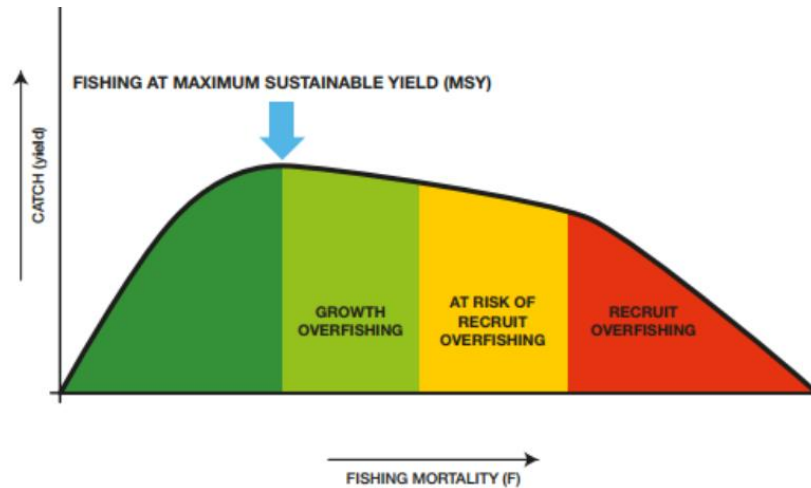




Sustainable Fisheries Policy Statement

PP Group strives to ensure that all fisheries in which its fishing vessels participate are certified against a sustainability standard ([source: CSR Policy page 31](#)). The most well-known standard in this respect is the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). One of the certification requirements of the MSC is the existence and enforcement of an effective harvest control rule in order to prevent overfishing and manage the stock to produce a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Fishing at MSY levels aims to catch the maximum quantity of fish that can safely be removed from the stock while maintaining its capacity to produce sustainable yields in the long term.



Source: Lart, W., *Seafish, Overview of sustainable fisheries assessment and management*, February 2022, p. 4.

Due to the lack of effective harvest control rules, PP Group lost its MSC certification for different pelagic stocks (mackerel, blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian herring) during the last couple of years. These pelagic stocks are migratory, straddling stocks and stay in the Exclusive Economic Zones of different coastal states and in international waters part of the year. Therefore all these relevant coastal states (and/or distant fishing fleets) need to agree on these harvest control rules (= allocation of the (sustainable) fishing possibilities among the different states). Unfortunately this has not been the case. Negotiations have been going on for many years and continue still but no agreement has been reached yet. Many states are involved in these negotiations which are part of the public domain of fisheries managers. The influence on the process in relation to the adoption and implementation of an effective harvest control rule of a private player like PP Group is very limited, this is outside our sphere of influence, except for continuously stressing the need to achieve a binding agreement on this. A time bound, quantified target in relation to the percentage or number of fisheries that will be certified against a sustainability standard is therefore not realistic or feasible.

The fact that a fishery is not certified against a sustainability standard does not imply that the fishery is not responsible. The stocks of mackerel, Atlanto-





Sustainable Fisheries Policy Statement

Scandian herring and blue whiting are healthy according to the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES); the scientific body responsible for carrying out fish stock assessments in the ICES Area (the Northeast Atlantic and Baltic Seas). The yield of all three stocks could however be optimized. There are many fisheries that are sustainable but not certified against a sustainability standard. An example for such a fisheries is the fishery on sardines in West Africa or the herring fishery in South Africa.

Moreover, with the exception of the MSC certified fishery on Atlantic seabob shrimps in Guyana and Suriname, all of the fisheries of PP Group take place under the European Common Fisheries Policy. The Common Fisheries Policy is a set of rules for sustainably managing European fishing fleets and conserving fishstocks.

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en

It is a choice of a private player to certify a fishery against a private independent sustainability standard. As PP Group we saw the benefits to engage in this process of certification as part of our Healthy Oceans pillar.

Questions?

If you have questions about this policy statement or wish to raise a concern please contact the CSR Department of PP Group via csr@pp-group.eu or telephone number +31 (0)71 789 00 00 (Monday-Friday during office hours).

This policy statement, our procedures and internal audits are designed to ensure that PP Group complies with all applicable laws and regulations and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure that it remains current and effective.

**Approved by the board of PP Group
Valkenburg, 2 September 2022**

