

Recommendation n° 13

Control in recreational fishing

Recreational fishing, as a regulated, licensed and duly monitored activity, has a socio-economic and cultural dimension, with a non-negligible impact on marine resources, which justifies better and greater investment, both in the establishment and maintenance of more adequate monitoring mechanisms, and in determining its dimension and impact on the blue economy.

The recognised asymmetries in the control processes and the current disinvestment in research and data collection on recreational fishing in the Outermost Regions (ORs) have accentuated attitudes that repudiate and associate recreational fishing with illegality.

The lack of information, often accompanied by insufficient licensing standards, plus the lack of mandatory data reporting, has led to both the recreational and productive sectors repeatedly falling into mutual accusations in an attempt to explain, often in a reductive manner, the volume of illegal fishing that occurs in the ORs.

We propose the **effective implementation of continuous knowledge and control mechanisms** (Art 6)¹, **in national work plans, coupled with a sharing of the resulting data in aggregate form**, in accordance with Art.13¹ and Art. 17¹, which will prove to be of the utmost importance in integrating all stakeholders into the management processes, reducing conflicts and allowing the focus on isolating illegality to be maintained, i.e. the need to evolve from a wait-and-see attitude (point 16 of the initial considerations)¹ to the establishment of ongoing mechanisms for ecological, socio-economic and even historical analysis of recreational fishing.

As recreational fishing is mainly a coastal activity, in order to ensure good practice and to make it easier to identify offenders, it is pertinent to create and **apply surveillance methods that act as a deterrent and identify illegal situations in critical areas**, such as Marine Protected Areas or areas of similar classification. We therefore propose the **installation of surveillance cameras in these areas**.

¹ COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2019/910 of 13 March 2019 establishing a multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

We recommend the **establishment and maintenance of specific and ongoing monitoring plans in the field of recreational fishing** (point 4 (a) of the Article 5)¹. This is because, despite some work being done in this regard, a better articulation and operationalisation of monitoring models and analysis of the activity in question, require the creation of uniform guidelines to Member States, to facilitate decision-making and an accreditation of recreational fishing, separating it from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

We also recommend that the **existence of differentiated licensing be verified in each of the ORs** and that licensing be implemented where it does not exist, in order to better characterise the different activities, allowing for better management, as well as the **creation of timetables for the sharing of data** as provided for in paragraph a) of Article 13¹, with the interested parties being informed.

Best regards,

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

(David Pavón González)

Praia da Vitória, 16th of June of 2021