

CATCHING HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE FOOD FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE.

5.5 million fish meals per day to Africa

2.5 billion fish meals per year



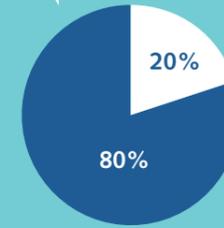
#### ALL FISHING OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD\*

Non-EU 94,0 %  
EU excl. PFA 5,5 %  
PFA 0,5 %



#### PFA FISHING ACTIVITIES MAINLY TAKE PLACE IN EUROPEAN WATERS

Europe 80%  
Mauritania 20%



#### About the PFA

The Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association (PFA) represents the interests of nine European freezer-trawler companies involved in pelagic fishing activities for human consumption:

Cornelis Vrolijk's Visserijmaatschappij BV (Netherlands) Doggerbank Seefischerei GmbH (Germany)  
France Pélagique SAS (France) Interfish Ltd (United Kingdom)  
Jaczon BV (Netherlands) North Atlantic Holdings Ltd. (United Kingdom)  
Parlevliet & Van der Plas BV (Netherlands) W. Van der Zwan & Zn. BV (Netherlands)  
UAB Atlantic High Seas Fishing Company (Lithuania)

Family-run businesses with over eighty years of fishing experience and a fleet of 25 vessels, our members mainly fish in the North-East Atlantic for herring, mackerel, horse mackerel and blue whiting. 80% of their fish is caught in European waters and is subject to EU quotas. Stocks are carefully and successfully managed and it is no coincidence that the MSC recognises our sustainable practices by certifying our North Sea herring and Atlanto-Scandic herring fishing activities.

To find out more about the PFA's commitments and initiatives, please contact:

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Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association

# Sustainable pelagic fishing a factsheet



CATCH & CARE

## PFA CATCH & CARE

### Sustainable pelagic fishing - a factsheet

Our basic aim is a sustainable fishing industry; now and in the future. To achieve this, PFA members are committed to preventing overfishing, increasing regional cooperation, and safeguarding fish stocks and marine ecosystems for future generations.

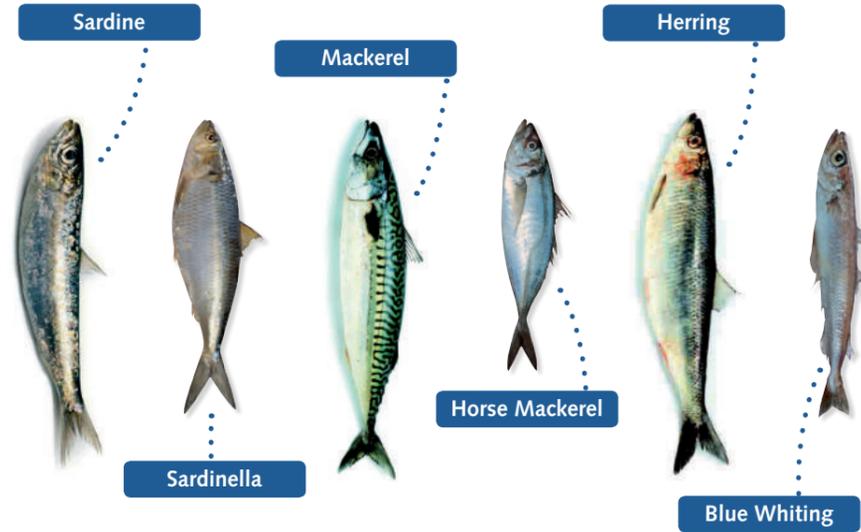
#### Food security

Approximately 90% of all fish caught by the members of the PFA is exported to countries outside the EU. This high-quality fish is served in around 6 million nutritious meals a day, 5.5 million of which go to African consumers year round. The European pelagic fleet therefore plays a vital role in the food security for millions of people. Importantly, it does this in a sustainable way, because the carbon footprint of pelagic fishing is a lot smaller than that of livestock farming, chicken or aquaculture.

Pelagic fish has the lowest carbon footprint of all sources of animal protein



#### PELAGIC FISH SPECIES CAUGHT



#### Contributing to essential scientific research

The members of the PFA are committed to making an active contribution to fishery research, and continue to be an active partner of several international and national organisations, the FAO and EU, the scientific community and NGOs. For more than a decade we have been working with IMARES, an independent marine research institute based in the Netherlands, to improve long-term fish stock management in Mauritanian waters. Data is gathered by our fishing vessels and provided to the Mauritanian, Dutch and European authorities to ensure transparency in our operations.

Our research efforts in Mauritania began in 1998 with a study launched by Dutch members of the PFA into the long-term prospects of pelagic fish stocks. In a revival of previous Soviet-funded research, PFA provided technical support to the Mauritanian research institute CNROP, in Nouadhibou. In 2000, our initial research efforts expanded under the guidance of IMARES and research was conducted onboard PFA vessels. All fishing equipment was adapted for research purposes, including sonar equipment used on the research vessel Al Awam. An observer programme was also set up for scientists from CNROP to join the EU vessels.



This collaboration with IMARES involved collecting data on the annual stock of sardines and sardinella, assessing the link between sea temperature changes and migratory patterns, and designing by-catch excluders. We also collaborated with the FAO's working group on pelagic species in West African waters. Established in early 2000, the group meets once a year to share scientific data on fish stock migration in the region. Its members are scientists from Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Spain, Gambia, Russia and the Netherlands.



#### Responsible management & local partnerships

The world's oceans offer great opportunities to meet the growing demand for affordable, healthy food, and sustainability and responsible management of fish stocks are key to achieving this.

Since the mid-1990s, our vessels have been fishing in non-EU waters under fisheries agreements between the EU and third countries. Local fishermen always have priority and our presence can only be complementary. We train and employ 180-200 Mauritians on board and contribute to local fisheries research, all of which has a positive socioeconomic impact. It is important to stress that not all international operators active in Mauritanian waters meet the EU's safety and environmental standards and this threatens our efforts to foster sustainable practices in the region.

PFA has two MSC certificates for all herring caught in the North Sea and North-East Atlantic

