THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT OF SUPPORT TO FISHERIES

Claire Delpeuch
Head of Unit, Fisheries & Aquaculture, OECD
VARIED POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Support policy objectives

- Welfare & equity
  - Income support
  - Input support: fuel, vessels, gear
  - Tax exemptions
  - Fish stock management
  - Monitoring, control & surveillance
  - Infrastructure
  - Research

- Food
- Climate
- Sustainability
- Competitiveness
WHY FOCUS ON FISH STOCK HEALTH?

- Ocean biodiversity
- Ecosystem services
- Fish stock health
- Fishing costs
- Food security
SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE VALUE CHAIN

Types of non-specific support to fisheries

- Fossil fuel support
- Marketing and promotion
- Support to fishing community
- Education and training support
- Provision of infrastructure
- Support to modernization
- Management of resources
- Research and development
- Special insurance systems
Policies

Fishers

Suppliers of inputs for fishing

Capital and investment

The fish stock

Fish for consumers

Other marine activities

Climate

Policies

License holders

Vessel owners

Skippers

Crew
The OECD FishPEM model (Martini & Innes, 2018) looks at the effect of policies in general terms. Not specific implementation in countries. Uses a global model to develop indicators of effect that are empirically-based and theoretically robust. Relatively rich literature pointing to similar conclusions (see OECD Review of Fisheries 2020 & the forthcoming 2022 edition).

Policy types – Payments based on:

| ... income                  |
| ... Business and human capital |
| ... vessels                |
| ... use of variable inputs |
| ... fuel                   |
| ... output                |

Effects Measured

| Overfishing                   |
| Overcapacity                  |
| Effect on Stocks             |
| Tendency to provoke IUU fishing |
| Income benefits for fishers  |
LESSON #1
4 FACTORS CAN INFLUENCE SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Support policy type
Management framework (regulation and enforcement)
Impact on fish stock health
Initial health of fish stock

Only 7.2% of stocks are underfished (FAO)
Policies generally available to all fisheries
LESSON #2
THE TYPE OF SUBSIDY IS KEY: ADVERSE IMPACT ARISES MOST WHEN DIRECTED AT FISHING COSTS & BENEFITS

% CHANGE IN STOCKS

-6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0

FISHERS' INCOME BUSINESS & HUMAN CAPITAL VESSELS USE OF VARIABLE INPUTS USE OF FUEL OUTPUT

(TAC Open Access)

(Martini & Innes, 2018)
LESSON #3
MANAGEMENT IS ALSO KEY: ADVERSE IMPACT CAN BE REDUCED WHEN RECIPIENT FISHERIES ARE WELL MANAGED

% CHANGE IN STOCKS

Martini & Innes, 2018
LESSON #3
MANAGEMENT IS ALSO KEY BECAUSE ALL FISHERIES ARE NOT WELL MANAGED

Use of total allowable catch (TAC) limits to manage country-level top-5 species in the 32 countries covered in the OECD Fisheries Management Indicators (OECD Revies of Fisheries 2022 – forthcoming 13/12/2022)
LESSON #4

TAKING A RISK PERSPECTIVE CAN BE HELPFUL TO AVOID POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT FROM SUBSIDIES

OECD Review of Fisheries 2022 (forthcoming 13/12/2022)
LESSON #5

SUSTAINABILITY-DRIVEN REFORMS WILL ALSO HAVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Subsidies that are bad for fish stock health are relatively ineffective at increasing fishers’ incomes → re-purposing reform bonus

Under TAC, all subsidies are more effective at supporting fishers’ incomes → management reform bonus

(Martini & Innes, 2018)
DATA TO INFORM NEGOTIATIONS

- Detailed data on subsidies for 40 countries and economies accounting for 90% of global landings
- Detailed data on fish stock health, at the country level, for 32 countries
- Detailed data on fish stock management for species of commercial importance for 32 countries

Forthcoming 13/12/2022
OECD Fisheries Support Estimate (FSE) data according to the level of risk that individual support policies may encourage unsustainable fishing in the absence of effective fisheries management (40 countries and economies)