

Newsletter No. 39, January 2012
Marine Information Network
Friends of the Earth Local Groups

CFP Reform: This is *Your* Campaign.

In this newsletter we invite you to **renew your membership for 2012**, and to assist us with a number of **actions** designed to achieve our Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) campaign's aims.

Our campaign aims to ensure that CFP reform delivers **food security**, and **rebuilds our fish stocks to historically referenced levels**, using ecosystem-based management tools such as **marine reserves** centred on spawning and nursery grounds, and re-employing fishermen as the **managers of these reserves** so that they have a clear financial benefit from this new conservation-based CFP.

Our fish stocks are now so depleted that they can only meet our needs for six months of the year, resulting in us having to take fish from other seas and other fishing communities for whom this is not good news. If we rebuild fish stocks to historically referenced levels (end of World War II c.1946) we can, allowing for changed ecological and climatic conditions, be assured that we have returned stock levels to a size sufficient to meet our needs for fish for all 12 months of the year, year after year. In short, we will have re-achieved food security and restored wider health to our seas.

At present, the EU Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Fisheries Ministers from all the EU countries **do not** intend to reform the CFP to achieve the objective of food security, or to rebuild fish stocks to historically referenced levels, or to use marine reserves other than in a very restricted way, or to re-employ displaced fishermen so that they are secure financially and can see that a conservation-based CFP guarantees a future for them and the fishing industry.

In other words, the CFP reform which the EU will deliver **will not be genuine**, and will change **nothing**. Fish stocks will collapse further and, as EU Commissioner Damanaki has predicted, by 2020 only 11 out of 136 fish stocks will still be in a sound condition with reasonable stocks levels.

So what do we do ? The answer is we focus on the politicians and the public and we campaign hard for a genuine reform which will deliver food security, marine reserves, and restored fish stocks.

To achieve this – and we **can** achieve this – we want you to do **all** of the following:

1. Sign our **e-petition** to the UK Fisheries Minister, Richard Benyon, telling him to deliver these reforms, **and** we want you to get **20 or more people** besides yourself signing this petition (i.e. all your family, your friends, your work colleagues) and we want you to tell each of them that we want **them** to each get **another 20 people** to sign the petition as well. Then our petition is really working, and Richard Benyon takes notice ! Yes, this is what real CFP campaigning means. The petition is on our website, or go to: http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/fish_extinction_33701.html
2. We also need to contact and inform each MEP on the Parliament's **Fisheries Committee**, and each EU Minister on the **Fisheries Council**, to tell them that **genuine CFP reform** is about food security and rebuilding fish stocks. Therefore we want each of you, personally or as a Local Group, **to take on the responsibility** of contacting **one** of these MEPs and **one** of the Fisheries Ministers. **We want you to sign up to this**. We will then send you the addresses, and a specially drafted letter for you to use.
3. We want you to **inform your local public** about the serious condition of our fisheries and the importance of real CFP reform. We therefore want you to **write regular, short letters** to your local paper with this message. Once again, we have written a special Briefing to enable you to do this.

These are the actions which you and your Local Group members, can do to deliver real CFP reform. This is *your* campaign. Please sign up, and act now to deliver real CFP reform.

Message from the Chair: “Moments

when you as an individual can contribute to an international issue and effect change are rare indeed. This is such a time. I implore you to do what you can to assist Marinet in achieving its strategic objectives in the Review of the CFP.”

How to join the CFP Campaign.

1. Explain the campaign, and its objectives and actions, to the members of your Local Group. You may need to ask your co-ordinator to give you at least half an hour at your next meeting in order to be able to do this properly.

2. Explain to your Local Group members (in the case of Marinet Affiliate members: to your friends and colleagues) that there are **3 actions**, and all are as important as each other.

Firstly, the e-petition where everyone needs to find 20 people to sign it, **and** to ask each of those 20 people to find another 20 people. This way we hit the Minister hard with our message. The link to the petition is on the Home Page of our website www.marinet.org.uk

Secondly, we need to explain our campaign and what real CFP reform means to each MEP on the Parliament's Fisheries Committee, and to each national Fisheries Minister on the EU Council of Ministers (Fisheries Council). So we want you to take on the responsibility of contacting and carrying an ongoing discussion with **one MEP** and **one national Minister**, and to keep us informed of your progress. We will supply you with a full Briefing, see attachment, and contact Stephen Eades to get the details of your MEP/Minister stephen.marinet@btfinternet.com

Thirdly, we need you to explain to the public in your area the serious condition of our seas and fish stocks, and how essential real CFP reform is in order that wild sea fish remain available as a part of our diet and a key part of a healthy marine ecosystem. To do this, you write a short letter with a simple message every fortnight to your local newspaper. We have provided a Briefing which explains how you do this, and gives ideas for regular letters and actual examples. People read Letters to the Editor in local newspapers, as do MPs. This is an excellent way to get free media coverage, and to really raise awareness. Please do this, these letters can make a real difference.

3. So, plan how you are going to do **all** of these 3 actions. Together, these 3 actions will make a real impact, locally, nationally and at EU level – all from your own home.

What you must do now, and what the MARINET Steering Group is doing now.

1. Please contact Stephen Eades, our co-ordinator, to sign up to these three actions. He will give you details of your MEP / Minister, and he will answer your queries and give you any advice you may require.

2. The Steering Group is currently:

a/. Meeting with the UK Fisheries Minister's senior officials at Defra to ensure that the UK Government knows what real CFP reform means, and what it must do in Europe.

b/. Planning a national media campaign aimed at national newspapers and tv/radio. To do this we need the support of national FOE's media department. This is not available to us at present, but we are negotiating hard with national FOE to secure this. We trust that support from national FOE will be there soon.

c/. Planning how to prosecute a legal case against the EU Commission for issuing annual fishing quotas which exceed the safe levels recorded by the Commission's scientists. This is at the heart of the over-fishing and discards issue, and we believe over-fishing to be illegal under international and EU law. So we are going to play hard, sending a clear message to the Commission, MEPs and Ministers that CFP reform must be legal and comply with the law.

d/. Ensure that our website carries the CFP reform campaign clearly on the Home Page, and encourages the public to sign the e-petition. Public pressure on politicians in the UK and EU is the way we secure real CFP reform. So, let us know of any ideas you may have.

Annual Membership renewal for 2012.

Membership runs from January to December, and you must renew your 2012 membership now. A form is enclosed. **Please renew promptly**, as this saves much time and effort.

Membership is free, but we really do appreciate your donations. These cover our annual administration costs and, this year, are really important to help finance the CFP campaign. Your support is greatly valued. Thank you.