



# SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

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# Threats to the blue

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# How are European seas doing?

- Less than 20 % of all biodiversity features (i.e. species, habitats and ecosystems) are considered as being in Good Environmental Status.
- Sea surface temperature is increasing more rapidly in European seas than in the global oceans, causing a northward shift in species distribution.
- In recent decades, ocean acidification has occurred a hundred times faster than during past natural events over the previous 55 million years.
- In 2013, the 88 % of the assessed stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas were overfished.
- Non-indigenous species are spreading
- Marine litter is accumulating, in particular plastic

*EEA, 10 marine messages*

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## Recent legislation addresses some problems...

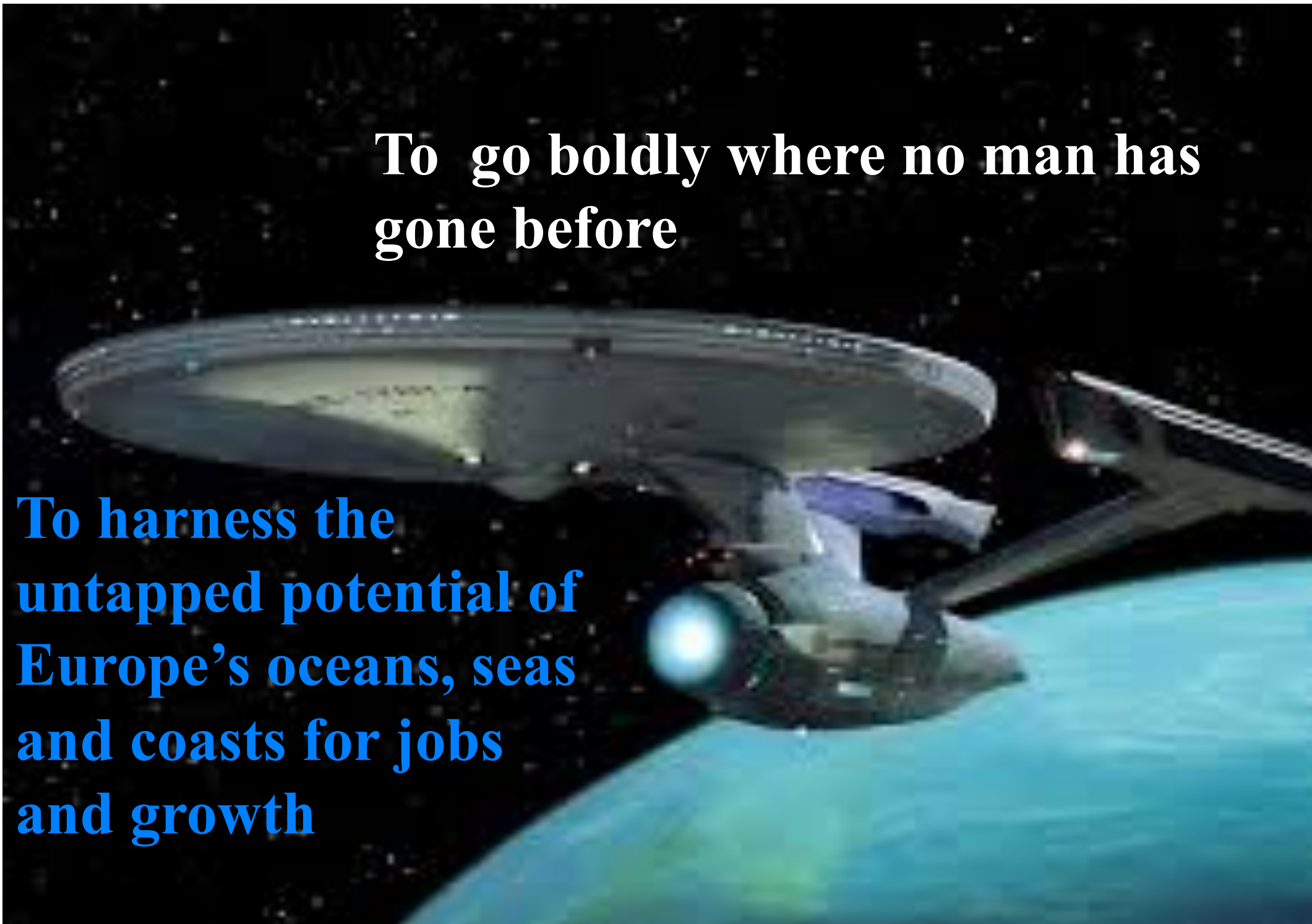
- Common Fisheries Policy 2013:
  - aims to restore fish populations to abundant levels and end overfishing by 2015 (2020 at the latest)
  - facilitates a shift to more selective, low impact fisheries
  - Commits to implement an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
- MSFD 2008:
  - Good Environmental Status of the European seas by 2020
  - Implement an ecosystem based approach to management of maritime activities

## ...but will remain paper without proper implementation

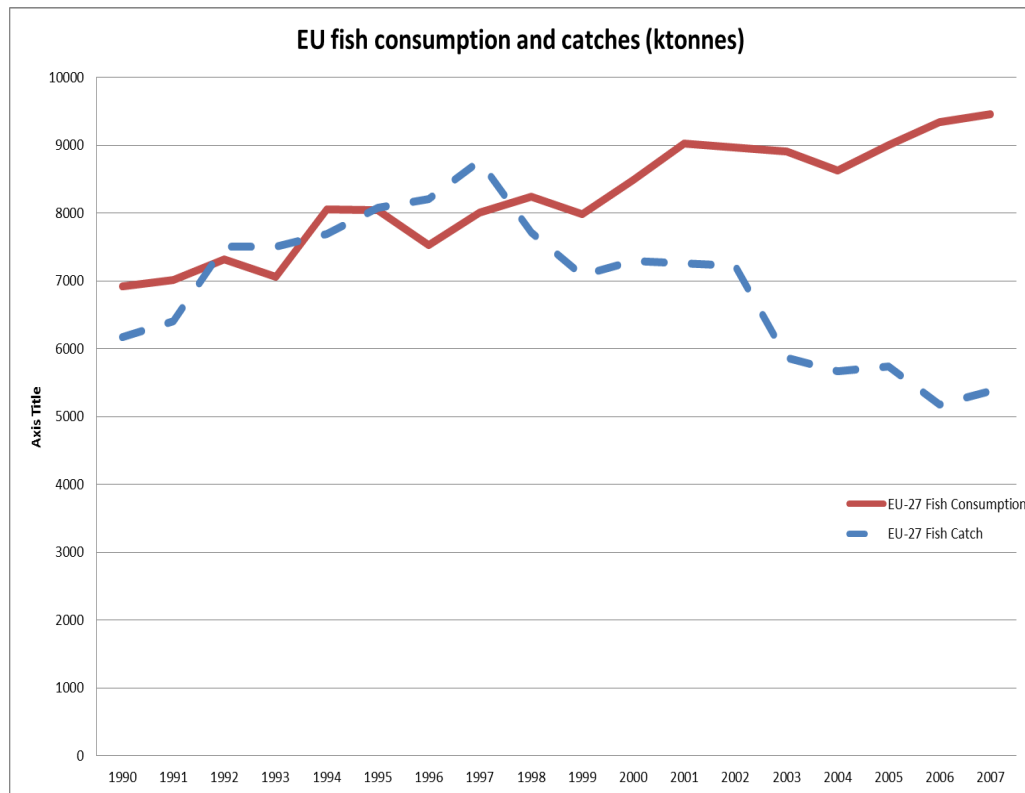
- CFP: fish quota are still set higher than scientists advise
- MSFD: poor definitions of GES, weak targets

**To go boldly where no man has  
gone before**

**To harness the  
untapped potential of  
Europe's oceans, seas  
and coasts for jobs  
and growth**



# There are limits to growth



Question the need  
for growth

Source: European Commission

## Limits to blue growth

- We need an economy that puts sufficiency at its heart, in addition to efficiency and innovation.
- In which natural capital is valued and included in market prices.
- An economy that accepts ecosystems as a binding constraint for all human activity.
- We need science and knowledge based policies, not merely technology-optimism

## Break out of the pillars

- We need to stop thinking and acting according to sectoral agendas
- We need cross-sectoral governance structures tailored to deliver sustainability