

**Rendez-vous de**

**Concarneau**

**2013, October 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>**

# CFP reform and possible impacts on EU stocks and fleets

**Stéphan Beaucher**

**Pêchéthique** 

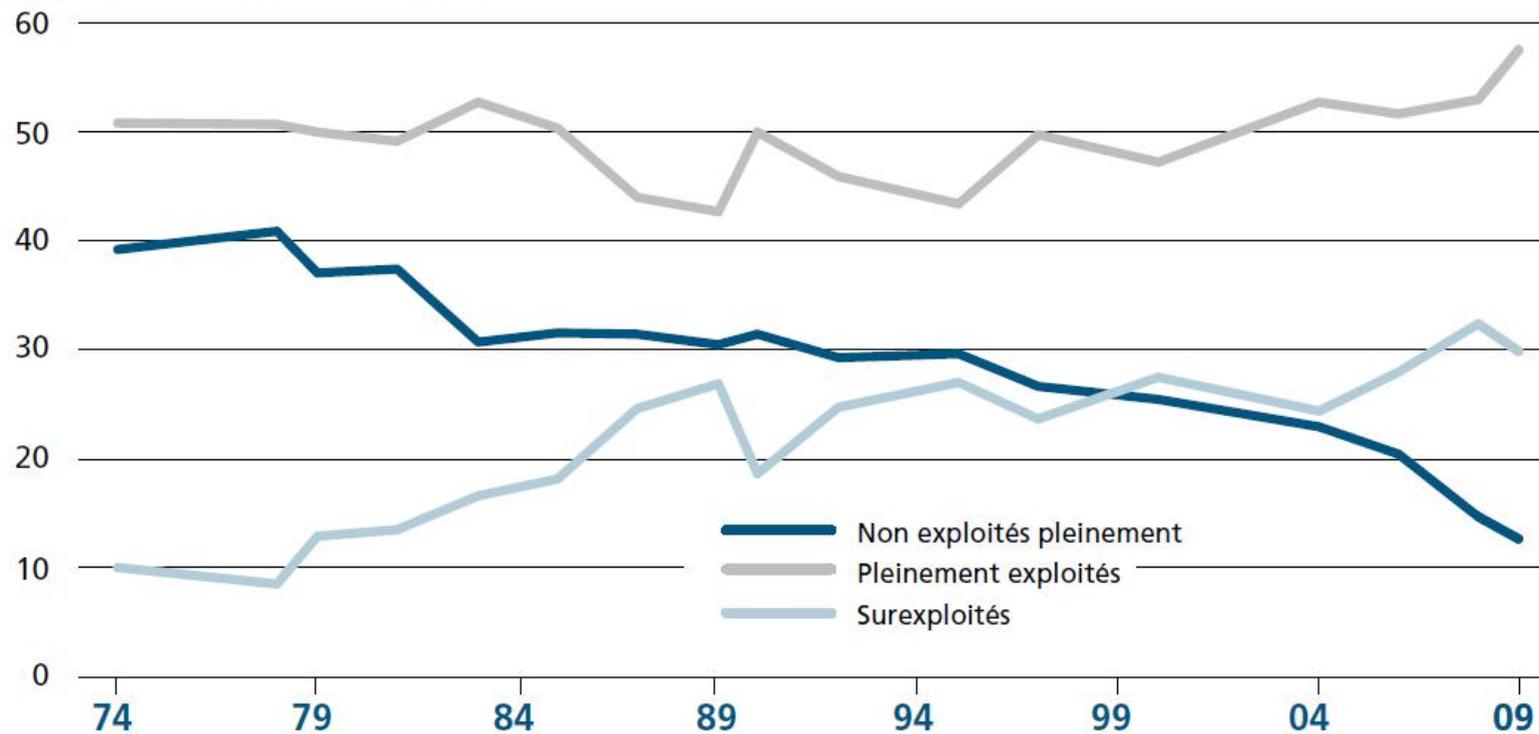
**stephbeaucher@noos.fr**

# Where do we come from?

## Worldwide stocks status (FAO)

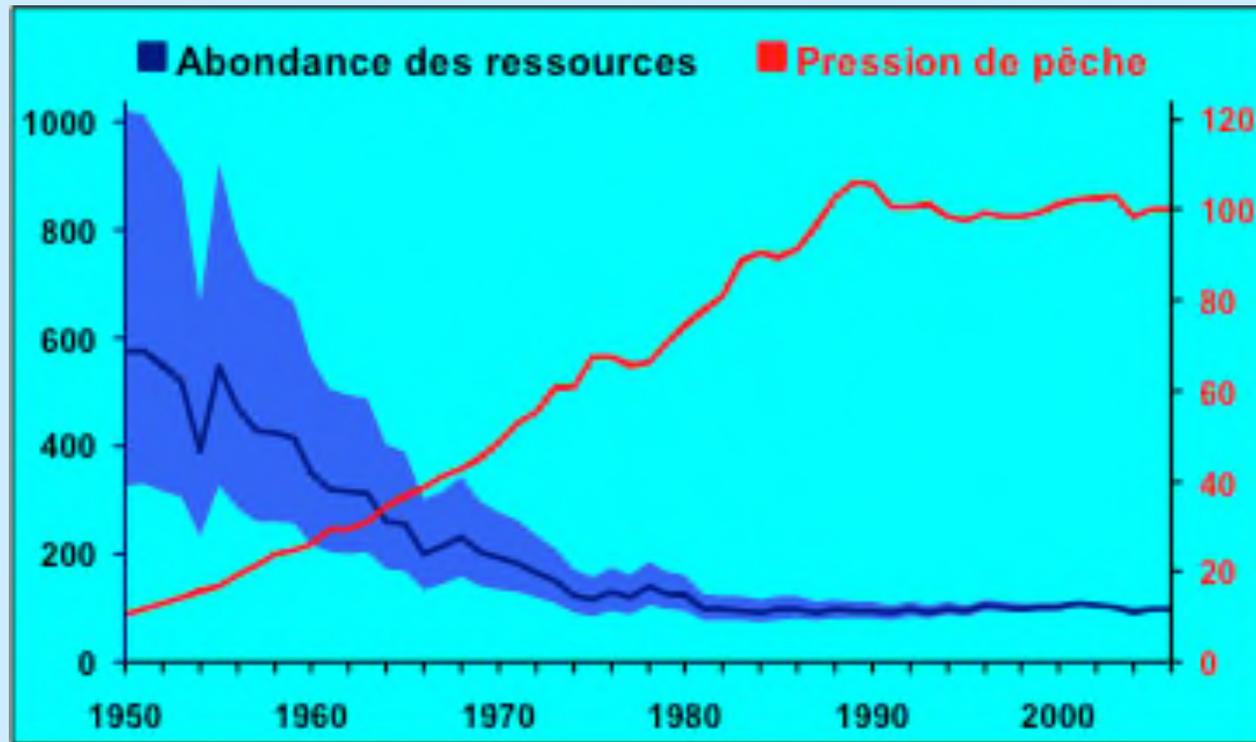
Évolution de l'état des stocks ichthyologiques marins mondiaux depuis 1974

Pourcentage des stocks évalués



# The 50-70's trauma in EU waters

Celtic sea/Bay of Bisaye (Study by Guénette and Gascuel, 2012)



⇒ Long term vision : a strong slump in fish abundance in the 50's, 60's et 70's

⇒ Since then : stagnation of abundance

# Over the last 10 years, things are apparently going better

- On the 56 stocks followed by STECF, fishing pressure dropped by 50%
- In the Atlantic basin, the proportion of overexploited stocks dropped from 80% in 2000 to 37% in 2012

BUT

- Still 80% of overexploited stocks in the Med.
- Global Spawning Stock Biomass did not vary
- Recruitment dropped by 50%
- Source : STECF report; Feb. 2013

Why and how? Multi factor analysis

# Two main changes in the reform :

1- fMSY instead of “precautionary approach”

2- Discard ban and landing obligation instead of discards at sea

# Maximum Sustainable Yield

- Definition
  - Volume of fish that can be caught without impacting the population dynamics of biomass
- Question
  - Can we or cannot we fish more than ecosystems can produce?
- The CFP reform :
  - imposes MSY as the management tool for fisheries
  - sets a road map : 2015 where possible and 2020 for all stocks.

But which MSY? Is that enough?

# M<sub>SY</sub> and the EU option

- fM<sub>SY</sub>
  - Limited target : volume of catches that stops the decline of a stock whatever the status of the stock, could they be already damaged
- bM<sub>SY</sub>
  - More ambitious : volume of catches that puts stocks on the way to recovery (increase in biomass).
- The EU opted for fM<sub>SY</sub>. So Is that enough for recovery?
- **For the next 10-20 years : NO!**
- **Maybe on the very, very long term... 30-50 years or more**

# Lessons of Neubauer's model\*

- The longer one waits to reduce the catch level, the longer stocks need to recover and the more imprecise the prediction of when recovery can be achieved.
- If the catch level is only reduced to the level of MSY, the uncertainty in predicting stock recovery increases exponentially.
- \*Resilience and Recovery of Overexploited Marine Populations; Neubauer et al.
- **Actually, the EU opted for wait and see**

# Some major stocks regarding fMSY 2015/20

## **Already on the right way**

North Sea Plaice  
thanks to the  
mobilization on cod in  
this area (LTMPs)

North Hake

## **Should be OK**

Celtic Sea Cod which  
is “roughly” at fMSY

East Channel sole on a  
fMSY 2017 roadmap

## **Problematic see impossible**

North Sea Cod : fishing  
mortality did not decline  
in spite of public  
mobilization (discards  
have replaced  
landings). Biologically  
weak stock.

# Impacts on fleets

Conclusions of STECF report on capacity (Com (2013 85 final;Feb. 2013)

- EU capacity is still too high.
- The fleet management policy has failed
- Too many fleets are dependent on overfished stocks
- Member States should manage their fleets so as to harvest fish stocks **below** fMSY and tend to bMSY

# Trawler fleets : the taboo

- 80% of EU trawler fleets are dependant on stocks exploited beyond MSY (“efficiency” and non selectivity of the gear)
- 80% of EU trawler fleets are not economically viable (high operating costs mainly fuel consumption : over 2kg of fuel → 1kg of fish)
- The trawler fleets that survive are entirely dependant on subsidies

## •Questions :

- What about the future of these fleets regarding the 2015-2020 fMSY target?
- Are subsidies a « make sense » financial instrument or are they an artificial survival tool?

# EMFF : The public policy leverage

- 6.4 billion Euros for 2014-2020
- Less than 20% (930 million euros) for data collection, implementation of the reform and control

- **More specifically:**

- 50 million euros per year for controlling 80 000 ships operating on hundreds of stocks among which 97 are submitted to TACs and quotas

- **Is it enough? Is it serious?**
- **Where is political willingness?**

# Fleet renewal : the hidden EMFF

- Under 6 conditions, SSF could benefit by public money for renewing fleets
- What is small scale? A. Cadec denies EU the right to define it

- **French example**

- SSF : less than 25 meters with shipowner onboard
- Nothing prevents the owner of a 24 meter trawler to break it and convert the capacity into 2 see 3 small scale ships which will operate in the “crowded” 12 miles

# Conclusions (1)

- The Commissioner has done her best
- Lobbies have done their work

The result : a so-so reform

- So few
- So late

# Conclusions (2)

EAT FISH (maybe less)

CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE SOURCES

Thank you for your attention

Stéphan Beaucher

Pêchéthique 

stephbeaucher@noos.fr

# Acronyms

CFP : Common Fisheries Policy

EMFF : European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

LTMP : Long Term Management Plan

MSY : Maximum Sustainable Yield

SSF : Small Scale Fisheries

STECF : Scientific, Technical and Economic  
Committee of Fisheries