

Fisheries Council: Quota circus continues, despite a clear commitment to long term management plans

Brussels, Belgium - After two tough days of negotiations, European Fisheries Ministers have agreed on the fishing opportunities for 2011.

While calling for an end to the destructive short-term approach to fisheries management, WWF welcomes the Council's decision to follow the long term management plans already in place. WWF also looks forward to the tangible results from commitments taken by Ministers to eliminate discards in future fisheries and to review the Cod Recovery Plan which is not delivering its objectives at present.

Louize Hill, Head of Marine & Fisheries Policy at WWF said: "By agreeing to apply the rules under long term management plans, the Council has taken a step in the right direction. But the sooner we learn to follow the science consistently and move away from the frantic annual decisions on single stocks to the long term management of fisheries at a regional level across the EU, the better for the stocks and the better for industry."

There is still a lack of sound scientific data for many species, and increased effort must be made to enable scientists to provide reliable advice to fisheries managers.

Louize Hill added: "The elimination of discards is an ethical and biological duty. The approved catch quota trials using onboard cameras and making fishermen accountable for what they catch, rather than what they land will not only reduce discards of cod, but the information collected onboard must be used to improve science. At present these trials are limited to a portion of European fleets. These trials and all other recently adopted conservation measures must be stepped up so as to bring an end to the waste of good fish."

WWF is calling for a strong reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as the present regulatory framework is failing to deliver more sustainable and profitable fisheries. The reform must lead to a more regionalised approach with long term management plans for all EU fisheries in place by 2015.

- - -

Further information

Louize Hill, Head of Marine & Fisheries Policy at WWF European Policy Office

Tel: +32 2 743 8813, Mob: +32 491 611 763, email: lhill@wwfepo.org

Anouk Delafortrie, Campaign & Communications Manager Common Fisheries Policy at WWF European Policy Office

Tel: +32 2 761 0425, Mob: +32 476 735 602, email:

adelafortrie@wwfepo.org

