

## **CFP Reform Four Key Points.**

### **CFP Reform must meet the following four key points.**

**1.** Reform of the CFP must **comply with EU law**. Specifically, the legal requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), and Council Regulation 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of commercial fisheries.

This means that all commercial fish populations must be within safe biological limits, and exhibit a population age and size distribution indicative of a healthy stock [MSFD requirement]. And, the management of these stocks must observe the precautionary principle, and employ the ecosystem-based approach to marine management [MSFD/Council Regulation 2371 requirements] For further details, see MARINET Briefing <http://www.marinet.org.uk/rocfp/ocean2012.pdf>

**2.** Fish stocks must be rebuilt from their current depleted levels (due to over-fishing), and must be restored to somewhere near their **historic levels**.

The use of Maximum Sustainable Yield ( i.e. the amount that can be caught each year, year on year, without damaging the stock's ability to reproduce itself – effectively, the new name for “quotas” ) must be referenced to these historic levels, and not the current, depleted levels. We have defined the concept of historic levels for the North Sea in our Briefing, see <http://www.marinet.org.uk/rocfp/northsea1880-2010.pdf>

We must rebuild fish stocks to somewhere approaching historic levels in order to achieve “food security” – see point 3 below.

**3. Food security** is the ability of fish stocks to feed us throughout all 12 months of the year. Currently stocks are so depleted that they meet our requirements for only 6 months. For the remainder of the year we have to import fish caught from seas elsewhere.

Historically, fish stocks were sufficient to provide us with total food security. This is why we must reference the management of fish stocks to *historic* levels. If we do, we can re-establish food security.

It is essential that catches based on a stock's Maximum Sustainable Yield are referenced to the *historic* levels of those stocks, and not the current depleted levels. If this does not occur fish stocks will not be rebuilt, and if the stocks are not rebuilt we will be unable to re-establish food security.

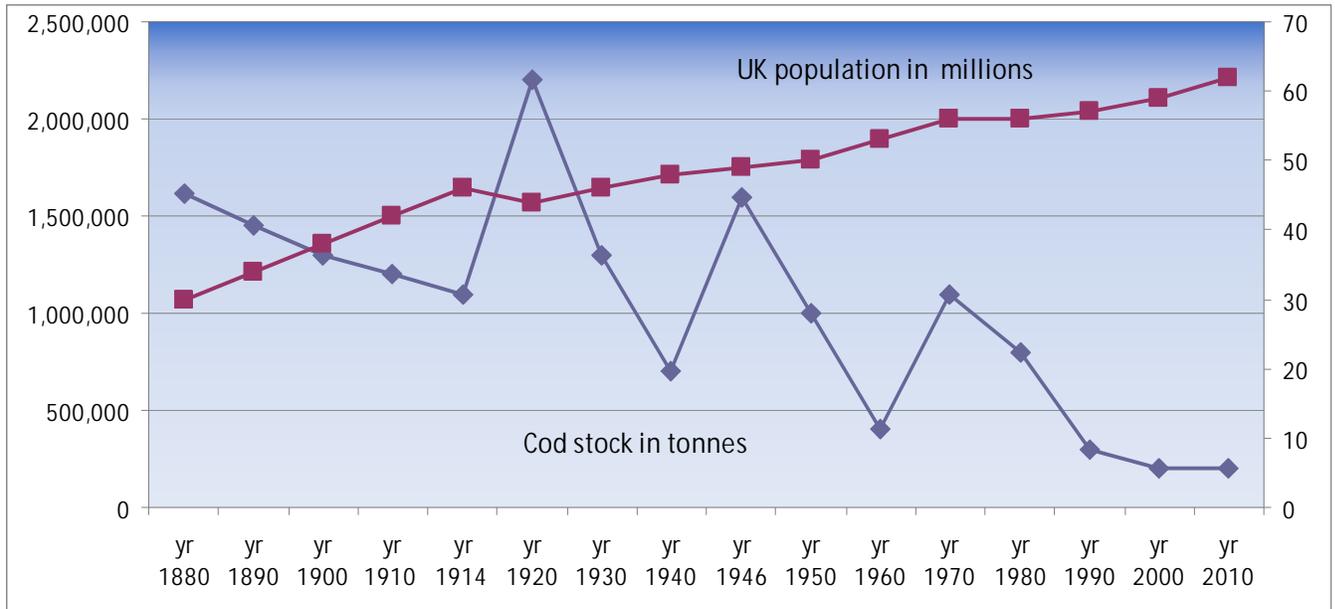
Please see the graph at the foot of this page, based on peer-reviewed research undertaken by MARINET, which illustrates the concept of food security in relation to North Sea fish stocks. Also, we can only rebuild fish stocks if we use the right management tools i.e. fisheries-based marine reserves and, when necessary, the setting of catch levels at zero until historically referenced stock levels are restored – see point 4 below.

**4. Fisheries-based marine reserves** must be established, centred on the spawning and nursery grounds of commercial fish stocks. This is the only way to rebuild stocks to somewhere near their historic levels, and thus achieve food security.

And, most importantly, the fishermen who lose their rights to fish in these areas must be re-employed as the managers of these reserves so that they may undertake the patrolling of the reserves, and assist in their monitoring and scientific research. This ensures that these fishermen have a new income, and have a vested interest in the success of the reserves which, in the long run, will guarantee fishing for future generations of their families.

See **North Sea Food Security Graph**, appended below.

**Food Security Graph:  
North Sea Cod stocks and UK Human population, 1880 to 2010.**



Year	Fish ( tonnes)	People (millions)
yr 1880	1,618,000	30
yr 1890	1,450,000	34
yr 1900	1,300,000	38
yr 1910	1,200,000	42
yr 1914	1,100,000	46
yr 1920	2,200,000	44
yr 1930	1,300,000	46
yr 1940	700,000	48
yr 1946	1,600,000	49
yr 1950	1,000,000	50
yr 1960	400,000	53
yr 1970	1,100,000	56
yr 1980	800,000	56
yr 1990	300,000	57
yr 2000	200,000	59
yr 2010	200,000	62

We have prepared our graph which records the North Sea cod population (total stock biomass) for the period 1880 to 2010 relative to the UK population over the same period. This graph is part of our series of briefings for EU and UK parliamentarians on the issue of food security within the context of Common Fisheries Policy Reform.

The size of the cod population (total stock biomass) are estimated figures based largely on landings data rather than being precise factual measurements. Our key markers in the recording of these population figures have been the 1880 middle figure in S. Mackinson (2002), the 1918 figure being 2.2 times greater than the 1914 figure (M. Graham in A. Margetts and S. Holt (1948), the 1946 figure being 2.3 times greater than the 1939 figure in A. Margetts and S. Holt (1948), and the ICES data since 1960.

Our full data sources and references for the graph are:

S. Mackinson, 2002, *Representing trophic interactions in the North Sea in the 1880s using the Ecopath mass-balance approach, ref. Table 1.16*. In S. Guénette, V. Christensen, D. Pauly (Editors), *Fisheries impacts on North Atlantic ecosystems : models and analyses. Fisheries Centre Research Reports 9(4)*.

Doug Beare, Franz Hölker, Georg H. Engelhard, Eddie McKenzie and David G. Reid, 2010: *An unintended experiment in fisheries science: a marine area protected by war results in Mexican waves in fish numbers-at-age*. *Naturwissenschaften* (2010) 97:797–808

Georg. H. Engelhard, 2005 : *Catalogue of Defra historical catch and effort charts: six decades of detailed spatial statistics for British fisheries*. Cefas Science Series, Technical Report No. 128, 2005.

Georg H. Engelhard, 2008 : *One hundred and twenty years of change in fishing power of English North Sea trawlers*. Cefas, 2008.

A. R. Margetts and S. J. Holt, 1948 : *The effect of the 1939-1945 War on the English North Sea trawl fisheries*. *Rapp. P-V Reun-Cons Int. Explor Mer* 122.26-46.

Bannister RCA, 2004 : *The rise and fall of cod (gadus morhua. L.) in the North Sea*. In Payne AIL, O'Brien CM, Rogers SI (eds) *Management of shared fish stocks*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, pp 316-338.

Hislop JRG, 1996: *Changes in North Sea gadoid stocks*. *ICES J Mar Sci* 53: 1146-1156.

Graham, M, 1935: *Modern Theory of Exploiting a fishery and application to North Sea Trawling*, *Journ. du Conseil, Vol X, No. 3, pp.264-274*. In A. R. Margetts and S. J. Holt, 1948 : *The effect of the 1939-1945 War on the English North Sea trawl fisheries*. *Rapp. P-V Reun-Cons Int. Explor Mer* 122.26-46.

ICES, 2010: *Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak*  
<http://www.ices.dk/workinggroups/ViewWorkingGroup.aspx?ID=31>

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