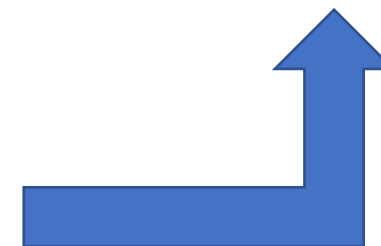


WHAT ABOUT « A NEW GENERATION OF FISHERS? »



THE MEDAC ADVICE ON A NEW GENERATION OF FISHERMEN



MEDAC side-event at GFCM FISHFORUM 2024, highlighted the need of training courses to provide to the fishers of the future the skills on the following topics:

- safety on board and social protection
- sustainable management of fishery resources
- new technologies to support the sustainability of the fishery activities
- equal opportunities, in terms of rights, mutual recognition of the roles, promotion and the integration of women in the fishery sector
- valorisation of landings
- business creation and management
- financial tools/projects available to support the fishers in the future (EMFAF/other projects)

THE MEDAC ADVICE ON A NEW GENERATION OF FISHERMEN



MEDAC highlighted also the importance to improve attractiveness for the new generation focusing the attention on:

- economic growth and job continuity - quality of life - economic viability

And suggested

- recognition of the working rights of the “non-EU new fishers”
- support to the fishery communities, the traditional social role in different areas of the Mediterranean
- to promote and to disseminate the training courses for fishers in the Mediterranean.

THEN MEDAC supports the urgent need of shared standards for training courses for fishers involving the relevant stakeholders to tailor the new fisher in the Mediterranean.



DG Mare Director, Charlina Vitcheva, replied to the advice agreeing that the training is the key to the future of our fishermen, and that it will enable them to face current and future challenges with the appropriate tools and knowledge and recalling several projects to support future generations of fishermen:

The EMFF and the EMFAF both refer to the importance of investing in training:

EMFF allocated:

EUR21 million to training through shared management for 1 176 operations and EUR10.9 million to blue careers/skills through direct management

EMFAF allocated:

EUR7.5 million to blue careers/skills through direct management (Blue careers calls in 2023).

THE REPLY OF THE COMMISSION

OTHER PROJECTS

«**Catching the Potential**», funded under the EMFAF “Blue Careers” calls proposed training standards for fishers. Its triple concept of three Ps (People, Planet, Profit) is in line with ecosystem-based management, which is at the heart of the CFP and seeks to address issues of safety, sustainable management of resources, use of new technologies and business development.

«**Collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)**» to incorporate some of the standards into the revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) and, consequently the potential implementation of the revised convention into EU Law.

This preparatory work will feed into our reflections to set up harmonised standards for fishers’ training and certification across the EU. This includes preliminary exchanges and scoping of the state of training requirements and certification procedures across the EU. We aim to ensure that we have evidence for future policy decisions after the revised convention is adopted in May 2024.



Revised with resolution MSC 526
(108)

The STECF is examining the development of social indicators and needs social data in order to better understand the conditions under which fishermen live in the EU's different sea basins.

“Fishers of the Future” is a project launched by the Commission and aims to look ahead and understand how fishers envisage their future up to 2050.

MEDAC active contributor on the latter two projects (consultation on social data and Fishers of the Future), as well as many other issues of relevance for the future of fishers.

DG mare thanks the MEDAC for this continued engagement.