Overfishing and subsidies
A vicious cycle

Three times
Too Many Boats

The European fleet has the ability to catch two to three times more than what the ocean can provide sustainably and subsidies have overwhelmingly contributed to keeping Europe’s oversized fleet alive.

Types of Subsidies

Good: Beneficial
These subsidies enhance the growth of fish stocks by supporting sustainable fisheries management, monitoring and control or data collection.

Bad: Capacity enhancing
These subsidies enhance the growth of fish stocks by supporting sustainable fisheries management, monitoring and control or data collection.

Ugly: Ambiguous
These subsidies can lead to positive or negative impacts on the fishery resource, depending on the design of the program.

In the EU in 2012 39% of 41 assessed stocks in the Atlantic and over 88% (75 of 88 stocks assessed) in the Mediterranean are overfished.

Stocks
In 2012

A 2009 assessment found that 30 to 40% of the fleet segments suffered losses each year from 2002 to 2008. Subsidies keep these unprofitable fishing fleets afloat with taxpayer money.

3 to 4 Out of 10 suffered losses in 2012

Only a handful of EU fleets are profitable without public support, and most are either running losses or returning low profits.