

LA CORUNA DECLARATION:
PLACING SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL COASTAL FISHERIES
AT THE HEART OF THE CFP REFORM

Artisanal coastal fishing activities, account for around 80% of the fleet (by vessel numbers), catch around 30% of the fish by value, and provide 65% of direct employment in European Union fisheries¹. Artisanal coastal fishing fleets that fish in a non-intensive manner, using a range of seasonally diverse fishing methods on a range of species, have a relatively low impact on the ecosystem.

Such fisheries also generate considerable ancillary jobs; they provide the social, economic and cultural fabric that sustains many coastal communities, where they make an important contribution to food security and political, social and economic stability.

Artisanal coastal fishing, if treated fairly, managed responsibly, with well defined rights, has the potential to deliver healthy fisheries over the long-term and sustainable livelihoods.

Artisanal coastal fishing fleets are highly dependent on the grounds they exploit and operate in some of the most sensitive and biologically rich marine ecosystems. As a result they have developed a broad range of responsible management measures. If given support and provided with equal opportunities by the European Union, by national administrations and by an appropriate legal framework, building on such measures could assure sustainable fisheries as well as the conservation of valuable marine ecosystems across Europe.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as promoters of marine resources conservation, social justice and economic equity, have an important role to play in raising public awareness about the future of fish stocks and sustainable development. They seek to democratise the policy-making and decision-making processes, make institutional processes more transparent and decision-makers more accountable.

Artisanal coastal fishing interests and NGOs both tend to be under-represented in decision-making fora, where they are given less participation rights, support and consideration than other interests.

¹ No EU wide definition of coastal artisanal fishing exists. These figures are indicative, not absolute. They were provided by DG Mare as a portrait of small-scale coastal fisheries at the Seminar on Small Scale Coastal Fisheries on February 25 2010 in Brussels. 77% of the EU fleet are under 12 metres non-trawlers; estimates based on the Annual Economic Report indicate that vessels under 12 metres provide 65% of employment and 30% of the catch by value, subject to the uncertainty of the economic data provided by Member States.

Our organisations of artisanal coastal fishers and NGOs share a common interest in placing European fisheries on a sustainable footing by supporting the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in ways which ensure the recovery of fish stocks and marine habitats where necessary, the promotion of sustainable fisheries, a just allocation of fishing access based on social and environmental criteria, and an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from these activities.

We therefore have agreed to work together on the CFP reform to achieve these objectives, and we call on the EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, the EU Fisheries Ministers and the Members of the European Parliament to ensure that:

- A functional marine environment and a steady return to healthy fish stocks are achieved as a precondition for sustainable fisheries. To this end the potential of sustainable artisanal coastal fisheries for stopping overfishing, ending destructive fishing practices, and delivering fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks is fully recognised and placed at the heart of the CFP reform.
- The CFP reform process is just, transparent and democratic by ensuring the widest participation of men and women from artisanal coastal fisheries and NGOs at all stages.
- Priority access to fish resources is provided to those who fish in the most environmentally and socially sustainable way. Long term management plans are established which apply the appropriate measures through genuine bottom-up participative co-management processes that give due weight to sustainable development.
- Fishing policies, quotas and other management systems, and fishing methods do not cause discards of biologically, nutritionally or economically important fish and other aquatic species.
- Clear conditions and protocols are established and applied to avoid conflicts between different fleets targeting shared stocks or common fishing grounds.
- Decision-making promotes good fishing practices, valorises local fisheries' ecological and oceanographic knowledge, and promotes collaboration between fishers and scientists.
- Appropriate aid is provided through the European Fisheries Fund and other support measures for training schemes as well as for the development of effective co-management that promotes the participation of fishers, both men and women, in decision-making processes, thereby assuring their engagement in these processes.

Signatures as of April 27th

Accionatura
Action for Fisher People's Livelihoods
Africa Contact
African artisanal fishing organisations confederation (CAOPA)
Ailerons
APECE
Asociacion de Armadores de Artes Menores de Catalunya (ADAMEC)
Asociación de Armadores de Artes Menores de Galicia (ASOAR-ARMEGA)
Black Sea NGO Network
BLOOM Association
CERAD International
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)
Cofradia de Pescadores de Cedeira
Cofradía de Pescadores de Gandia
Cofradia de Pescadores de Lira
Cofradia de Pescadores de Muros
Collectif Bar Européen
GRAM Foundation
Deepwave
Ecologistas en Acción
Eko-Unia
Ent, environment and management
Federacion Galega de Redeiras Artesas
Federacion Provincial de Cofradias de Pescadores de Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Fédération Française d'Etudes et de Sports Sous Marins - (FFESSM)
Federation of Galician Fishermen
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible
GEOTA
Greenpeace
GRIS - Gruppo Ricercatori Italini sugli Squali razze e chimere
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Territorio e Ambiente
Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA)
Integrated Fisheries Foundation
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
Irish Seal Sanctuary
Irish Wildlife Trust
Irukandji Aquatik Films
Kenna EcoDiving
Legambiente Onlus
Lithuanian Fund for Nature
LPN - Liga para a Proteccao da Natureza
Marevivo

Mediterrània Centre d'Iniciatives Ecològiques
MedSharks
National Artisanal Fishermen Federation of Mauritania (FNP Artisanal)
National Association of Small Boat Owners of Iceland
NEREO
New Economics Foundation
New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
North Sea Foundation
OCEAN2012
Oceana
Our Earth Foundation
People Uniting and Generating Aid for Development (PUGAD)
Pew Environment Group
Pro Wildlife e.V.
Probitec
Prud'homie de Pêche de Saint Raphael / Comité des Pêches du Var
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SCIAENA - Marine Sciences and Cooperation
Seas At Risk
Shark Foundation
Sharklab
Sharklife Conservation Group
Sharkman's World Organization
Swedish Professional Fishermen's Association
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Tethys Research Institute
The Danish Society for a Living Sea
The Fisheries Secretariat
WWF European Policy Office