



$\text{$\stackrel{\,\,\,}{\text{E}}$15 Initiative}$$ STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM



Tariff Escalation and Preferences in International Fish Production and Trade

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E15 Expert Group on Oceans, Fisheries and the Trade System

Think Piece

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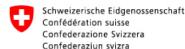
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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews recent literature on the effects of tariff liberalization on wild caught fish product production structures, development outcomes, and fish stocks. Using the case of canned tuna, the report shows that tariff regimes clearly influence the location of production and processing activities, thereby shaping the international division of labour. While trade measures clearly have significant implications for developing countries, the report finds that the impact of trade preferences and tariff liberalization cannot be adequately understood without taking into consideration the particular characteristics and circumstances of individual countries. Therefore, one-size-fits-all policy prescriptions based on generalized assumptions about the functioning of the world economy will not provide an adequate policy framework. The author puts forward several recommendations concerning measures that could be taken to help developing countries adapt to changes in competitiveness in the evolving trade environment.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACP Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

AGOA African Growth and Opportunity Act

ATDPA Andean Trade and Development

Preferences Act

ATPDEA Andean Trade Promotion and Drug

Eradication Act

CAFTA-DR Dominican Republic-Central America-

United States Free Trade Agreement

Implementation Act

CTC Change in tariff classification

CTPA U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion

Agreement

DfID UK Department of International

Development

EBA Everything But Arms

EPA Economic partnership agreement

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of

the United Nations

FTA Free-trade agreement

GSP Generalized system of preferences

HS Harmonized System

ICTSD International Centre for Trade and

Sustainable Development

IEPA Interim Economic Partnership

Agreement

IUU Illegal, unreported, and unregulated

KORUS United States-Korea Free Trade

Agreement

LDC Least-developed country

MFN Most-favoured nation

MSC Marine Stewardship Council

Mt Metric tons

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement

NAMA Non-agricultural market access

NGO nongovernmental organizations

NTR Normal trade relations

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development

PACP Pacific - African Caribbean Pacific

PNG Papua New Guinea

PTA Preferential trade agreement

RoO Rules of origin

RTA Regional trade agreement

SMEs Small and medium- sized enterprises

SVE small, vulnerable economies

UK United Kingdom

UN United Nations

UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea

UNEP United Nations Environment

Programme

US United States

WTO World Trade Organization

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to review available evidence on the effects of tariff policy (especially tariff escalation and preferences) on fish product production structures, development outcomes, and fish stocks. The report consists of a qualitative review of available literature produced by international agencies — e.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and the World Bank — nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) — e.g. Greenpeace and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD); and academics. The empirical focus is on wild caught fish and fish products, both for human and industrial uses (hereon 'fish'). It does not include aquaculture products, because they have entirely different industrial structures, socio-economic relations, and socioecological effects than wild-caught fish. This is not to suggest an immutable division between the two sectors, because there are important interactions at (and between) the points of production (e.g. wild caught fish processed into fish meal is often used in aquaculture) and consumption (e.g. market competition and product substitutability among wild caught and aquaculture fish).

Despite the existence of a vast literature on fishing industries around the world, very little is known about the effects of fish tariff liberalization (Kurien 2005 is a notable exception). However, a general study of 'fish' tariffs would obscure as much as it might reveal because, as Roheim (2004) points out, species and product differentiation is crucial. As such, this report focuses largely on the specific dynamics of the production and international trade of canned tuna. Given the focus of the terms of reference on development, the report focuses on countries (self) categorized as 'developing' and on those categorized by the United Nations (UN) Committee for Development Policy as least-developed countries (LDCs).

TARIFF ESCALATION AND TARIFF PREFERENCES: PERSPECTIVES

PRO-LIBERALIZERS

Orthodox liberalizers

The standard argument for the liberalization of barriers to trade and investment in fisheries (as with other sectors) is that "the most cost effective producers with a comparative advantage [should] undertake the operation" (Schmidt 2003: 7; see also Heydon 2006). Therefore, rather than see fish populations as a national resource to be extracted by nationals, governments should resist resource nationalism and open extraction to international competition. In many cases, and especially where a developing economy is small and undiversified, the logic of this argument is extended to claim that the only assumed comparative advantage is the generation of rents from fishing licenses; any other interventions adopted by states, such as industrial policies requiring foreign companies to invest locally to qualify for fishing licenses, will only stall or pervert growth (Duncan 2006; Peterson 2006).1

The OECD states that "[r]educing tariff escalation will generate further opportunities for developing countries through their participation in international trade of valueadded fish products" and that "[t]he liberalisation of tariffs and reductions in peaks and escalation [will] ensure fair access to markets for processed products" (2010: 68; for similar statements, see WTO 1997; ICTSD 2006; Martini and Lindberg 2013). The assertion that the liberalization of tariffs alone will allow 'fair' access is problematic given the layers of other barriers to developing country market access, including the multitude of fisheries subsidies and non-tariff barriers applied by OECD governments and the buying power and private standards of branded firms and big retail.² As tariffs (and thus tariff preferences) fall in major markets, non-tariff measures — particularly public and private sustainability and food safety standards — are likely to become the main barriers to market access for fish products. Especially for those smaller players — including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and fiscally squeezed states — that are

For a critical engagement with contemporary conceptions of rent in fisheries, see Campling and Havice (2014c).

As Mbithi (2006b: 150) points out, the proliferation of standards "increase[s] the cost of doing business, which in turn necessitates increased catches, hence encouraging disregard for stock conversation measures."

less able to spread the costs of investment required to comply with such measures. Dealing with these barriers will be the key to helping preference-receiving countries maintain competitiveness as preference margins fall. While the OECD's argument on tariff escalation and peaks may be appropriate for some developing countries, the dependence of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and others on preferences for fish products makes it clear that this is not the case for all (see below). Interestingly, faced even with very high tariff peaks, several developing countries successfully penetrate protected markets, as Southeast Asian canned tuna exports to the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) markets make clear. In short, in discussing the benefits of liberalization of fish tariffs to 'developing country' producers, it is essential to differentiate among them.

A common response to ACP preference dependence is the argument of the 'preference pessimists.' This is the dominant narrative of ACP-EU trade relations in mainstream trade and development policy circles. Assessments from this perspective tend to use highly aggregated data to conclude that Lomé preferences failed to stimulate industrial development in ACP economies (Davenport et al. 1995; Moss and Ravenhill 1987). A commonly cited statistic to support this view is the decline in ACP goods as a proportion of total EU imports from 13.3 percent in 1976 to 3.7 percent in 2000 (Yu and Jensen 2005). In general, ACP economies did not diversify, and their export portfolios remained dominated by unprocessed primary commodities and some low valueadded agricultural products. For example, in 1999, only 9 products constituted 57 percent of total ACP exports to the EU, and, of 77 ACP countries, 61 percent of total exports came from only 10 African economies (DG TRADE and DG DEV 2002). From the theoretical perspective of mainstream economics, preferences pervert opportunity costs, constraining the most efficient allocation of resources and actually discourage economies from diversifying, owing to dependence on preferences (Davenport 1992; Davenport et al. 1995). Importantly, the EU itself became a leading political-institutional voice among the preference pessimists, stating that:

trade preferences have neither halted the increasing marginalisation of the ACP region in world trade nor in their trade with the EU. Nor have they overcome the high dependence of the ACP on a few commodities. (DG TRADE and DG DEV 2002: 2)

This may be an accurate generalized description of outcomes, but what is contested by other perspectives is the explanation of their drivers, as illustrated in subsequent sections with particular reference to fish products.

Augmented liberalizers

In an important departure from the norm, the OECD (2003) qualifies the benefits of fish trade liberalization. It emphasizes that the liberalization of fisheries markets

could deepen unsustainable resource extraction where management is ineffective and in areas, such as the high seas, where open access is prevalent. Similarly, Roheim (2004: 76) makes plain that fisheries management is 'a necessary condition' and 'the most important factor in the outcome of liberalization of trade,' because where stocks are not well managed, 'liberalization will encourage faster depletion of the stocks.'

This qualified support for liberalization stems from production systems for fish being highly heterogeneous and subject to extensive levels of management, at least compared to other food products (Schmidt 2003). As such, the maximization of welfare heralded by supporters of tariff liberalization must be mitigated by attention to the sustainable use of fisheries, which depends, among other things, on the state of the resource and the ability of those charged with managing the extent and intensity of extraction (or barring it altogether) to do so effectively. In his major study of the effects of fish trade on low-income food-deficit countries, John Kurien correctly noted: "discussions about sustainable trade attain meaning only in the context of commitments to sustainable production and sustainable consumption" (2005: 59).

DEVELOPMENTALISTS

The 'developmentalist' argument is that state interventions in the market can positively contribute to the prospects of economic development. They tend to take a historical view of the dynamics of capitalist development and highlight the centrality of tariffs and other forms of protectionism in the industrialization of Western Europe, the US, and parts of East Asia, arguing that 'policy space' is necessary for developing countries to diversify and industrialize their economies (e.g. Amsden 1989; Chang 2004; Wade 1990). More specific criticism is re-emerging around the blanket use of comparative advantage as an overarching policy goal in promoting exports from the global South to promote economic development. The theoretical validity of comparative advantage is questioned in relation to the ever-increasing complexity of global value chains in capitalist development (e.g. Milberg and Winkler, 2013), especially in the context of high cost structures in small developing economies when comparative advantage 'is not enough' to support local development (Winters and Martins, 2004: 347). There is considerable empirical evidence that without trade preferences and industrial policy economies dependent on fish processing would become non-competitive in international markets (e.g. Campling and Havice, 2007; Ponte et al., 2007; Campling, 2008; Havice and Campling 2013). Arguments challenging the orthodox liberalizers are also taken forward by government officials and advisors, such as Argentina's (then) Under Secretary for Fisheries who claimed that investment liberalization did not result in fisheries development in his country (Nieto 2006, see also UNEP 2002a) and a prominent advisor to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency who pointed out that deregulated investment in resource access is unlikely to have beneficial trade effects for the Pacific island countries (Clark 2006). Further, a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) study on Senegal found that with duty-free access to EU markets, local fishers' switched their efforts to exportorientated species, and this had negative implications for local food security (UNEP 2002b).

In contrast to the preference pessimist position sketched earlier, the developmentalists tend to be 'preference optimists.' As opposed to the very general, highly aggregated data used by the pessimists, the 'optimists' base analyses on data disaggregated by value of preference, country, and product type and argue that Lomé preferences provided an important competitive advantage during particular historical periods for some countries and some products, as detailed in McQueen et al. (1998). However, exports must receive a 'significant' margin of preference of five percent or more over other countries (Davenport et al. 1995: 67),3 but even a five percent margin can be considered commercially 'trivial' (McQueen et al. 1998: 40). By the mid-1990s, over 90 percent of total EU imports of manufactures entered duty free under MFN treatment or the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) regime (Grilli 1993); the largest exceptions were textiles and clothing and processed fish. However, particularly restrictive rules of origin (RoO) were applied to these very sectors, further constraining the economic benefits of preferences (Campling et al. 2007; Naumann 2010; Ravenhill 1985; and Stevens and Weston 1984).

In sum, in order for a tariff preference to have a stimulating effect on the development of export-oriented production, it must provide a commercially significant advantage relative to major competitors; this in turn can only be understood in the historical context of competitive conditions in the world market, and the devil is in the legal detail on whether a preference is workable (e.g. RoO). Nonetheless, an OECD report found that preferences "can to some extent support developing countries' efforts to move up the value chain and benefit more from trade" (Martini and Lindberg 2013: 6). It is precisely the argument of the preference optimists that frames the formal arguments of the ACP, Africa, and the least-developed country (LDC) and the small, vulnerable economies (SVE) groupings in non-agricultural market access (NAMA) negotiations at the WTO.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS

There is a lack of careful studies on the environmental impact of fish tariff liberalization on stocks. In this context, some argue for caution against the liberalization of fish. For example, a sharp reduction in a tariff peak may incentivize production in areas where fisheries are poorly managed, and liberalization may even result in lower consumer prices sparking new highs of demand vis-à-vis other protein sources (ICTSD 2006: 33). However, while the globalization of

markets for fish may increase demand pressures for trade in fish, does this necessarily increase fish extraction? In other words, is there contemporary evidence to show that the liberalization of a tariff resulted in the absolute expansion of extraction? Or, are we talking instead about a relative change, such as trade diversion where a protected supplier loses out (e.g. local boats being displaced by foreign ones, or a geographical shift in extraction from one fishing area to another)? (A discussion of the limited available evidence on the direct relationship between tariff liberalization and fish stocks is provided in the section on the case of canned tuna.) Greenpeace makes the convincing argument competition from cheaper imports may encourage a fleet to fish harder on already strained stocks (Allain 2007). Moreover, and contrary to mainstream economic assumptions, boat owners are not always able to shift their capital to other uses. Thus, political pressure can be put on fisheries managers to continue access to maintain employment in socio-economically sensitive regions, as the OECD itself recognizes (2003: 24).

In sum, there is very little doubt that the thrust of the environmentalist argument stands. Management of the resource must be based on the best available science and the precautionary approach where data are less robust. This does not suggest that one form of management is necessarily better than the other (e.g. single species vs. ecosystem, socially top-down vs. bottom-up, or input vs. output controls), but it is to say that in its absence the risk of resource depletion is certainly greater.

ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Bene et al. (2010) review the evidence for the benefits and costs of fish trade liberalization in Africa. They find that the debate is highly polarized but with little nuance — as typified by the three perspectives outlined above. They are particularly scathing on the use of insufficiently disaggregated data sets to make generalized claims. As an alternative, Bene et al. argue that analyses of international fish trade and development must engage with local specificities and deploy research methods that are suitable to capture both the local and national level dimensions of the problem. A similar argument is developed in Campling and Havice (2007) on the role of preferential trade for fisheries development in small economies. Havice and Campling (2013) emphasize the specificity of place, the environmental conditions of production and relative state capacity in making full use of trade preferences for fish products; and that — at first sight — the hidden costs of maintaining investment in a factory (e.g. direct and indirect subsidies) may call into question 'development' gains. Campling (2014) suggests that the relationship between trade preferences and development cannot be understood simply from the

Corroborated by Manchin (2006) who found that ACP firms did not utilize preferences unless the margin was 4.5 percent more than the MFN rate.

technical positions of the 'pessimists' or the 'optimists' and that trade policy formation — including preferences — needs to be understood historically. For example, the very existence of the ACP canned tuna preference (see below) was in the first instance a product of French industrial capital investing in colonial Senegal under the post-War French Union. Combined, these arguments call for sensitivity to complexity and contingency in the dynamics of change.

More research is needed on the existing relationship between fish trade liberalization, industrial policy and job creation, poverty reduction, and food security, as opposed to policy prescriptions based on highly aggregated data and idealized assumptions either of perfectly functioning markets or of the ability of states to 'direct' economic outcomes with trade and industrial policy. To understand the effects of tariff escalation and preferences and their actual and potential liberalization, a variety of research methods and sources of evidence are needed. At a minimum, this would require combining quantitative analysis of the longitudinal relationship between fish production and trade and a range of policy mechanisms (e.g. tariffs, regulations, and government investment incentives), with the careful comparative qualitative study of value chains in strategically selected case studies of particular fish products and local social relations and contexts.

TARIFF ESCALATION AND TARIFF PREFERENCES: STATUS

OVERVIEW

International trade in fish is heavily skewed toward the EU, Japan, and the US (the 'global triad'). Combined these countries accounted for 64 percent of the value of world seafood trade in 2012, with the EU at 36 percent (including intra-EU trade) and Japan and the US at 14 percent each

(FAO 2014: 50). It is apparent that, despite the emergence of a new 'middle class' (especially in parts of East and Southeast Asia) and its impacts of the direction(s) of world trade, the minority global population of residents of the triad remain dominant in terms of consumption of internationally traded fish. Therefore, this report focuses on the tariff regimes of the EU and the US given that Japan's preference system is less significant in the structuring of global production and trade (Allain 2007; Campling et al. 2007).

Melchior (2006) distinguishes among three tariff rates: 1) bound at the WTO; 2) MFN applied; and 3) 'actually applied,' which includes goods traded under preference regimes or free-trade agreements (FTAs). Due to, among other things, the difficulty of measuring the third category using available databases,⁴ Melchior concludes that "there is no single true measure for the world tariff average for seafood" (2006: 9), not least because, as the OECD (2003) found, there is a lack of transparency on applied tariff rates among many countries.

Tariff peaks

Only five OECD countries have MFN tariff rates at or above 15 percent. Table 1 offers an aggregated picture of these for five OECD countries. The largest number of tariff peaks relative to the number of tariff lines is present in Korea and Mexico. In the EU, 128 of 394 tariff lines are at or larger than 15 percent. The US and the EU peaks on canned tuna are both very high, respectively 35 percent and 24 percent (Table 2). In Korea, a number of products carry a general 20 percent tariff. However, adjustment tariffs in Korea were used on a small number of products, lifting tariff peaks to 80 percent (e.g. frozen croaker) (OECD 2003).

Tariff escalation

Melchior (2006: 20) found that to the extent that there is tariff escalation (the globally aggregated data show mixed results), it is not used exclusively by OECD countries. A more concrete example of tariff escalation is provided in Table 2, which provides tariffs for tuna in the EU, Japan, and the US by Harmonized System (HS) code for unprocessed, semi-processed, and processed tuna. Data are provided for a range of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and FTAs. Access to preference schemes is conditional on rules of origin (RoO).

Data in WITS only show up for traded goods and thus cannot be used to identify applied tariff escalation where it successfully blocks the import of processed fish.

TABLE 1:Illustrative fish tariff differentiation in OECD countries by level of processing Source: Ahmed (2006)

Level of processing	EU	Japan	US	Korea	Canada
Raw fish	10.3	4.3	0.6	15.3	0.6
Intermediate fish products	4.0	2.0	1.0	33.0	3.0
Processed fish	16.3	9.0	20.0	20.0	2.6

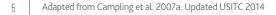
TABLE 2:

Simplified EU and US tariff schedules for tuna and tuna products (in % ad valorem unless otherwise specified) $^{\rm S}$

^{**} Tariff treatment in 2014 (USTIC 2014a). Notes: The table uses MFN applied tariff rates, but several countries have now replaced this term with different ones, such 'normal trade relations' (or NTR, for the US).

	European Union					
Product/ HS Code	MFN	GSP	EBA	GSP+	ACP	
Fresh-Chilled Tuna/ 0302	0 (under 1604) 22 (other uses)	0 (under 1604) 18.5 (other uses)	0	0	0	
Frozen Tuna/ 0303	0 (under 1604) 22 (other uses)	0 (under 1604) 18.5 (other uses)	0	0	0	
Fresh-Chilled Fish Fillets/ 03048	15	14.5	0	0	0	
Frozen Fish Fillets/ 0304	18	14.5	0	0	0	
Prepared or preserved tuna (in oil)/ 1604	24	20.5	0	0	0	
Prepared or preserved tuna (not in oil)/1604	24	20.5	0	0	0	
Tuna in Pouches/ 1604 ¹⁰	24	20.5	0	0	0	
Tuna Loins for use under 1604/ 1604	24	20.5	0	0	0	

	United States						
Product/ HS Code	MFN	GSP	LDC GSP and AGOA	Caribbean Basin Initiative	Insular Territories ⁶	FAS ⁷	FTAs**
Fresh-Chilled Tuna/ 0302	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frozen Tuna/ 0303	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh-Chilled Fish Fillets/ 03048	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frozen Fish Fillets/ 0304	0 to 6	0	0	0	0	0	0 All: 0 Except Korea: 2.4
Prepared or preserved tuna (in oil)/ 1604	35	35	0	0	0	35	All: 0 Except: Peru 14; Colombia 24.5; Korea 29
Prepared or preserved tuna (not in oil)/1604	6 to 12.5°	6 to 12.5	0	0	0	0	All: 0 Except: Central America 0.1 to 0.4; Panama 0.7 to 1.4; Peru 2.4 to 5; Colombia 4.2 to 8.7; Korea 4.9 to 10.3
Tuna in Pouches/ 1604 ¹⁰	12.5	12.5	0	0	0	0	As above
Tuna Loins for use under 1604/ 1604	1.1¢ /kg or 6 ¹¹	1.1¢ /kg or 6	0	0	0	0	All: 0 Except: Korea 0.7¢ /kg or 4.2



- 6 American Samoa and Puerto Rico.
- 7 FAS = freely associated states: the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau.
- 8 Tuna products are not always specified by species under this HS code. Instead they are assumed to fall under 'Other.'
- US duties for canned tuna in water depend on a quota that limits imports from any single country to no more than 4.8 percent of the total tuna in air tight containers consumed in the previous year. The tariff rate for canned tuna 'not in oil' (e.g., in brine or spring water) shifts from 6 percent to 12.5 percent when the tariff quota is full (USITC 2014).
- Prior to August 2002, tuna in pouches was not separately provided for in the US Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS), it is now 1604.14.51/59/91/99. See USITC April 2004: 3.
 - 1.1¢ for tuna loins in bags over 6.8kg each (HS code 1604.14.40). 'Other' = 6% (1604.14.50).

^{*}Expired on 31 July 2013;

FISH PRODUCTS AT THE WTO

Uruguay Round

At the scale of the multilateral system, there has been little harmonized movement in tariffs for fish since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. According to Finger et al. (1996 cited in Melchior 2006: 2) the average bound rate for fish and fish products after the Round was 5.2 percent, and the average MFN applied tariff was 4.4 percent. The OECD (2003: 80-1) put the latter at 4.5 percent for developed countries, compared with the 6.1 percent in place before the Uruguay Round. Despite these reductions, EU MFN tariffs remain high: on imports of unprocessed fish, they are 11.8 percent and 15 percent for semi-processed fish (in percent equivalent ad valorem). MFN tariffs for Canada were 1.4 and 5.6 percent, for Japan 3.2 and 8.1 percent, and for the US 0.1 and 6.5 percent, all unprocessed and semi-processed respectively (Greenaway and Milner 1996: 30-31).

MFN applied tariff averages indicate that in general world fish trade is liberal compared with agriculture, but it is less liberal than trade in manufactured goods (Melchior 2006). However, applied MFN averages mask very high peaks for certain fish tariff lines and the importance of 'actually applied' tariffs (e.g. preferences and FTAs). As a result, the majority of this report focuses on particular categories of countries and specific product types (especially canned tuna). For example, while the average tariff level for fish in Canada and the US is about 1 percent (Melchior 2006: 16), for canned tuna there are very high tariff peaks and an important system of trade preferences that contribute to shaping the global geography of canned tuna production (see below).

Doha Round

Fish and fish products are treated as industrial goods at the WTO and are thus grouped under NAMA negotiations. For most ACP countries, the key concern surrounding NAMA was a reduction of the preferential market access they have historically received into their main export markets ('preference erosion'). In that respect, NAMA will force many developed countries to reduce their bound tariff rates. This will lower the relative value of the preference being received and effectively reduce the competitiveness of ACP exports.

For fish products, a key aspect of a post-Doha trading environment and its impacts on the Cotonou preference can be surmised as follows. The current EU bound rate for canned tuna and tuna loins is 25 percent (only 1 percent more than the current applied MFN rate). If the range of the Swiss Formula coefficient that was under negotiation is applied to this, 12 the post-NAMA EU bound tariff for canned tuna and tuna loins will be reduced to between 6.1 and 6.6 percent (see Table 3). In terms of the impact on the competitive advantage available to the ACP under the Cotonou Agreement and subsequent IEPAs, this translates into a reduction of over 70 percent in preference for exporters and an equivalent decline in their relative competitiveness.

While some special treatment was proposed for those products for which the erosion of preferences for ACP exporters would prove overly damaging — including for EU imports of processed skipjack tuna (Annex 2 in JOB(07)/126) — the mechanism currently envisaged would only give an additional two years to spread out the reductions. After these

12

This is based on a coefficient value of 8 or 9, as proposed in the 17 July 2007 proposed NAMA modalities document (JOB(07)/126) http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/markacc_e/markacc_chair_texts07_e.htm. The subsequent NAMA Chair's text bracketed a coefficient of 8 (TN/MA/W/103, 8 February 2008).

TABLE 3:EU import tariffs on canned tuna and tuna loins post-NAMA

Source: Campling et al. 2007b

	Starting duty 25%	Starting duty 25%	Starting duty 25%	Starting duty 25%
Formula coefficient	3	8	<u>c</u>	9
Year 1	21.22	22.30	21.32	22.37
Year 2	17.44	19.60	17.64	19.74
Year 3	13.66	16.90	13.96	17.11
Year 4	9.88	14.20	10.28	14.49
Year 5	6.10	11.50	6.60	11.86
Year 6		8.80		9.23
Year 7		6.10		6.60
Final EU tariff rate	6.10	6.10	6.60	6.60
Annual reductions	3.78	2.70	3.68	2.63
% cut overall	76	5%	74	-%

two extra years, the products will arrive at the same tariff level that they would have if they had adhered to the five-year implementation programme. Table 3 demonstrates that this marginal flexibility would do little to cushion the far-reaching impacts of NAMA on EU canned tuna tariffs.

There was considerable pressure on the EU-ACP system of non-reciprocal trade preferences even at the outset of the Doha Round. At the WTO Ministerial meeting in Doha in 2001, Southeast Asian countries led by Thailand (the world's largest exporter of canned tuna) opposed a waiver for the continuation of EU-ACP non-reciprocal trade in the preparatory phase of the Cotonou Agreement (2000-2007) before Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) were due to be phased-in in 2008. The 'Cotonou waiver' was only granted, and the meetings in Doha concluded on the condition that the EU agreed to consult with the Southeast Asian countries on market access for their canned tuna exports in light of discrimination in favour of the ACP. The Southeast Asian countries were not satisfied with EU offers at meetings in 2001 and 2002 and requested WTO mediation in the dispute, which culminated in the allocation in early 2003 of a quota of 25,000 metric tons (mt) of canned tuna at 12 percent duty to Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia rather than the MFN duty of 24 percent (the 'Cotonou compromise' tariff quota). This is an extremely important point, because EU buyers preferred the price of canned tuna from Thailand at 12 percent duty under the 'Cotonou compromise quota' compared to the duty-free ACP product (Campling 2012a). This indicates that the ACP canned tuna industry would collapse, because it could not compete on price if NAMA were concluded using the Swiss formula coefficient detailed in Table 3. The flip side is that other developing countries would benefit, especially those in Southeast Asia that have a track record of high productivity in standardized fish processing.

Finally, it is also worth noting that the eventual conclusion of NAMA negotiations could possibly affect the degree of domestic tariff protection offered to the ACP (and other) tuna industry, as ACP governments would also be obliged to reduce import tariffs on NAMA products. With the lower coefficient currently being proposed for developing countries,¹³ Papua New Guinea (PNG) for example would potentially have to reduce its tariff for imported canned tuna from 15 percent to 8.8 percent or 20 percent to 10.2 percent (Campling et al. 2007b). This could have significant competitive implications for firms that have strong domestic market elements in their business models.

Fish and fish product sectoral

Parallel to NAMA negotiations, several 'sectors' were identified and targeted for more aggressive tariff reduction programmes. These mini-negotiations are known as sectorals. Fish and fish products were highlighted as a 'sector,' because they face higher tariffs than many other NAMA products.¹⁴

Several WTO members with an interest in fish and fish products worked on negotiating voluntary liberalization of fish and fish products to extend the scope of tariff reductions beyond NAMA outcomes. This proposal was supported by, among others, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Thailand, and the US; all of which are major fish catching, processing, and/or trading nations. While most of these players have low average tariffs for fish products, and we would thus expect political support for liberalization, because it would improve the relative international competitiveness of domestic industry, it is interesting that Thailand supported this sectoral despite applying relatively high tariffs (see Table 4). This is because Thailand is a major exporter of fish products (particularly shrimp and canned tuna, see below), and in the domestic struggle between those interests who support protection and those who want enhanced market access, the latter are more powerful (on Thai industry's aggressive promotion of liberalization, see Campling et al. 2007a). Since sectorals are voluntary, not all members would be required to commit to comprehensive liberalization.

'Sectoral' liberalization requires a 'critical mass approach'; that is, members participating in the sectoral must represent approximately 90 percent of world trade of the product(s) in question. Also, unlike liberalization efforts undertaken using the Swiss formula, sectoral negotiations could eventually move the tariff level to zero. Resistance from major players, including Chinese Taipei, the EU, Japan, and South Korea, indicated that a fish sectoral was unlikely to progress, as the high average and maximum tariffs for fish for these players detailed in Table 4 would indicate. For example, the EU tuna lobby was strongly opposed, noting that the use of the Swiss formula already ignored the "specificities of a particular sector, such as canned tuna and the economic sensitivities of the producing countries" (EUROTHON 2006). Japan linked the ability to set fish tariffs to stock levels and fisheries management regimes, while Korea argued that tariff elimination could increase fishing effort (ICTSD 2006). In sum, there was never a great deal of momentum in the fish sectoral negotiations.

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is the largest market for seafood in the world. While it is only the fifth largest producer of seafood (5.5 million mt in 2011), it is the world's leading importer (8.3 million mt) (EUMOFA 2014). Tuna is the highest volume commercial species consumed at 2.68 kg per capita, 2.14 kg of which is canned tuna. The next highest species consumed are cod (1.96 kg); salmon (1.72 kg); and Pollack (1.64 kg). Spain is the largest consumer of processed tuna products, while Italy is

TN/MA/W/103, 8 February 2008 suggested a range of 20 to 25.

Draws from Campling et al. 2007a.

the highest value market, with prices averaging 20 percent higher than in other EU markets. There are also important differences among EU member states in terms of what type of canned tuna is generally consumed, with southern Europe being typified by yellowfin in olive oil and northern Europe by skipjack in brine.

EU tariff peaks and escalation

Perhaps the most politically prominent example of tariff escalation and preferences in the EU is for canned tuna (Table 2). The 24 percent tariff peak on canned tuna is designed to protect EU-based processors — especially those based in Spain, Italy, and France (see Table 5). Spain is the major supplier to EU markets, closely followed by Ecuador (where the tuna industry is penetrated by considerable Spanish investment). While Italy, France, and Portugal are considerably smaller, they are significant players. The domestic-societal interests of canning firms and their employees are the principal factor in explaining the high tariff. A parallel policy of tariff escalation keeps raw material input costs low for EU-based processors and provides them with maximum flexibility for sourcing inputs at the lowest price on international markets. Importantly, processors based in preference-receiving countries, such as the ACP and GSP+ do not benefit from this flexibility, because the RoO require that they can only process fish caught by vessels owned

by firms based in their countries or regions or the EU. This indicates that major beneficiaries of EU preference schemes are the European-owned boats that have a captive market among those ACP and GSP+ producers who do not have a domestic fleet (Campling 2008).

To save on labour costs, EU industry also imports precooked, frozen loins for inserting into cans. These are largely imported from developing country suppliers where labour is relatively less costly (Table 6) — what I call here a 'logic of loining.' Many of these suppliers benefit from duty-free access (e.g. GSP+), but they are unable to meet EU demand. As a result, the EU applies autonomous tariff quotas, which are non-discriminatory partial or full exemptions from import duties on a limited quantity of goods, aimed at providing EU industry with raw materials should EU-based suppliers not be able to keep pace with demand (Paredes 2006). For example, the EU Single Duty Loins Quota (introduced in 2004) allows for a set quantity of pre-cooked tuna loins to enter the EU duty free from third countries on a 'first-come, first-served' basis (in 2014 the quota was 22,000 mt). Typically, the quota is fully utilized by the end of the first quarter, although in 2014 the quota was exhausted just ten days after opening - most likely taken up mostly by Thai processors, which are otherwise subject to pay 24 percent duty on loins (Campling and Havice 2014b).

TABLE 4:MFN applied tariffs for fish and fish products for selected countries in 2013

Source: WTO-ITC-UNCTAD (2014)

Country	Average Tariff (%)	Maximum Tariff (%)	Country	Average Tariff (%)	Maximum Tariff (%)
Bangladesh	23.9	25	Mexico	17.6	20
Brazil	10.3	32	Myanmar	8.6	15
Canada	0.9	11	Norway	0.6	299
Chile	6	6	Pakistan	10.7	20
China	10.6	23	Peru	0.3	6
Chinese Taipei	18.5	183	Russian Federation	12.3	76
Colombia	14.4	15	South Africa	6.2	30
EU	11.8	26	Sri Lanka	14.7	30
India	29.9	30	Thailand	11.4	15
Indonesia	5.9	10	Turkey	34.2	82
Japan	5.7	15	US	0.8	35
Korea, Rep. of	16.5	40	Vietnam	15.6	35

TABLE 5: EU import of canned tuna by major supplying countries in 1,000 mt.

Source: Globefish 2014

Country	Tariff regime (and % treatment)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Spain	EU (0%)	74.6	102.8	97.2	86.1	86.4
Ecuador	GSP+ (0%)	63.7	62.2	71.5	73.7	84.1
Thailand	GSP (21.5%)	64.4	68.9	76.2	47.4	61.4
Seychelles	IEPA (0%)	42.3	41.0	43.5	43.7	51.4
Mauritius	IEPA (0%)	35.4	44.2	43.9	46.9	50.5
Côte d'Ivoire	IEPA (0%)	31.5	26.3	25.7	34.6	33.5
Philippines	GSP (24%)	54.1	45.5	35.7	31.1	29.9
Ghana	IEPA (0%)	26.5	27.4	25.9	26.1	21.4
PNG	IEPA (0%)	14.6	15.9	15.6	19.6	18.8
Indonesia	GSP (21.5%)	11.3	9.2	13.4	14.6	14.0
Vietnam	GSP (21.5%)	7.8	7.3	8.5	9.4	13.2
Italy	EU (0%)	13.3	13.8	13.9	13.0	11.6
Colombia	GSP+ (0%)	12.7	11.4	13.3	12.2	11.5
France	EU (0%)	12.2	6.4	5.9	6.5	7.8
Madagascar	IEPA (0%)	7.3	6.8	9.7	8.0	7.7
El Salvador	GSP+ (0%)	2.2	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.7
Portugal	EU (0%)	2.3	2.4	3.9	3.5	3.7
Senegal	EBA (0%)	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.1	1.7
Others	Misc.	51.2	50.5	56.6	54.6	61.3
Total		529.2	545.7	564.0	534.5	573.5

TABLE 6:EU import of tuna loins by major supplying country in 1,000 mt

Source: Globefish 2014

Country	Tariff regime (and % treatment)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ecuador	GSP+ (0%)	43.9	37.2	36.5	34.2	35.8
PNG	IEPA (0%)	1.8	2.5	5.6	8.2	9.8
Thailand	GSP (21.5%) and loin quota (0%)	16.9	12.2	16.4	7.9	9.1
Mauritius	IEPA (0%)	11.7	12.6	11.7	11.7	7.7
El Salvador	GSP+ (0%)	13.1	7.6	5.8	6.2	7.3
Guatemala	GSP+ (0%)	5.7	8.7	7.2	9.1	7.1
China	GSP (21.5%) and loin quota (0%)	4.5	5.4	6.5	4.1	6.8
Indonesia	GSP (21.5%)	0.1	0.1	1.4	3.1	4.3
Spain	EU (0%)	0.7	0.9	1.7	2.0	4.1
Solomon Islands	EBA (0%)	2.2	1.9	4.3	4.5	4.0
Philippines	GSP (21.5%) and loin quota (0%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	3.4
Ghana	Market access regulation/ IEPA (0%)	3.4	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.2
Kenya	Market access regulation/ IEPA (0%)	3.2	3.7	4.2	4.3	2.0
Others		13.4	14.7	10.5	8.2	10.1
Total		120.7	110.1	114.9	107.0	113.7

EU GSP

The EU GSP regime consists of three pillars:

- a) A 'standard' GSP scheme, which excludes only a handful of developing countries. For most fish products, tariff treatment under the 'standard' GSP used to be equivalent to the MFN tariff, but in January 2006 it was reduced by 3.5 percent across a range of processed fish products (e.g. fillets, canned tuna).
- b) the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative, which since 2001 has provided quota-free, duty-free treatment for all goods (bar arms and munitions) from all countries categorized as LDCs
- c) The GSP+ is available to countries that have signed and ratified a set of 27 international conventions both on labour and human rights and on environmental and good governance. On top of this, the country must be categorized as 'vulnerable' according to its level of export-oriented economic diversification.

An important weakness of GSP schemes from the perspective of beneficiary countries is that they can be unilaterally reformed or rescinded (see section on the case of canned tuna for more on Ecuador and Maldives graduating from the EU GSP+ scheme).

The GSP+ regime in particular had important effects on industrial tuna production in Latin America. Between 1976 and 2003, the share of GSP Plus countries of world production of canned tuna grew from 3 percent to 9 percent (Oceanic Développement 2005: 114). The GSP+ (and the Drugs Agreement before it) provided the trigger for large-scale investment by Spanish processing firms, investing hundreds of millions of euros in Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Venezuela. EUROTHON (the EU Tuna lobby group) estimates that its members alone (i.e. not all EU tuna processing companies are members) have created 35,000 jobs in fishing and processing industries in Latin America (due principally to the incentive of the GSP) (EUROTHON 2006).

EU-ACP relations

The EU administered an extensive preference scheme with the ACP under the Lomé Conventions (1976-1999) and the Cotonou Agreement (2000-8).¹⁵ This ended when the Cotonou Waiver secured at the outset of the Doha Round expired in 2008 (see above), which was to be replaced with a series of sub-regional EPAs. ACP exporters were able to access the EU market duty free compared with an MFN tariff of 24 percent (Table 2.).

Export-oriented canned tuna production represents one of the few success stories of industrial 'upgrading' in the ACP under Lomé (McQueen and Stevens 1989; Campling 2012a). In aggregate terms, the ACP share of world production of canned tuna grew from 5 percent to 12 percent between

1976 and 2003 (Oceanic Développement et al. 2005), supporting the position that "the Lomé Convention was in a key sense the midwife in the creation of the ... ACP canning industry" (Grynberg and White 1998: 68). Drawing upon their analysis of trade data to mid-Lomé IV, Davenport et al. found that fish was the most important non-oil ACP export to the EU and was "one of the most successful cases of processing in the ACP countries" (1995: 20; see also McQueen et al 1998: 48), referring to fish fillets, frozen prawns and shrimp, as well as tuna products. Total direct fulltime equivalent employment in EU-centred tuna processing facilities in ACP island states and coastal regions in the mid-2000s (when EPA negotiations were in full swing) totalled over 15,000 workers: Côte d'Ivoire 3,000; Ghana 2,000; Kenya 800; Madagascar 1,300; Mauritius 2,700; PNG 3,000; Senegal 2,400; Seychelles 2,300; and Solomon Islands 1,000 (Campling 2008). The indirect and induced employment produced by the activity of the factories is of course considerable (a multiplier of three is often used here). This is not to claim that the preference was the sole determinant in this process, but that it was an integral aspect of a set of necessary conditions.

Preference-dependent fish processing secures export-oriented employment and considerable socio-economic spin-offs, and it is often based on a resource extracted from national territory. Several ACP states engaged in the negotiation of reciprocal EPAs largely to maintain, previously non-reciprocal, preferential market access for a range of products, including for processed fish (e.g. processed hake from Namibia, Nile Perch fillets from east Africa). For example, continuing duty-free market access for canned tuna was a central reason for entering into an Interim EPA for PNG, and Seychelles, and it was a component of several other preferential items for Fiji, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Mauritius.

EU preferential RoO for fish

EU RoO for fish are based on 'wholly obtained' criteria. Under (Interim) EPAs and the EU's current GSP regime, the wholly obtained criteria f or fish and fish products are that:

 All fish is automatically wholly obtained when caught inland and within the territorial seas (12 miles from the coast) of the signatories. The location determines origination.¹⁶ This can also include fish caught in a country's archipelagic waters where the proper international legal procedures have been followed through the UN.¹⁷

- South Africa's trade relations with the EU were governed by the bilateral Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), which was signed in 1999. Although together with several other Southern African states, it initialed an IEPA in July 2014, which is set to replace the TDCA.
- Territorial seas as defined under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982), Part II, Section II, Article 3.

 If caught outside of these locations, origination is determined by the 'nationality' of the boat (i.e. when caught in exclusive economic zones and in the high seas).
 Nationality is determined by: a) the boat being flagged and registered by one of the parties to the agreement; and, b) being at least 50 percent owned either by nationals of parties to the agreement or by a company based in one of the parties to the agreement.

The 'wholly obtained' approach is the basis of all EU preferential RoO for fishery products in international preferential trade arrangements, including in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (and the Lomé Conventions before it).

The EU tuna fishing industry maintains that the RoO contributes to off-setting its higher cost structure compared to less heavily regulated competitors, especially in the realm of 'social and environmental conditions' (FITAG-Anfaco 2011: 2; Estudios Biologicos 2006). From the perspective of preference-receiving trading partners, such as the ACP group, EU fisheries RoO have long been perceived as a source of contention due to their restrictiveness (Commission for Africa 2005; Davenport et al. 1995; Ravenhill 1985; Stevens and Weston 1984).

UNITED STATES

US tariff peaks and escalation

US tariffs on fish and fish products are generally zero or very low except for products of commercial significance to US interests, such as fish fillets for certain species (6 percent); canned sardines (15-20 percent); canned tuna (6-35 percent); clam products (8.5 percent); 'fish sticks' (7.5-10 percent); and processed crab, other crustaceans, molluscs, etc. (7.5-10 percent). These peaks are all for processed products. For raw material (fresh, chilled, or frozen fish), the normal trade relations (NTR) tariff is generally zero, indicating a classic policy of tariff escalation, except for 3 percent on a handful of species such as Alaska pollock, hake, seabass, and tilapia (USITC 2014).

US tariffs on canned tuna and related products require detailed explanation (see Table 2). US duties for canned tuna in water ('not in oil', i.e. in brine or spring water) shifts from 6 percent to 12.5 percent when a tariff quota is full. The quota limits imports from any single country to no more than 4.8 percent of the total tuna in air tight containers consumed in the previous year. The US quota for tuna in water at 6 percent is filled extraordinarily quickly. Several Southeast Asian and Latin American producers report that taking advantage of the quota is both costly and risky as product must be stored in bonded warehouses in the US in advance and there is no guarantee that it will qualify for the quota (Campling et al. 2007a; Havice et al. 2014).

Canned tuna in oil has a very high NTR tariff at 35 percent. The US tariff schedule for canned tuna is structured with a high duty on tuna in oil and a lower duty on tuna in water simply because "no one thought that anyone would ever be interested in buying tuna in water!" (US industry representative interview in 2006, cited in Campling et al. 2007a: 2). The rise in health consciousness in the US from the 1980s onwards spurred the increase in consumption of tuna in water rather than in oil. Today, canned tuna in oil is a small market segment: at between 3.5 percent and 4.5 percent of the canned tuna import market by volume in 2011-12 (Havice et al. 2014). Without tariff protection of canned production offered to the two canneries based in the mainland US, these factories are highly unlikely to be able to compete with the costs of production in places such as the Philippines and Thailand.

Tuna loins for reprocessing under 1604 (i.e. to be defrosted and inserted into shelf-stable containers such as cans) are met with a NTR tariff of 6 percent when in bags of 6.8kg of less or 1.1¢ per kilogram when packed in bags of a higher volume (see Table 2). The US market for loins may only exist as long as US trade policy continues to protect domestic canners. (For more on the effect of this US tariff policy on the structure of global production).

US GSP

The US GSP provided for duty-free access to developing country beneficiaries for most manufactured items with the exception, among others, of canned tuna where the NTR rate is applied (see Table 2). An extended GSP scheme for 'least-developed' beneficiaries includes canned tuna in oil, in water, tuna loins, canned sardines and fish sticks (USTR 2012).

However, the US GSP was not renewed by the US Congress when it expired on 31 July 2013 (Jones 2014). While supported by the Obama administration, it is not known if Congress will re-extend the GSP scheme. In short, given that the GSP is unilaterally granted, it can also be unilaterally withdrawn.

Other US preference regimes

relation to the EU RoO

Insular Territories: US territories, such as American Samoa and Puerto Rico, receive substantial benefits in the US market. Fish processors in American Samoa do not pay any tariffs on the movement of goods to the US mainland, providing that products do not contain more than 70 percent in value of foreign components. The territory receives several additional benefits, including: an exemption by the United

For example, Papua New Guinea obtained a redefinition of its 'territorial sea' to incorporate the sea surrounding its entire archipelago. To receive this status under UNCLOS (1982) Part IV, Articles 47-50, a country declares the waters sovereign and submits the claim to the Division of Oceans and Law of the Sea at the UN (a collection house for declarations). If there is no dispute, the declaration becomes law. Before Papua New Guinea's application, no other state had made use of archipelagic waters in

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States Bureau of Customs from the Nicholson Act, which prohibits foreign vessels from landing or delivering fish in US ports; varying exemptions on taxes provided by the Federal and American Samoa governments; and the ability to supply US government procurement contracts for public schools, prisons, and the military (Campling and Havice 2007). The territory is, however, subject to federal minimum wage legislation, which is incrementally rising and is expected to meet that of the US mainland by 2027 (GAO 2014; Campling et al 2014a). American Samoa continues to take advantage of these benefits; however, in Puerto Rico the last remaining tuna processing plant was closed in 2012, because it was not commercially competitive.

The Andean Trade Preference Act and Ecuador: Introduced in 1991, the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDA) was designed to support countries transition from relative dependence on the production and trade in coca/cocaine. Made available to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the ATPDA provided duty-free access to the US market for almost all products except for canned tuna (among others). It did however provide duty free access for tuna in pouches compared to an NTR rate of 12.5 percent (Campling et al. 2007: 85-87; USTR 2013). This provided a commercially significant competitive advantage to producers in Ecuador, which emerged as the second largest supplier to the US of tuna in pouches after Thailand (Globefish 2014). The ATPDA expired after 31 July 2013 (USITC 2014: 24). It was dissolved because certain beneficiaries — including Colombia and Peru — signed bilateral FTAs with the US. However, Ecuador is yet to conclude long-standing FTA negotiations with the US. To compensate firms dependent upon the ATPA duty free preference for tuna in pouches, since July 2013 the Ecuadorian government is reportedly paying a direct subsidy to cover the tariff loss on these exports. However, this is scheduled to be phased out in mid-2015 and industry does not expect to be able to compete with tuna in pouches from Thailand when entering the US at the same tariff rate (Havice et al. 2014).

Selected US FTAs

The US currently has 14 FTAs in force (USITC 2014). It is beyond the scope of this paper to detail the tariff treatment of fish products under each of these. Instead, three examples are selected because of their actual or potential relevance as suppliers of the fish products identified earlier as having a potentially commercially significant preference compared to NTR treatment (i.e. primarily processed tuna products). They are FTAs involving: Central America, Colombia, and Korea.

The Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (CAFTA-DR) was signed in 2004. It entered into force for the US, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua during 2006, for the Dominican Republic on 1 March 2007, and for Costa Rica on 1 January 2009 (USITC 2014). CAFTA-DR already provides duty-free or extremely low duty for all processed tuna products entering the US market, subject to RoO. Several of

these countries have a history of producing canned tuna and tuna loins, especially Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala, which together have a combined annual production capacity of 78,000 mt of raw material (Hamilton et al 2011a: 233). They also benefit from duty-free access to the EU under the GSP+ (see above). There are, however, concerns about worker abuses in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Honduras. The labour chapter and other clauses of the FTA are being used by the US in attempts to address these concerns (USITC 2014).

The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA) with the US entered into force on 15 May 2012. Previously, Colombia accessed the US market under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA, see above). Under the ATPDEA and now the CTPA, Colombia has been exporting tuna loins duty free to the US (Hamilton et al. 2011a; Campling et al. 2007a). However, the trade preference is fairly small as the NTR duty is 1.1 cents per kilogram. Exporters based in Colombia will be able to access the US market duty free by 2021, subject to RoO (see below).

The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) entered into force on 15 March 2012. For US tariff peaks on fish products, KORUS has one of the highest starting points of all of the US FTAs considered here. This may have been a defensive measure by the US government in KORUS negotiations to protect the US tuna fishing and processing industry, because Korean firms control a large fleet of tuna purse seiners (over 28 vessels) and long liners (about 150 vessels) and Dongwon Industries — the largest canning firm in Korea — owns the principal US canned tuna brand, Star-Kist. Canned tuna production in Korea is largely for domestic consumption (Hamilton et al. 2011a), but there are some exports to the US. This might be explained by the high tariff currently (in 2014) applied to canned tuna in oil (29 percent) and in water (post-quota: 10.3 percent), as detailed in Table 2. With the phase out of these tariffs by 2021 (see Table 7), it is conceivable that Korea will export to the US; although Korea's relatively high cost structure — especially labour may act as a competitive disadvantage.

US RoO for fish and fish products

Discrete RoO apply under different US preference regimes and FTAs. The following details a selection of these. For some arrangements, the RoO are spelled out in some detail, while for others only specific provisions are highlighted where they are different from the norm.

US RoO under the GSP

There are two steps for manufactured goods in the US RoO for the GSP (USTR 2009):

 The article must be the growth, product, or manufacture of the GSP beneficiary. For fish and fish products, 'origination' is determined by whether the boat is registered or recorded in and flying the flag of the beneficiary country or a member of a regional association or that of the US. It does not matter where the fish is caught — e.g. the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of any country or the high seas.

2. The sum of the cost or value of materials produced in the beneficiary country plus the direct costs of processing must equal at least 35 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time of entry into the US.

Imported materials can be counted toward the 35 percent value-added requirement if they are 'substantially transformed' into new and different constituent materials, which are then used to produce the eligible article (USTR 2009). There are different ways of measuring 'substantial transformation,' including the change in tariff heading method (see below).

US RoO under FTAs

The major difference from the GSP RoO is that under several of the FTAs reviewed here²⁰ only a single substantial transformation is necessary to determine origination, e.g. via a change in tariff classification (CTC). For example, under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the 'change in tariff classification rules' for fish and fish products are as follows:

- Chapter 3. A change to headings 0301 through 0307 from any other chapter.
- Chapter 16. A change to headings 1601 through 1605 from any other chapter. (USITC 2014: 35 and 37)

However, other FTAs appear to mirror the two steps of the GSP RoO, i.e. requiring origination and 35 percent local value added (e.g. the US-Morocco FTA).

TARIFF ESCALATION AND TARIFF PREFERENCES: EFFECTS

GENERAL EFFECTS

A recent systematic review for the UK Department of International Development (DfID) of existing evidence on the role of fisheries in development was inconclusive both on the relationship between international trade and food security and on the contribution of export-oriented fish trade to national and local economic growth (Arthur et al. 2013). While the review did not include any research on tariff escalation and preferences in particular, it is worth repeating a few elements of the findings, because it speaks to the difficulties of doing careful applied research in the area. The review used strict criteria for the inclusion of research.

Nine qualifying studies bar one on international fish trade and food security considered in the DfID review rested largely on secondary data sets and had no clear methodology. The

- Prior to August 2002, tuna in pouches was not separately provided for in the US HTS.
- The same RoO apply under the Compact Agreement with the addition that the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the US may be counted toward the 35 percent value-added requirement, but only to a maximum of 15 percent of the appraised value of the imported article (CBP 2006: 66)
- The review includes summaries of RoO texts in USITC (2014) for Australia, Central America, Chile, Singapore and South Korea. See also CBP (2013) for a basic side-by-side comparison of RoO and related measures under US FTA and preference schemes.

TABLE 7:

Tariff phase out by year when zero is reached for processed tuna products for selected US FTAs

NS = not specified
Source: USITC 2014

Product/ HS Code	Central America	Colombia	Korea
Canned tuna (in oil)/ 1604.14.10	2015	2021	2021
Canned tuna (not in oil)/1604.14.22/ 30	2015	2021	2021
Tuna in foil pouches/ 1604.14.22 ¹⁸	NS	NS	NS
Tuna loins for use under 1604/ 1604.14.40/50	NS	NS	2021

conclusions were relatively inconsistent, reflecting essentially the lack of tangible evidence and the subsequent unsettled debate on this issue. Some authors claim that international fish trade contributes to improving food security of developing countries through fish export revenues, while others claim that international fish exports threaten food security at the local level (Arthur et al. 2013). However, none of the studies demonstrate any correlation between fish export revenues and imports of food or improvements in food security at national or local levels. Such work will remain challenging without more reliable data on national and intra-regional trade in most of the developing world and the inclusion of a wider group of tropical fish species in international trade classification beyond those of commercial significance to the global North (see discussion in Campling et al. 2008).

Much like the pro-liberalizer position outlined previously, studies included in the DfID review that look at the contribution of export-oriented fish trade to national and local economic growth generally assume that exploiting rising demand in export markets is an unproblematic means of wealth generation (Arthur et al. 2013). This work relies largely on international data sets of fish trade flows and fish-related revenue capture rather than evidence of the effects of these revenues on the national economy of the countries or the livelihoods of their populations. Contrary to this assumption, there is limited evidence that income from fish exports is actually redistributed and whether it is having a specific impact on poverty (e.g. Ponte et al. 2007; Arthur et al. 2010).

Outside of the DfID review, other studies at the local level do highlight, however, that the social relations of fisheries investment and trade are an important factor affecting the nature and distribution of benefits from fisheries and aquaculture (e.g. Platteau and Abraham 1987; Bush and Oosterveer 2007; Havice and Reed 2012). Each of these papers draw on local examples to argue that the wealth generated through trade is not necessarily invested back into the fisheries sector or to the regions from which the fish resources are being grown or extracted.

In light of the problems highlighted in the DfID review of making generalized assumptions based on 'global' snap shots, the rest of this section looks at available evidence of the effects of tariff escalation and preferences through concrete cases.

EFFECTS ON PRODUCTION STRUCTURES: THE CASE OF CANNED TUNA

Tariffs and the global geography of canned tuna production

The EU and US tariff regimes play a major role in shaping the structure of global tuna production. Figure 1 provides a snapshot of the international division of labour of canned tuna production. The figure depicts estimated production capacity of factories across the planet in the mid-2000s based on volume of tuna raw material capacity (i.e. whole fish or equivalent in loins of all canning-grade tuna species), but not necessarily actual output. Larger capacity is depicted with black symbols, while symbols for less significant locations of production are white. The square symbols represent primarily 'canning only' locations of production; the triangles represent specialized loining locations; and the circles represent full manufacturing from loining to canning. Canneries in Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific islands tend to focus on the EU market, largely as a direct result of tariff preferences, while those in Southeast Asia supply the US, Japan, and the EU. Canning only locations are all in the global North, and specialized loining takes place only in the South, largely in small developing economies — representing a fragmentation of production, based in large part around tariff policy. It should be emphasized that this aspect of the new international division of labour — the 'logic of loining' — is not solely about the search for cheap labour, but also for ready access to tuna fisheries, more lax labour standards and environmental regulations, and, importantly for this report, access to EU and US trade preferences and US fiscal advantages (for American Samoa). Since doing the research that fed into Figure 1, divestment saw Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago stop producing, the Solomon Islands now produces predominantly loins, and China, PNG, and Vietnam now process annually more than 25,000 mt of raw material and would thus be represented by a black symbol.

EU tariff protection and canned tuna production

Spain is the most important producer of canned tuna within the EU, accounting for 59 percent of production in 1998 and 68 percent in 2007. It is also the world's second largest producer of canned tuna after Thailand, having apparently received a major boost from 1992 onward with the institutionalization of the EU single market (see Figure 2). Given highly competitive conditions in the Spanish market, this indicates the effectiveness of tariff protection combined with the various productivity-enhancing strategies of firms (Campling 2012a). Italy is the second largest producer in the EU (traditionally for domestic consumption) and is in decline, from 24 percent of total EU production in 1998 to 19 percent in 2007. Spain is now the leading supplier to the Italian market. Production in France has remained relatively stable, falling from 12 percent of the EU total in 1998 to 10 percent in 2007.21 Importantly, ready-made tuna salads constituted 70 percent of all domestic production of 'ambient' tuna products in France in 2002 (Catarci 2004: 23).²² This aspect

The fourth location of EU production is Portugal, which had a 6 percent share of the EU total in 1998, falling to 4 percent in 2007.

In the UK, 'ambient' product ('shelf-stable' in the US) refers to traditional canned products, as well as tuna in pouches and other so-called value-added tuna products that can be kept in non-refrigerated conditions for long periods (i.e. on the supermarket shelf).

neatly encapsulates the international division of labour in tuna processing: this product type is considerably more profitable because of the significantly reduced use of the highest cost raw material (the tuna itself), and is the main explanation for the survival of 'ambient' tuna production in France.

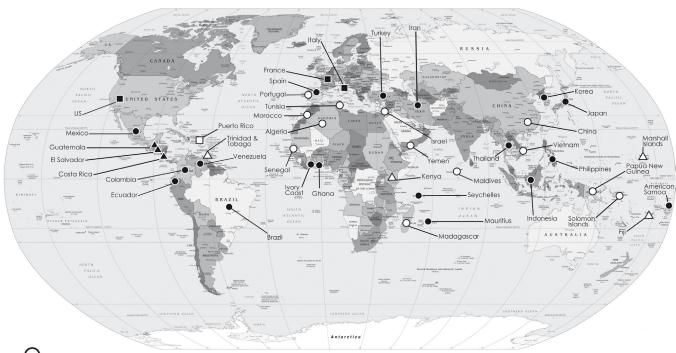
US tariff escalation and the 'logic of loining'

The US had the first and, for a long time, the largest tuna canning industry. It has always been protected by high tariff peaks. As competition emerged first from Japan and later from

FIGURE 1: The geography of world canned tuna production

Source: Campling 2012a

POLITICAL MAP OF THE WORLD, APRIL 2006



= full canning (i.e. from whole fish, may also produce loins for export)

= canning only (or predominantly canning only)

 Δ = loining only (or predominantly loining only)

Black symbols = Annual production over 25,000mt. White symbols = Annual production 5,000-25,000mt. World Map Courlesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.

Sources: Estimates for production for each country are based on Fishstat Plus Database (using average annual production for 2000-2004), FIDI data for export data for 2004, author estimates (China, Venezuela, Vietnam), industry sources (for American Samoa, Brazil, North Africa, the Middle East and Puerto Rico), interviews (for Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands).

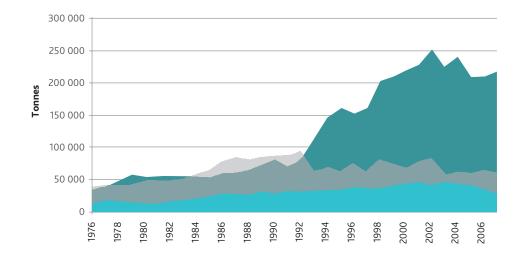


FIGURE 2:

Canned tuna production in Spain, Italy, and France, 1976-2007

Note: EU production excludes Portugal Sources: Campling 2012a (based on FAO Fishstat+ and Globefish 2010)





Thailand, other Southeast Asian Countries and Latin America, the US industry switched production to the US territories of American Samoa and Puerto Rico before making investments in Latin America and Southeast Asia. In 2001, Thailand overtook the US as the largest producer of canned tuna, and soon after Spain pushed the US to third place. It has been in relative decline ever since.

The two canneries in the US mainland use only tuna loins in the production process and do not process any whole round fish. Importing loins not only outsources the labour-intensive process of cleaning fish to lower-cost production sites, unlike the EU where loins are met with a 24 percent MFN tariff, loins can be imported to the US market at low tariff rates (1.1¢ /kg or 6 percent, see Table 2). This means that loins can be sourced from multiple locations without concern about RoO or the need for tariff quotas. As a result, US-based processors can take advantage of diversified supply strategies — a 'global ocean strategy' (Table 8) — that involve a combination of supply contracts, long-term management contracts, and even direct financial investments in processing facilities around the world.

EFFECTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF CANNED TUNA

The following provides a series of snapshots of evidence of the effects of tariff preferences for canned tuna on economic development under three categories: SVEs, preference dependence and domestication, and preference disadvantaged economies. The cases are not uniform, because the available evidence is not. Combined though, these vignettes serve to indicate the great diversity of trade relations and development outcomes from fisheries preference systems.

SVEs and preference dependence

It is widely recognized that SVEs suffer from competitive disadvantages associated with their scale and geographical isolation. The US, and especially, EU tariff preferences have been instrumental in the development and survival of tuna processing facilities in SVEs in the Indian and Pacific oceans. However, despite some similarities, national experiences are highly differentiated.

Countries like Mauritius and Seychelles are success stories in the preference optimist narrative. They specialize in processing EU-caught fish, and both signed an Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) with the EU in 2007 to maintain Lomé/ Cotonou preferences. Mauritius largely produces canned tuna and tuna loins for the EU, but it also exports loins to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) preference scheme (Table 8). In 2007, the Mauritius Seafood Hub probably contributed between 2 percent and 3 percent of GDP and generates about 15,000 direct full time equivalent jobs (Barnes and Campling 2008). The tuna cannery in Seychelles is dependent on preferential access to the EU market, is the largest private sector employer, and accounts for more than 90 percent in value of all goods exports (Campling 2012a). Under the IEPA RoO, both countries are locked into processing EU-caught fish, which can result in supply problems during the down season in the Western Indian Ocean fishery. Although, in their IEPA they negotiated an automatic derogation for canned tuna (8,000 mt) and tuna loins (2,000 mt) that provides some supply flexibility (Campling 2008b). This suggests that negotiating more flexible RoO (or derogations from RoO) is a useful adjustment mechanism for the ACP to deal with falling preference margins. Given the growing impact of FTAs on preferences, more flexible RoO in that context could help smaller producers enter value chains with better access to their old markets.

TABLE 8:Yearly imports of tuna into the US, in 1,000 mt Source: Globefish 2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Thailand	26.8	24.7	20.1	22.1
China	0.0	6.2	11.0	14.3
Fiji	14.9	4.6	10.3	11.6
Colombia	5.0	6.9	13.9	9.5
Mauritius	4.9	8.6	5.8	7.5
Ecuador	0.1	0.9	2.7	0.7
Others	13.1	9.6	2.5	4.1
Total	64.8	61.5	66.3	69.8

In contrast, Fiji and the Solomon Islands both found in the late 1990s that they could no longer compete in EU markets for canned tuna even with the Lomé preference and downgraded to solely processing loins: Fiji to the US market using foreign caught fish, and the Solomon Islands to the EU under the EBA using fish caught by its own fleet, albeit with supply problems due to seasonality and exports loins to the US to keep the factory moving (Campling 2012a; Havice et al. 2014). Both are seen as crucial sources of employment in otherwise isolated regions within these two countries, especially for women (Lambeth et al. 2004; Sullivan and Ram-Bidesi 2008).

In the cases of Fiji and Mauritius, the ongoing supply of loins to the US market (which does not apply a tariff of major significance on tuna loins) suggests that there is a degree of cost competitiveness to labour-intensive processing in these two SVEs (Table 8). However, given that US tariff escalation on canned tuna in effect creates the market for pre-cooked frozen loins, the market for loins will exist only as long as EU, Japan, and US trade policy continues to protect their domestic canning sectors.

A good example of the risks associated with reliance on unilateral preferences like the GSP is Maldives. A major beneficiary of the EBA, duty-free access to the EU market supported two canned tuna factories supplied by a huge local small-scale fleet. However, Maldives graduated from LDC status in 2011 and was removed from the EBA in 2014. Without this preference, its exports appear to be less competitive, as evidenced in a 40 percent drop in exports over the first half of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013. Instead, Maldives is exporting more of its Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)-certified fish to Thailand for export-oriented processing to the EU (Atuna 2014a). According to the logic of the pro-liberalizers, this is the most efficient outcome, as comparative costs are minimized. However, given that tuna processing is a large employer of low-skilled labour and the Maldivian economy is yet to substantially diversify beyond tourism, it is unclear where the next round of jobs will come from. It is plausible that the Maldives will emerge as a supplier of specialized intermediate goods (e.g. whole tuna or loins certified by the MSC) to producers with competitive scale economies in processing, such as Thailand.

Preference dependence and domestication

Larger coastal states have tried to leverage the combination of market access opportunities presented by tariff preferences and access to rich fisheries in their EEZs to encourage local and/or foreign investment in onshore tuna processing.

Ecuador is the world's second largest export-oriented tuna processor and a major example of preference-related fisheries development, much of which is domestically owned (Hamilton et al. 2011a; Globefish 2014). It is dependent on both EU and US trade preferences, particularly the

GSP+, with the EU accounting for about 60 percent of Ecuador's total tuna exports (Atuna 2014b; Tables 2.3 and 2.4 above). Tuna exports to the US are comprised almost entirely of pouches (with an MFN tariff of 12.5 percent, Table 2), which were duty free under the Andean Trade and Development Preferences Act (ATDPA).²³ Ecuador has a large domestic fishing fleet that meets both EU and US RoO. However, Ecuador graduates from GSP+ status in 2015, because its gross income no longer meets the EU's reformed 'vulnerability' criteria. To counter the threat to export competitiveness, Ecuador signed a Free Trade and Development Agreement with the EU in July 2014, which provides preferential access for fisheries products, including tuna and shrimp (McCoy et al. 2014a)²⁴. Similarly, the ATDPA expired at the end of 2012. Pouch exports only remained at prior levels, because the Ecuadorian government provided domestic industry with a temporary subsidy payment (over two years) that offset the cost of the duty (Havice et al. 2014). This subsidy offers another example of how a country adapted to the loss of trade preferences. Whether or not it is an option that is sustainable is an empirical question (e.g. the direct subsidy to maintain employment may or may not be preferable to the provision of social welfare payments), but it certainly suggests a temporary adjustment measure that could be recognized by the multilateral trade system.

Another example of preference-dependent domestic development is the 'Namibianization' policy that attempted to overcome the legacy of racialized ownership from prior South African rule. The Namibian case is concerned mainly with hake and monkfish processed products and canned pilchards, along with small volumes of tuna (FAO 2007). These are predominantly exported duty free to the EU under ACP preferences, a situation that is set to continue with the initialling of an IEPA in July 2014. The policy of localizing ownership of fishing enterprises through discounted resource access fees doubled the employment of Namibeans through the 1990s (Armstrong et al. 2004). It also meant that boats are compliant with EU RoO. However, through a complicated web of preferential shares, proxy ownership and cross ownership, de facto Namibian control over fishing industries remains low, with foreign ownership remaining dominant, consolidated into a handful of large conglomerations (Manning, 2000; Melber 2003).

- 23 Ecuadorian producers also export small quantities to the Latin American market, to which they have duty-free access either through bilaterals or the Andean Community FTA, but they are experiencing competition from Asian producers, especially Thailand, which has duty-free access to the Peruvian market (Havice et al. 2014).
 - Together with Colombia and Peru, Ecuador was originally part of negotiations of the EU-Andean Community Free Trade Agreement, which commenced in 2007. In mid-2009, Ecuador opted to withdraw from negotiations, owing to conflicting concerns related to the agreement itself, as well as a long-running dispute with the EU over banana tariffs. With reforms to the EU's GSP scheme in 2012 resulting in Ecuador graduating from the GSP+ and losing duty-free access from 31 December 2014, Ecuador utilized a provision in the Andean Agreement that enabled it to recommence negotiations (Havice et al. 2014).

In more recent years, others have tried to follow the strategy of fisheries domestification, most prominently PNG. Due to a combination of geographical isolation and other costs of doing business, processed tuna exports from PNG are dependent on duty free access to the EU market. In addition to the EU preference, a major explanation for onshore processing investment in PNG is 'second generation' fisheries access: by committing to onshore investment, foreign firms are allocated considerably more fishing licenses than necessary to supply that plant, offering longterm strategic resource access (Hamilton et al. 2011b). Nonetheless, the tuna industry provided about 1.2 percent of all formal monetary jobs in PNG in 2008 (Gillett 2009), with a disproportionate impact on women — about 3.3 percent of all formally employed women work in onshore tuna processing jobs (Sullivan and Ram-Bidesi 2008) — and together with net purchases in local businesses generates considerable net income to the economy (Hamilton et al. 2011b). A major constraint on deepening this development process was the EU RoO, which meant that there was "insufficient wholly obtained fish to meet on-land demand [given] the very limited fishing capacity of the Pacific states' fishing fleet" (PACP-EU IEPA, Protocol II, Article 6.6(a)). As such, the negotiation of 'global sourcing' RoO²⁵ in the Pacific ACP IEPA provided a necessary component for increased investment in onshore processing capacity, ostensibly to export fish products to the EU. A study commissioned by the European Parliament (2012) estimates that new investment stemming from the reformed RoO will see PNG's local benefits from tuna processing grow from USD 21 million in 2012 to USD 70 million by 2018 and employment increase to 20,000. As noted earlier, reform of RoO could be seen as a very important adjustment measure to help countries retain some competitiveness as preferences fall.

Preference disadvantaged economies

Finally, and very briefly, it is worth highlighting some cases that do not benefit from significant trade preferences. The most prominent case in the canned tuna industry is Thailand, which is the world's largest producer but with only very limited preferential market access. Even if it did benefit from a commercially significant preference,²⁶ Thailand would not be able to benefit, because it imports about 85 percent of its tuna raw material, valued at approximately USD 1 billion; thus, its product would not meet EU RoO (Hamilton et al. 2011a). The country has FTAs only with Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, none of which is among its top three markets for fish products. As a result, depending on market and product type, Thailand pays between 6 percent and 35 percent duty to access its most important markets for canned tuna (Table 2). While it has shown it can clearly compete at these tariff rates, competition will continue to deepen as other countries secure preferential market access. Of particular concern to Thai industry is the Philippines obtaining GSP+ status.27 The Philippines was awarded GSP+ status in December 2014, but critical questions still face its tuna industry, including whether it can address shortcomings identified in national efforts to fight illegal, unreported,

and unregulated (IUU fishing) and comply with GSP+ requirements on labour standards, or whether the domestic fleet can source sufficient volumes of EU RoO-compliant fish (Campling et al. 2014; McCoy 2014b).

A preference disadvantaged case study of quite a different sort is South Korea. Despite being one of the world's largest tuna fishing nations, the domestic processing sector largely focuses on the national market. For example, a 20 percent tariff on canned tuna helps one Korean company (Dongwon) control 70 percent of the domestic market, with the rest absorbed by local competitors (Park and Roh 2006 Hamilton et al. 2011a). The same firm also owns the number one canned tuna brand in the US. This may explain why the US-Korea FTA has particularly strict RoO for canned tuna. Under NAFTA and the US-Australia FTA, a simple change in tariff classification meets origination, but in the US FTA with Korea there is a very specific rule for canned tuna blocking the CTC method.

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Most studies that deal with the environmental effects of trade liberalization on fish stocks are focused on fisheries access regimes, especially those of the EU in Africa (e.g. Alder and Sumaila 2004; Kaczynski and Fluharty 2002; Mbithi Mwikya 2006; UNEP 2002b, 2006; Walmsley et al. 2007; Acheampong 1997; European Parliament 2001; Kaczynski and Fluharty 2002; Lankester et al. 2001; Tarte 2002; ACP 2003; Bartels et al. 2007; Earle 2006; Gorez and O'Riordan 2003; Campling et al. 2012). There is very little evidence that identifies a direct effect (positive or negative) of tariff policy on a fish stock or stocks. The impact of liberalization on fish stocks, at least in theory according to the OECD, should depend on the supply response (harvest, processing capacity) to a change in price (tariff reduction). This depends on a whole range of factors, including the state of the affected stocks and how well they are managed. But, there is very little evidence of whether or how the theory applies in reality, and given the heterogeneity of fisheries and country situations the impacts will be very different in different places.

Logically, in the cases of tuna fisheries across the planet, it is extremely unlikely that tariff escalation or preferences have been a principal causal mechanism contributing negatively to the sustainability of the fish populations. This is because in each case the fish species is valuable regardless of the tariff regime and a competing player would replace the incumbent should the tariffs be liberalized.

- This rule permits Pacific African Caribbean Pacific (PACP) signatories to the Interim EPA to source fish from any vessel regardless of flag or where caught, provided it has been 'substantially transformed' by a PACP-based processing facility. In technical RoO terms, this is a CTS method.
- 26 It does qualify for a 3.5 percent advantage over the EU MFN rate under the 'standard' GSP (Table 1)
- Pers. Communication, Thai Industry Representative, 22 May 2014.

An official of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated at an OECD workshop that "Tariff escalation may generally lead to more pressure on the stocks to maintain revenue rather than the other way around" (Genee 2006: 182). There is some evidence that dependence on fish exports is correlated with the over-exploitation of stocks (Roheim 2004), but factors other than tariffs are at play too. As Heydon of the OECD points out "fishers catch what nature and fisheries managers allow" (2006: 119).

It is widely acknowledged that dependence on fish exports for foreign exchange, local employment, and government revenue has accompanied the over-exploitation of fish populations (e.g. Roheim 2004). But, this is not the same as saying that liberalization of import tariffs per se caused over-exploitation. As we have seen, markets may be highly protected (e.g. the EU and US markets for canned tuna) but low cost production is still able to penetrate them despite tariff peaks (e.g. Thailand). Thus, the problem is not necessarily liberalization but a concert of factors, including the state of the affected stocks, fisheries management, domestic development policy, firm strategies, etc.

There is some evidence that tuna production networks produce environmental pollution, with negative implications for coastal fisheries and local food security. This includes reports in Pacific island countries of incidents of inadequate waste water treatment, e.g. where plants ran out of chemicals or faulty plumbing resulted in waste washed ashore (Barclay 2010; Havice and Reed 2012). There has been considerable study of the environmental effects of canned tuna production in PNG in particular, largely owing to Spanish industry complaints about 'global sourcing' RoO in the Pacific ACP IEPA. But, even in these highly detailed single case study analyses, it proved difficult to demonstrate a direct correlation between trade policy and negative resource impacts per se (Hamilton et al. 2011b; European Parliament 2012). While there may be problems with fisheries management in general, global sourcing may have reduced pressure on sensitive areas. Previously, PNG obtained a redefinition of its 'territorial sea' to incorporate the sea surrounding its entire archipelago to meet prior EU RoO. In principle, global sourcing RoO removed pressure from these waters, although this is complicated by PNG having an exemption from the regional licensing system — the Vessel Day Scheme — for boats in these waters.

CONCLUSION

Most commercial capture fisheries species are at or beyond their sustainable limits. Using the case of canned tuna, this report argued that tariff regimes are about capturing a relative share of the already fragile pie by influencing the location of production by raising or reducing costs vis-à-vis competitors, they are not about expanding the pie to new

limits. This report has argued that the impact of preferences cannot be understood without taking into account the particular characteristics of the beneficiary country. Environmental change; local state policy (e.g. concerning resource access); distant water fleets; multinational firms and other investors; organized labour; civil society and NGOs; and donors can all play a role in shaping the development possibilities associated with commercially viable trade preferences. This makes general recommendations difficult. One thing is clear: there is a need for sensitivity to complexity and contingency in understanding the dynamics of change. As the OECD (2006: 53) points out:

The development of fisheries, including management and trade aspects (policies, institutions and processes), should be conceptualised as a process which can change (positive/ negative) over time and can be influenced by a range of factors (endogenous/ exogenous), leading to different outcomes.

This certainly suggests that one-size-fits-all policy prescriptions based on simplistic assumptions about the functioning of the world economy will not alone suffice as a policy framework. At a minimum, there needs to be more attention to careful differentiation among countries' interests, recognizing that "trade and development policy may not be coherent for all developing countries concerned" (OECD 2006a: 52).

Arguments both for and against the liberalization of fish tariffs are all too often ideologically driven generalizations and need to be tested against objective evidence to help devise appropriate policy responses or amend existing policies to achieve the overall social objectives in this area. In this context, previously cited perspectives which qualify the benefits of fish liberalization are significant. Ideology aside, the real point here is that new trade arrangements are changing the competitiveness of preference recipients. As this report has shown, tariff preferences and escalation have had an important impact on tuna production and processing activities, shaping the international division of labour. The question is what can be done to counter or ease the adjustment if preference-dependent production becomes non-competitive. Preference erosion is an especially sensitive concern for SVEs, where few alternatives for large-scale private sector employment exist beyond fish processing.

A major change in the late 2000s was the move of the ACP from the non-reciprocal preferences of Lomé/ Cotonou to a network of regional trade agreements (RTAs) in the form of reciprocal EPAs. (A handful of ACP economies categorized as LDCs benefit from the EU's preferential EBA scheme, most notably the Solomon Islands.) By 2015, non-LDC fish exports from the ACP to the EU no longer utilized non-reciprocal preferences, but they did continue to depend on duty-free market access under EPAs to compete with lower-cost producers, especially in Thailand, which continues to be hit with a 21.5 percent to 24 percent tariff. This was evidenced by EU buyers scrambling for canned tuna from

Thailand at 12 percent duty under the 'Cotonou compromise quota,' suggesting that the ACP canned tuna industry could not compete on price if Thailand negotiated a reduced tariff under a RTA with the EU. It is not yet known whether the Philippines's graduation to the GSP+ will divert trade from the ACP and other GSP+ countries, but it is certainly a prospect. In any event, it is clear that significant tariff liberalization by the EU would make canned tuna exports from the ACP and GSP+ non-competitive vis-à-vis relatively lower-cost production in Southeast Asia.

A number of trade-related measures to adapt to this changing environment were suggested in this report. Five are re-iterated here with the earlier caveat in mind on the problem of generalized recommendations in the face of complexity and contingency. The first recommendation extends from this caveat: blanket, one-size fits-all policymaking will not work, especially for fisheries trade. Disaggregation and context are necessary for evidence-based policymaking to take account of species- and country-specific dynamics. Second, there should be no confusion about the positive linkages between good fisheries management and environmental effects. Therefore, given the current lack of evidence on the effects of trade liberalization on fisheries, a first principle in thinking through fisheries trade policy must be the precautionary approach. Third, as the competitive advantage offered by tariff preferences falls in major markets with the growing network of RTAs, public and private standards are likely to become the main market access constraint for fish products from preference-dependent countries. Financial, technical, and institutional support from home governments; donors; and (where appropriate) lead firms, such as big brands and retailers is necessary to spread the costs required to comply with standards, especially for smaller producers. Fourth, evidence from PNG suggests that negotiating more flexible RoO (or derogations from RoO) under preference schemes and RTAs is a useful adjustment mechanism for preference-dependent producers to deal with falling preference margins. Given the growing impact of RTAs on preferences, more flexible RoO could help bolster smaller producers in global value chains. However, given that the distributional impacts of RoO benefit fishing interests from preference-allocating states (e.g. the EU), there will be considerable opposition to greater flexibility. Finally, the experience of Ecuador's loss of preferential access to the US market with the expiration of the ATDPA shows that unilateral allocations cannot be relied upon. It also shows how one state responded to preference erosion: the public provision of temporary subsidies to the private sector to offset the cost of the US import duty. Adjustment measures such as this could be recognized by the multilateral trade system as legitimate responses to preference erosion.

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