

## **IMPORTANT: MEETING IN LA CORUNA (SPAIN) TO PLACE ARTISANAL COASTAL FISHERIES AT THE HEART OF THE CFP REFORM**

Dear Colleagues,

Organizations of artisanal coastal fishers and NGOs share a common interest in placing European fisheries on a sustainable footing. This calls for the CFP to be reformed in ways that ensure the recovery of fish stocks and marine habitats, the promotion of sustainable fisheries and fishing livelihoods, a just allocation of fishing access based on social and environmental criteria and an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from these activities. NGOs and organizations of artisanal coastal fishers fully support such a reform process.

We have therefore taken the initiative to organise a meeting of organizations of artisanal coastal fishers and NGOs to identify further common ground and discuss how to work more closely together to support the achievement of sustainable fisheries and livelihoods through CFP reform.

The meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April in La Coruna (Spain) in the Caixa Galicia Foundation, Calle Nueva, 30 from 4.30 to 7.30pm followed by an informal reception. We also plan to have some activities during the day and will circulate further information in due time.

In addition, we have recently negotiated, amongst a number of artisanal fisheries organizations and NGOs, a statement calling for the need to place artisanal fisheries at the heart of the CFP reform. The statement is attached for your information. We would like to see many diverse organizations supporting this statement and aim to present it at the official stakeholder Conference on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (La Coruna, 2-3 May 2010) organized by the European Commission with the Spanish EU presidency. We are also exploring ways to deliver it to the informal EU Fisheries Ministers Council (Vigo, 4-5 May 2010). We aim to distribute the final statement widely to stakeholders, government officials, decision-makers and the media.

We hope that you will support our call for a CFP reform that fully reflects the fundamental role of artisanal coastal fishing in delivering sustainable fisheries by adding your signature to the statement and participating in this important meeting. Some travel funding is available should your organization be unable to cover your costs. Hotels are paid for all participants who register before April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please confirm your attendance as a matter of urgency by filling the attached registration form to give us an idea about numbers and hotel requirements. RSVP to Yann Yvergniaux at [yann.yvergniaux@gmail.com](mailto:yann.yvergniaux@gmail.com). To sign off to the statement and for information about travel support please also contact [yann.yvergniaux@gmail.com](mailto:yann.yvergniaux@gmail.com).

Thank for your attention and we are looking forward to meeting you in La Coruna.

Best regards,

Domitilla and Brian