



appg on fisheries



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All-Party Parliamentary Group
for Shellfish Aquaculture

INVESTING IN UK FISHING, SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE AND THE COAST

#FishingAndCoastalGrowthFund

25 JUNE 2025 | 09:00-10:30AM



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Association of Great Britain

www.shellfish.org.uk | <http://twitter.com/sagb> | www.youtube.com/shellfishGB

The joint All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Shellfish Aquaculture & Fisheries



David Jarrad

- Secretariat to APPG for Shellfish Aquaculture
- Chief Executive, Shellfish Association of Great Britain



UK Shellfish Aquaculture

- Food Security
- Why Shellfish Aquaculture
- The Environmental benefits
- Current Industry
- Funding needs for the future

For clarity, I have discussed this presentation with industry in Wales and representative organisations in Scotland (ASSG and Shetland) – so this is a UK view





Food Security - *is when all people have access to safe and nutritious food that meets their needs and preferences.*

- The Office of National Statistics has stated that the UK population will grow by 5 million people in the next seven years (by 2032)
- Other estimates suggest a 12 million increase in 20 years
- This means OUR society will require an additional **c.1230 metric tons of protein per day** – BUT from where?

Terrestrial agriculture & wild capture fisheries ? – *very unlikely*

Aquaculture IS the MOST likely source of increase in protein production in the UK (and worldwide).





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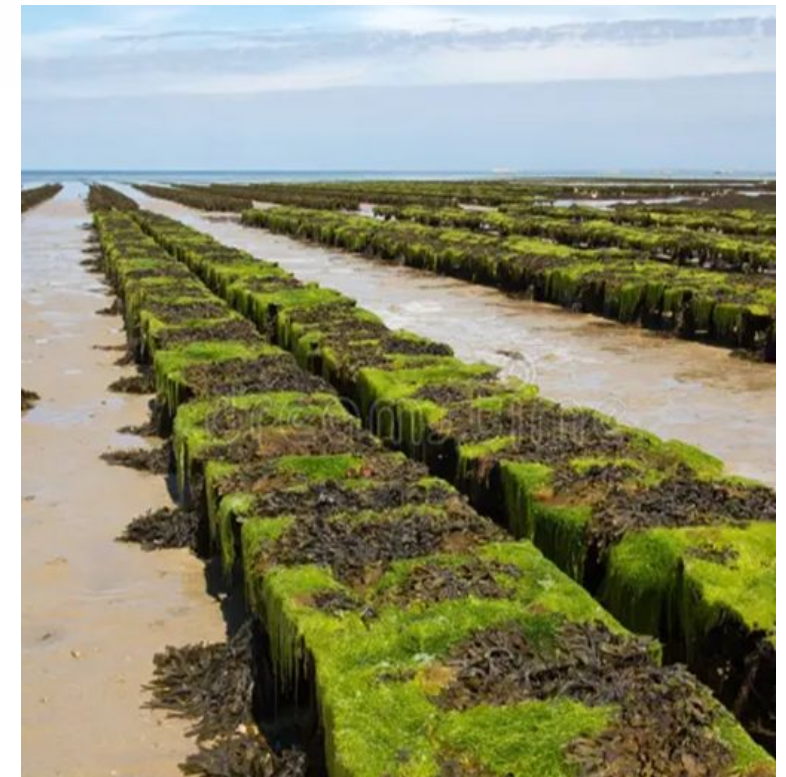
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Why Shellfish Aquaculture

- Widely accepted as the **most efficient form of protein production**, using NO feed, NO medicines, and NO chemicals





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Why Shellfish Aquaculture

- Widely accepted as the most efficient form of protein production using NO feed, NO medicines, and NO chemicals
- It **delivers ecosystem services** - acts as a carbon & nitrogen sink, removes excess nutrients, and improves water quality





Why Shellfish Aquaculture

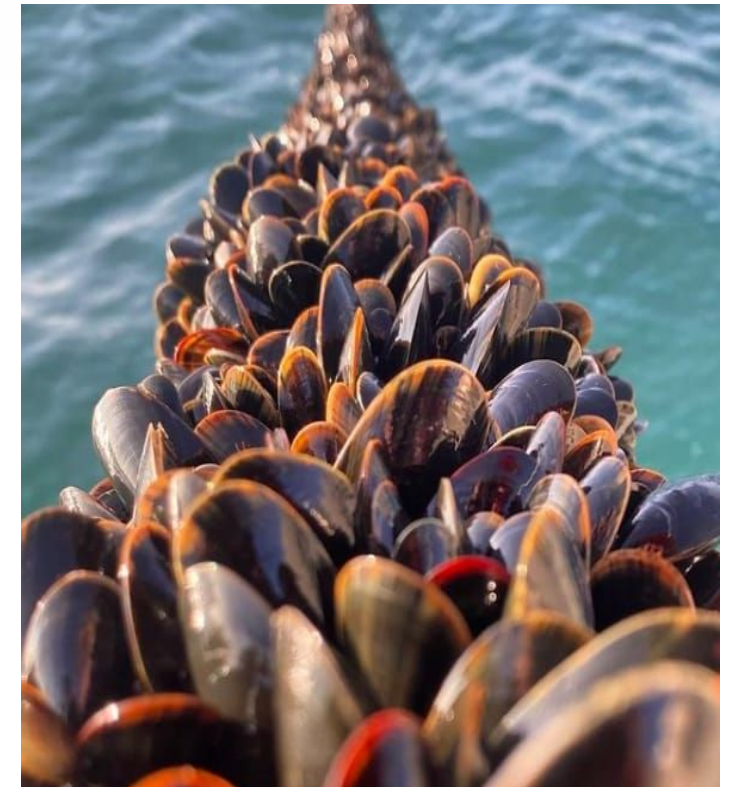
- Widely accepted as the most efficient form of protein production using NO feed, NO medicines, and NO chemicals
- It delivers ecosystem services - acts as carbon & nitrogen sink, and improves water quality
- It has been demonstrated to be **environmentally friendly, and it increases biodiversity**





Why Shellfish Aquaculture

- Widely accepted as the most efficient form of protein production using NO feed, NO medicines, and NO chemicals
- It delivers ecosystem services - acts as carbon & nitrogen sink, and improves water quality
- It has been demonstrated to be environmentally friendly, and increases biodiversity
- Produces a **nutritious and healthy product** in demand in UK and throughout Europe





Why Shellfish Aquaculture

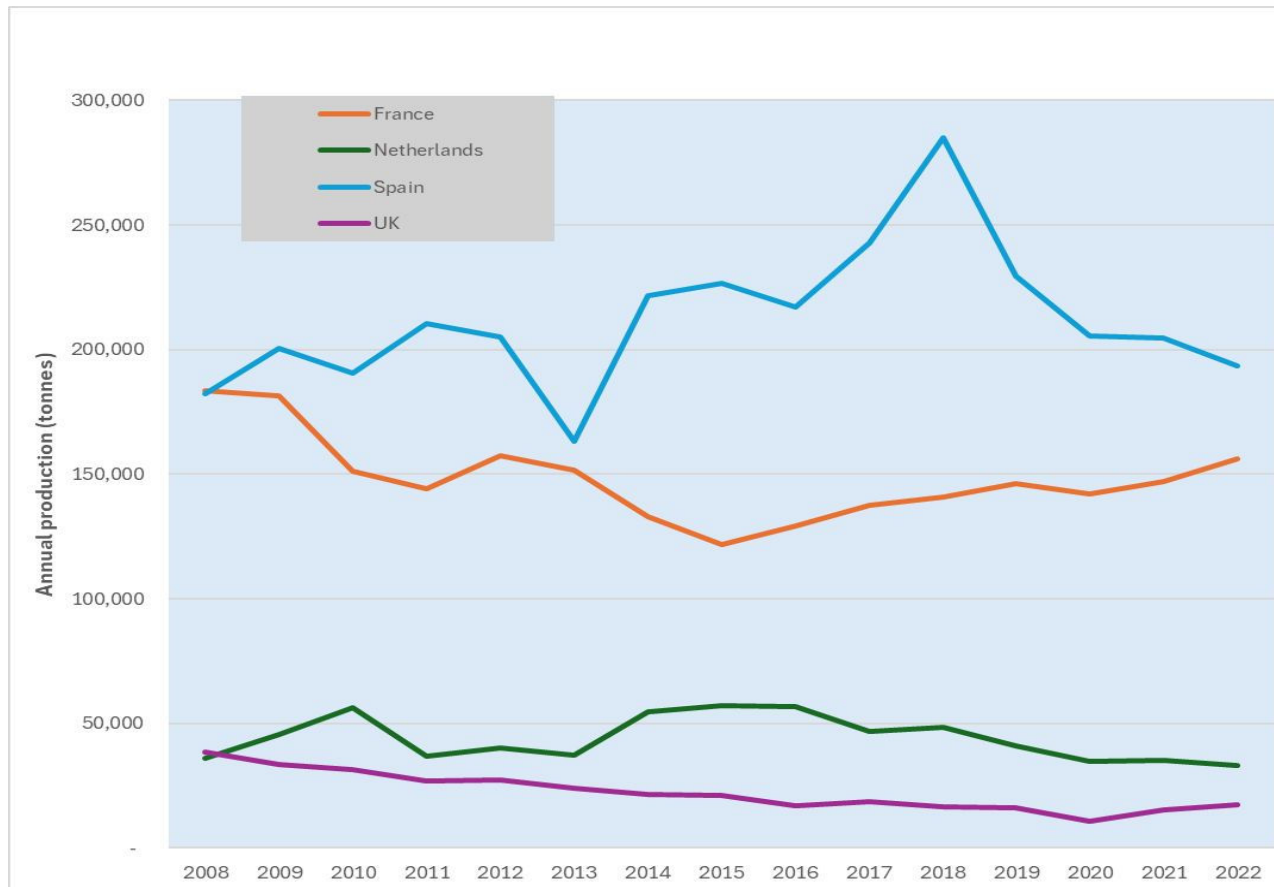
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What is not to love about this industry?





The Current Industry (2022 data, in tons)



Spain 193,654 France 155,981

Netherlands 33,090 **UK 17,480**

UK languishing at the bottom in Europe!

Yet, our coastline is larger:

250% > Spain

370% > France

2750% > Netherlands



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The Current Industry

- **The UK is geographically located in a sweet spot for shellfish aquaculture, in some of the most productive waters anywhere in the world.**





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The Current Industry

- The UK is geographically located in a sweet spot for shellfish aquaculture, in some of the most productive waters anywhere in the world.
- **Targeted funding could transform the UK to be a major international player in shellfish aquaculture, without causing significant detrimental impact to other marine users and to the benefit of the environment.**





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The Current Industry

- The UK is geographically located in a sweet spot for shellfish aquaculture, in some of the most productive waters anywhere in the world.
- Targeted funding could transform the UK to be a major international player in shellfish aquaculture, without causing significant detrimental impact to other marine users and to the benefit of the environment.
- **50 years ago, New Zealand recognised its marine natural capital and Government invested in developing the mussel cultivation industry – now it's a world player!**





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Closer to home, only 25 miles away... in ONE region in France

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HomeEconomyBrittany invests €10 million in sustainable aquaculture: 500 jobs... > >

Brittany Invests €10 Million In Sustainable Aquaculture: 500 Jobs Targeted By 2028

By: Romain Micard Date: February 15, 2025

Oyster farming: a pillar to be strengthened

With 35% of the projects funded, oyster farming is the priority. The objective is to increase from 85,000 tonnes in 2024 to 100,000 tonnes in 2027.

Mussel farming: heading for growth

25% of the fund will be allocated to mussel cultivation. Production, stable at 40,000 tons, is expected to reach 50,000 tons by 2027. The focus will be on improving deep-sea farming techniques.

The UK should recognise the same fantastic opportunity utilising the Fisheries and Coastal Fund.



Fund Requests

- The **Scheme** design – overview (wild and aquaculture)
 - Has to reflect the needs of the sector SO please co-design actively with industry representative organisations
 - Fund and use these groups to engage & help collaborate, design, promote, and co-deliver elements of the scheme
 - The provision for multi year projects - a must!
 - Scale the application proportionate to the size of the request.
 - Support representative bodies - as they are acting as an engagement interface between regulators and industry
 - Intervention rates for organisations delivering projects with multiple beneficiaries should be higher – potentially 100%
 - There is a requirement to create parity across the UK in the operation of the scheme – to avoid imbalanced competition.
 - No financial cap on industry participants.



Fund Requests

- The Shellfish Aquaculture industry has been the MOST impacted by Brexit (B class shellfish excluded from export)
 - YET has the GREATEST potential for GROWTH
- Some farms have closed, sold equipment and thus have reduced infrastructure – with production reduced significantly or stopped.
 - **Use grants to revitalise, re-equip and restock these areas**
 - Bear in mind the 'business case' will be difficult to demonstrate not having traded for a few years.
 - In these specific cases the use of low interest or government backed loans may be applicable here too.



Fund Requests

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 - Use grants to revitalise, re-equip and restock these areas
 - **Improve resilience in sector with research in shellfish hatchery technology.**
 - In the past there were MAFF/CEFAS laboratories (Conwy and Burnham), and Seafish lab at Ardtoe. Now closed, there are NO centrally funded laboratories – industry has to do the research themselves, whilst trying to stay afloat – this is not viable long term, unless externally funded.
 - Funding PHD students in this field, working with industry, would be helpful



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 - Improve resilience in sector with research in shellfish hatchery technology.
 - **Develop the infrastructure to facilitate growth**
 - Support access to markets, cold chain distribution, quayside access, pontoons etc



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 - Develop the infrastructure to facilitate growth.
 - **Fund improvements and expansion in cultivation**
 - To facilitate growth, and particularly the acquiring of assets to reduce labour requirements or machinery that reduces, even further, the husbandry impact (engine improvements, low profile tyres etc)



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 - Improve resilience in sector with research in shellfish hatchery technology.
 - Develop the infrastructure to facilitate growth.
 - Fund improvements and expansion in cultivation.
 - **Create travel bursaries for knowledge exchange**
 - This would increase learning and accelerate innovation & collaboration across various sectors and countries.



Fund Requests

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 - Improve resilience in sector with research in shellfish hatchery technology.
 - Develop the infrastructure to facilitate growth.
 - Fund improvements in cultivation equipment.
 - Create Travel bursaries for knowledge
 - **Develop a rapid response fund**
 - For disease outbreaks, pollution, mortality events or other closures. As is benefited by our terrestrial food production counterparts.



Fund Requests

- The Shellfish Aquaculture industry has been the MOST impacted by Brexit (B class shellfish excluded from export)
 - YET has the GREATEST potential for GROWTH
- **Promotion of the sector**
 - **Products** (obviously) – nutritional benefits of consumption, recipes, availability, - help create additional demand by supporting processors with New Product Development
 - *but more than that!*



Fund Requests

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 - YET has the GREATEST potential for GROWTH
 - **Promotion of the sector**
 - Products (obviously) –
 - **Endorse the sector:**
 - **In the Media** - Environmental benefits of the industry, carbon & nitrogen sink, water cleansing, biodiversity gain
- To dispel the urban myth that:*
- Land farming = good (*"Farm fresh eggs"*)
 - Marine Farming = bad (*destroying the sea etc*)



Fund Requests

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 - **Endorse the sector:**
 - In the Media
 - **In Education** – Catering colleges (*chefs of the future*), Schools (*consumer of the future*), Business/Agricultural colleges (*industry of the future*)



Fund Requests

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 - **Shell-abrate the sector:**
 - In the media
 - In education
 - **In the Supply Chain** – support the wet fish counters in retail and the greater use of shellfish aquaculture produce in hospitality.

Question: Is UK shellfish on the menu in the parliamentary restaurants?
– if not, why not!?



Fund Requests

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 - YET has the GREATEST potential for GROWTH
- **Promotion of the sector**
 - Products (obviously) – nutritional benefits of consumption, recipes, availability,
 - Promote the sector:
 - In the Media
 - In Education
 - In the Supply Chain
- Most of all recognise the **Natural Capital potential of the shellfish aquaculture industry** in doing so would encourage inward investment of additional blue/green monies.



Summary

- We are an industry that has HUGE potential to deliver **growth** and facilitate **job creation** in rural coastal communities
- Supports the **food security** agenda, and is needed
- Encourages the **blue economy**
- Great **export potential**
- No feed, no chemicals, no medicines, - **environmentally benign and increases biodiversity**
- **Ecosystem services**, carbon & nitrogen sink, water cleansing
- Shellfish Aquaculture harnesses the **UK's natural capital**
- **All the sector needs is the appropriate level of recognition, support - financially and regulatory - to help grow and support coastal communities all around the UK!**



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**EVERYTHING WILL BE OK IN THE END,
- IF IT'S NOT OK, IT'S NOT THE END !**

APPG@shellfish.org.uk or David@shellfish.org.uk



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WESTERN FISH
PRODUCERS ORGANISATION

What does economic growth and resilience in our coastal communities actually look like?

Modernising the fleet

Better fisheries management through better science

Collaboration

Areas for investment:

- Training and skills for new entrants
- Modern, low-impact vessels
- Science and data to support smart management
- And a regulatory environment that supports, not stifles, responsible fishing.

Thank you

Email: harry@western.fish





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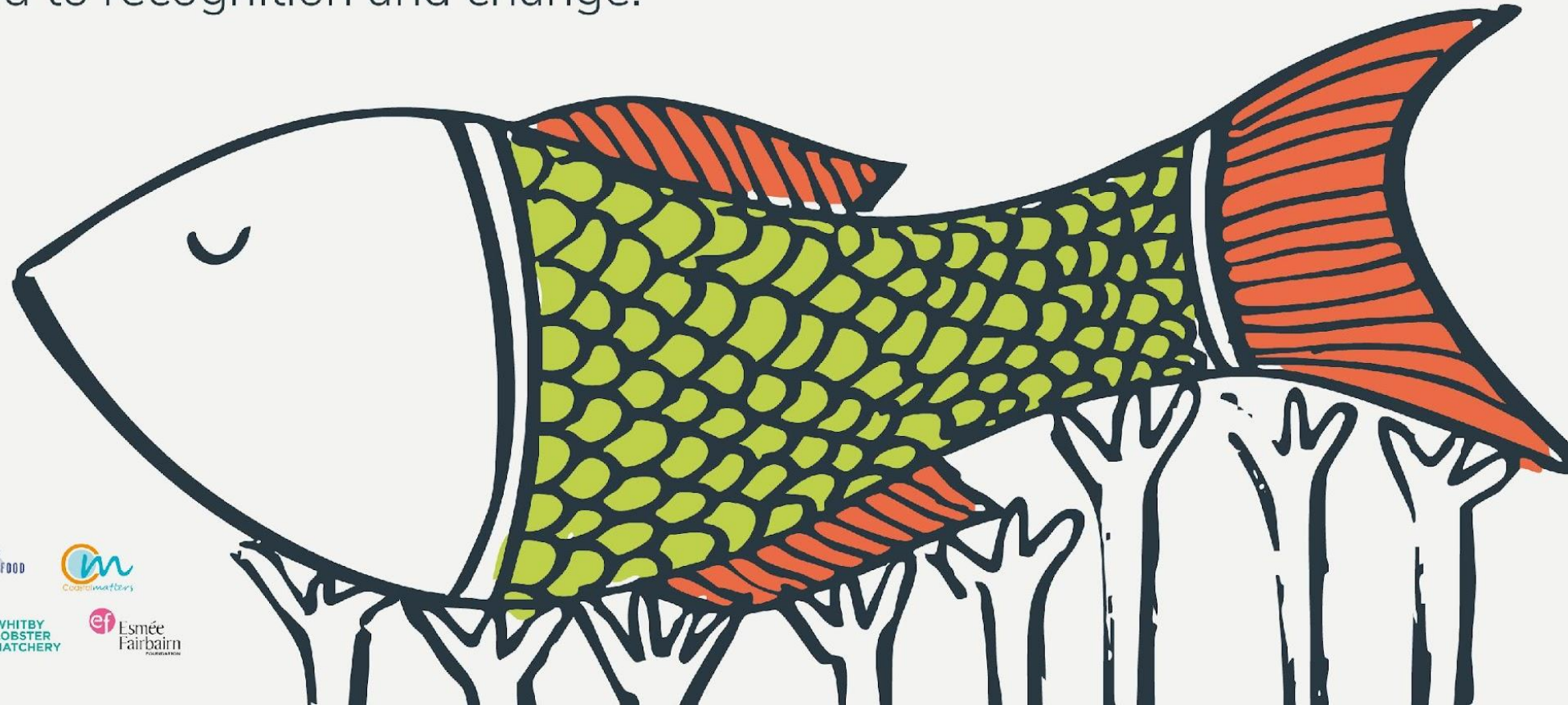
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The Priorities of Inshore & Small-Scale fisheries in England

Shaping the road to recognition and change.

Simon Bywater
CEO of REAF CIC



Newcastle
University

SCFF

LOW IMPACT
FISHERIES OF
EUROPE

Marine
Biological
Association

BLUE
MARINE
FOUNDATION

Plymouth
FISHING & SEAFOOD
ASSOCIATION

Association of
IFCA

WHITBY
LOBSTER
HATCHERY

Coastal
matters

ef Esmée
Fairbairn
Foundation

A Platform for Common Ground



Poole Workshop

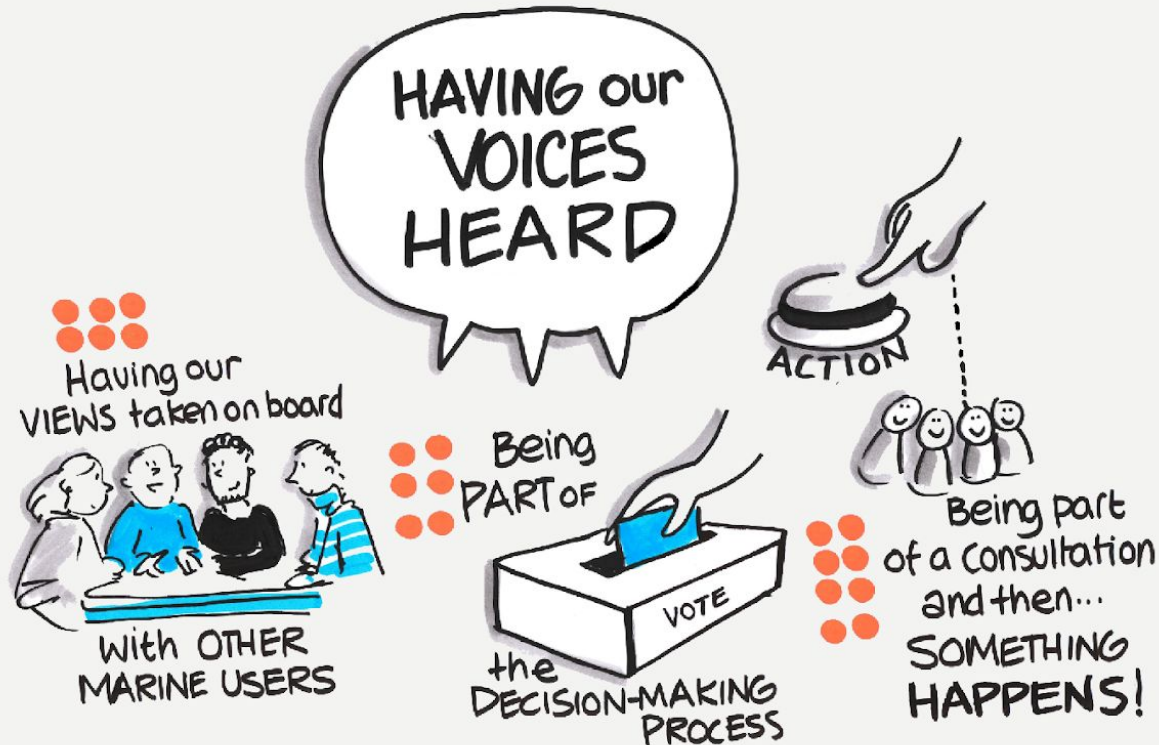
23/09/24 - 25/09/24

Whitby Workshop

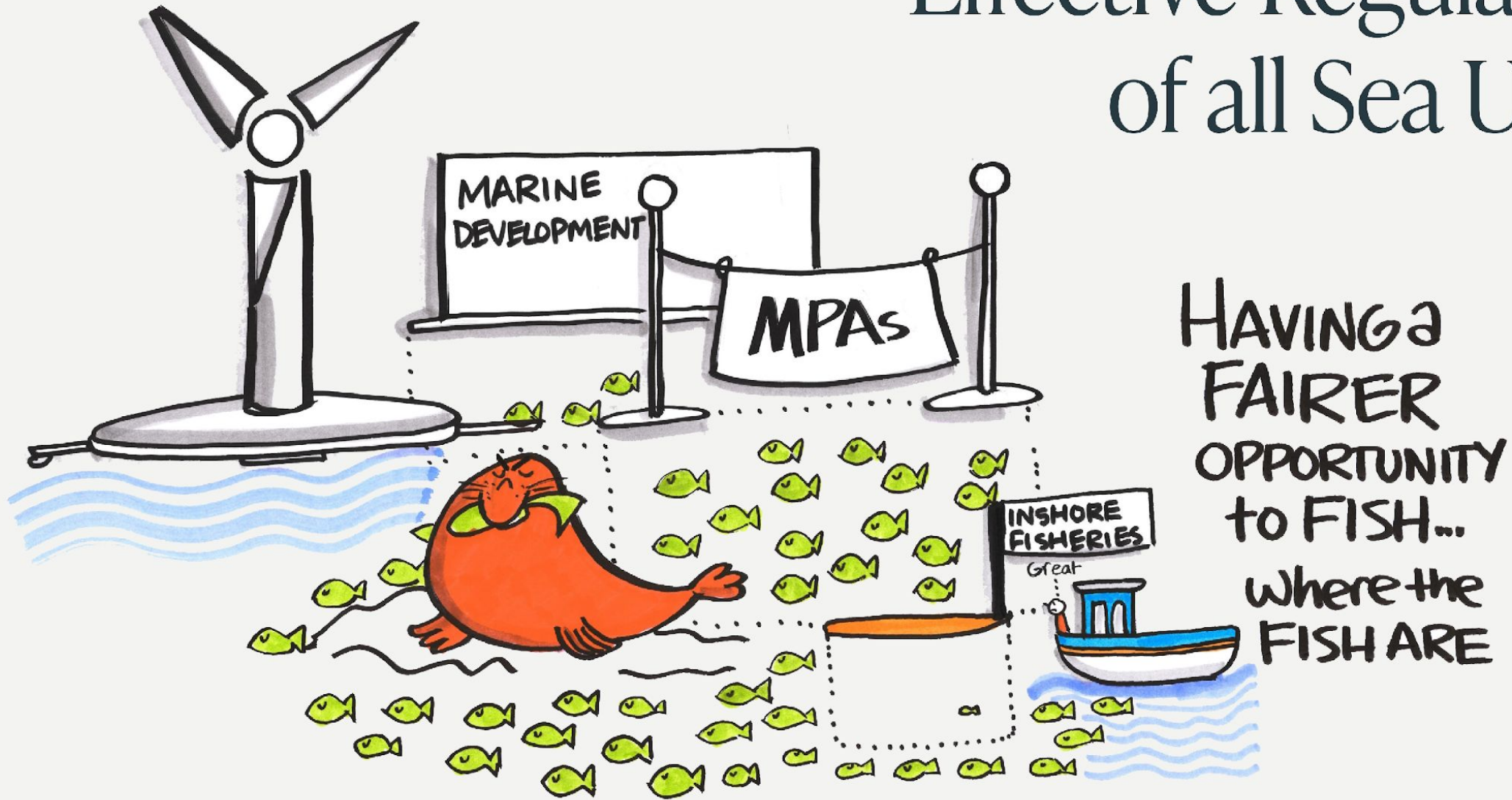
21/10/24 - 23/10/24

120 participants across two workshops in Poole and Whitby came together to understand and address the decline in the fishing fleet, with emphasis on accentuated decline in the under 10m sector.

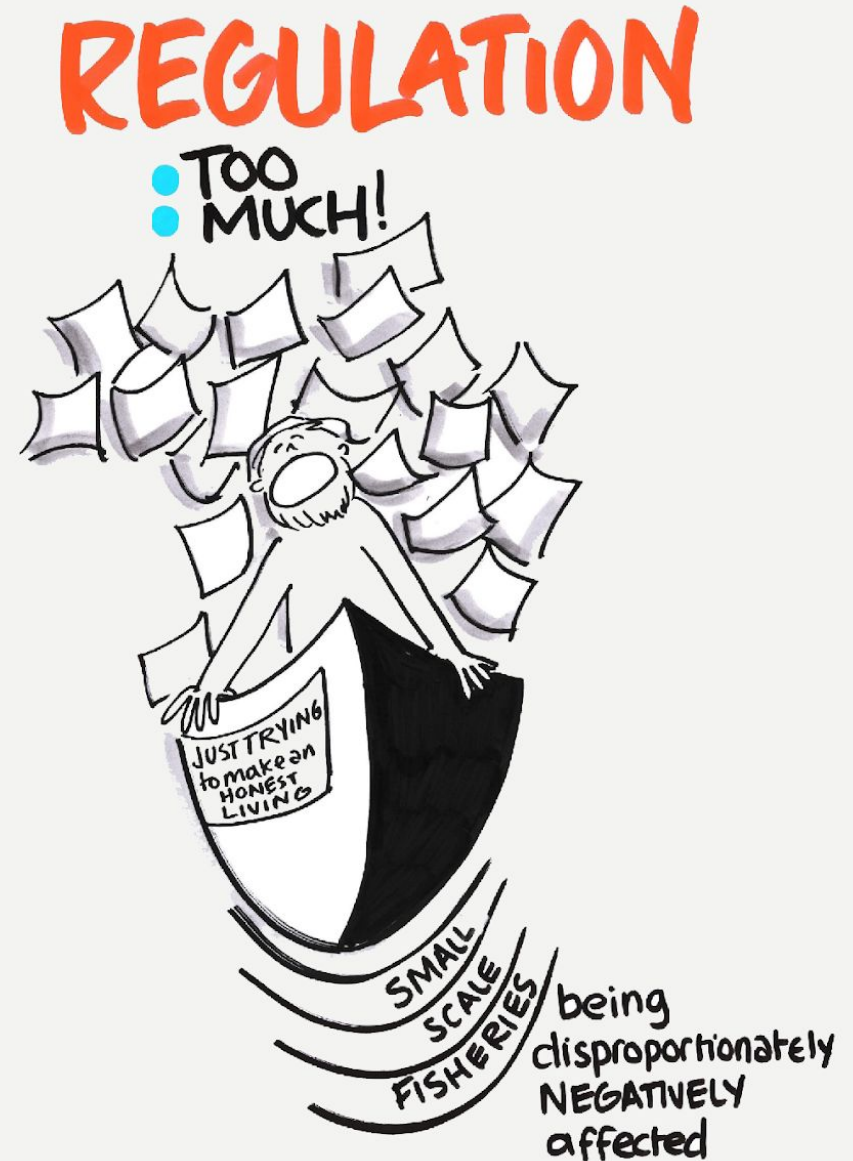
The Top Priorities: Being Heard



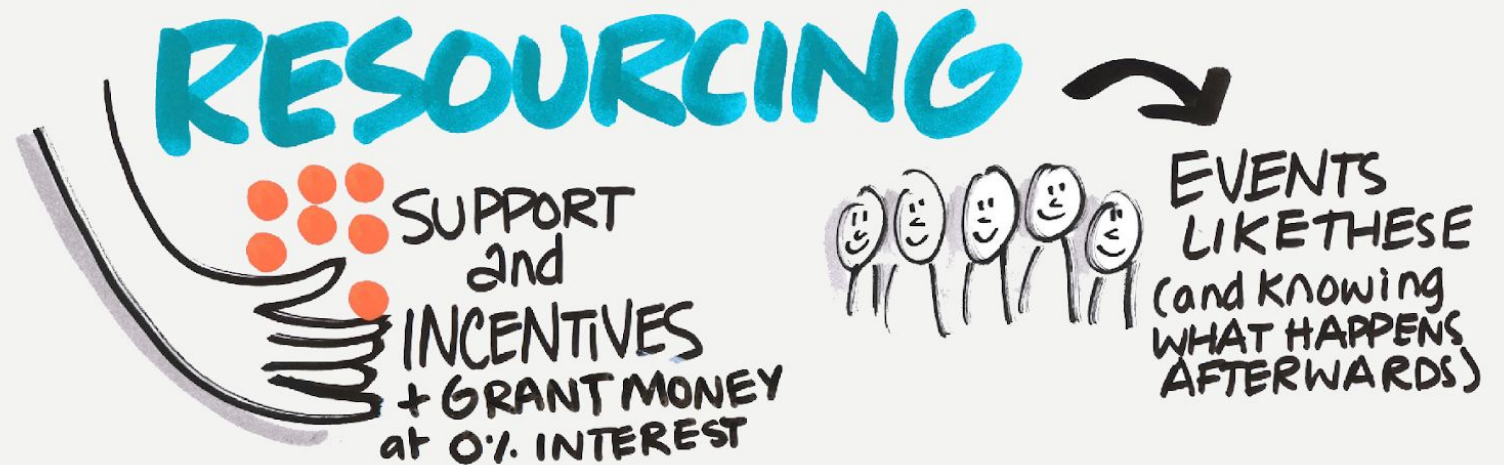
Effective Regulation of all Sea Users



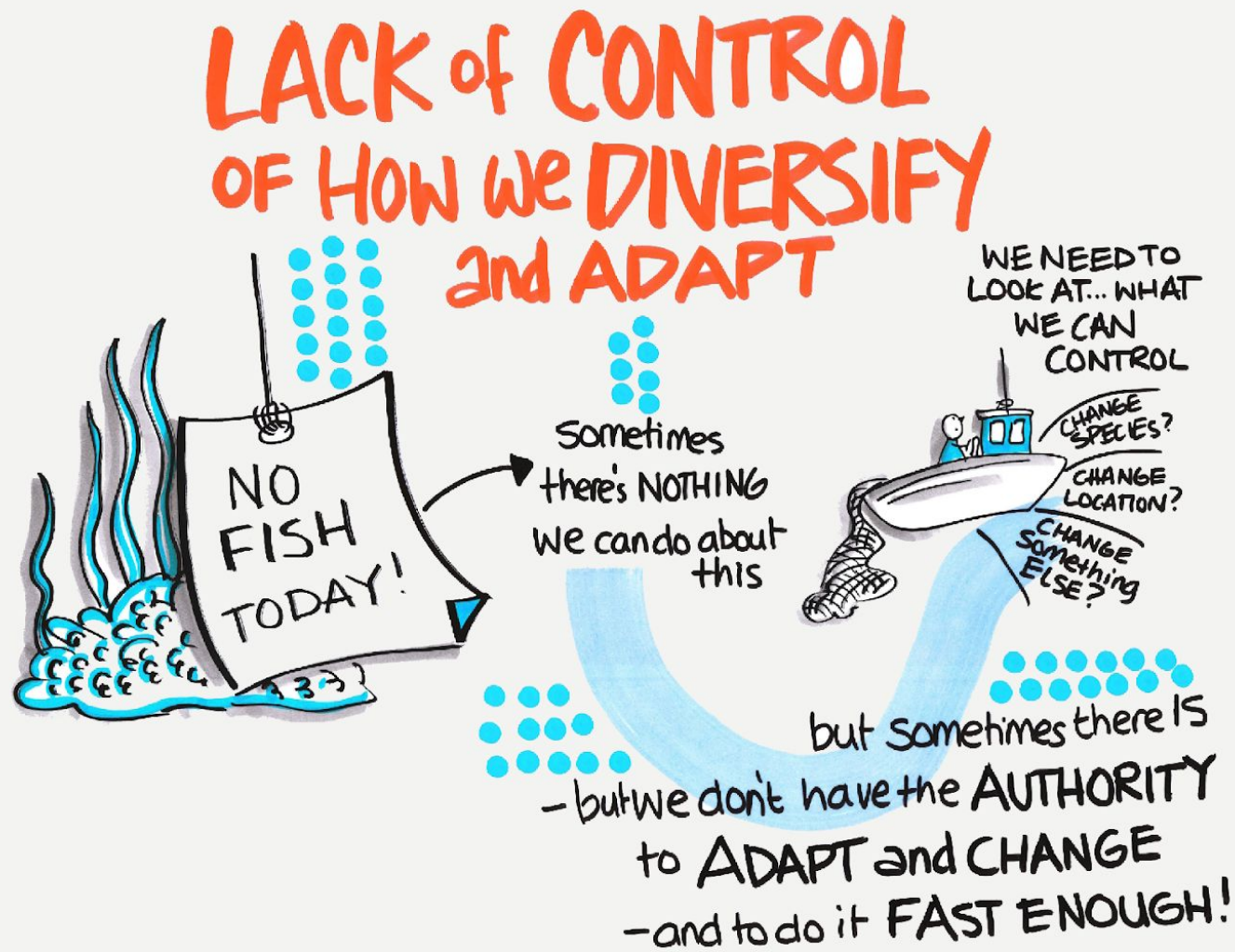
Health and Safety Regulations that Match Vessel Type and Size



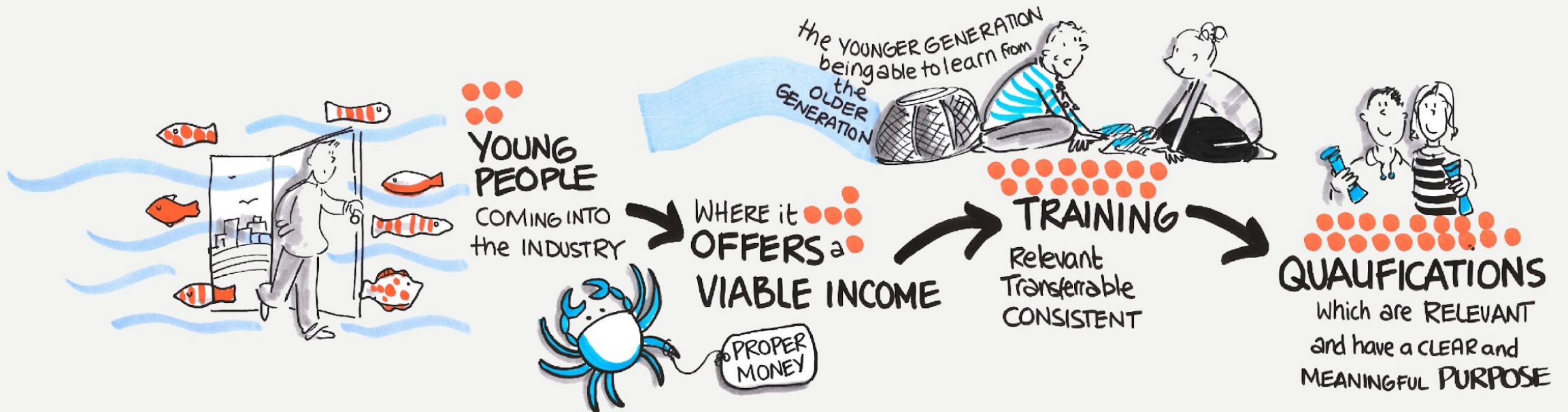
Better Access to Grants for Small Fishing Businesses



Support for and Facilitation of Diversification



Invest in Training and Recruitment into Fishing Careers



Improved Public Awareness and Positive Perception of the Fishing Industry

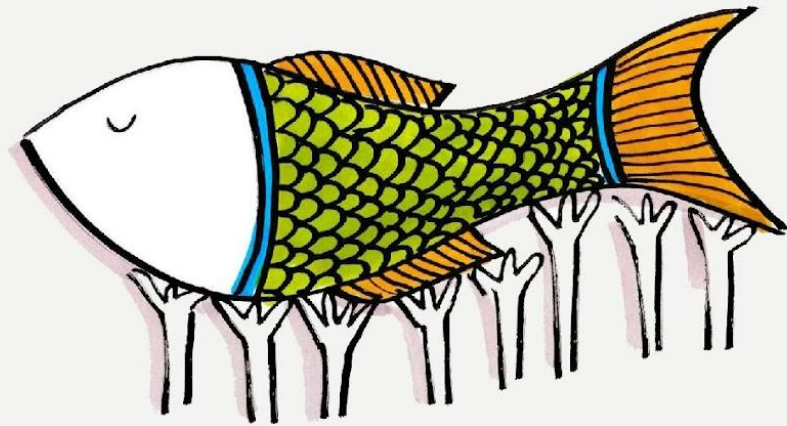
NEGATIVE
PRESS



As fishers,
We've gone
from being
"PROVIDERS
OF FOOD"
to
"DESTRUCTORS
OF THE SEA"

WORKING TOGETHER

as a COLLECTIVE



Find out more
information here:





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