

# European Green Deal – Challenges and opportunities for EU fisheries and aquaculture

## Food security aspects



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# Structure of the Presentation

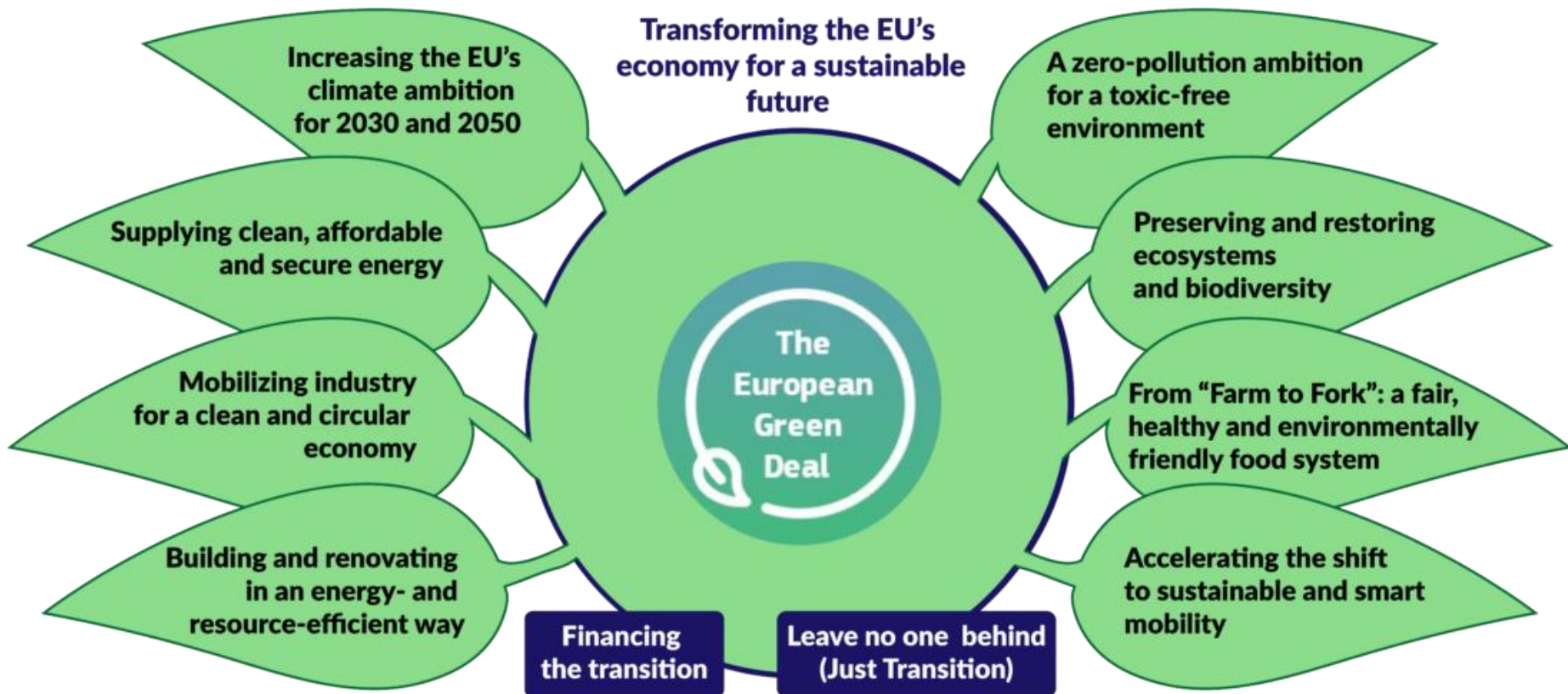
- 1. Study objectives**
- 2. Overview of main EGD Policy Instruments**
- 3. Case Study 1: EU dependence on seafood imports**
- 4. Case study 2: EU aquaculture production**
- 5. Policy recommendations**

# 1. Study objectives

- Present an overview of the main **European Green Deal** (EGD) policy initiatives as regards food security.
- Analyse the overall **challenges, opportunities** and **solutions** for EU fisheries and aquaculture with regards to food security and the transition to sustainability.
- Illustrate **best-practices** and **lessons learnt** from case studies: (i) EU **seafood imports** and (ii) EU **aquaculture**.
- Provide **policy recommendations** to the European Parliament.

# The European Green Deal

The EU's overarching environmental strategy to address climate change and environmental degradation.



# Impact of Climate Change on fisheries & aquaculture

- **Climate change** has severe consequences for **fisheries**: redistribution of **fish stocks** and loss of **catch** potential.
- **-6.4% catch predicted by 2100** in low-emission scenario, and **-25%** in high-emission scenario, but **-50% or more** in some regions by 2100.
- **Tropical oceans most impacted**: esp. Western Central Pacific Ocean, Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean and the Western Indian Ocean.
- Decreasing **global catch** also impacts **aquaculture**: 2/3 of production is currently dependent on food from wild fisheries. Plus increased **disease** risk & **storm** damage.

## 2. Overview of main European Green Deal Policy Instruments (1)

- **Farm to Fork**, the EU's food production strategy, has the most direct implications for food security.
- Agri-focused but notes acceleration to sustainable fisheries & aquaculture production.
- Via a strengthened CFP, tackling IUU & supporting low trophic aquaculture.



## 2. Overview of main European Green Deal Policy Instruments (2)

- Seafood species are relatively **low-carbon food**.
- Blue Farming promotes the **expansion of shellfish and algae production** in the EU.
- **'Fit for 55'** package has implications for fuel intensive fisheries (32% of EU landings are from bottom trawl)
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** may impact fisheries activity damaging seabed habitats and areas available for aquaculture production.

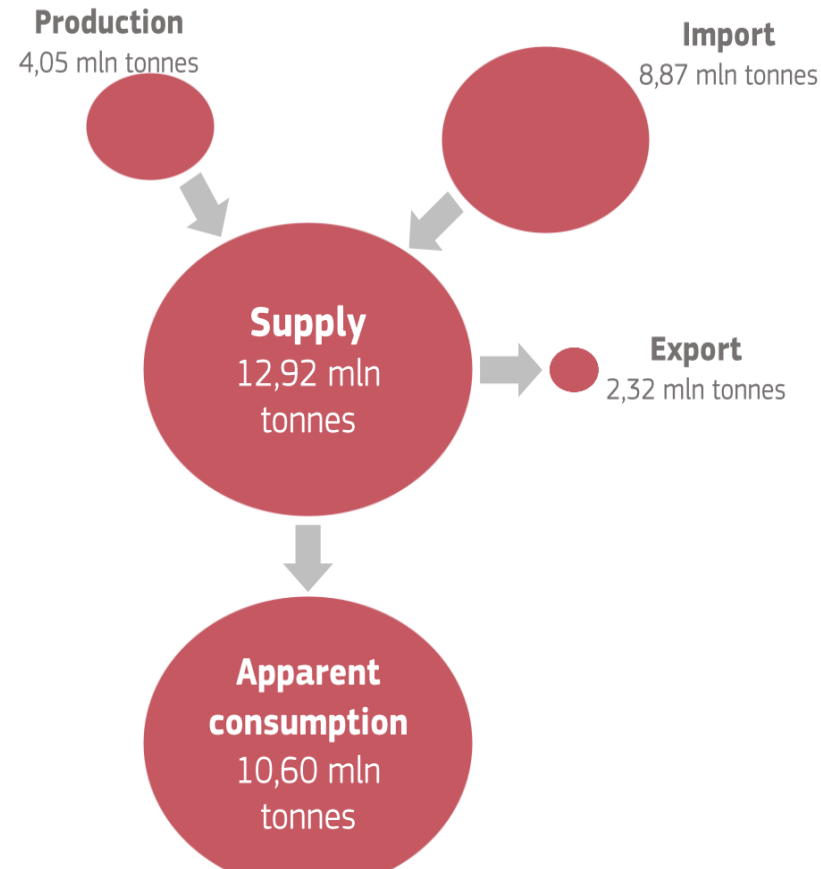
## 2. Overview of main European Green Deal Policy Instruments (3)

- **Supplying clean affordable and secure energy:** mainly coming via offshore wind with associated impacts on fishing displacement & increase labour shortages.
- **Zero pollution for a toxic-free environment:** could be positive for EU production with higher environmental standards, if imports required to meet same standards or can market distinction.
- **Accelerating shift to sustainable, smart mobility:** supports shorter supply chains with less reprocessing in Asia and doing more at point of landing. Reduced air freight encourages a shift to frozen over fresh/live seafood.

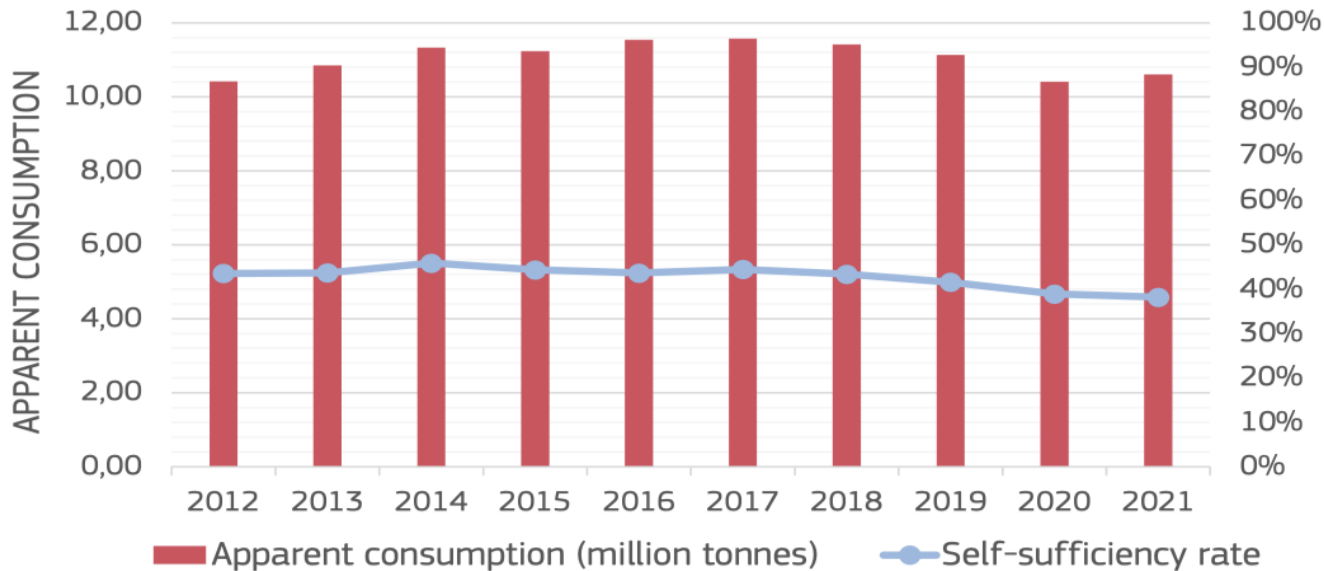


## 3. Case Study 1: EU dependence on seafood imports (1)

- The EU produces **5 million tonnes of seafood** a year (2% of global production, 7th largest globally).
- **4 million for direct EU consumption.**
- Growth in **EU consumption** supplied by extra-EU imports, often via intra-EU exchanges.
- **Asia** is a major **re-processing** centre for EU seafood, but some decline since Covid19.



### 3. Case Study 1: EU dependence on seafood imports (2)



- Recommended level of seafood supplies only met in **13 of 31** European countries with large coastlines / fish-eating cultures.
- Encouraging healthier diets through fish consumption would mean a **greater reliance on imports** with current production.

### 3. Case Study 1: EU dependence on seafood imports (3)

- **Science-led management** works: worldwide, assessed fish stocks have a greater **relative abundance** than unassessed stocks.
- **Sustainable fisheries models** are well-understood but must be **applied to all EU production** and its imports.
- The **overcapacity** in global fishing fleets is exacerbated by **fleet subsidies**.
- The EU's SFPAs with non-EU countries contribute around **9% of EU production**. Instead of just avoiding negative food-security impacts, they can take positive action.

## 4. Case study 2: EU aquaculture production

- EU aquaculture contributed around **1.1 million tonnes** of seafood in 2021, half of which were low-trophic species.
- The recent **Strategic guidelines for sustainable EU aquaculture** focus on building resilience, encouraging innovation and participating in the green transition.
- EU aquaculture needs to **diversify** in terms of **species** and by production **methods**.
- Greater **focus on low and multi-trophic** aquaculture, the use of **circular materials**, like insect meal in aquafeed and a holistic, ecosystem approach to aquaculture.

## 5. Policy recommendations (1)

### Improve food security from **EU fisheries:**

- Sustainable, science-based fisheries management.
- Reduce emissions from the EU fishing fleet.
- Address the environmental impacts of fisheries production.

### Improve food security from **EU aquaculture:**

- Formal adoption of the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA).
- Encourage low-trophic aquaculture & healthy consumption.
- Recognise and use ecosystem services from aquaculture.
- Innovative technology and approaches to reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture.
- Encourage circularity in feed, equipment and techniques.

## 5. Policy recommendations (2)

### Improve food security of **imported seafood**:

- Support sustainable non-EU production (regional management, national support, knowledge-sharing).
- Ensure a level playing field for EU producers (equal standards, clear labelling and improved traceability).

### Improve food security in the **seafood supply chain**:

- Improving the efficiency of supply chains.
- Sustainable diets and consumption.

# Thank You

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