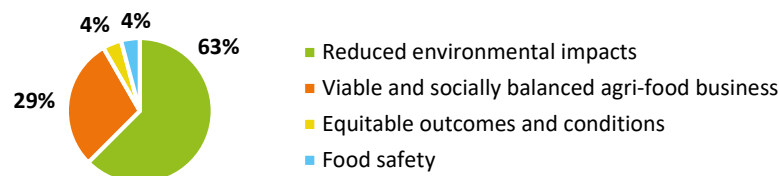


A3.4 Policy actor: Fisheries

The EU is the fourth largest fisheries and aquaculture producer worldwide: 80% of production comes from fisheries and 20% from aquaculture, which plays a major role in EU countries around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Marine produce is and will continue to be a prime source of protein and vitamins for millions of people, especially as the growing middle classes shift their spending to high-end protein products. From our food policy mapping, fisheries seem to act as **ultimate beneficiaries** (23 mapped policies) and as **primary target** (24 mapped policies) to the same extent.

Proportion of mapped fisheries policies by POLICY GOAL



The mapped food policies targeting fisheries mostly focus on:

- the **environment** – in particular the ‘biodiversity’ subgoal – as fishing may have unintended effects on the marine environment and ecosystems and, therefore, the EU implement policies to protect vulnerable habitats and reduce unintended harms to marine animal species;
- the **agri-food business**, as common marketing standards and competition rules on fishery products are in place to help ensure a transparent market able to supply high-quality products.

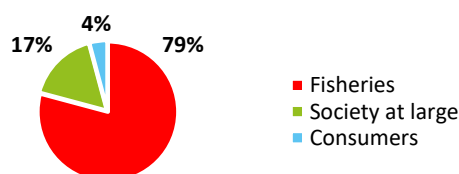
Despite being common knowledge that including seafood in our diet provides proteins, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals that are beneficial for us and generally represent a healthier alternative to meat products, none of the mapped policies targeting fisheries aim at guaranteeing **balanced and healthy diets**.

Does the design of fish-specific nutrition policies represent a pressing priority for EU policy makers?

*Since the aquaculture sector represents an important **source of employment** in the Union, should more national policies be aimed to reach the ‘**Equitable outcomes and conditions**’ goal and, in particular, **social cohesion**?*

Proportion of mapped fisheries policies by ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY

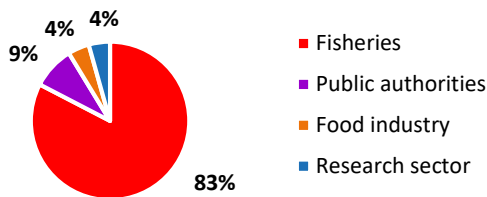
The majority of the mapped policies acting through fisheries aims at ultimately benefiting the aquaculture sector itself. *What about other policy beneficiaries?*



*How can **consumers**, the end-users of fish products, be specific beneficiaries of fisheries policies to a greater extent?*

Proportion of mapped fisheries policies by PRIMARY TARGET

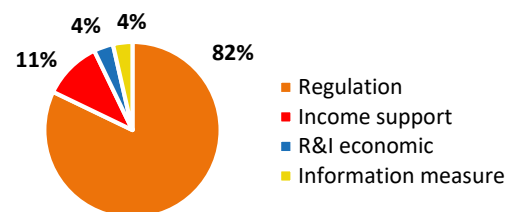
Similarly, most of the mapped policies that benefit fisheries are directly implemented through fisheries themselves. *What about the remaining share?*



How can the **research sector** contribute more to supporting innovation and development in the aquaculture sector?

Proportion of mapped fisheries policies by INSTRUMENT

Almost all mapped policies are intended to fix the fishing opportunities available in the EU using **regulations** (82%) that set catch and fishing effort limits, mesh size and the thickness of fishing nets; while a smaller share is carried out through **income support** (11%) for those businesses that diversify and improve the sustainability of their activities.



*Could **information measures** and **media** be effective policy instruments to influence **consumers'** behaviour in making informed choices when purchasing fishery and aquaculture products and storing them in their domestic environment?*

According to Eurobarometer, more educated consumers are also more likely to buy fishery and aquaculture products on a regular basis. *Can specific **training** on nutrition and food science for all education levels help sensitize scholars and allow them to become more conscious consumers?*

Eurobarometer also highlighted that EU consumers are not as confident on the origin, species and treatment of **tinned and prepared fish products** as they generally are on fresh, frozen, smoked and dried ones. *Could improving **labelling measures** on such fish products be strategic to ultimately benefit not only consumers, but also the food industry and fisheries?*



Relevant related trends in the food system



Source: FIT4FOOD2030 (2018), "Trends in the food system", D2.1