



IUU Fishing and the European Green Deal

Advancing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Presentation on behalf of the EU IUU Coalition to the Market Advisory Council
28 January 2021

Biodiversity loss: a planetary crisis

- Around 1 million species globally currently face extinction.
- Global population of wild species has fallen by 60% over the last 40 years.
- Two thirds of ocean environments have been significantly altered by human influences.
- Major EU and global initiatives to prevent biodiversity loss have failed to meet their targets.



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Oceans



- EU Biodiversity Strategy will “put Europe on the path to ecological recovery by 2030”, by addressing drivers of biodiversity loss.
- Aims to protect 30% of EU waters - one third of which will be strictly protected.
- Proposal of new action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems by 2021, which seeks to limit use of gears most harmful to biodiversity.
- All fishing activities must be subjected to Maximum Sustainable Yield levels, with zero-tolerance of illegal fishing practices and the elimination of by-catch of sensitive species.

EU IUU Coalition Policy Brief on IUU and Biodiversity

- IUU fishing frustrates efforts to conserve and sustainably manage fish stocks.
- It occurs in MPAs, negating any positive effects they may have on biodiversity.
- It often employs destructive gears and methods, damaging habitats and capturing non-target species.
- It can involve the deliberate targeting of endangered species.
- Anti-IUU measures can help achieve the aims of the biodiversity policy.



IUU and the business case for biodiversity



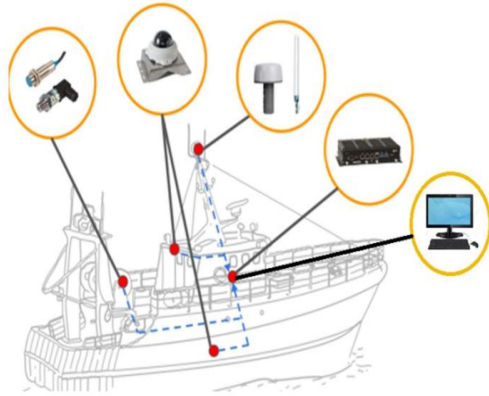
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy includes an estimate that conserving marine stocks could increase annual profits of the seafood industry by more than €49bn;
- The strategy also highlights that “some of today’s sea uses endanger food security, fishers’ livelihoods, and the fishery and seafood sectors”
- Introducing anti-IUU measures as a means of reducing biodiversity loss may bring about additional financial benefits, as law-abiding fishers will not be undercut by unscrupulous actors.

Suggested recommendations

- Encourage EU Member States to take a 'zero-tolerance' stance to IUU as part of their commitments under the Biodiversity Strategy, in line with commitments made by Commissioner Sinkevičius;
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to monitor and manage European MPAs, as well as assist international partners with MPA management to reduce the risk of IUU caught fish entering EU markets;
- Make it harder for IUU caught products to enter the EU by continuing to roll out the CATCH digitised import database system.



Recommendations continued..



- Actively drive innovation to reduce the harm caused by ‘ghost’ fishing gear and packaging across the seafood supply chain, to protect biodiversity and improve consumer perceptions of the seafood industry;
- Introduce further well-enforced traceability and transparency mechanisms which will help protect biodiversity, allow consumers and other stakeholders to make more informed choices and simultaneously improve the accuracy of available data on fish stocks. These should include the creation an easily accessible and user-friendly public database of fishing authorisations without delay; the adoption of Remote Electronic Monitoring and the sanctioning of EU vessels for persistent non-transmission of AIS.

Recommendations continued..

- Implement mechanisms to ensure that the development and implementation of biodiversity policies are inclusive processes and give voice to stakeholders across the supply chain;
- Consider the inclusion of biodiversity provisions within future fisheries trade agreements, and the undertaking of biodiversity impact assessments.



Contact

For more information on the EU IUU Coalition visit: <http://www.iuuwatch.eu>

To read our policy brief 'Advancing the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030' visit:
<http://www.iuuwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EU-IUU-Coalition-Biodiversity-Policy-Brief-final.pdf>

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