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Reuters News Agency reports that the European Union's executive will propose plans to rescue the bloc's over-exploited fish stocks next week, with the aim of achieving sustainability by 2015. The Commission has warned that three-quarters of EU fish stocks are currently exploited at unsustainable levels, and between 30 and 40 percent of the EU's fishing fleet is not making enough money to remain in business in the long-term. The Commission will propose an end to the annual horse-trading between EU governments over fishing quotas, which in the past has resulted in catch limits being set above the maximum levels recommended by scientists. To achieve this EU governments should jointly agree "multi-annual" plans based on expert advice that fix quotas for one or more fish stocks for several years at a time to avoid overfishing. (Canada's experiments with this approach in the late 1980s contributed to the collapse of the groundfish stocks including northern cod). Another proposal is for a system of "transferable fishing concessions" for larger vessels, designed to allow fishermen to sell their quotas to other EU operators and thus reduce the overall size of the fleet. More

here

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TAGS: EU, Common Fisheries Policy, overfishing, sustainable, fisheries, fish quotas, transferable fishing concessions

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