

Bitter Tidings

For sustainable fisheries

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10 Proposals

1. **Re-establish the dialogue** between scientists, fishermen and political decision-makers to **reach a consensual diagnosis of the state of the fish stocks and of the fisheries:**
 - 1.1 Develop partnerships (*contrats bleus* or "blue contracts", fish surveys, experimenting with selective methods as alternatives to trawling, etc.).
 - 1.2 Incorporate this objective for the reopening of dialogue into the four-year contract between IFREMER and the French government.
 - 1.3 Evaluate researchers regarding their capacity to carry out projects in partnership with fishing professionals and to explain their results to fishermen.
2. **Reform the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), to manage the halieutic resources in a more responsible manner:**
 - 2.1 **Respect scientific assessments regarding TACs and quotas** and justify any decisions made to depart from them.
 - 2.2 **Enforce the TACs and quotas and the fishing regulations via effective monitoring and sanctioning.**
 - 2.3 **Render the TACs and quotas predictable over a period of several years**, to as great an extent as possible.
 - 2.4 **Abandon the culture of "free-riding".**
 - 2.5 **Reduce fishing capacities** according to the state of the stocks and taking into account technological advances.
 - 2.6 **Reduce or eliminate rejections and incidental catches** by improving selectivity and developing fisheries management so as not to harm the ships' profitability.
 - 2.7 **Make fishermen the owners and managers of their resources: experiment with individual transferable quotas (ITQs).**
3. **Improve the economic profitability of fishing** and wean the sector from government assistance.
4. **Manage ecosystems globally:**
 - 4.1 Support research to implement the **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)**.
 - 4.2 **Develop a network of Marine Protected Areas**, as a tool to protect the marine environment and to manage the halieutic resources.
5. **Allow for the emergence of a sustainable form of aquaculture:**
 - 5.1. By supporting research to:
 - Lower the fishing pressure on wild resources,

- Mitigate the impact on the natural environment,
 - Develop new aquacultural species,
- 5.2 In addition, allow for the development of aquaculture in France via the elimination of administrative hurdles.
- 6. Promote the sustainable consumption of fish and seafood via:**
- 6.1 **Educational initiatives**, in cooperation with both fishing professionals and scientists, such as the distribution of **recommended-product lists**.
- 6.2 **Local, cooperative initiatives for fish and seafood**.
- 6.3 The development in France of a **European-wide or international ecolabel**.
- 6.4 The mobilization of consumers and recreational fishermen via the **distribution of a "fish-meter" to combat the catching of undersized fish**.
- 7. More strictly regulate recreational fishing:**
- 7.1 Establish a **set of regulations that is consistent with professional fishing** and that seeks, in particular, to limit the fishing of recovering stocks.
- 7.2 **Preserve the athletic, ethical and "family-oriented" nature of sport fishing** by more strictly limiting the authorized seasons, devices and quantities.
- 7.3 **Create, eventually, an exam-based licence for recreational saltwater fishing**, based on the hunting licence.
- 7.4 **More rigorously monitor the gathering of shellfish**, particularly during the spring tides.

8. Amend Article 30 of the "Grenelle I" bill, so as to:

- 8.1 More strictly regulate **recreational fishing**.
- 8.2 Allow for a rapid experimentation with ITQs, by **reconsidering the non-patrimonial nature of access rights** (Law of 18 November 1997).

9. Create a joint committee on "marine fisheries and cultures" with French members of Parliament (Senate, National Assembly and European Parliament).

10. Take action at the international level:

10.1 **Make fisheries management a theme of the Union for the Mediterranean**.

10.2 **Fight piracy**, beginning with European-based operations.

10.3 **Prevent the collapse of the Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock, by:**

- Setting TACs and quotas based upon scientific assessments,
- Reducing fishing capacity,
- Closing the European Union to tuna fished over the authorized quota,
- Sanctions by the European Commission against EU-member states and by Europe against non-member states which do not respect the fishing regulations in place ,
- **Creating sanctuaries**, like those which already exist for marine mammals, taking into account that, ideally, the fisheries should be completely closed during the reproductive period (May and June), for a few years,
- Supporting research on the bluefin tuna.

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