

# European Fish Week 2011

## Ireland

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## European Fish Week 2011 - *Back to the Future*

This exhibition tells the story of how in living memory, there were more fish, more boats, more fishers and more fisheries dependent communities in Europe. It does that by combining three elements: historic archive images of fishing, infographics by David McCandless, and photography of present day commercial fishing by Corey Arnold.

This was the theme of European Fish Week 2011, June 4 - 12: how our marine environment used to be healthier, how overfishing has changed this and how the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform is an opportunity to go Back to the Future. It was about collecting stories of the past richness of our seas and fishing communities, as are captured in these images, and delivering them to EU Fisheries Ministers with the message: "we want it back".

Similar exhibitions were held around the EU in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

Corey Arnold is a photographer and Alaskan commercial fisherman based in Portland, Oregon. During the winter, he can be found aboard the F/V Rollo in the Bering Sea and more recently catching salmon in Bristol Bay. The off season is filled with travel, exhibitions, and photographic assignments.



He is currently working on a lifelong project entitled "Fish-Work" which chronicles the commercial fishing lifestyle throughout the world and has just released a book called Fish-Work: The Bering Sea, which chronicles his seven years as a deckhand on a crab fishing vessel in the Bering Sea. Most recently he was nominated for the Aperture West Book Prize, the Santa Fe Prize for Photography, and named one of PDN's 30 for 2009.

OCEAN2012 commissioned Corey to capture the realities of commercial fishing across Europe. He travelled to Ireland and Scotland, returning later in the season to Spain, France, Greece, Poland, and the Netherlands - documenting all aspects of the fishing industry, from industrial to beam trawlers and small artisanal vessels, to processing markets and communities.

*"I'm a photographer with a love of commercial fishing, fish, and the culture of people who make their living from the sea. My pictures are motivated by a desire to share this love of fishing with the world, and to hopefully inspire, educate, and provide a historical record of this period in fishing history worldwide. I'm an advocate for sustainable fishing practices."*

David McCandless is a London-based author, data-journalist and information designer, working across print, advertising, TV and web.



Recently he has championed the use of infographics and data visualisations to explore new directions for journalism and design - and to discover new patterns and stories in the seas of data swamping and surrounding us.

His information design work has appeared in over forty publications internationally including *The Guardian*, *Wired* and *Die Zeit*. His commercial clients include GE, Google, and the United Nations. An increasingly popular public speaker, he has spoken at TED Global and over forty international conferences.

David's popular blog and best-selling book, *Information Is Beautiful* are dedicated to visualising ideas, issues, knowledge and data.

In an age of high-speed living and info overload, visualised information has incredible potential to help us quickly understand, navigate and find meaning in a complex world

David was commissioned by OCEAN2012 to clearly illustrate how our marine environment used to be healthier, how overfishing has changed this and how the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform is an opportunity to remedy it.





Spanish trawlers in port

Spain is the largest fleet in the EU in terms of the size and power. These two vessels received in excess of €1.6million in EU fisheries subsidies in 2004 & 2005, [www.fishsubsidy.org](http://www.fishsubsidy.org)



A mackerel jig fisherman with his tame seagull friend and home made mackerel jigging reels.

A sample of the common bycatch species from an inshore prawn trawler.

This shows all the different species of sea life caught in one three hour tow.





Fisheries scientist take a sample of a cod.

On average the catch limits set by EU fisheries ministers are 46 percent higher than the scientific advice.



Beam trawling in heavy seas. The trawl here is breaching the water as it is towed at 6.5 knots.

The European Commission estimates that some fishing fleets are capable of exerting a fishing pressure which is two to three times the sustainable level.



Captain of the Glor Na dTonn, a twin rig prawn trawler mending the trawl on the dock in Rossaveal, Ireland.

Reforming the EU's Common Fisheries Policy is crucial to ensure a long-term sustainable future for marine ecosystems, sustainable fish stocks and secure livelihoods.

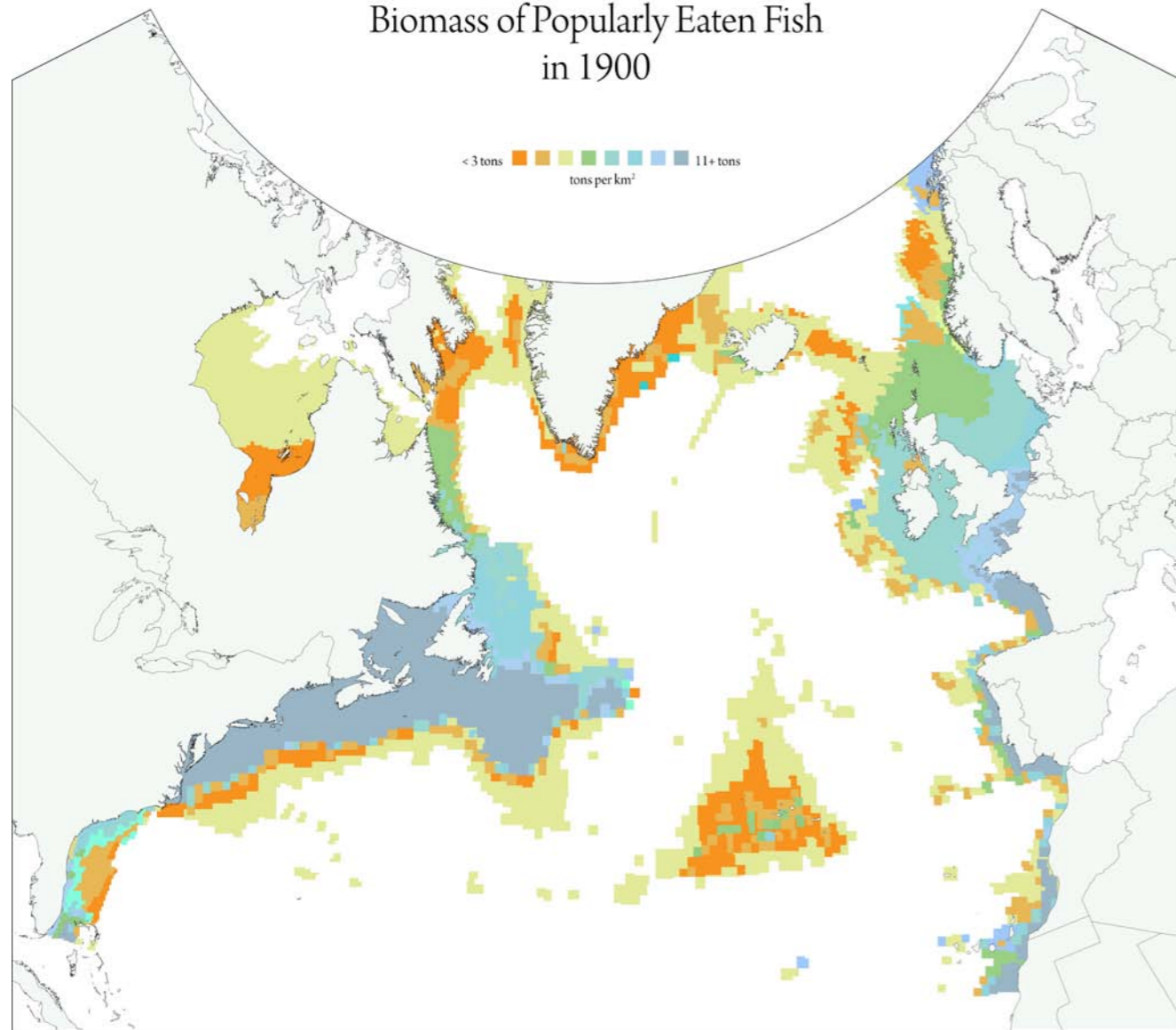
Deckhand holding a huge monkfish down in the hold of a Rossaveal trawler.

Some scientists estimate that as much as 90 percent of the entire ocean's large fish have been fished out.

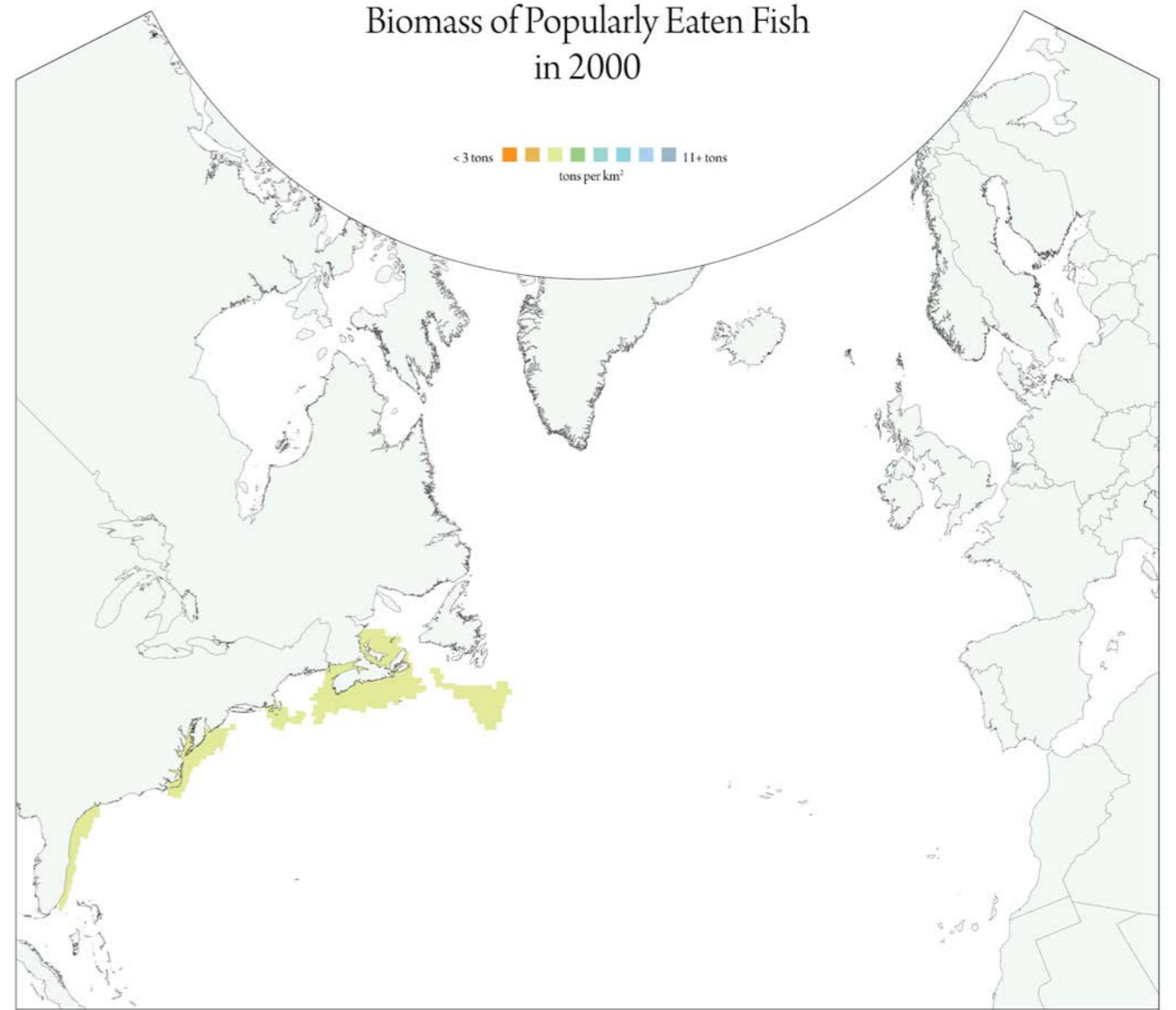




Biomass of Popularly Eaten Fish  
in 1900

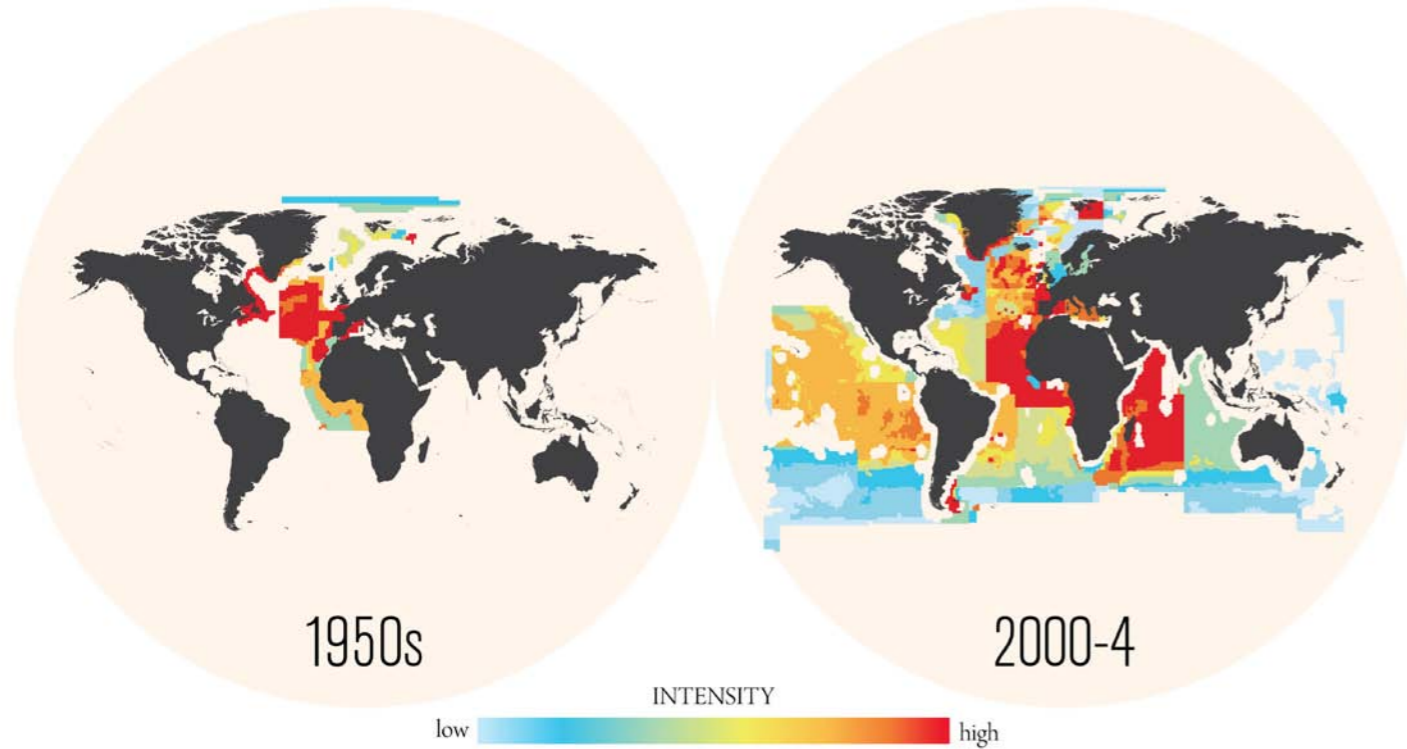


Biomass of Popularly Eaten Fish  
in 2000



# Why Have We Not Noticed Crashing Fish Stocks in Supermarkets?

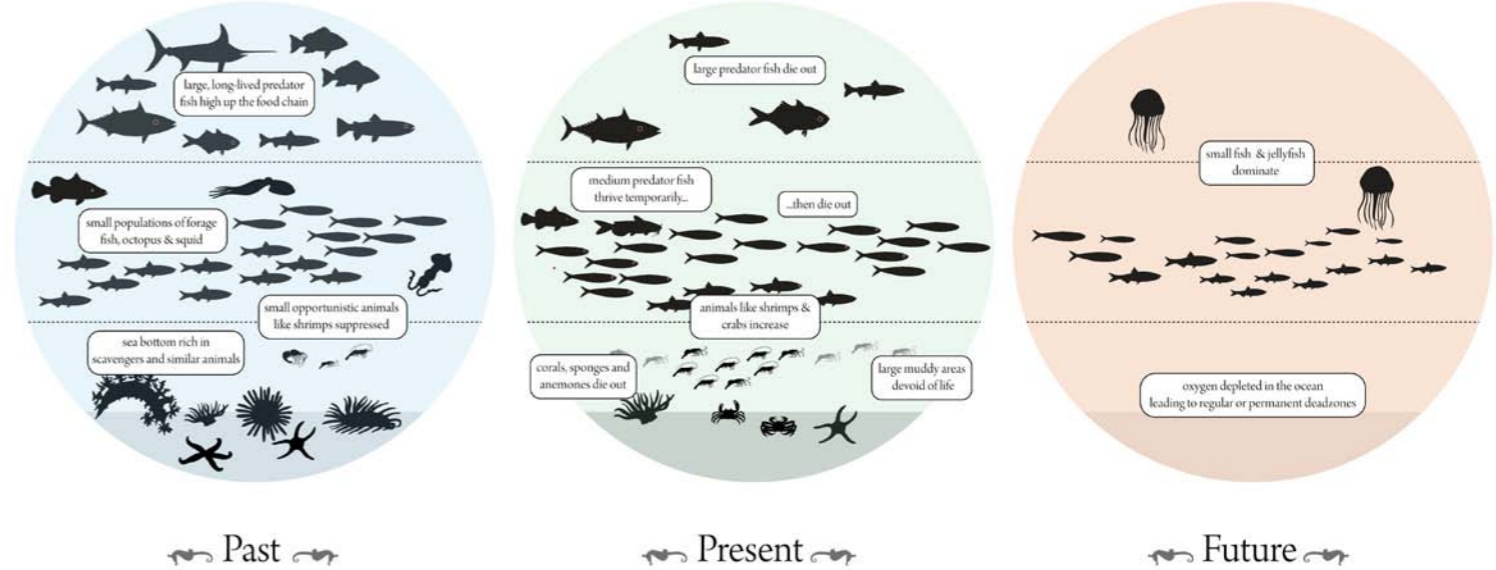
Global fishing effort of the Spanish fleet



source: Pauly, et al. Fishing Down Marine Food Webs (Science)

# How We are Eating our Way Through the Oceans

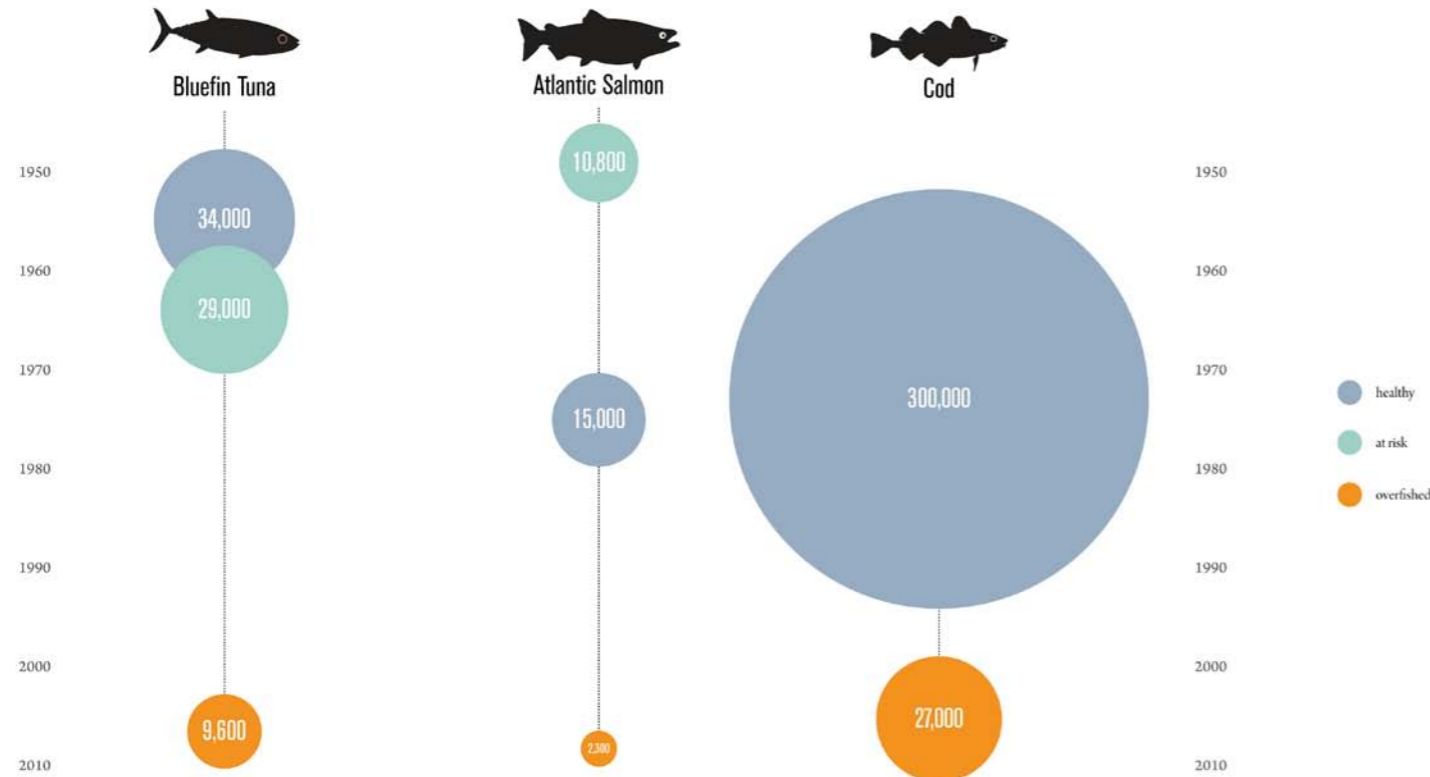
The effect of overfishing on marine ecosystems



source: Pauly, et al. Fishing Down Marine Food Webs (Science)

# What's Happening to the Fish?

Atlantic fish catches in tonnes



source: European Environmental Agency, ICCAT, Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

July 3rd 1954: Two basking sharks caught in Keem Bay, off Achill Island.

According to research the number of predatory fish in the North Atlantic has declined by over 80 percent between 1900 and 2000.





Late 19th century, Valentia Harbor, County Kerry.

In 2011 we are using more effort and catching less fish.

Back to the Future...

Aran Island Fish Woman, Ireland c. 1900.

Less people are making a living from fisheries today than at any other time in modern history.



c. 1880: Buying and selling fish on the beach at Duagh, Achill Island.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that the maximum limit for the capture of wild fish from the world's oceans has been reached.





*"Make sure the level of stakeholder consultation is high and measured."* Edward Hind, Rossaveal



Tara Hill School performing on the shore.



*"Keep our fishing communities fishing and our fish stocks healthy and strong. Ireland is surrounded by water therefore seafood is precious."* Bridget Mclaughlin, Moville



Two species of flatfish, turbot and flounder.



*"Support our local fishermen."* Realtin McElhinny, Moville



*“Sort out the discard policy - we need sustainability not waste.”*  
Colin Pollock, Greencastle



*“An eco-system approach must underpin the CFP, if it is to ensure a viable, sustainable fishery for coastal communities and to ensure a healthy marine environment. Please also ensure that the CFP is coherent with the requirement for Good Environmental Status as set out in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.”* Sinead O’Brien, Youghal



*“Ireland and the EU provide vast subsidies to their fishing fleets. It doesn’t make sense for governments to subsidise industry in the destruction of its resources. If subsidies continue, they should be used to bring the industry onto a sustainable path by reducing capacity, implementing selective methods and developing closed system aquaculture.”*  
Dara McHugh, Dublin



*“Please follow the precautionary approach.”*  
Joyhunny Woodlock, Skerries



*“You have restored my belief that Ireland can produce a minister for the marine who cares for the Irish fishing industry. Please never forget the fisherman.”*  
Ciaran O’Driscoll, Castletownbere

## OCEAN2012 – who we are

OCEAN2012 is an alliance of organisations dedicated to transforming European Fisheries Policy to stop overfishing, end destructive fishing practices and deliver fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks.

OCEAN2012 was initiated, and is coordinated by, the Pew Environment Group, the conservation arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-governmental organisation working to end overfishing in the world’s oceans.

The steering group of OCEAN2012 consists of the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, Ecologistas en Acción, The Fisheries Secretariat, **nef** (new economics foundation), the Pew Environment Group and Seas At Risk.

OCEAN2012 Ireland members are An Taisce, BirdWatch Ireland, Coastwatch, Dingle Ocenworld, Donegal Island Fishermen, Galway Atlantaquaria, Irish Bass, Irish Kayak Angling Club, the Irish Seal Sanctuary, Irish Wildlife Trust, National Sea Life Centre Bray, Scubadive West, Smart Taxes and Vincent Hyland Learning.

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