

LE TEMPS

ECONOMY: American offensive counters the assistances with fishing

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OMC. Japan, the EU and China grant close to 12.milliards of dollars of subsidies.

The United States launched this week an offensive against the subsidies to the fishing industry to the world Organization of trade (OMC). It aims mainly Japan, which grants approximately 5,3.milliards dollars per annum of assistance to its fishing industry, the European Union (3,3.milliards) and China (3,1.milliards).

In his proposal made before the Committee of the negotiations on the rules and the disciplines, the ambassador of the United States, Peter Allgeier, asked for a prohibition of the subsidies, more particularly the part which contributes to increase the number of fishing vessels. According to him, there is urgency since surpêche threatens nearly 75% of the species of fish.

The American proposal has the support of various environmental organizations, of which the WWF and the American organization Oceania. According to them, the world fleet of fishing is 2,5 times higher than what the oceans can durably support. Surpêche threatens also 38.millions them of direct and indirect employment related to the fishing industry.

Japan and the EU make face common to OMC against the American proposal. Europe requires to discuss the subsidies authorized before considering prohibitions. Brussels is however not insensitive with surpêche. Nearly 400 experts are leaning this week on the "green Book of the future European policy of fishing". "We must consider the sea from point of view not only economic, but such an ecological", declared the chancelière German, Angela Merkel, with the opening of the conference.