maintained at levels that can sustain maximum sustainable yield
- **UN Fish Stocks Agreement, 1995:**
  - objective: ensuring sustainable use of straddling and highly migratory stocks
- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995:**
  - sets out principles and standards for responsible practices, including to promote the contribution of fisheries to food security



# Sustainability at global level

## Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs)

- **For sustainable management of fishery resources in international waters**
- **Opened to coastal states and countries with interests in the fisheries**
- **Most have management powers:**  
fishing limits, technical measures, control
- **Types of RFMOs:**
  - 5 manage highly migratory species (tuna, swordfish)
  - 9 manage other pelagic and demersal species by geographical area
  - 2 with advisory status

# The elements of the CFP reform

- **More fish to fish sustainably:**
  - Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as the objective (a bit higher than Maximum Economic Yield)
  - implementing the ecosystem approach
  - eliminating discards
  - transferable concessions
  - improving the scientific advice
- **Better governance through regionalisation**
- **Smarter financing**
- **Projecting the principles of the CFP internationally**
- **A new Market Policy**
- **Increasing control and fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU)**



# Projecting the principles of the CFP internationally

## How to ensure sustainability at global scale?

- **Transforming dialogues into working partnerships**
  - **Upholding and strengthening the global architecture for fisheries governance**
- **Contributing towards more effective functioning of RFMOs**  
(EU plays a leading role in shaping decisions and monitoring compliance)
  - **Integrating better with other EU policies**  
(e.g. development, environment, trade)



# Projecting the principles of the CFP internationally

## From FPAs to SFAs ...

- **Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs)**
  - currently 15 FPAs in force – transforming into Sustainable Fishery Agreements
  - access to 3rd countries EEZs / financial compensation from the EU + ship-owners' contribution
  - yearly budget: 160 mio euros
- **Partnership element : support to local fisheries policy**
  - in various cases, the majority of fish is landed and sold on local markets (e.g. small pelagics in West Africa)
  - local employment in West Africa:  
1 mio people (190 000 fishers); 30 000 artisanal boats, 1000 industrial vessels

# Projecting the principles of the CFP internationally

## From FPAs to SFAs ...

- **Current shortcomings**
  - insufficient scientific knowledge
  - lack on info on the overall fishing efforts
  - limits to the absorption capacity of third countries
- **Sustainable Fisheries Agreements (SFAs)**
  - Science based
  - more transparency (information on all agreements)
  - exclusivity (no supplementary fishery under private agreements)
  - only surplus fishing (priority for local fishery)
  - rebalancing contribution

# A new Market Policy

- **Simplification:**  
reduction in legal acts, administrative burden
- **Empowerment of operators:**  
Producer Organisations (Pos), Inter-Branch Organisations (IMOs),  
market intelligence
- **New intervention logic:**  
reshaped intervention (temporary storage rather than  
withdrawals),  
more focus on planning
- **Labelling for responsible consumption:**  
voluntary & mandatory labelling



Thank you!

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/index_en.htm)

