



## WORKGROUP ON FISHING AND ENVIRONMENT FINAL DOCUMENT

Budva (Montenegro), 12th May 2011

### *Introduction*

This year, the Workgroups on fishing and environment were grouped together in one session in order to tackle the topic of "Integrated Maritime Policy" - established in 2007 – by using an integrated approach. This policy supports the idea that it is possible to accommodate an increase in maritime economic activity with an eye to protecting the environment as well as establishing a mutual relationship between the two provided that adequate governance and appropriate transversal mechanisms are put in place.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, the European Commission submitted a proposal to renew the financial support to the Integrated Maritime Policy. The objective of this proposal is to enable the Commission, the country members and all those parties operating in the maritime sector to continue to operate in favour of the use of sustainable seas, oceans and coasts. The integrated maritime policy promotes an integrated approach to the management and governance of oceans, seas and coasts and the coordination of all UE policies regarding the sea. The vote in the plenary session is scheduled for June 2011.

The Adriatic sea represents a great example of a maritime region where human activity could benefit even more from the sea at a lower environmental impact. However, in this region there are coastal states with different level of economic development and administrative capability and not all of them belong to the EU.

The integrated maritime policy regards mainly the country members but is currently starting to deal with other Mediterranean countries in order to discuss shared maritime policies.

This said, the Workgroup on fishing/environment started thinking over an "integrated approach for a maritime governance in the Adriatic" by developing in the morning the topic of "management plans for fishing in the Adriatic: projects and proposals", whilst in the afternoon the "sustainability of water and other resources: the waste issue" was discussed.

### *Discussions and proposals*

- The representative of the European Commission for the Sea General Management presented the guidelines adopted in terms of integrated maritime policy by stressing the importance of integrating the economic activity plans related to the sea. To this end, the fishing sector is strategic as it is affected and affects the marine environment and all its activities. Therefore, the financial instrument promoted by the European Commission, such as the EFF (European Fisheries Fund), is meant to support the activities related to fishing and all those that can enable sustainable management of the marine environment. Among these there is the EFF for the management of recovery of waste in marine environment by the fishermen.

Those who took part in the Workgroup made the following comments and proposals:

- The state of the fish resources in the Adriatic and Ionian seas requires the establishment of pressing and more efficient means of managing fishing aimed at promoting sustainable exploitation of the resources in the long term. In fact, intensive exploitation has led to negative trends with regard to renewable resources causing a decrease of the biomass, community changes and negative variation of the structure of the demographic population: smaller length and an increase of sampling in juvenile population. Negative trends were observed also for the renewal of those species that are economically more relevant among renewable resources. Therefore, we must:
  - jointly adopt means of protection in all Adriatic and Ionian countries;
  - decrease fishing activities;
  - create protected areas where the population can reproduce;
  - support the ADRIAMED initiative for the establishment of a Pomo pit as a protected area for repopulation;
  - within the Forum, support scientific cooperation among those institutions that deal with marine research in order to establish a program of permanent monitoring of the resources.



- Creating and implementing a new sea resource management model, a cross-border management plan to be developed as part of CGPM/GFCM or as a EU measure and Coastal Third Countries that starting from the best experiences already had, led the integrated management of the marine ecosystem – i.e. a joint governance of the Adriatic. Therefore, the following specific objectives are proposed:
  - Set-up of shared monitoring instruments of the marine resources;
  - Mitigation of the pressure on the environment applied by fishing as part of the PCP guidelines and according to the CGPM rules that are based on sharing and cooperation of all operators through a bottom up approach;
  - Promotion of the circulation of products with high added value in terms of quality and sustainable productive procedures in order to put in the market a “Adriatic quality brand” certified Adriatic product;
  - Enhance the operators’ awareness in the Adriatic fishing sector by trying to involve the operators in actions and proposals through a participative approach;
  - Realise an Adriatic pilot project that relies on Adriatic IPA resources and comply with the EU exclusive competency, and contribute to make a PCP model of application in a homogeneous cross-border area such as the Adriatic where a reduction in the fishing effort through more responsible and targeted sampling and the promotion of socially and economically sustainable alternative activities are matched by a significant improvement in the eco system.
- Creation of a task force as part of the Workgroup on fishing and environment in charge of monitoring the impact of municipal waste on the marine environment and suggesting efficient measures to remove the main sources of pollution. It is necessary to make people more sensitive towards protecting the environment through targeted training and a communication campaign to raise awareness about it.
- Submit a request to the European Commission for the creation of an action plan that can guarantee the funding required to intervene in the event of extraordinary municipal waste. This funding should be easy to access without having to go through a complicated bid procedure so that the problem can be resolved promptly without repercussions for tourism, public health, maritime transport and pollution of the bottom of the sea. In countries touched by the Adriatic and Ionian sea, to introduce a municipal waste management system and application of measures aimed at raising awareness of the topic of differentiated waste collection aimed at protecting the marine environment. All authorities, schools, institutions and other representative of the civic society should get involved.
- Support a joint project that should establish a system of management and control of common ballast water and shared by all Adriatic countries by also assessing the possibility of proposing the same thing as part of the IPA Adriatic CBC;
- Supporting the request at IMO (International Maritime Organization) for the declaration of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA);
- Encouraging the Adriatic-Ionian countries to ratify the protocol on an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) of the Barcelona convention (enforced from 24th March 2011) in order to facilitate cross-border cooperation for a sustainable coastal management of the Adriatic and Ionian area. Such a protocol – the first in the world of its kind – provides a legal framework that enables the cross-border integrated management of coastal ecosystems.

## Conclusions

The Workgroup accepted all the submitted proposals and appreciated the merging of the two Workgroups on fishing and environment for the support of the approach promoted by the EU Maritime Policy.

Furthermore, the representative of the General Sea Management of the European Commission underlined the fact that the possibility of creating a cross-border management Plan for the Adriatic Area is not compatible with the EU exclusive competency as per Art. 3 of the treaty on the EU work and as per what has been established by the Mediterranean Regulation N. 1967/2006. At the same time, the proposal of adopting Local Management Plans is in line with what is envisaged by the European Fisheries Fund (Reg.1198/2006, art. 37.m).