

# The Pew Environment Group in the European Union

The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent non-profit organisation headquartered in Philadelphia and Washington DC, which is dedicated to solving today's most challenging problems through the application of a rigorous, analytical approach to improving public policy, informing the public and stimulating civic life.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Pew Environment Group is to help protect the natural environment and the rich array of life it supports. Our aim is to strengthen environmental policies and practices in ways that produce significant and measurable protection for both terrestrial and marine systems worldwide. In doing so, we work to advance the frontiers of scientific understanding of the causes and consequences of environmental problems, to design innovative policy solutions to these problems and to mobilise public support for implementing strong conservation policies.

### Our efforts are focused on reducing the scope and severity of three major environmental problems:

- Dramatic changes to the earth's climate caused by the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;
- The loss of large wilderness ecosystems that contain a great part of the world's remaining biodiversity, and;
- The destruction of the world's oceans with a particular emphasis on global marine fisheries.

## THE WAY WE WORK

The Pew Environment Group employs more than 100 scientists, attorneys, economists, public policy experts and communications professionals dispersed over four continents – Europe,

North America, South America and Australia – and various regions. Our work encompasses two principal activities:

### Harnessing science to solve environmental problems

Pew sponsors highly applied research that helps to inform the policy debate on how certain environmental problems should be addressed and managed. These studies, conducted independently by outstanding scientists from universities and research institutions throughout the world, are subject to peer review and published in leading scientific journals. Their findings are communicated to the media as well as to policy makers, resource management agencies and

regulatory bodies to enhance and inform public understanding and government decision making.

### Promoting strong conservation policy

Most of the major decisions affecting the world's most serious environmental problems will be made by governmental bodies. Recognising this, the Pew Environment Group focuses on designing strong environmental policies at the regional, national and international levels of government, and promoting the adoption and enforcement of these policies through targeted advocacy campaigns. Some of these campaigns we undertake alone, using our extensive

Pictured right: red coral and sponges.



© GREENPEACE/ROGER GRACE

Pictured right: small-spotted catshark.  
Far right: cod trawler in the Atlantic  
ocean. Below: school of fish.

team of policy experts and field personnel. Others involve coalitions of non-profit organisations often staffed by a central team of campaign professionals employed and guided by Pew.

## OUR EUROPEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

The Pew Environment Group recently established a European Marine Programme, with a central office in Brussels. The goal of this programme is to strengthen the role of the European Union in ending global overfishing and reducing the destruction of the world's oceans.

The European Union (EU) has one of the largest fishing fleets in the world. It is also the world's largest importer of fisheries products. Unfortunately, fisheries management policies in Europe are often poorly developed or not properly implemented. As such, the EU contributes to widespread overfishing both within its own territorial waters and elsewhere in the world where EU vessels are active.

Our work in the EU is focused on the design and promotion of sustainable marine and fisheries policies, informed and guided by the most up-to-date and accurate scientific information. In



© HEIKE ZIDOWITZ

addition, we are engaged in efforts to raise public awareness about the increasing environmental problems affecting Europe's marine environment and the world's oceans in general. More specifically, our work focuses on addressing the following problems:

- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Excess fishing capacity and environmentally harmful subsidies that damage the marine environment; and
- Overfishing and the need to develop science-based catch limits for endangered fish species along with timely recovery plans for depleted fisheries.



© GREENPEACE/CHRISTIAN ASLUND

Pew has been active in Europe since 2004, initiating and leading large NGO coalitions to make marine policies more sustainable.

## CONTACT US

For more information about us or our main activities in the European Union, please visit our website:

[www.pewenvironment.eu](http://www.pewenvironment.eu)



© FOTOLIA/ELAINE DAVIS

Our work in the EU is focused on the design and promotion of sustainable marine and fisheries policies, informed and guided by the most up-to-date and accurate scientific information