

World Food Day: Fish gone, people gone

October 17 2018



Credit: WWF

On World Food Day, WWF warns against the dramatic impact of overfished oceans on people around the globe. Currently, 33 percent of fish stocks are overfished (in the Mediterranean it is 85 percent) with a further 60 percent at maximum capacity with no possibility to increase catches without overfishing the stock. At the same time, more than three billion people rely on fish as an essential source of protein. "Heavily

overfished oceans put global food security at risk, as well as the livelihoods of 800 million people depending on fish for food and income. Most of them live in developing countries," says Marco Costantini, Regional Manager Fisheries, WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative.

Europe is the biggest [fish](#) and [seafood](#) market in the world. Currently, 60 percent of fish and seafood is imported with more than half of this coming from developing countries. "Europe can be a major driver for change in the global seafood industry" Costantini continues. "A sustainable choice of seafood makes a real difference for millions of people dependent on fish." WWF, as a global player, calls on consumers, retailers and policy makers in the EU and its member states to take a leading role in ensuring [sustainable fisheries](#) worldwide and to guarantee that no one is left behind in fisheries and aquaculture.

As global hunger is on the rise, fish is of unique importance as a high quality protein source of nutritious food for many developing countries. The growing trend of overfishing global [fish stocks](#) urgently needs to be stopped. The trend is especially worrying as climate change is expected to alter the productivity of fisheries leading to less fish in the global south. "In times of [climate change](#), a growing middle class and world population, as well as rising seafood demand, a shift towards sustainable production and consumption is absolutely necessary. Only then will fish remain as a valuable source of food and income in the future," says Costantini.

Provided by WWF

Citation: World Food Day: Fish gone, people gone (2018, October 17) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-world-food-day-fish-people.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.