



## WORKGROUP ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FINAL DOCUMENT

Ancona, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### *Foreword*

The work of the workgroup on fisheries, coordinated by Aleksandar Joksimovi (representing the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor, Montenegro) was marked by the exchange of experiences of the various participating countries and by their desire to collaborate together with the aim of finding common strategies to enable the development of the sector on both shores.

This year the workgroup on fisheries tackled the subject of “Sustainable fishing and the reduction of energy consumption in the new light of Community, national and regional law” faced with problems which besiege the sector such as: the high cost of fuel, the rationalisation of fishing boat fleets, the reduction of biological resources and the increase in costs of fish resources.

It is therefore considered appropriate to face up to possible solutions and technological innovations which could be useful in reducing consumption and improving the energy efficiency in professional fishing.

Financial opportunities offered by Community regulations were presented in support of the subject. These included the regulation of the EFF (European Fisheries Fund) structural funds and Reg. 744/08, issued as an emergency response to the expensive diesel. The EFF structural funds have as their main objective, the sustainable development of the common fisheries policy in the field of conservation, management and exploitation of resources in the context of sustainable development, taking a balanced view of environmental, economic and social aspects.

The workgroup on fisheries also planned a guided tour in the afternoon of the main structures of the Ancona fisheries chain such as:

CNR-ISMAR – Institute of Marine Science  
CO.PE.MO. – Cooperative for fishing and shellfish farming  
MER.IT.AN – Ancona fish market  
Fish Consortium – Market for bluefish

### *Strategic guidelines*

Numerous scientific, biological and social contributions were made, which were the result of the experience and professionalism of participants. Like every year, the meeting was opened with a speech by the Workgroup president who explained the conclusions from the 34th sitting of the *General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean* (GFCM, April, 2010) held in Athens. Participating in the convention were the delegates from the major fishing institutions in the Mediterranean who presented research activities and the problems linked to the sector. The most worrying information that emerged is the drastic reduction of 23 stocks of fish, which are typical of the Mediterranean. This will probably result in the future extinction of such species. The need was therefore emphasised to: reduce fishing boat fleets, create a common database to allow a detailed study of the problems of each area of the Mediterranean and create *ad hoc* funds to enable the maintenance and support of the fishing sector.

Following this, the representative of the Mediterranean Consortium spoke. He presented possible integrated ways of implementing sustainable fishing policies, emphasising the characteristics which distinguish sustainable fishing, such as:

- the use of selective equipment to reduce to the minimum the catch of under-sized fish;
- the number of fish taken must not exceed the reproductive capacity of the fish stock;
- the minimisation of the accidental catch of reptiles, birds and marine mammals, as well as all protected species;
- the minimisation of the potential negative impact of fishing on the environment, both directly and indirectly;
- the preservation of the catch so as to ensure the highest quality of the product;
- the guaranteeing of safe conditions for operators and the avoidance of conflicts between jobs.

Such conditions can be satisfied through:

- the daily collection of data on the state of resources;
- the fight against illegal fishing;
- the identification of the most efficient technological measures;



- the evaluation of the economic opportunities and social effects of the measures;
- the sharing of the choices with representatives and trade operators.

The methods available for achieving such objectives are the Management Plans, together with technical and financial measures aimed at maintaining sustainable fish production both for the environment and for the operators, through:

- restricting fishing;
- limiting the number of fish caught;
- adopting restrictive technical methods (nets, sizes, power, etc.);
- introducing financial compensation;
- carrying out pilot projects.

Currently the financial means to support fisheries for the countries in the European Community is the European Fisheries Fund, EFF. This makes provision for a series of measures for specific interventions on behalf of the sector which consist of various types of Management Plans.

The sustainability of fisheries also requires alternative technological measures for activities of fishing and navigation. Two representatives from the Ancona Institute of Marine Science, CNR-ISMAR, addressed this issue. They showed the results obtained from a project financed by the EFF, which provides for energy saving in fishing boats through a boat propulsion system. It emerged from the project that there are numerous advantages to be gained from the adoption of a hybrid Diesel-Electrical system, such as:

- greater efficiency in the production of energy in conditions of minimum specific consumption for each operating phase;
- the supply of electrical energy also for other electrical uses on board, in the main propulsion system;
- the possibility of removing the axle line and possibly the reducer, since the movement produced by the electrical engine coupled with the screw is rotary and can be inverted, with the advantage of obtaining greater freedom from the point of view of the layout of the elements which comprise the system;
- greater reliability in the propulsion system since it can work, on reduced power, even with one damaged engine unit.

The project has therefore shown that the implementation of such a system allows, in trawling, an energy saving assessed as an energy efficiency index equal to 0.2kg of fish per litre of fuel per hour. There are currently two boats of the Ancona fleet which take advantage of such a system of alternative fuel supply. Such a project was submitted to the international "E-fishing" convention held last week in Vigo (Spain), which was devoted to the implementation of energy efficiency for fishing vessels.

Further technical and scientific proof was given by two professors from the Naval Engineering and Marine Technology Department of Genoa University who gave some examples of technologies to reduce the fuel used by pleasure boats and vessels. The study showed that through a different morphology of the hull, the use of alternative varnishes, the optimisation of the propulsion system, the control system and different types of fuel, excellent results have been obtained in terms of energy saving. They also gave examples of two experimental studies which made provision for the same devices for fishing boats. The study has shown that there is potential for energy saving subject to a reasonable economic investment.

Then data relating to the trend of local fisheries from 2008 to 2009 was provided by a representative from the Ancona fish market. In 2009 the local fishing fleet supplied 1,357 tons of fish products, 9.6% less than in 2008 and 14.2% less than in 2007. The amount invoiced was € 8,730,942, showing an 8.5% reduction compared with 2008 and 12.4% compared with 2007.

The quantity in the various months was always lower than in 2008, with an average of - 20% with the exception of the months following the pause in organic fishing (+ 25% in September and + 14% in October).

The analysis has also shown the significant problem of the great reduction in fish stocks for some species, such as, for example, cuttlefish whose availability has reduced by 72%, prawns by 56% and bluefish, on average by 25%. Such data therefore shows the need to ban fishing for longer in order to allow the repopulation of the seas.

Even the fishing trade associations have intervened to confirm the greatest problems which affect the sector, which have already been raised previously, and they have suggested some measures of intervention:

- the study of alternative solutions which can be implemented to reduce boat costs;
- a reduction in unloading places;
- the establishment of an inter-regional fund on behalf of the Ministry and the Regions to support maritime districts and therefore enable suitable innovations to be made on the boats.

A representative of the Marche Region, welcoming the requests and observations that emerged, spoke to demonstrate the characteristics of the above-mentioned instrument of self-regulation provided for by the European Community, such as the implementation of the Management Plans of EFF, which need:

- the aggregation of maritime districts for fishing technologies;



- the aggregation of fish farmers;
- modernisation of production processes, infrastructure and logistics;
- the use of collective brands;
- the definition of a control model;
- vocational training, communication and the spreading of information.

### ***Conclusions (concerted actions)***

The workgroup on fisheries concluded by showing the need to provide new measures:

- Adoption of sustainable criteria for fishing technologies;
- submission of new ideas to Europe about new protection measures for the fishing sector in biological, economic and social terms;
- better coordination with the political forces of other countries;
- identification of common regulations and strategies for the two shores of the Adriatic with a permanent system for integrated cross-border management through encouraging an exchange of knowledge and increase in awareness between operators and to invest in biodiversity;
- creation of a cross-border Governance consistent with the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy and respect of local features.