

A large flock of seabirds, possibly gulls or terns, is seen in flight over a vast expanse of the ocean. The birds are scattered across the sky and water, with some in the foreground and others in the distance. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the water is a deep, slightly choppy greenish-blue. The overall scene is bright and airy, suggesting a coastal or island environment.

The Common Fisheries Policy

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Towards a Reform

Rupert Crilly, The New Economics Foundation (nef)

What is the CFP?

- EU's instrument to manage fisheries and aquaculture both within and outside its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- CFP introduced in 1983; reformed in 2002 and will be in 2012
- CFP has 4 components:
 - Regulation of production
 - Market stability
 - Minimum fish prices and clearing market
 - External trade rules

Aims and Outcomes of the 2002 CFP

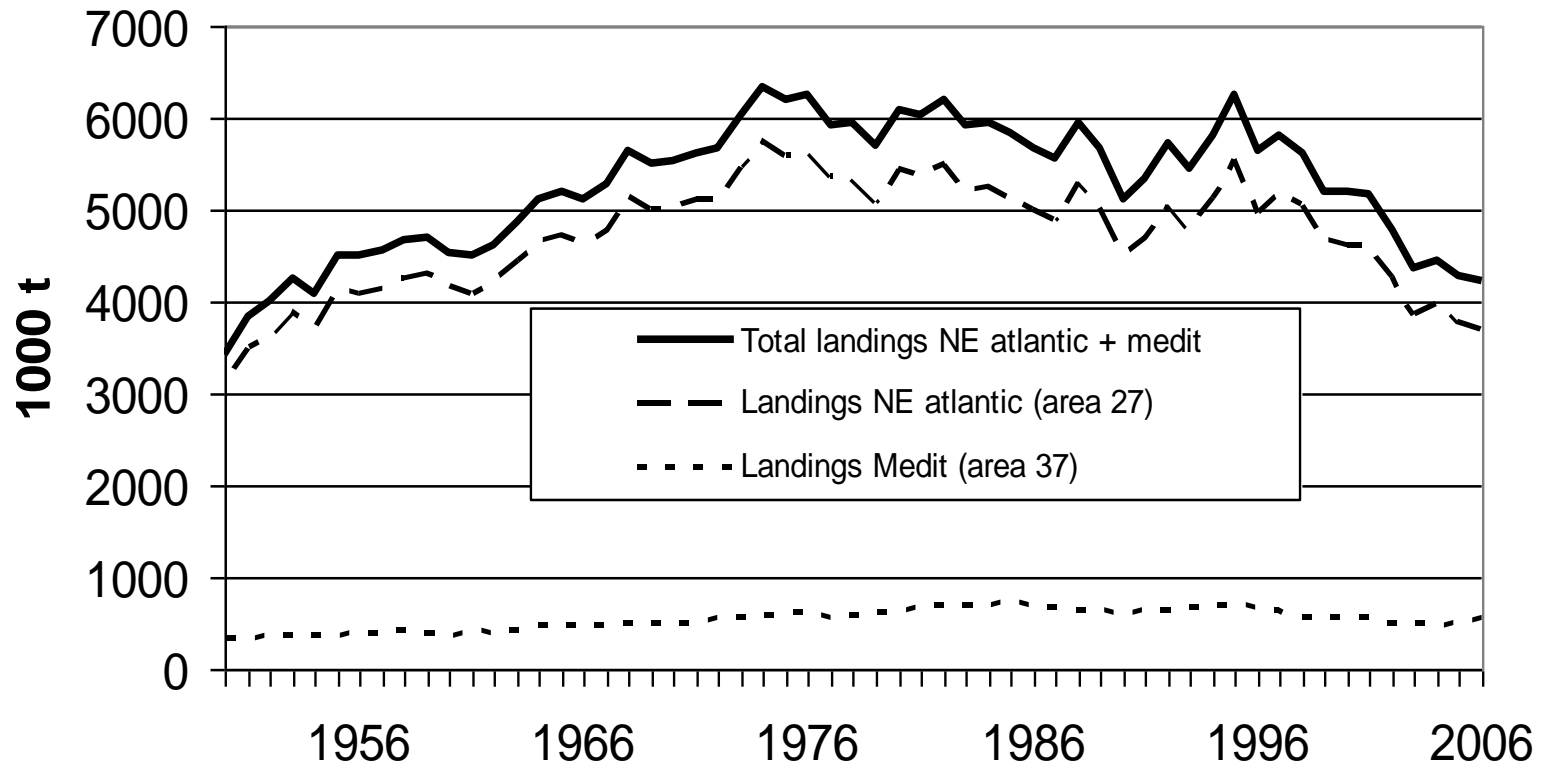
- 2002 reform aimed to achieve sustainable fisheries from environmental, economic and social points of view. Also, to improve the decision-making process
- Positive developments:
 - More stocks under long term management plans – leading to sustainable fisheries
 - First positive results – e.g. Northern Hake now recovered
 - Better stakeholder involvement through the Regional Advisory Councils

Why we need reform*

But...the European Court of Auditors report in 2007 said that, "...the policy had not attained its target and had not delivered sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources...**the fisheries sector is characterised by economic fragility resulting from over-investment, rapidly rising costs and a shrinking resource base: this is reflected in poor profitability and steadily declining employment**".

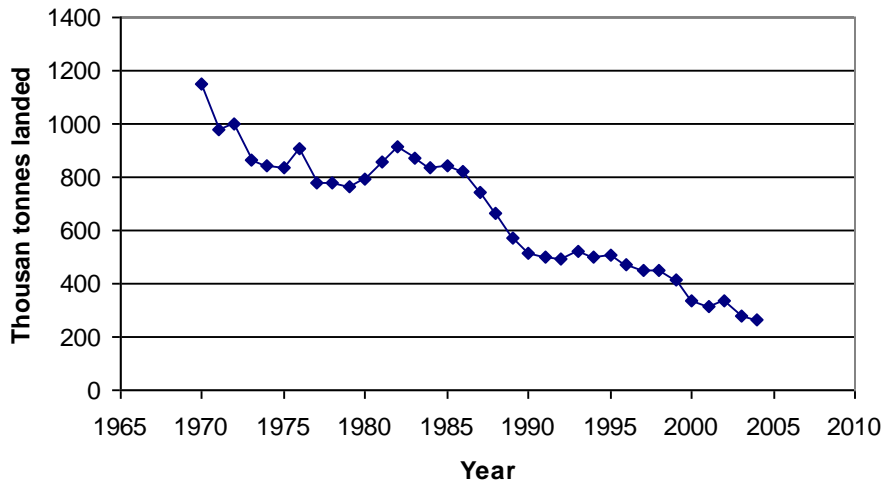
Outcomes: Fewer Fish*

Landings 1950-2006, EU15

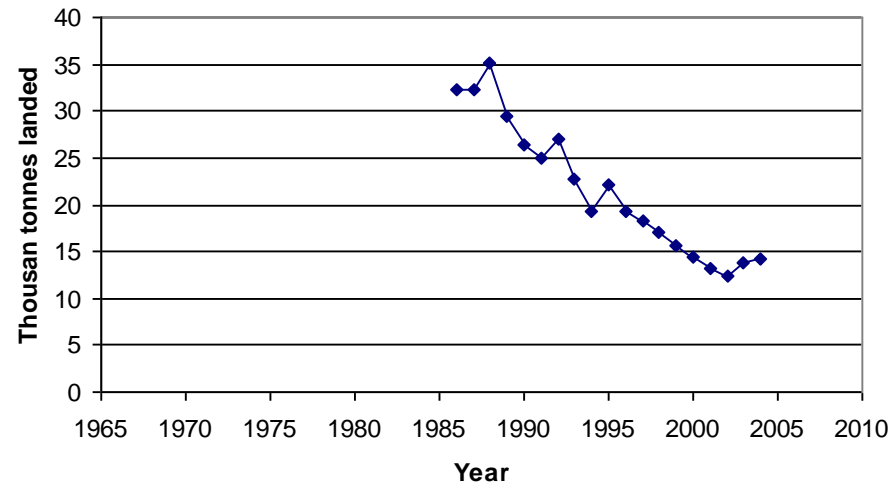


Regional losses

Estimated landings of demersal species from the North Sea (1970-2004)



Estimated landings of hake, megrims and Nephrops from the Iberian Atlantic Area



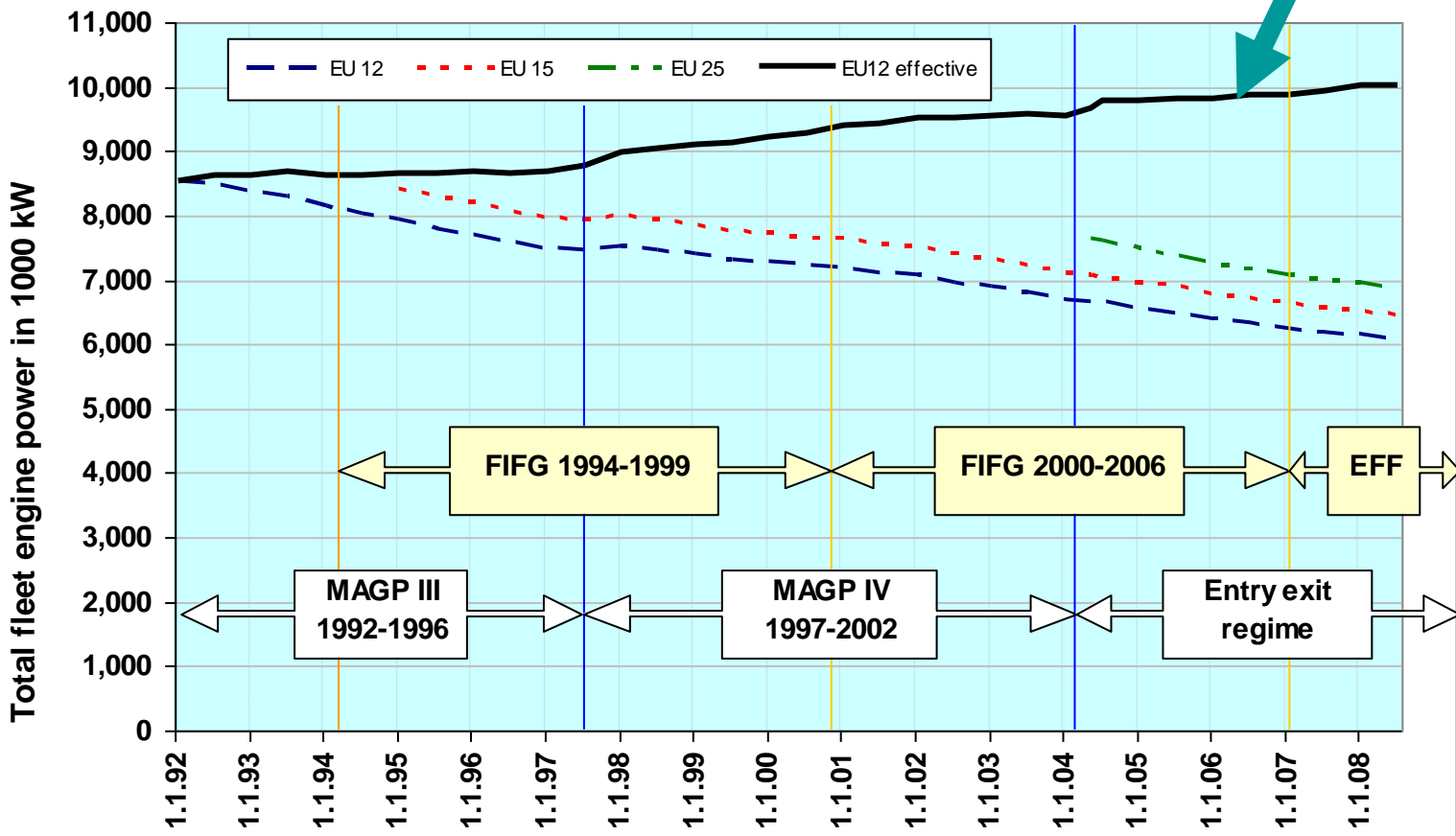
**North Sea
demersal stocks**

**Iberian demersal
stocks**

...Capacity increasing

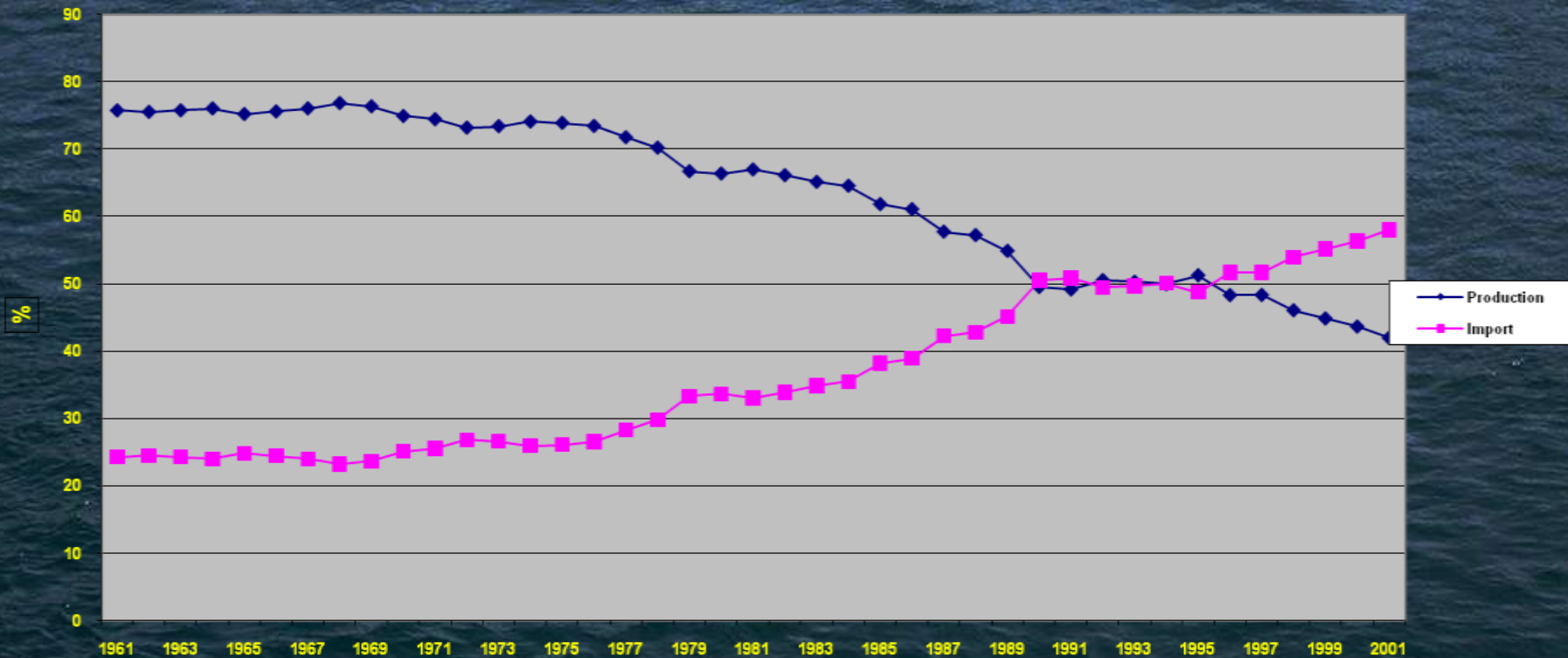
Actual capacity development assuming 3% technological creep

Trend in the EU fishing fleet capacity in terms of installed engine power (kW) between 1992 and 2008



...Landings being replaced by imports

Relation between EU15's fish production and imports 1961 - 2001
(in %) (Source: Eurostat)



Overfishing*

- Catch limits above scientific advice
- Unselective fishing methods
- Lack of control and enforcement
- Significant overcapacities & technological creep (2-4% p. year)
- Environmentally harmful subsidies
- **But...in the UK, catches peaked in 1938**

Main Challenges

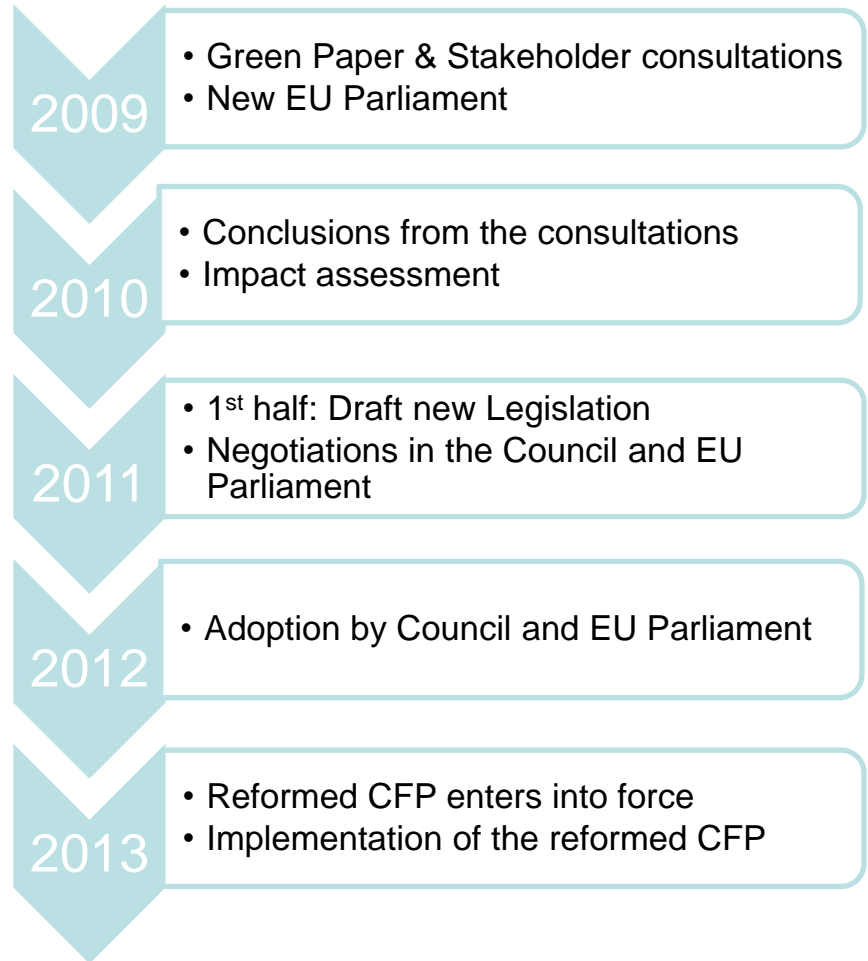
- Crisis is under the surface
- Fish is just not a polar bear
- Technical and complex
- Discussion dominated by loud, vested interests
- Lack of political will and courage
- Lack of transparency
- Lack of public scrutiny

...And new challenges

- External economic pressures
 - fuel prices
 - access to credit
- Developing sustainable and transparent markets
- Changes in marine ecosystems
 - Climate change
 - Biodiversity
 - Genetics
- Pressure on resources to run the CFP
 - Demands on what fisheries should deliver are increasing
 - Resources to implement fisheries management in COM and Member States are expected not to increase or even to reduce
- Consistent legislation (e.g. CFP with Maritime Policy and Marine Strategy)

Timetable of the CFP Reform

- 2009
 - Green paper to launch public debate
- 2010-11
 - summary of public debate, launch impact assessment
- 2011
 - 1st Proposal
- 2012
 - CFP reform



OCEAN2012

- Pew Environment Group-led coalition of nearly 100 organisations
- Based in Brussels
- Vision is of healthy oceans with abundant fish and wildlife contributing to human well being.

OCEAN2012 – Steering Group

- Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements
- The Fisheries Secretariat
- nef (new economics foundation)
- Pew Environment Group
- Seas At Risk

OCEAN2012 – (some) Member Groups

Accionatura (Spain)
ADEPEG-CPA (Guinea Conakry)
Ailerons (France)
APECE (Portugal)
Archipelago (Greece)
Black Sea NGO Network (International)
Bloom (France)
Blue Ventures (Int.)
Bond Beter Leefmilieu (Belgium)
Coalition Clean Baltic (Sweden)
Coalition for fair fisheries arrangements (Int.)
C.O.A.S.T (UK)
Coral Cay Conservation (UK)
CRAM (Spain)
Deepwave (Germany)
Ecologistas en Accion (Spain)
Ent (Spain)
Federation Francaise d'Etudes de Sports Sous
Marins
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
(Finland)
Fisheries Secretariat (International)
Fundacion Lonxanet (Spain)
GEOTA (Portugal)
GRIS (Italy)
GSM (Germany)
ICSF (International)
Iristh Wildlife Trust (Ireland)

Kenna EcoDiving (Spain)
Lega Ambiente (Italy)
Liga Protecção da Natureza (Portugal)
Lithuanian Fund for Nature (Lithuania)
Marevivo (Italy)
Mediterrania (Spain)
New economics foundation (UK)
Noe Conservation (France)
North Sea Foundation (Netherlands)
NUTFA (UK)
OceanCare (Switzerland)
Pew Environment Group (International)
PROBITEC (Spain)
Project Aware Foundation (International)
Prowildlife (Germany)
Reef Check (Germany)
SCIAENA (Portugal)
Scottish Creelers and Divers (UK)
Shark Foundation (Switzerland)
Shark Research Institute (US)
Shark Trust (UK)
Sharklab (International)
Sharklife Conservation Group (South Africa)
Sharkman's World (Malta)
Swedish Elasmobranch Association (Sweden)
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
(Sweden)
VHL (Ireland)

Role of OCEAN2012

- Focus and coordinate activities among existing players
- Empower organisations to engage in the debate
- Attract additional stakeholders from unexpected areas
- Not only in Brussels, but also important in Member States

OCEAN2012: Key Demands*

- Prioritisation of environmental objectives
- Ensure good governance
- Capacity in line with resources
- Access rules based on environmental and social criteria
- Public funds for public services
- Transparent and participatory decision-making processes

**It's not easy
but we're running out of time!**

THANK YOU

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