



Foresight Project on Fishers of the Future

What will the future look like for fishers in 2050?

DG MARE
31 January 2024



The Common Fisheries Policy

Among the objectives of the CFP:

- Social sustainability
- Fair standard of living for the fisheries sector

Recital 4, Regulation (EC) 1380/2013

Social sustainability is necessary for the continuity, stability and well-being of the fishing sector. It is a way to future-proof it.

The times are changing.

Competition for space

- Offshore windfarms
- Deep sea mining
- Protected areas (MPAs, VMEs)
- Aquaculture



Political developments

- Brexit
- Russian military aggression against Ukraine

Climate change

- Ocean temperature rising
- Carbon capture (oceans as carbon sinks)
- Plastic pollution
- Eutrophication

Business environment

- Rising energy costs
- Labor shortage
- New technologies, innovative gear & techniques
- Consumer requirements



Looking into the future

Fisheries & Oceans Pact (02/2023)

- Reaffirms the importance of "empowering people in fishing communities"
- Acknowledges the challenges ahead that will have an impact on the sector

In order to guide policy-making, the European Commission has committed to:

- Conducting an EU-wide participatory foresight project on **‘Fishers of the Future’**, to forecast the crucial role of fishers in society, beyond the provision of high-quality seafood with a relatively low carbon footprint. On the basis of qualitative interviews on the ground, the project will identify the trends, opportunities and threats that determine the attractiveness of the fishing sector.



Objectives of the project

Overall objective: project fishers in the future, explore changes in profession, role and identity of fishers in the long-term to generate a common understanding of fishers of the future and supporting engagement.

Specific steps:

1. Set the scene: who are today's fishers and what environment do they operate in?
2. Identify patterns and insights: what may happen over the next decades?
3. Explore the future of fishers using foresight methods (megatrends and drivers)
4. Identify scenarios leading to 2050 and define fishers' profiles (who they will be)



Scope of the project

- Commercial (not recreational)
- Marine (not inland or aquaculture)
- Catching sector (vessel owners and crew, not onshore upstream or downstream sector)
- EU waters (including outermost regions)
- 22 coastal EU Member States and overseas territories
- To 2050



Tools for engagement

Project based on engagement with fishers across 22 countries:

- Key informant interviews
- Focus group discussions

... and on engagement with stakeholders

- Expert workshops
- Surveys
- Events



Timeline

- November 2023: Start of the study
- February 2024: Survey
- March 2024: Presentation event with first set of results
- December 2024: Final study & presentation of results

Objective to feed into reflections & bring new insight at the start of new Commission mandate.

Thank you!



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