



## WORKGROUP ON FISHING AND ENVIRONMENT FINAL DOCUMENT

Brindisi, 7th June 2012

### Introduction

The Workgroup on fishing and environment dealt with the issue: "Responsible fishing and respect for the environment: responsible choices for a sustainable Adriatic Macro-Region".

Workgroup activities were introduced by the updates on the new reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP) for 2014-2020. The EU fishing policy had been in need of reform given that the fishing boats were capturing larger quantities of fish than those that can be reconstituted in safe conditions through reproduction, eliminating individual fishing stocks and jeopardising the marine ecosystem.

The main measures envisaged concern the following points:

- prohibition of rejection;
- maximum sustainable yield;
- regionalisation;
- social dimension;
- transferrable fishing permits;

The reform proposals will be discussed in 2012 by the European Parliament and Council. The new CFP will come into force in 2013.

### Workgroup discussion and proposals

The Workgroup has made the following proposals:

- considering the significant increase in alien species in the Mediterranean Sea and, more specifically, in the Adriatic Sea, which alter the autochthonous species and the existing biodiversity, close collaboration is proposed with the research institutes and fishing operators in order to identify the above species and therefore carry out the studies necessary to protect the fish populations as far as possible. This intervention would consist not only of the protection of the species but also of a better quality and quantity of fishing. The proposal translates into the definition of a brochure identifying said fish species in order to enable their recognition by fishing operators;
- more effective monitoring of fish reproduction areas (nurseries) in order to promote their protection through protected marine areas;
- considering the numerous ideas and proposals emerging within the framework of the Workgroup on fishing/environment, workgroups will need to be created comprising fishing representatives in all Regions facing onto the Adriatic Ionian Sea. These groups will enable a direct comparison of notes by fishing operators (fishermen, entrepreneurs, researchers, etc.) for the definition of shared strategies in order to encourage forms of co-management for sustainable fishing. This proposal should be placed in the context of an intervention financed by the European Community. The Workgroup agrees that the interventions identified by said Workgroups should find an effective balance of the actual needs of the fishing operators under the scope of their territories in respect of their social-economic characteristics and the directives imposed by the European Union;
- the new measures identified by the new Common Fisheries Policy are currently giving rise to some perplexity amongst various sector operators, hence it is suggested that these be granted a more active role through the creation of Management Bodies in the Adriatic, which may represent their claims before the European Community when defining forthcoming strategic guidelines;



- along the lines of the Leipzig Charter and the Covenant of Mayors for sustainable cities in Europe, criteria and rules in the Charter should be adopted that help reach an agreement between institutions, chambers of commerce, trade unions and professional associations of the Adriatic and the Ionian, which, in the name of sustainability, combine quality fishing, tourism and the optimisation of the Mediterranean diet, and extending and implementing the experience of the short chain on a territorial level, which is developed in protected areas of the Adriatic;
- the fishing business profitability is bound to the reduction of management costs, mainly affected by the high fuel consumption incurred by these businesses. Reduction of fuel consumption is therefore the key factor for the sustainability of fishing. A methodological approach is therefore necessary enabling the rapid, effective identification of interventions aimed at reducing fuel consumption. Research in this field has already started up a great many experiments and applications under the scope of technological innovation aimed at reducing fuel consumption (e.g. CNR - ISMAR Ancona). It is suggested that these techniques be developed and disseminated amongst fishermen;
- under the scope of the Workgroup, the request has emerged from the Pescara Chamber of Commerce to all participants to collaborate as part of a post-graduate masters course on the economy of the sea, promoted by the Chamber of Commerce in order to give the masters course an international flavour;
- in view of the positive experience born of the collaboration of the Chamber of Commerce and the city of Rijeka, the need was stressed for a greater exchange of ideas between the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns and the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area in order to encourage an exchange of information and the identification of shared activities;
- finally, the proposal is submitted to create a document containing the main strategic lines identified by the Workgroup for the environment from the first editions until today. This document is a useful tool in terms of showing the activities of the environment Workgroup within the framework of exchanging views and opinions with the European Union.