



WORKGROUP ON FISHING AND FISH-FARMING

FINAL DOCUMENT

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Introduction

On this 7th edition of the Forum, the Fishing and Fish-farming Workgroup has decided to set out common strategies to adapt an integrated policy for the sustainable management of fishing and fish-farming activities bound to the Adriatic Sea, therein aligning them to those indicated on the European Union Green Paper.

As the fight against the reduction of fishing resources, climatic changes and the erosion of the coasts are global issues, the innovations and the solutions that Europe shall develop can also be used in all the regions that overlook the Adriatic Sea. Therefore, on the occasion of this workgroup it was deemed necessary to realize common issues of the Adriatic Regions with new project planning ideas and making good use of the indications and the discussion ideas offered by the Green Paper.

The initiative was supported by a "DG Fish" member, who is part of a Task Force dedicated to making of the Green Paper, which has gathered the proposals and the issues that emerged during the meeting with the commitment to analyse it so that it can be presented to the European Parliament.

The following fishing experts participated in this discussion: universities, research institutions, fishing associations, Public Bodies (from the region, province and municipalities) and representatives from Albany, Montenegro and Croatia.

After a brief presentation of the activity made by each Institution, the respective foreign representatives raised some issues among the following:

- the professional training in the fishing sector therein also introducing concepts concerning the quality, the healthiness of the fishing products and of the work settings either on board or on ground structures;
- making fish markets in the PAO countries;
- the use of new fishing technologies;
- the responsible management of fish resources;
- the protection of the coastal strip;
- the reduction of the anthropogeography effect for the protection of fishing resources;
- precaution during the management of alternative ways of fishing and fish-farming that may entail secondary eutrophication sources;
- the common and effective monitoring of fishing resources in the Adriatic Sea;
- fishing companies economic difficulties due to the reduction in fish catches;
- Outdated fishing fleets in some PAO countries.



There has been reveal a particular common need of a more profitable and efficient exchange of fishing methods and of the *know how* linked to the rational management of fishing resources and therefore the require reduction of the fishing effort.

Moreover, PAO countries have raised the problem concerning fishing fleets that to this day are unfitted in terms of the ratio between the excessive fishing capacity and unstable fishing resource condition by a bearable and efficient collection.

An additional discussion point concerned the need for a tighter cooperation and communication between public authorities and the operations of the fishing industry. This need is mainly seen on the Marches region, whereas regions like Montenegro have developed their fishing industry over the last years thanks to incisive interventions made by the Government.

The representatives of the Region and of other public Italian Institutions have revealed their own interest and enthusiasm to proceed in such way by promoting future initiatives aimed at the sustainable management of fishing. It was also recommended for PAO Countries to use the cooperation of public Institutions, along with research institutions and universities for future collaborations therein supported by the same Countries and with the use of E.U. funds.

The Croatian representative pointed out the need to involve the operators of the fishing industry and their organizations so that to define a sector policy and so that to set up an Environmental Protection Area on the Croatian coasts starting from January 1st 2008. This last point is a cause for discussion between the operators of the Italian fishing industry and of the Slovenian fishing industry and their respective Ministries.

During the discussion, a need was reveal for the establishment of an Environmental Protected Area to be discussed further by the categories that were directly involved on the neighbouring Countries and opposite Countries, and even by the European Commission as responsible of international fishing agreements among EU countries and Outsider Countries.

The workgroup participants consider essential to initiate meetings so that to find cooperation ways among the institutions and the operators of the fishing sector of the involved areas; they request for the Chamber of Commerce Forum to intervene with the public and EC institutions so that to define common strategies that can be adopted to confront issues that are of significant interest from a political, environmental and economic point of view, as well as to actively involve the fishermen and their different type of associations.

The participants have proposed alternative actions with gradual measures that can be strictly stressed over time and that are aimed at rationalizing the fishing effort by keeping the economical, social and environmental balance unchanged on the Adriatic basin. Such actions would consist in the following: alternating fishing areas, reducing fishing week hours, making biological resting periods, require the use of specific nets and equipments indicated by the research for the different types of marine areas and by seasons, etc.



The Albanian representative highlighted the issue concerning outdated fishing ships that have very high operation costs, despite of the fact that the Government has recently lifted the tax on gas oil for fishing.

Proposals

The fishing workgroup proposes to strengthen the actions and the initiatives for establishing wholesale fish markets on the Countries located on the eastern Adriatic coast, wherein these markets can be networked with those Italian markets and can therefore operate on European trading structures.

Furthermore, it is also consider appropriate to organize various professional training with the following themes:

- food safety of the fish catch by means of making instruments and services that can guaranty the free trade of fish and molluscs among the Adriatic Countries;
- the use of new and rational fishing techniques and the responsible management of fish resources.
- monitoring techniques by means of gathering and working out data so that to obtain distribution maps of fish resources of the Adriatic Sea, therein commonly used by all the countries that overlook the Adriatic Sea.

Moreover, it also emerge the common need for creating a project monitoring centre, together with the international institution of the FAO, wherein public and private organizations make for fishing in the Adriatic sea in order to use the gained experience, thus making useful synergy that further allows for the optimization of available financial resources.

Another proposal raised by the workgroup had to do with the need for organizing a meeting among European Community representatives and representatives from PAO countries, Slovenia and RAI for the fishing sector so that to discuss Fishing aspects in the Adriatic Sea.

The Chambers of Commerce Forum volunteers itself as interlocutor for the local and domestic authorities, and commits itself to search for funding for all the proposed initiatives by means of using regional, national and European laws.

Conclusions

As a conclusion there is a common need to confront and to rationalize mutual experiences into a common programming strategy and therefore an action strategy to face up with the issues that have been raised.

At last, the Fishing Workgroup acknowledges the need to set up initiatives to set and to adapt fishing and fish-farming activities to the new EU standards of the sector.



The identified concerned areas and objectives are:

Intervention Area:	Objectives:
Wholesale Fish Markets	To transfer the Know-How so that make and manage wholesale fish markets and so that to facilitate the trading of fish and fish-farming products with Italian fish markets, therefore creating an Adriatic trade network for fishing.
Food Safety	food safety workshop trainings concerning fish catches, by means of making tools and services that can guaranty free trade of fish and mollusks among Adriatic Countries.
Fishing techniques	Workshop trainings concerning the use of new and rational fishing techniques and concerning the responsible management of fish resources.
Monitoring methods	Studies concerning new monitoring methods aimed at obtaining distribution maps of fish resources in the Adriatic sea that are of common use for all the countries that overlook the Adriatic sea.
Project Monitoring Centre	Making a monitoring centre for current and future projects concerning fishing.
Fishing Relations in the Adriatic Sea	A workshop concerning the fishing relations in the Adriatic sea between fishing representatives of PAO countries, Slovenia, RAI and the European Community.
Locating funding	Monitoring activities so that to locate fundings to support the initiatives proposed.