

Rendez-vous de

Concarneau

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CFP reform and possible impacts on EU stocks and fleets

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Pêchéthique 

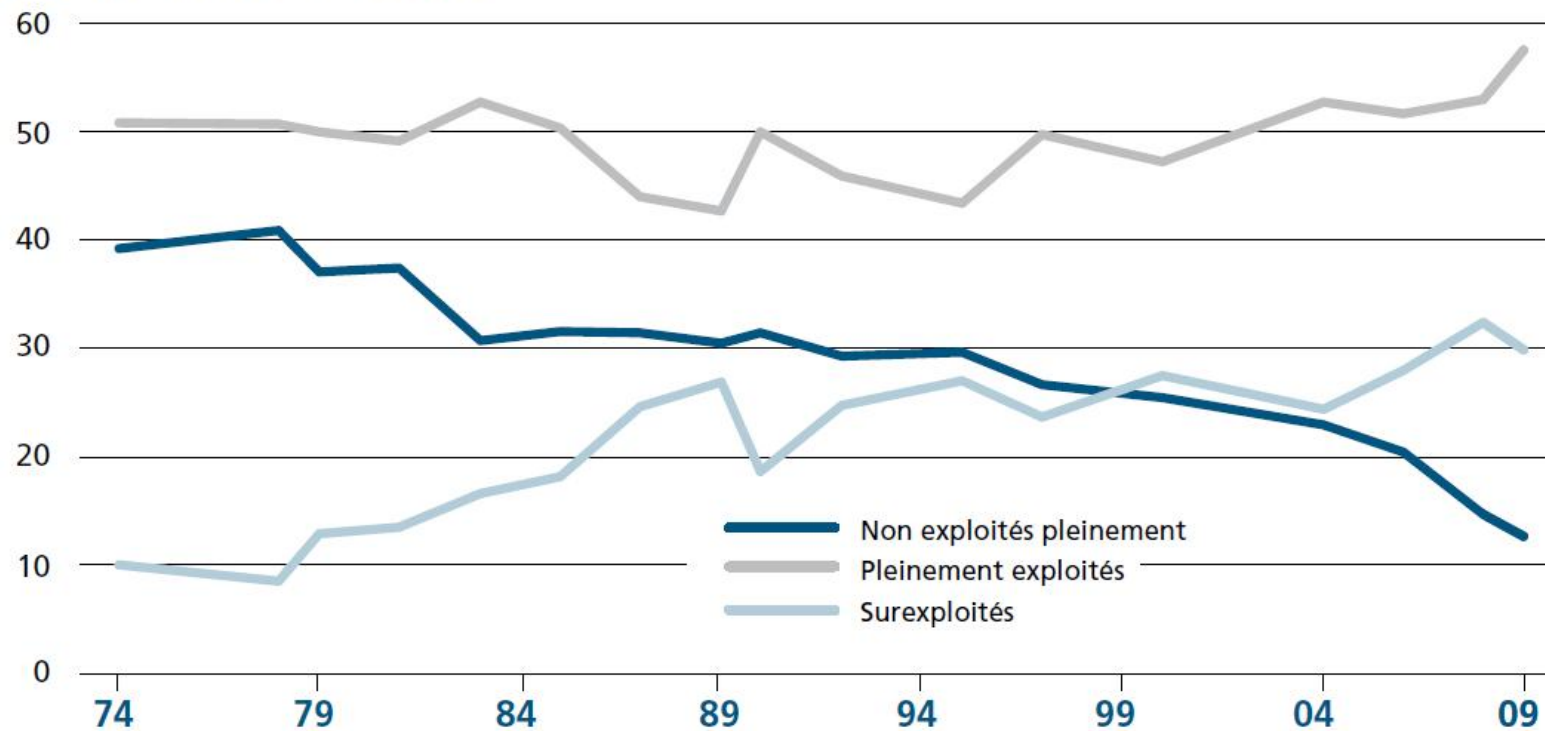
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Where do we come from?

Worldwide stocks status (FAO)

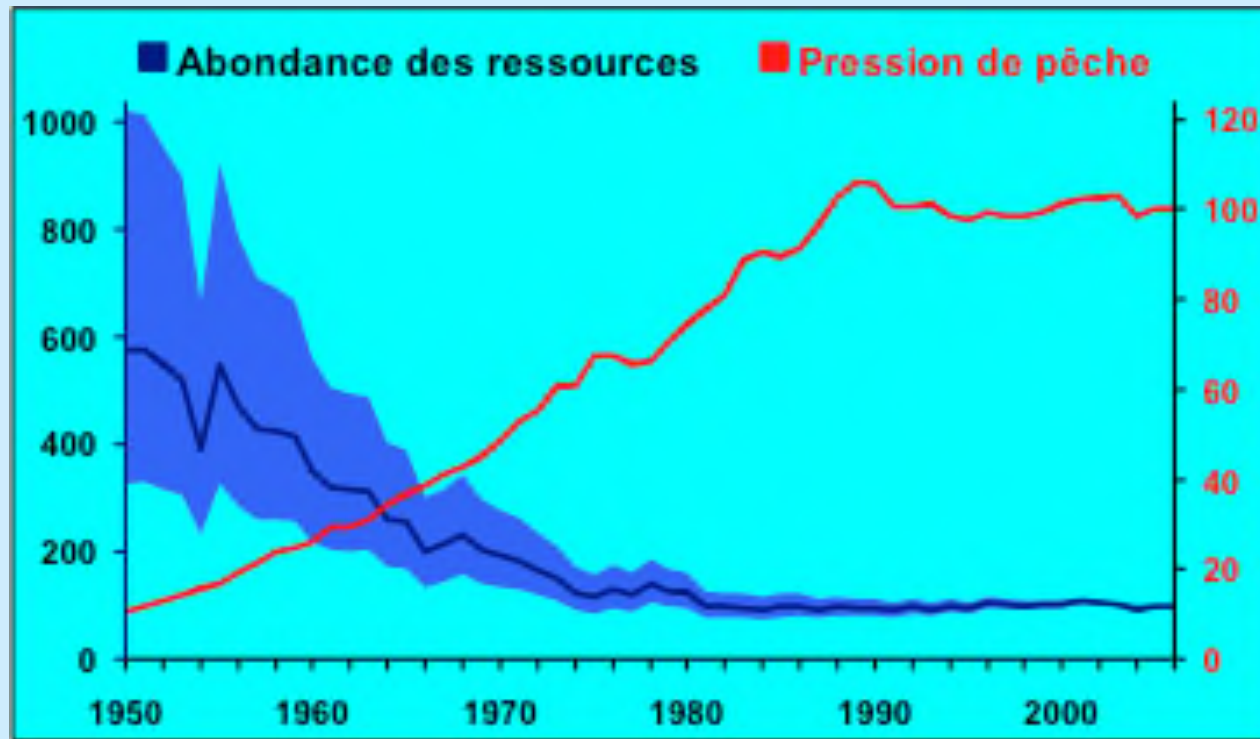
Évolution de l'état des stocks ichthyologiques marins mondiaux depuis 1974

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?

MSY and the EU option

- fMSY
 - Limited target : volume of catches that stops the decline of a stock whatever the status of the stock, could they be already damaged
- bMSY
 - More ambitious : volume of catches that puts stocks on the way to recovery (increase in biomass).
- The EU opted for fMSY. 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

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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