



EU

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Challenges and Opportunities for European Small Scale Fishers in Europe's Reformed Common Fisheries Policy

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Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the European Union

EU Mediterranean fishing fleet:

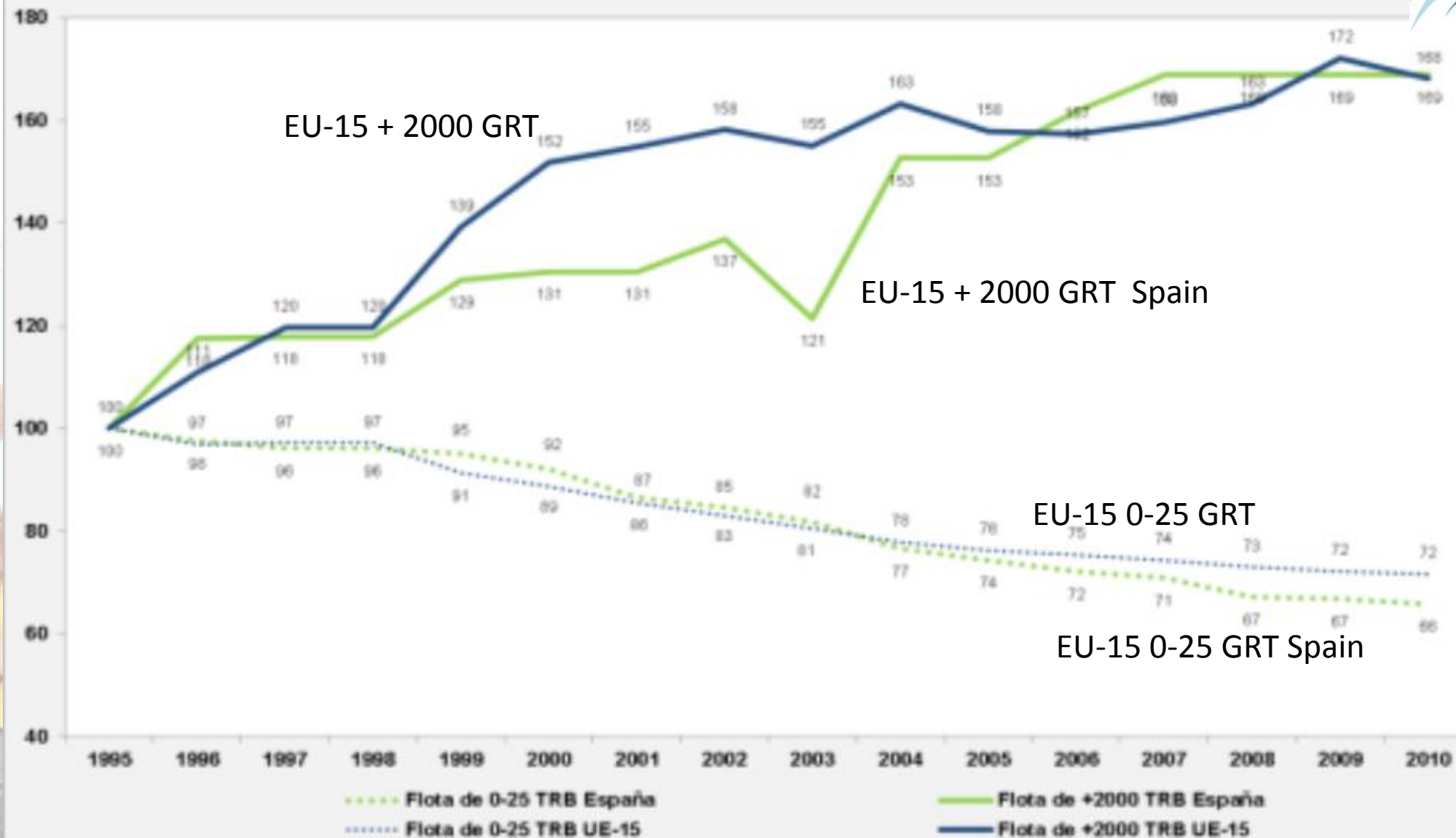
- 50% of EU 28 fishing fleet, 10% of the catch
- predominately small in scale (under 12 metres and using passive gear),
- 70% of the fleet by vessel numbers, 50 % of fishing employment.
- Catches 13% by weight, 23% by value.

Europe's forgotten fleet:

- Overlooked by successive Common Fisheries Policies
- Failure of successive CFPs to regulate access and conserve fish stocks
- Laissez faire approach within national 12 mile zones
- Access for ssf to fisheries eroded over the years
- Social, economic and environmental benefits not taken into account
- Lack of dedicated organizations to represent SSF interests
- Marginalized in process to set up Producer Organizations
- Marginalized in consultation and decision taking processes

Realities of Small Scale Fishery Sector (< 25 GRT)

Declining Trends



Europe's Reformed Common Fisheries Policy



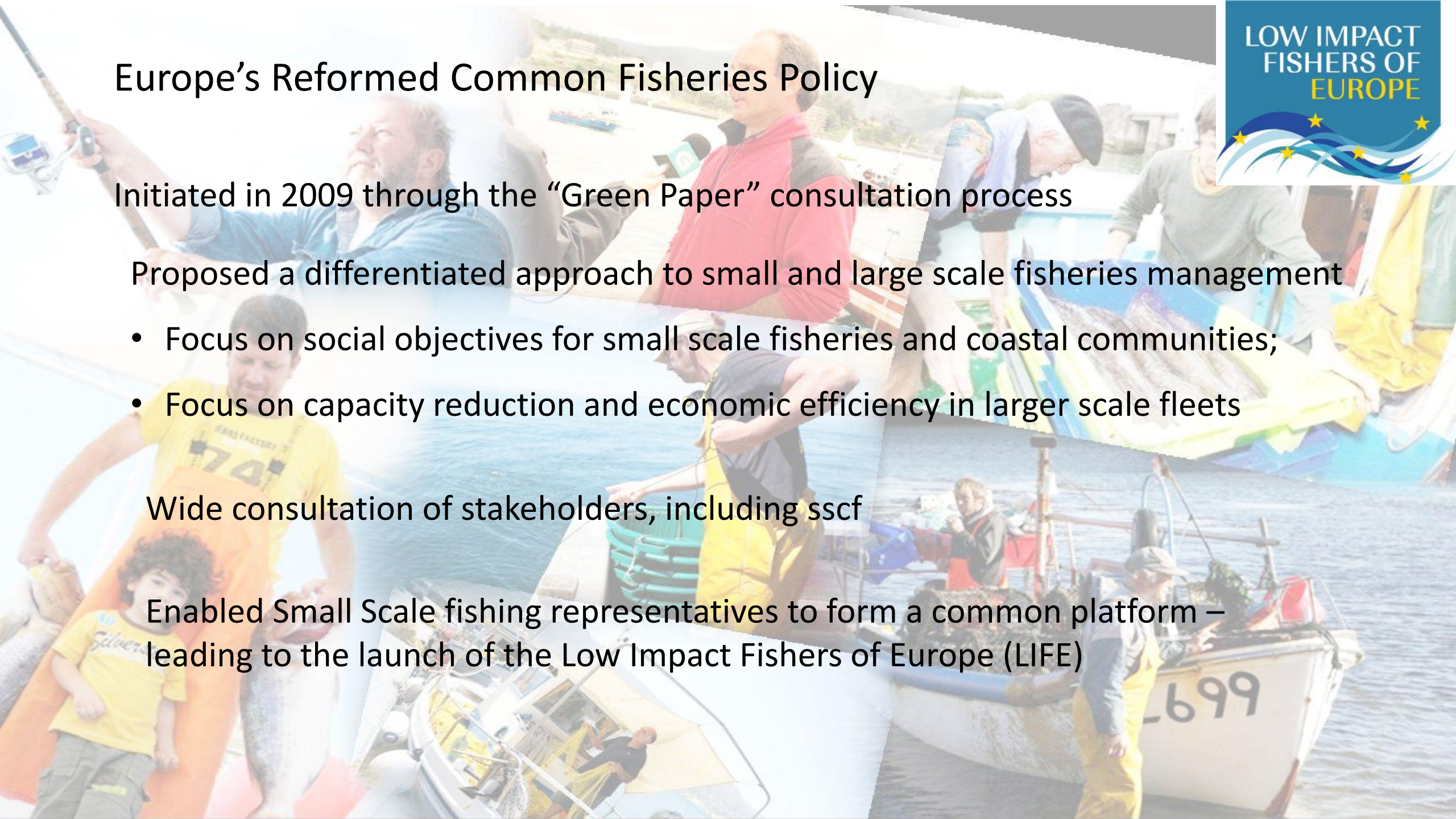
Initiated in 2009 through the “Green Paper” consultation process

Proposed a differentiated approach to small and large scale fisheries management

- Focus on social objectives for small scale fisheries and coastal communities;
- Focus on capacity reduction and economic efficiency in larger scale fleets

Wide consultation of stakeholders, including sscf

Enabled Small Scale fishing representatives to form a common platform – leading to the launch of the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)



Low Impact Fishers of Europe - LIFE

- Rooted in the 2009 Green Paper consultation and subsequent reform process
- Launched on eve of new CFP in November 2012 at the First European Artisanal Fishermen's Congress, 50 fishers from 9 countries

Responding to:

- Opportunities in new CFP to support small scale fisheries – organizing, economic activities, capacity building, marketing
- the need for a dedicated voice at EU level for small scale fishers
- the need for capacity building and support for small scale fishers to engage in regional (ACs) and national level decision taking processes

Small Scale Low Impact Fishers – Criteria

- 1) Use low impact gear and methods in terms of both selectivity and habitat.
- 2) Owner is aboard the vessel when fishing.
- 3) Commitment to ensure sustainability of fishery activities; respecting rules or in absence of rules, self-imposed measures applied to protect the fish resources and their habitats.
- 4) Fishermen that have high socio-economic value in support of local communities and are an important part of the cultural identity of those communities

LIFE's Aims

- 1) Grant the right to fish to those who fish sustainably;
- 2) Reduce fleet overcapacity where it exists, while preserving jobs in artisanal, low impact fisheries;
- 3) End harmful subsidies and unsustainable and destructive practices;
- 4) Restore the health of our seas in Europe and the rest of the world.

The Facts of LIFE: Membership at a glance

- 16 Organizations representing 4000 fishers from 12 countries
 - Baltic Sea: Poland, Germany, Denmark
 - North Sea: Netherlands, UK
 - Western Waters: Ireland, UK, France, Spain, Portugal
 - Mediterranean: Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece
- Office in Brussels since July 2015 to link with EU institutions
- Mediterranean Coordination since August 2015

Europe's Common Fisheries Policy



Common rules adopted at EU level and applied in all Member States, which include

- The “Basic Regulation” covering conservation, fleet management and control, international policy etc.
- Market Regulation covering producer organizations, marketing standards, labelling and consumer information
- Financial Regulation – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, financial support for implementation of the CFP
- Delegated acts, for example on the functioning of the “Advisory Councils”



Opportunities of reformed Common Fisheries Policy

Article 17 of the Basic Regulation

When allocating fishing opportunities “use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature”

Provide incentives for selective fishing gear/ fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact

Article 6 of Market Regulation

Establishment of producer organizations for small-scale fishers

Article 18 EMFF Regulation (the CFP financial instrument)

Promoting the role of women in fishing communities

Promoting under-represented groups involved in small-scale coastal fishing

Member States where over 1 000 vessels considered small-scale coastal fishing vessels, an action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing

Opportunities of reformed Common Fisheries Policy

Advisory Councils – Article 4 Regulation (EU) 2015/242
(Consultative bodies for all stakeholders at regional level)

- Ensure balanced and wide representation of all stakeholders, with emphasis on small-scale fleets (SSF)
- Ensure efficient participation of SSF in Advisory Councils



SSF in the Mediterranean: Part of the solution

- 95% of fish stocks fished above sustainable levels
- Almost all stocks are chronically overexploited, with low biomass
- Need to cut fishing effort by 50 to 60%

Opportunity for Small Scale - Right Gear, Right Place, Right Time

- Polyvalent, seasonal diversity, species diversity
- Low impact on fishery habitat, marine environment and planet
- Cultural importance - often only economic activity in remote communities

FAO SSF Guidelines: A timely opportunity to compliment implementation of CFP



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THANK YOU, MERCI

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