



Formed in 1962 under the name of **ANCPA (Italian Association of Fishing and Fishing-related Cooperatives)** **Lega Pesca** is the trade association for fishing cooperatives within the **LEGACOOP, the Italian Association of Cooperative and Friendly Societies**, Italy's oldest cooperative association and now its largest, with over 13,000 associates, 385,000 employees and 6.5 million members. Its annual turnover is approximately €45 bln. As such, the Lega Pesca is part of the "parent" association's collective organs and benefits from the wide range of facilities, services and assistance provided by Legacoop (**UNIPOL, COOPFOND, FINCOOPER, INFORCOOP, COOPTECNICAL**).

The Lega Pesca assumed its current name in 1995 in order to promote mutual assistance and cooperative enterprise as tools to support modernisation and sustainable development in the fishing industry. In a complex and extremely dynamic scenario, the Association attempts to overcome the economic marginalisation which the industry has experienced over recent decades, by promoting its full integration into the food production system and its effective positioning within the framework of environmental protection policies.

The Association's development policies are focused on innovative, environmentally friendly operations, responsible fishing, the promotion of sea and fish farming, fishing, fishing and sea tourism and negotiated planning, in line with the processes of globalisation, market liberalisation, concentration of distribution systems, quality and food safety.

The institutional aims of the **Lega Pesca** are to protect, represent, assist and coordinate its members in order to encourage business development and growth, in modern, efficient enterprises. Associates are offered help with planning and assistance with technical, financial, legal, administrative, tax-related and social security aspects. To improve the offer of services in the various segments, the **Lega Pesca** relies on **7 specialised organisations** which operate at local, national and international level: **Ondacoop** (services and assistance), **Consorzio Mediterraneo** (a national consortium of 14 cooperatives dealing with applied scientific research), **PEI - Progetto Economia Ittica** (integrated projects), **Confidifin** (credit), **Efeso For...mare** (training), **Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori** (a national association with 72 member companies) and **Centro Studi**.

In a sector which is mainly based on cooperatives, and on the strength of the steady growth in membership over the past few years, the **Lega Pesca** represents a large part of the socio-economic interests related to all the market segments which make up the fishing industry. **477** enterprises are part of the Association, of which **436** are cooperatives, and its presence extends to all coastal regions and every link in the industrial chain – production, processing, marketing, services, research and training. There are a total of **14,300 members** whose turnover totalled **€840 million** in 2005. The associates also include **16 producers' organisations**, of which **8** are accredited by the EU, and **25 partnerships and corporations**.

LEGA PESCA MARCHE

Lega Pesca Marche, a regional branch of the Lega Pesca (National Association of Cooperative members of the Italian Association of Cooperative and Friendly Societies) operates in The Marches in order to promote mutual assistance and cooperative enterprise as tools to help with the modernisation and sustainable development of the fish industry, and fishing.

It has 22 cooperative associates, and its presence runs the length of the region's coastline covering every sector of the industrial chain. It has a total of about 1500 members and a total turnover of €60 million. 4 producers' associations are active in The Marches.

The association has its own regional coordination, which represents all the member cooperatives in The Marches, led by the regional coordinator **Simone Cecchetti**.