



Public Hearing of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament

Socio-economic situation especially
regarding small-scale fisheries

Importance of Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean

- High social and cultural value
- Lower environmental impact compared to other fishing sector
- Wide variety of capture gears and target species
- Greater selectivity of the fishing gear
- Lower level of fishing efforts
- Seasonal nature
- Expression of local knowledge and traditions
- Close connection with the existence of coastal communities

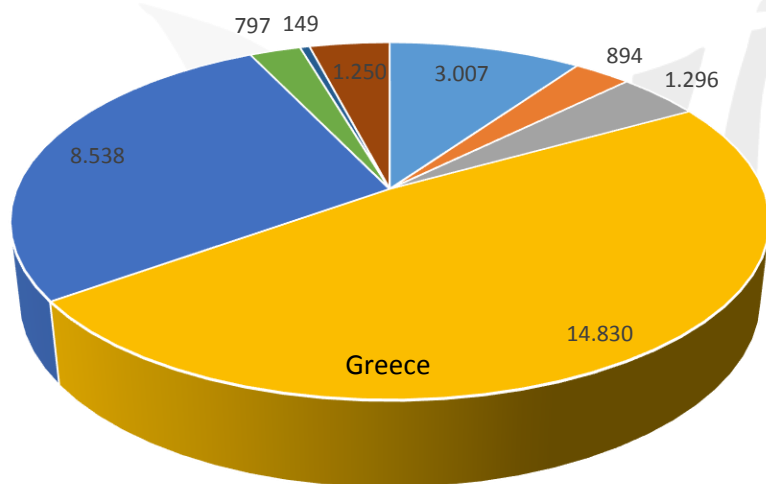


Absolute predominance of small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean

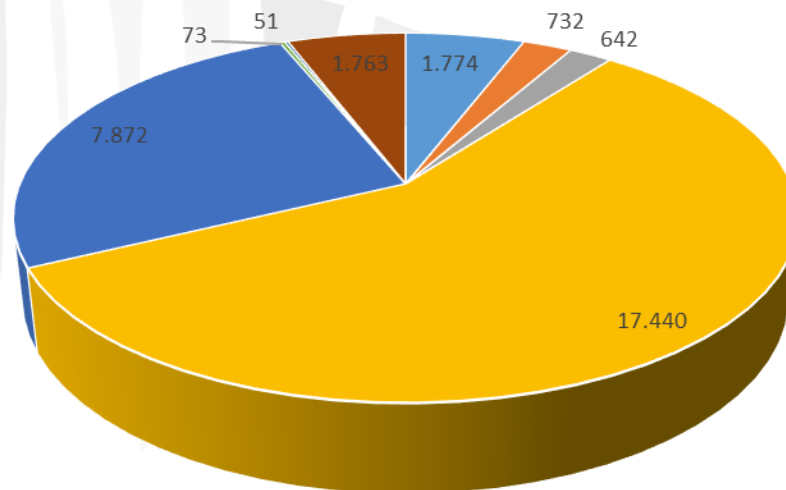
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Importance of small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean – Statistics

- Total number of SSF Vessels in 2013



- Total number of employed in the SSF sector (FTE) 2013



■ Croatia ■ Cyprus ■ France ■ Greece ■ Italy ■ Malta ■ Slovenia ■ Spain ■ Croatia ■ Cyprus ■ France ■ Greece ■ Italy ■ Malta ■ Slovenia ■ Spain

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- European definition: 12 m LOA with the exception of towed gears

Doesn't
consider

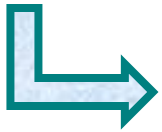
- Vessel type: value/investment, ownership, organization (cooperative; individual enterprise; family business) type of contract and division of income;
- Type of fishing activity (gear): seasonality, operating expenses, number of fishers on board, time spent at sea per fishing trip, distance from the port;
- Target species: quantities landed/value, market price;
- Fishing yields: costs/benefits, including direct cost (as fuel consumption) as indirect costs (as impacts on marine ecosystems);
- Local employment and development

There is no only one «small-scale fishery», but many individual small scale fisheries. The status of the fishing activity varies according to the vessel, the type of fishery, the season, the fishing area and the company structure.

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The Economics of small-scale fisheries: common features/situations

- A low level of capitalization;
- Extreme difficulty in borrowing;
- Lack of capacity for investment and innovation;
- Obsolete vessels (on average over 30 years old);
- Low bargaining power on the market (except for direct sales in port or restaurants)
- Difficulty in enhancing the value of the product on board or once landed, due to lack of adequate port infrastructure;
- Frequent conflicts between the different *métiers* (especially with trawl fisheries);
- Competition with recreational fisheries;
- Lack of compliance with on board safety regulations;
- Lack of generational change.



Micro-enterprises with high costs linked to bureaucracy and very volatile values of profitability of the enterprises

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Profitability of small-scale fisheries

Success Stories in few cases

Generalized harsh reality

- MPAs
- pesca tourism
- direct sales
- small restaurants (managed directly by the fishing enterprises)

- Absence of specific support policies for each single area of the sector

- Fragility of the business enterprises

Critical issues to be addressed -1



The EMFF doesn't foresee measures for initiatives related to safety on board. It would be useful to envisage rapid tracing systems and a direct, automatic link to emergency services



**FISHING PORT
AND DOCKS**

There are constant difficulties for small-scale vessels where moorings are concerned, either due to port structure and with regards to availability of fully serviced docking areas



**RECREATIONAL
FISHERIES**

The lack of recreational and sport fishing specific permissions can, in some areas, penalize the professional activities of the small-scale fisheries sector, as well as the use of typical gears of the professional sector (longlines and pots), still allowed (in some Member States) to recreational and sport fishing. Recreational fisheries and small scale fisheries often target the same fish species. The lack of catch data on some species makes it difficult to evaluate the catch ratio of professional and recreational fisheries and the impact on fishing resources

Critical issues to be addressed - 2



THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

The reduction to 50 euro/consumer (Control Reg.) of the amount that it is possible to sell in the port on landing; the introduction of expensive new signal devices for the fishing gear; compilation of fishing logbooks and landing declarations for vessels >10mt; extra work to prepare the catch, separate the species and dividing them into different cases (they are all additional operational costs).



PESCA TOURISM

The development of pesca tourism should be favored by the provisions of art. 30 of the EMFF (diversification and new forms of income) that envisages economic support for 50% of the initiative foreseen in the business plan, up to a maximum of 75 000€. For activities that could be amplified in coastal areas and could relocate workers no longer employed in the fisheries sector the EU has not shown particular interest.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN COASTAL AREAS

Small-scale fisheries are the first ones affected by deteriorating conditions in coastal areas due to industrial activities both on land and at sea (eg: drilling/mining, leaks and spillages, etc.), as well as by changes to coastal sediments. The EMFF includes intervention in the context of "environmental" problems with the activation of a fund (with a loss-sharing mechanism) addressing affected aquaculture producers (art. 57) and fishers (art. 35).



Thanks for your
attention!

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