



Hywel Rhys Brown

2013492

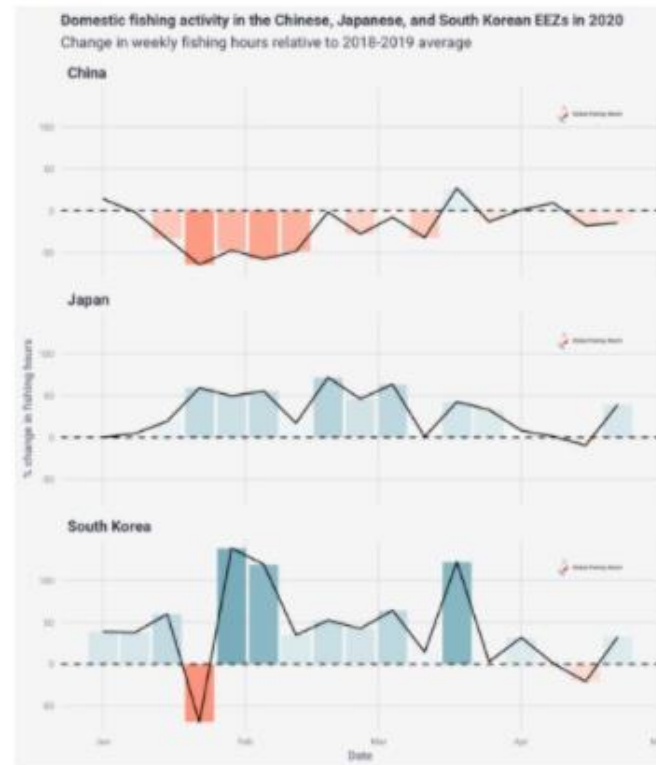
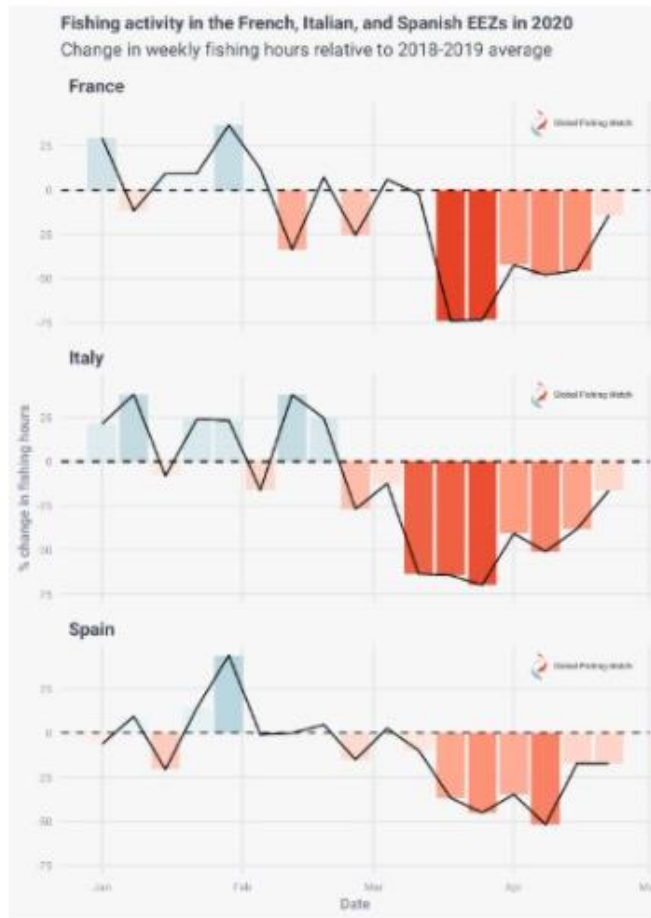
SEAFISH

‘Seafish’ is a non-departmental government organisation that seeks to support the UK’s fishing industry by providing services, training, educational support and scientific research that facilitates the aquaculture and fishing sectors of the UK. It supports all aspects of the fishing industry from, harvesting, trade and regulation to promoting seafood within the country.



GLOBAL FISHING IMPACTS

- Market severely effected due to many countries going into lockdown such as Spain, France and China. (Seafish, 2020)
- Fishing operations have dropped globally by 6.5% (FAO, 2020; Aroni, 2020)
- There has been a significant increase in illegal fishing globally. Including the appearance of 'dark fleets' including many breaches of UN sanctions (Clavelle, 2020; Miren Gutiérrez et al, 2020; Justin McCurry, 2020)
- According to the global fishing watch weekly hours of fishing have drastically decreased in European countries but sky rocketed in Asia (Errhalt, 2020; Clavelle, 2020; Aroni, 2020)
- Political uncertainty has drastically effected the livelihoods of many fishing communities, particularly Brexit



According to the Global Fishing Watch the west has faced significant decrease in weekly hours contributed to fishing operations. See figure 1 (Errhalt, 2020)

The east saw a much greater increase, especially japan, whose fishing operations have increased since covid-19 (Errhalt, 2020)

China accused of being linked to ‘dark fleets’ and drastically increased illegal fishing operations especially in Ecuador and have paid little heed to environment (Webster, 2020; The Guardian, 2020; Miren Gutiérrez et al, 2020, Aroni, 2020; Justin McCurry, 2020)

Figure 1: Change in hours of fishing for different States in comparison to the same period of time during previous years

IMPACTS WITHIN THE UK

- Overall the value UK exports decreased by 19% in January to March 2020 and further fell to 28% in April to July when compared to the pre-covid situation. (Seafish, 2020)
- Sales within the UK peaked during lockdown due to population stockpiling food. Large retailers seeing an increase of 60% of seafood sales
- Local markets and smaller retailers have suffered heavily due to covid restrictions.
- Fish mongers and local markets also restricted
- Lockdown of UK and closure of eating places such as restaurants, cafes and pubs significantly lowered demand
- Smaller fishing communities facing potential uncertainty and hardship.

SEAFISH AGENDA

‘Seafish’ has identified 5 different challenges for its 2020-21 agenda:

- 1. Changing land scape-** Assist through changing political and economical landscapes
- 2. Seafood consumption-** To increase and promote domestic seafood demand competing with other sources of food
- 3. A safe and skilled workforce-** Supporting workers within the sector addressing the complex challenges associated with covid and politics
- 4. Ensuring a sustainable supply-** Ensuring that food imported into the UK and harvested within the UK are sustainable and doesn't compromise human welfare and environment
- 5. Innovation and data-** Increasing information and knowledge available in order to identify opportunities and challenges

CHALLENGE 4

- Complete an economic assessment of the UKs' sea food sector to see opportunities and value the industry could offer in different scenarios
- Collaborate with environmental NGO's, Governments and the various fishing industries and communities to ensure marine management practices are optimise to provide the required environmental protection and minimising the seafood sector.
- Source a secure and compliant supply of raw material into the UK- informing industry of safety alerts and illegal or unregulated activities.
- Introducing an enhanced risk assessment to develop responsible and informed sourcing strategies and decisions related to wild fish.

REFERENCES

Aroni, 2020. Peruvian Fisheries Experience Massive Decline in Activity from COVID-19 - Global Fishing Watch. [online] Global Fishing Watch. Available at: <<https://globalfishingwatch.org/news-views/peruvian-fisheries-covid-19/>> [Accessed 2 March 2021].

Clavelle, 2020. Global fisheries during COVID-19 - Global Fishing Watch. [online] Global Fishing Watch. Available at: <<https://globalfishingwatch.org/data-blog/global-fisheries-during-covid-19/>> [Accessed 4 March 2021].

Errhalt, G., 2020. COVID-19 Harms Japanese Fisheries Despite Active Fleet - Global Fishing Watch. [online] Global Fishing Watch. Available at: <<https://globalfishingwatch.org/news-views/covid-19-japanese-fisheries/>> [Accessed 3 March 2021].

Fao, 2020. DSummary of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. [online] Available at: <<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9349en>> [Accessed 3 March 2021].

Justin McCurry, 2020 the Guardian. 2020. North Korea's 'ghost ships' linked to illegal fishing by China fleet, study finds. [online] Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/22/hundreds-of-chinese-boats-fishing-illegally-off-north-korea-study-finds>> [Accessed 4 March 2021].

Miren Gutiérrez et al., 2020, China's distant water fishing fleet Scale, impact and governance, ODI

Seafish Annual plan 2020/2021 (2020). [online] Available at: <<https://www.seafish.org/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/>> [Accessed 2 March 2021].

Webster., 2020. Giant Chinese fishing fleet depletes stocks around world. [online] Thetimes.co.uk. Available at: <<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/giant-chinese-fishing-fleet-depletes-stocks-around-world-63zhh3hcc>> [Accessed 1 March 2021].

QUESTIONS