The real cost of diminishing fishing effort in the EU

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North Sea Women’s Network
Fishing is more than just a job; it is a way of life

- Challenge to the foundations on which the culture of fishing is built
- Fleets, processing capacity and community structure changing
- Positive changes and negative changes
- Communities are resilient
The Challenge for Communities

- Ongoing dependence on fisheries
- Reductions in fishing quotas, effort limitation and decommissioning
- A wish to pursue sustainable development and to maintain traditions
- Is the CFP an ‘economic or sectoral policy largely unconcerned with, and relatively insensitive to its social impacts?’
North Sea Women’s Network

- Set up in response to the social inadequacies of European fisheries policy
- Provides a voice for fishing communities at EU and regional levels
- Works to ensure the social impacts of fishing policy are taken into account by the Commission along with biological, technical and environmental considerations
Role within NSRAC

- Inclusion of social and economic considerations in advice to the Commission and own initiatives
- Voice of fishing communities, enabling them to influence future fisheries policy by focusing on solutions, rather than problems
- Identification of research needs
Wider EU Role

- Links with the new EU Economic Analysis Unit
- Provision of data, reports and experts to the EU
- Scoping study of Socio-Economic Aspects of North Sea Fisheries and Fishing Communities
- Identify vulnerabilities of the fishing industry to changes in short and long-term fishing policy
- Examine factors that contribute to reliance on fisheries and resilience to changes in fisheries.
Chicken and Egg

- Fishing communities need healthy stocks
- Viable fish stocks need viable fisheries communities
- To achieve successful fisheries management and sustainable development, greater account must be taken of the social and cultural functions of the fishery
Restructuring

Scottish industry heavily impacted by the deepening resource crisis and ongoing restructuring of the sector

NE Scotland leading region by weight and value of landings of demersal species

Restrictions in quota between 1994 and 2004 saw North Sea cod and whiting quotas fall by almost 82%, plaice by 55% and haddock by 50%

Scottish demersal fleet subject to further cuts in line with the Commission’s Cod Recovery Plan
## Combined UK quota for key demersal and pelagic stocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quota '000 tonnes</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>%change 2000/2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combined key demersal stocks</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined key pelagic stocks</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
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Scottish fishing vessels 1994 – 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&lt;10m vessels</th>
<th>&gt;10m vessels</th>
<th>&lt;10m kW</th>
<th>&gt;10m kW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1,704</td>
<td>1,291</td>
<td>68,879</td>
<td>406,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>85,343</td>
<td>342,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change ’94 - 04</td>
<td>-42</td>
<td>-559</td>
<td>+16464</td>
<td>-63211</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Employment Effects

- 39% decline in onboard employment in Scotland between 1994 and 2004
- Reduction of 54% in employment in Northeast Scotland
- Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit report suggesting removal of a further 13% of the UK whitefish fleet capacity
Employment Alternatives

- Jobs ‘mopped up’ by oil and gas industries
- Migration to find alternative employment
- However:
- Socio-cultural characteristics, identities and dependencies remain when the industry changes or leaves
10.4% fall in FTE jobs in Scotland 2000/04
NE = 6.5% fall in FTE jobs 2000/04
NE = second largest UK contributor to full-time fish processing employment
Weakening links between processing sector and fleet – fish increasingly imported
Employees increasingly immigrants
Young people not interested
Failing Initiatives
Maintaining Industry

- Lack of trained personnel
- In NE Scotland, recruitment fallen from 50-60 per year to single figures and struggling
- Young not interested in long hours, tough conditions and danger – key challenge
- Existing crew tempted by better pay etc elsewhere
- Foreign labour fails to integrate
Reasons Not to Fish

- Lack of quota
- Too many restrictions and regulations
- Anxiety, mental health problems
- Cost of fishing – few incentives to invest
- Poor returns
- Result = low morale and disinterest in industry
The Wider Coastal Picture

- Unemployment, social instability, deprivation and economic competition
- Not all bad news
- “Industry may be down but it is not out!”
- Remaining fishermen making a reasonable living
EU Parliament
Den Oeuver Market
Moray Makes Waves
French Initiative
Mariscadoras in Galicia
Ancona Fish Market 2.30am
Conclusions

- Decline slowing
- Core optimism in fishing communities
- NSWN seeking funding baseline study of the ‘real cost of diminishing fishing effort in the EU’

Changes will require
- government policy to be sympathetic
- national and regional plans to include suitable provision
- funding assistance