

EEA Core Set of Indicators - CSI 034
Fishing fleet capacity
May 2005 assessment

working draft

About this document

Generated on: 17 Jun 2005

CSI contacts: http://ims.eionet.eu.int/IMS/About/contacts_for_csi

Online: <http://ims.eionet.eu.int/IMS/ISpecs/ISpecification20041007132252/IAssessment1116524527114>

If you would like to see further background information about this indicator, you can see the published specification at:

<http://www.eea.eu.int/coreset>

About this service

This PDF has been generated online by IMS (Indicator Management Service) at <http://ims.eionet.eu.int>.

This service is part of Reportnet at <http://www.eionet.eu.int/rn/click>.





Key policy question: Is the size and capacity of the European fishing fleet being reduced?

Key message: EU Fishing fleet is following a downward trend (-19% in power, -11% in tonnage and -15% in numbers. Similarly the NMS (New Member States) fleet has decreased in tonnage (- 50%). However the EFTA fleet despite the drop in numbers (-40%), has increased in terms of power (+12%) and capacity (+34%).

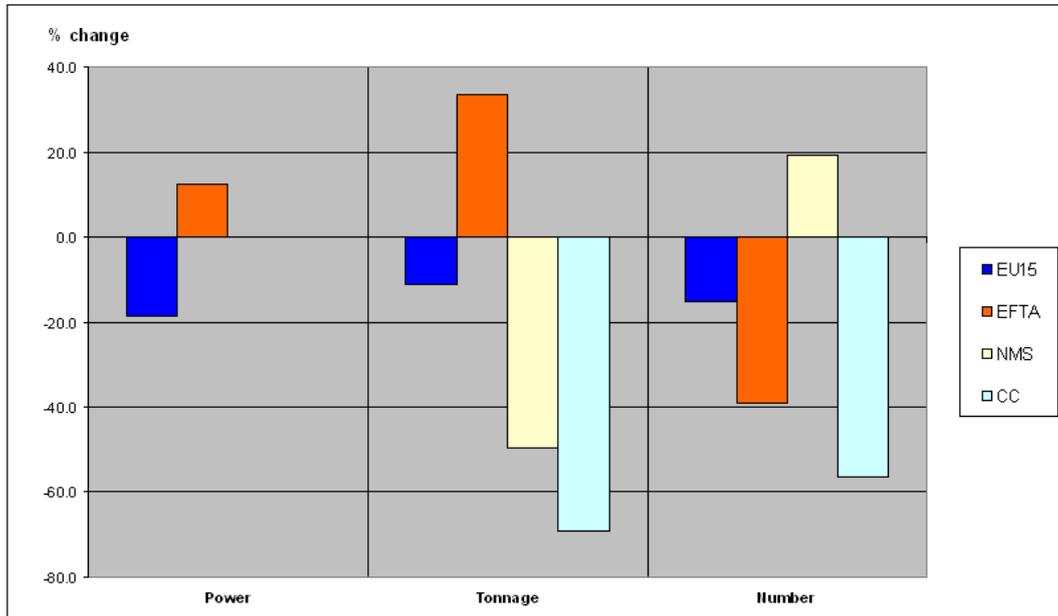
The drop in fishing fleet capacity experienced by the EU fleet in the past 15 years has proven the inadequacy of the MAGPs and the need highlighted by the reformed CFP for its replacement by new schemes. Advances in technology and design mean that new vessels exerted more fishing pressure than older vessels of equivalent tonnage and power, hence despite the drop fish resources remain seriously depleted and unsustainably managed.

Power (and tonnage) are the main factors determining the capacity of a fleet and thus the pressure exerted to the fish stocks. Excess power is one of the major factors leading to overfishing.

- Currently the total power (KW) of the fishing fleet amounts to 7,122,145 in EU-15 (in 2003) and 2,503,580 in EFTA (in 2002). Information for NMS and CC countries is not available. Over the past 15 years the EU fleet capacity in terms of power has been gradually decreasing but the EFTA capacity is being increased at a considerable pace (almost 30%) over the period 1997-2002 (Fig. 3). Norway, Italy, Spain France and UK retain the largest power in their fleets (accounting for almost 70% of the total fleet in 2003).
- The current state (2003) of fishing fleet tonnage (GRT) accounts for 1,922,912 tons in EU-15 countries and 579,097 tons in EFTA. In the last recorded census for NMS countries (1995) there were reported 543,631 vessels. EU fleets is gradually reduced in tonnage (approximately 10% in the period 1989-2003); at the same time the EFTA fleet has experienced an almost 30% increase (Fig. 4). NMS and CC fleets faced dramatic decreases (50 and 70% respectively) due to the restructuring of the economies of the former Eastern Block countries. However data exist for a four year period. Spain, Norway, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Netherlands retain the largest fleets (accounting for almost 70% of the total fleet in 2003).
- Currently (2002) the fishing fleet accounts for 90,595 vessels in EU 15 countries and 12,589 in EFTA. According to DG Fisheries the fleet of the new Member States amounted to approximately 6,200 vessels in 2001. Both EU and EFTA fleets have been gradually reduced in size over the past 15 years (a peak observed in EU numbers in 1994 is due to the introduction of new countries in the registry namely FI and SE); whereas the fleet of the new Member States has been gradually increased over the past 10 years (Fig. 2). Greece, Italy, Spain, Norway and Portugal retain the largest number of vessels (accounting for almost 70% of the total fleet in 2003). Comparing this to the tonnage and power data it is evident that the Greek and to some extent the Portuguese fleets consist mainly of small vessels.



Fig. 1: Changes of European Fishing Fleet Capacity:1989-2003



Data source: DF Fisheries, EUROSTAT, FAO

Note: Power changes refer to 1989-2003 for EU 15 and 1997 -2002 for EFTA

Tonnage changes refer to 1989-2003 for EU and EFTA; 1992-1995 for NMS and CC countries.

Number changes refer to 1989-2002 for EU and EFTA; 1992- 2001 for NMS; and 1992-19 for CC countries

Legend:

Countries have been grouped into the following categories:

- EU 15 (BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE,UK)
- EFTA (IS and NO)
- NMS (new member states: EE, CY, LT, LV, MT, PL, and SL)
- CC (candidate countries: BG and RO)

working draft



Fig. 2: European Fishing Fleet Capacity: Number of vessels



Data source: DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT, FAO

Note: Data availability: Number of vessels 1989-2002 for EU 15; 1989-1992 & 1998-2002 for EFTA; 1989-1995 & 2001 for NMS; 1992-1995 & 2001 for CC countries

Legend

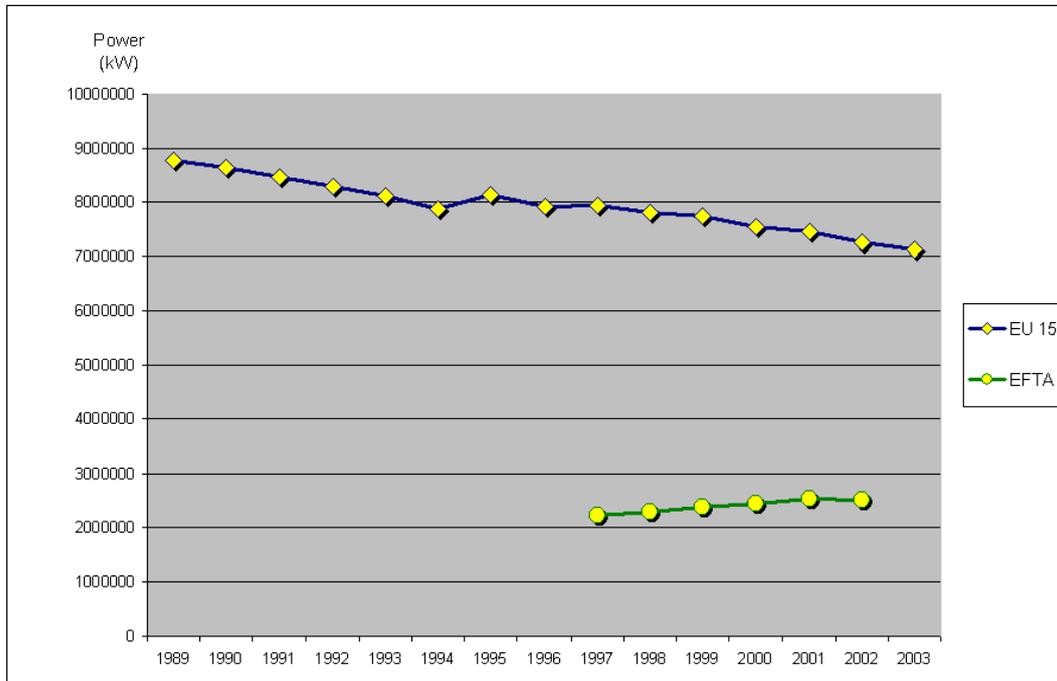
Countries have been grouped into the following categories:

- EU 15 (BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE,UK)
- EFTA (IS and NO)
- NMS (new member states: EE, CY, LT, LV, MT, PL, and SL)
- CC (candidate countries: BG and RO)

working draft



Fig. 3: European Fishing Fleet Capacity: Engine Power



Data source: DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT

Note: Data availability: 1989-2003 for EU 15; 1997-2002 for EFTA countries, no data for NMS and CC countries

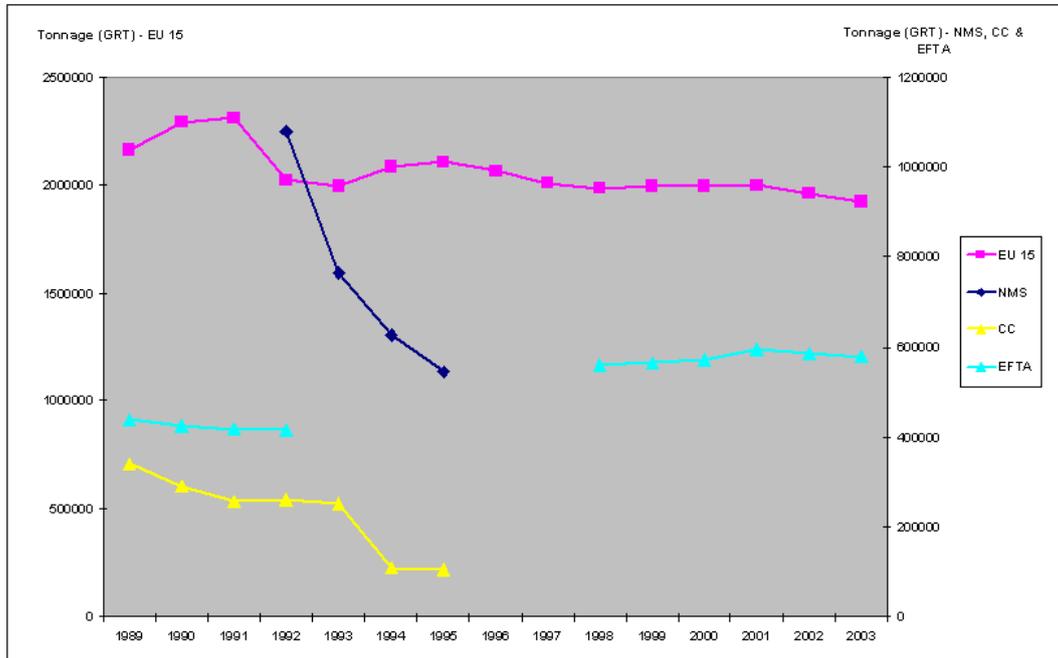
Legend:

Countries have been grouped into the following categories:

- EU 15 (BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE, UK)
- EFTA (IS and NO)



Fig. 4: European Fishing Fleet Capacity: Tonnage



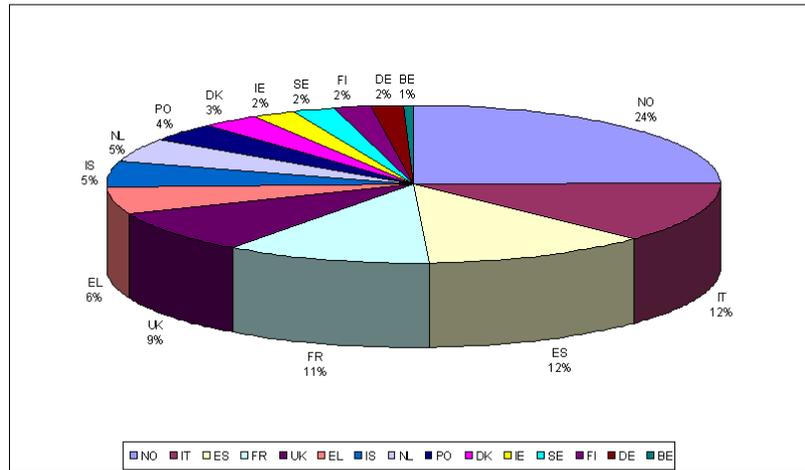
Data source: DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT, FAO

Note: Data availability: 1989-2003 for EU 15; 1989-1992 & 1998-2003 for EFTA; 1989- 1995 for EC; 1992-1995 for BS countries

Legend: Countries have been grouped into the following categories:

- EU 15 (BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE,UK)
- EFTA (IS and NO)NMS (new member states: EE, CY, LT, LV, MT, PL, and SL)
- CC (candidate countries: BG and RO)

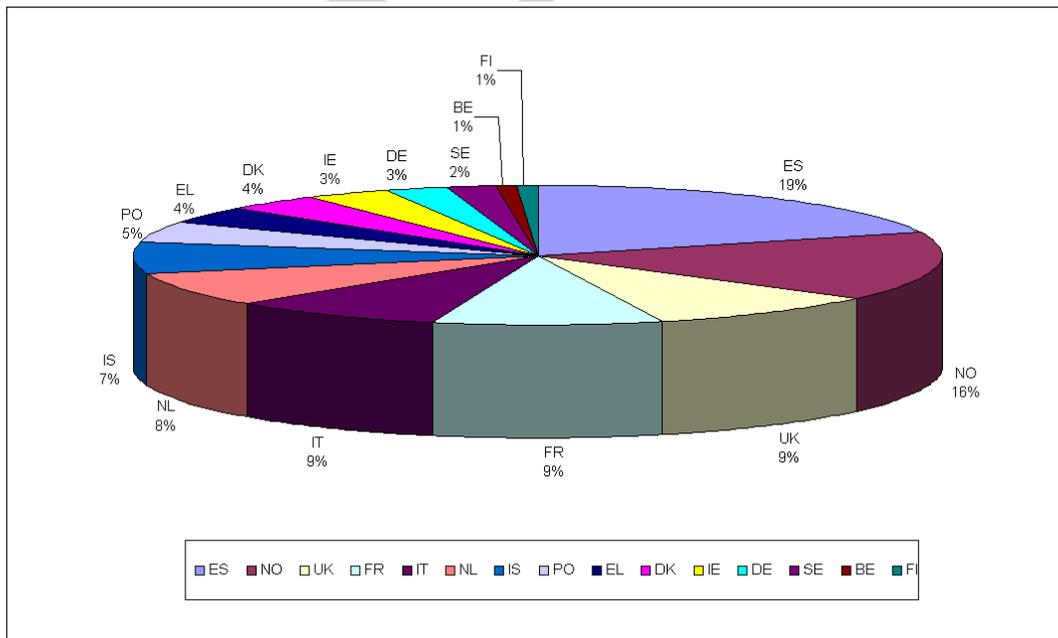
Fig. 5: Country ratio in European Fishing Fleet Capacity: Engine Power



Data source : DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT

Note: Assessment in 2003 for EU 15 and Iceland and 2002 for Norway

Fig. 6: Country ratio in European Fishing Fleet Capacity:Tonnage

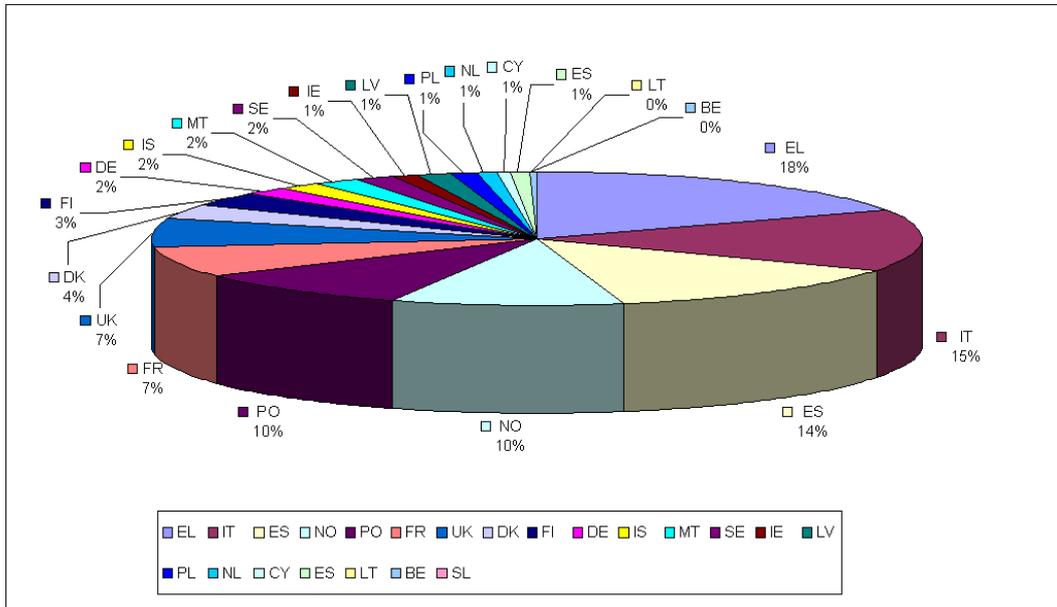


Data source : DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT, FAO

Note: Assessment in 2003 for EU 15 and EFTA



Fig. 7: Country ratio in European Fishing Fleet Capacity: Number of vessels



Data source : DG Fisheries, EUROSTAT, FAO

Note: Assessment in 2002 for EU 15, EFTA; 2001 for ES, CY, MT, LT LV, PL, and SL