

Level Playing field in RFMOs

Sustainability and Competitiveness of the EU External Fisheries Model

EU FISHERIES – SUSTAINABILITY and COMPETITIVENESS in RFMOs	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence in all RFMOs • Framework: good positioning for control measures, accountability, science-based management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality data provision • SFPAs: good network and Blue Funds = channel to cooperate with other CPCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUU carding system • Social standards: long-distance fleet MS have ratified ILO 188 Social labels (APR – AFNOR) – better adapted to develop social management measures • Blue Tech Innovation to answer RFMOs growing declaration needs – monitoring system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakened link between EU and fisheries stakeholders (e.g. no participation in LDAC previous to meetings) undermines the EU’s ability to ensure that its positions align with stakeholders’ perspectives. • Complex bureaucratic and regulatory framework including transposition of RFMO rules (years long and over transposition) • Lack of coherent policies in MARE-TRADE-DEV-ENVI • Unilateral decisions within EU while decision process is not over in RFMOs (e.g. divergent FAD marking methods) • Inconsistent implementation at national level • Unfair competition with imports (70% for seafood in EU): different standards
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness Compass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean Pact • Clean Industrial Deal • EU Funding for competitiveness and external action • Mirror clauses in FTA to support RFMOs efforts for MCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due Diligence directive • Growing demand for sustainable products: certification expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological improvements • Partnership public-private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian, especially Chinese competition, including through illegal fishing, and not yellow or red card • Lack of compliance and implementation by RFMOs CPCs with no toolbox for enforcement/compliance/dispute settlement – unclear decision process • Increased competition for fisheries resources implies possible transfer of EU quota either to less developed states, either to other gears (e.g. US and longliners) • Unilateral quotas and decisions (NEAFC, IOTC) • Climate change adaptation and impact on fish stocks • External market pressure considering that EU depends on imports at 70%