

EU SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (SFPA)

and

NORTHERN AGREEMENTS

EAFE's Workshop on International Agreements in the Fisheries Sector, Faroe Islands 15-17 May 2018

DG MARE



Where do SFPAs come from ?

- **1977**: First Community Fisheries Agreement
- **UNCLOS** context: creation of EEZs in the '80s + notion of « surplus »
- **In the '90s**: Increase of commercial agreements to 26 .
- **2002**: Fisheries **Partnership** Agreements with dedicated support to national fisheries sector.
- **2014**: CFP reform -> **Sustainable** Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

SFPA are exclusive agreements: EU vessels can only fish under the agreement (no private agreements).

SFPA Include a provision prohibiting the partner country from granting more favourable conditions to other foreign fleets.

SFPAs – structure, principles and content

Agreement: sets out basic principles and commitment to cooperate (scope and principles of cooperation, Joint Committee, etc.)

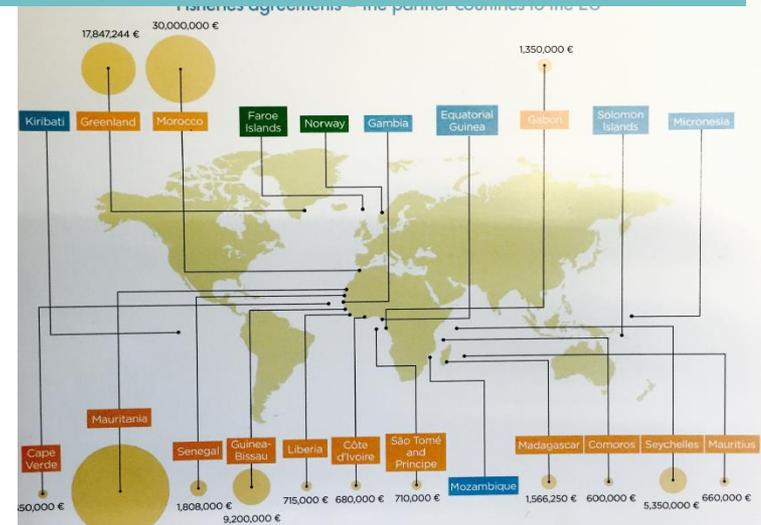
Protocol: sets out substance (authorises fishing access by EU vessels and specifies fishing opportunities, amounts of financial contribution and methods of payment, modalities of cooperation, etc.)

Technical annexes: sets out implementation and procedural aspects (licensing system, electronic catch reporting, observers, VMS, control and enforcement, etc.)

SFPAs in figures (1)

- **12 (11) SFPAs protocols in force:**
 - **9 Tuna SFPAs in West Africa** (Cabo Verde, Senegal, Liberia, Ivory Coast, São Tomé and Príncipe), **the Indian Ocean** (Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar) **and the Pacific Ocean** (Cook Islands).
 - **3 (2) Multi-species SFPAs** (Mauritania, Greenland, (Morocco)) -> offering fishing opportunities for demersal and pelagic species, tunas, cephalopods and shrimp.
- **8% of EU catches come from within EEZ of partner countries** (+13% from high seas)

- **There are 10 other « dormant » agreements.**
- **Negotiated and concluded by the Commission on behalf of the EU and the partner country.**
- **Shift from commercial to partnership agreements:**
 - decoupling EU access payments from sectoral support -> rigorous follow-up of the use of sectoral support (conditionality)
 - increase of ship-owners part for access, decrease of EU public contribution



SFPAs in figures (2)

- **Average annual budget:** EUR **135 M** euros for access rights and sectoral support. License holders pay a further EUR 45 million/year.
- *Some* **240 vessels from 10 EU MS** benefiting from SFPA. They benefit from legal certainty and reliable operating conditions
- **46 %** of the EU contribution going to:
 - sectoral support tailored to the needs of the partner country (e.g. support SSCF) and
 - enhancing fisheries governance capacity of the partner country administrative and scientific capacities, monitoring and control activities.

Economic benefits of SFPAs

- ✓ Financial resources for the partner country.
- ✓ Over **6000 direct jobs** depending on SFPAs (2500 in the EU, 3500 in third countries). Between 50-60% of crews in EU vessels are partner country nationals.
- ✓ **Indirect jobs: +/- 9000**, mostly in processing industries (70% catches by EU vessels processed in partner countries).
- ✓ **Food security**: some of the fish caught by EU vessels is supplied to the local market, in particular small pelagics.



SFPAs: benchmark for fisheries governance in the world

- Promoting **SUSTAINABLE** fisheries: fishing scientifically assessed surplus stocks and strong scientific basis (Bilateral Joint Scientific Comm.). Best available science.
- Reinforcing the **TRANSPARENCY**: fully transparent agreements which are publicly available
 1. SFPAs are **PUBLIC** (including ex-ante/ex-post evaluations and Joint Scient. Comm. reports)
 2. Close **MONITORING** of the EU vessels
 3. Reliable and timely **vessel position (Vessel Monitoring System -VMS)** and **catch reporting (Electronic Reporting System – ERS)**
- Fight against **IUU** (capacity building, MCS)
- All include **human rights** clause.



SFPAS: what do partner countries gain?

Success stories *(examples)*

- **Sao Tome e Principe:** the 1st SFPA country to have installed ERS system (followed by Morocco and Seychelles; soon Cape Verde, Madagsacar)
- **Mauritania:** The newest and largest coast-guard patrol-vessel (operational since Spring 2013): its main added-value is preventing illegal fishing in the large EEZ and illegal migration towards Morocco and the EU
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** purchase of equipment for fisheries inspections in the Abidjan port, with a view to fighting against IUU
- **Guinea-Bissau:** construction of the sanitary control laboratory for fisheries products in view of a possible export towards the EU market
- **Seychelles:** new commercial fishing port in Victoria (Mahé), with increasing landing capacity
- **Kiribati:** The deployment of nearshore FADs network in order to support the artisanal nearshore fisheries on all islands, as well as the development of management plans for FAD sustainability. Around 20 FADs were deployed during the 3 years duration of the Fisheries Protocol



The Northern Agreements: Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland

- **Norway:** in force since June 1981. In fact, there are 3 fisheries agreements with Norway:
 - Bilateral: Covers North Sea & Atlantic;
 - Trilateral (DK, SWE and NO): Skagerrak and Kattegat; and
 - Neighbouring: Swedish fishery in NO waters of North Sea.
- These cover the joint management of shared fish stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak areas. It also includes an annual exchange of fishing possibilities in each other's waters.
- **Faroe Islands:** In force since February 1990. Annual exchange of fishing possibilities in each other's waters (mackerel, blue whiting, herring, sprat, cod, saithe, red fish...).
- **Iceland:** Annual exchange of fishing possibilities. No exchange since 2008.



European
Commission

**Thank you very
much!**



Fisheries