



# Seafood consumption and environmental justice

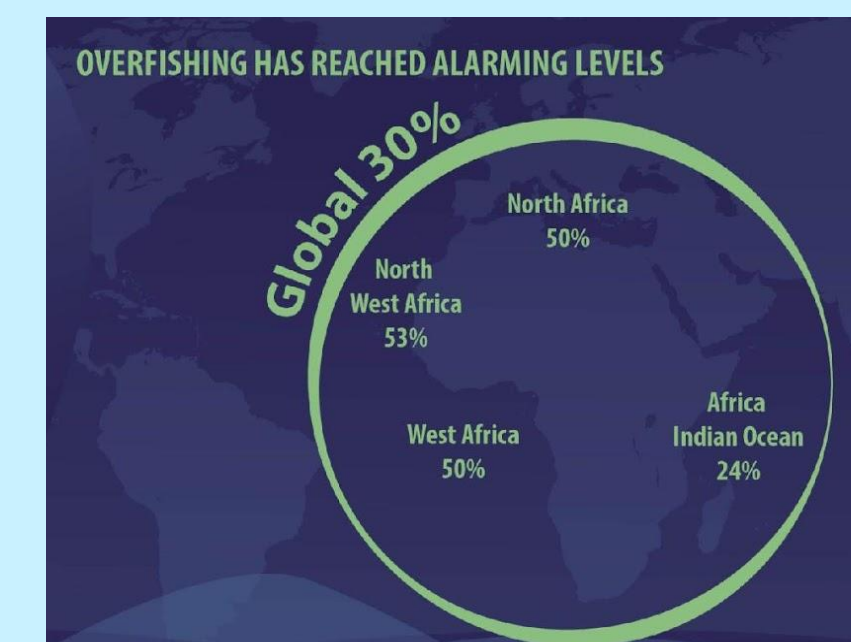
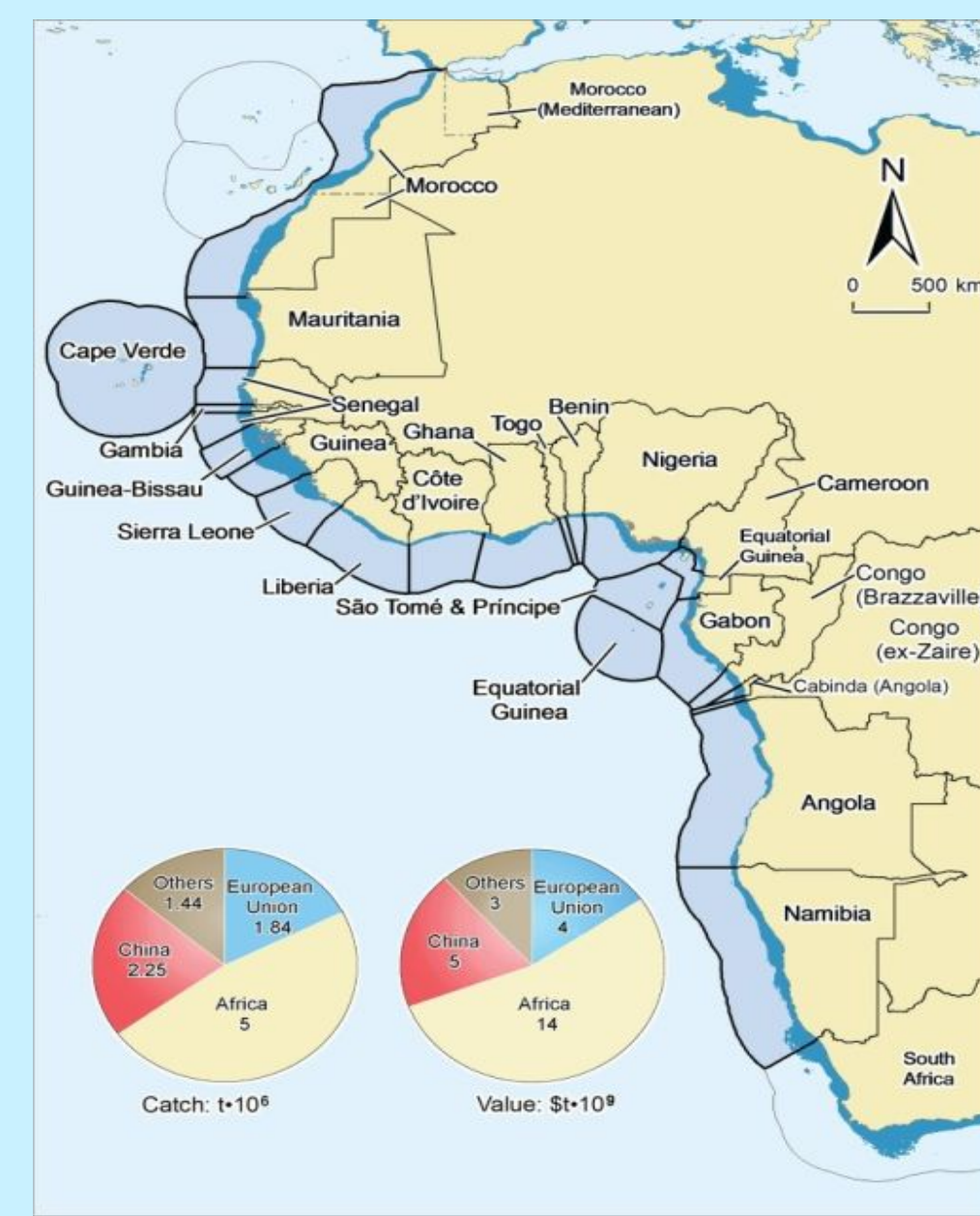
## Evolution of EU-West Africa Fishery Policies: Are social-ecological justice issues addressed?



AG2803 HT17-1 Group Sustainable consumption – seafood 2: Christos Paraskevopoulos, Chao Chen, Petter Olson, Supriya Vijayakumar

### INTRODUCTION

- Roughly 90 percent of the world's marine fish stocks are now either overfished or fully fished.
- The EU has currently 12 active seafood agreements, called Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, or SFPAs, in force with third countries that operate under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- Are these policies equally focused on sustainability as the policy governing catches within the EU?
- Are the process and policies fair?
- The main aim of the report is to analyze EU's Common Fisheries Policy through a perspective of social-ecological justice and suggest future improvements in the policy.



### HISTORY OF POLICY AND TREATIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

- Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) since 1975
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) since 1991
- Unilateral agreements between EU and African Caribbean Pacific (APC) countries were practices till the end of the 1990's.
- The signing of Continuo Agreement in 2000, and came in force in 2003 changed the status quo by acknowledging the importance of "democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance".
- Those discussions and negotiations lasted for 10 years (2001-2011) till the first agreement was reached.
- The first important initiative from European Union to create a legal framework for

### PRESENT POLICY

The core additions to the 2013 policy are that:

- The Parliament, the Council and the Commission will start a "trialogue" with the aim of reaching decisions on a common basis regarding future CFP regulation.
- The policy now aims at reducing the inequality between internal and external practices in the CFP.
- Future agreements with third countries(SFPA) should have a clause saying that more favorable conditions are not allowed to be granted to EU vessels then to fleets operating on third countries' waters.
- Member states must report on their external fleet capacity and if necessary reduce its overcapacity to be granted support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

**The new Common Fisheries Policy: sustainability in depth**

**What?**

- MSY:** Maximum Sustainable Yield is the best practice estimate for managing and producing maximum sustainable yield of fish stocks in a long term basis.
- Regionalisation:** Natural resources and the socio-economic characteristics vary greatly across regions, requiring a differentiated management of local communities based on their specific needs in their respective areas.
- Fisheries science:** Scientific advice is the basis for good policy making, setting clearly environmental limits for the use and productivity of fish stocks.
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**How?**

- Rules:**
  - Fixed Quota System
  - Effort System
  - Individual Vessel Quota
  - Individual Transferable Quota
  - Individual Fishing License
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  - Effort System
  - Individual Vessel Quota
  - Individual Transferable Quota
  - Individual Fishing License
- Discards:** Discarding is prohibited for all species that are subject to individual quotas or effort limits. Discards are prohibited for all species that are subject to individual quotas or effort limits.
- Targeted funding:** The EU will continue to support the development of the fisheries sector in third countries through the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).
- Apprenticeship:** The EU will continue to support the development of the fisheries sector in third countries through the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).
- Control:** The EU will continue to support the development of the fisheries sector in third countries through the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).

**The International Dimension of the EU Common Fisheries Policy**

**Non-EU SFPAs:** The EU has signed 12 Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with third countries. These agreements allow EU vessels to fish in the waters of the third country in exchange for financial contributions and other benefits.

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**Ocean governance:** The EU is a large maritime power and is committed to the sustainable management of the world's oceans. The EU is a large maritime power and is committed to the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

**RFMOs:** Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) are international organizations that manage fisheries in specific regions of the world. The EU is a member of several RFMOs.

**SFPAs:** Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) are international agreements that allow EU vessels to fish in the waters of the third country in exchange for financial contributions and other benefits.

**IUU:** Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major threat to the sustainability of the world's fisheries. The EU is committed to combating IUU fishing.

### ISSUES ON SOCIAL SYSTEM

- Injustice subsidies system:** Large companies obtain more benefits than poor fishing communities from the subsidies.
- Lacking of alternatives:** The opportunity for local people to find other jobs or move elsewhere is very slim.
- Excess fishing capacity:** The fisheries policy is still supporting the exportation of excess fishing capacity.
- More operation cost:** Fishermen from elsewhere have to pay more costs of



### ISSUES ON ECOSYSTEM

- The recent studies showed that there were 1288 species of bony fish threatened by overfishing and habitat damage.
- In the water from Mauritania south to Angola, there are 37 species of fish which were threatened with extinction; 14 species of fish were vanishing.
- Cassava croaker had a dramatic decrease up to 60% and has been listed as endangered.
- The prey depletion has already become the obstacle for the recovery of endangered cetacean populations e.g. Atlantic humpback dolphin
- Many of migratory seabirds which live and breed close to fishing waters of Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal are killed accidentally or intentionally by fishing equipments

### DISCUSSION : SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

- Decisions are based on how the system/ case/ society depends upon and influences local ecosystems and social-ecological systems in other regions.** The agreements are harming local development and taking use of an unequal power balance and corruption.
- Conflicts, complexity, dynamics, and uncertainty are acknowledged.** Solving the conflict between human needs and the capacity of ecosystem service in short-term is complex and should therefore be discussed even more.
- There is a just distribution of environmental goods and services, between and within both communities and generations.** Local communities that depend on rich fish stocks both today and for future generations are harmed by the overfishing of foreign vessels
- There is a just distribution of environmental bads (environmental burdens), between and within both communities and generations.** EU is not in any way affected by the social and environmental burdens that the SFPAs are causing.
- Principles for just distribution are discussed and defined in a deliberative process.** Since corruption is common in third countries' governments, a deliberative decision making process is hard to obtain.
- Justice permeates planning, policies and production and consumption.** The concept of justice is not frequently seen in the policies that have been analyzed in this report.

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

- Conclusions:**
  - Local fishermen are seeing less and less fish in their nets and must go further out to sea to feed their families and maintain national food security. This neglecting of local fisheries and ecosystem services leads to poverty and degradation of natural capital, causing a revolutionary temper among the locals which increases the risk of armed conflicts within the country.
- Suggestions**
  - Sufficient funding from the EU to promote sustainable fishing methods, practices
  - To preserve local ecosystems, the EU and African policy makers should ensure that the marine ecosystems are not over exploited.
  - There should not be much difference in internal and external policies when it comes to sustainability.
  - African policy makers should ensure that intra regional trade is given priority as well.
  - It is important to ensure that intra generational demands are met locally and that the ecosystems are capable of handling high levels of export.
  - There has to be more research in various areas to make the policies more just and sustainable.
  - The focus on funding from EU should shift to aid the local economies from exporting fish produces as "raw materials" as a primary sector economy, to a secondary sector economy by processing and manufacturing.
  - There should be regular monitoring to ensure that these boundaries do not get breached, and the requirements of the local people are met.
  - The local communities should be included in at least 2 meetings : One meeting at the beginning of the discussion. Another meeting when the policy's pre-final draft is prepared.