PELAGIC FISHING = SUSTAINABLE FISHING

We only fish for human consumption.

Pelagic vessels cause no damage to seabed habitats.

They use a mid-water trawl, which has no contact with the seabed.

Pelagic vessels have among the lowest bycatch levels, less than 1% bycatch.

Pelagic fish such as mackerel and herring contain healthy omega-3 fatty acids for a healthy and nutritious diet.

Fish caught by PFA members provides on average 6 million nutritious and sustainable meals per day, of which 5.5 million feed families in Africa.

Our members use the latest generation of acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) in their nets as a precaution to avoid potential bycatch of cetaceans.

Pelagic trawlers are not in competition with smaller vessels: they fish for different species and in different fishing grounds.

70% of the capacity of a freezer trawler is used for sorting, processing, freezing and cold-storage on-board.

The PFA already holds MSC certification for its North Sea herring fishery, its Atlantic Scandan herring fishery and its blue whiting fisheries.

PFA members use technology to make their fishing more selective including:

- Nets specially designed to allow unwanted by-catch to escape
- State of the art acoustic equipment to identify the size and depth of a shoal
- State of the art acoustic equipment to identify and catch the right species and the right size of fish

The 16 vessels of the PFA only represent 7.5% of total European large scale pelagic fleet.

Wild-caught fish in general and in particular pelagic fish such as herring and mackerel have the lowest CO2 footprint compared any other animal protein.

Pelagic fish such as mackerel and herring contain healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

Less than 1% bycatch.

Pelagic vessels have among the lowest bycatch levels, less than 1% bycatch.

Because our members are few in number, they are easily monitored and better controlled.

Members of the PFA are committed to making an active contribution to fishery research and are active partners in:

- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC);
- Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC)
- Européche
- European Association of Fish Producer Organisations (EAPO)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Wageningen Marine Research (Netherlands)
- Thünen Institute (Germany)
- CEFAS and Marine Scotland Science (UK)
- DTU Aqua (Denmark)
- Marine Institute (Ireland)

We also collaborate with several NGOs:

- WWF | North Sea Foundation | Pew | Seas at Risk | Greenpeace (MoU)

and marine institutes:

- Wageningen Marine Research (Netherlands)
- Thünen Institute (Germany)
- CEFAS and Marine Scotland Science (UK)