

## **Recommendation n° 14**

### **Concepts of Recreational Fishing and Touristic 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.

Thus, considering that the maintenance of a simplified dichotomy of differentiation, based only on the commercialisation of fish, is simplistic, as the specificities of the different typologies of recreational fishing should not be analysed as a whole but rather in an individualised manner, we recommend the redefinition of the concept of recreational fishing (Article 3, point 2)<sup>1</sup>.

**Concept of recreational fishing** - Fishing activity of a non-commercial nature. This particular type of fishing does not seek an economic return, whether through the sale of fish or through the remunerated provision of services related to the activity.

It should be broken down into its various components for management purposes:

**Spear fishing**: Extractive activity practiced in apnoea with or without the aid of a vessel.

**Shore fishing**: Extractive activity practised from the coastline using a handline or rod.

**Boat fishing**: Extractive activity carried out from a vessel.

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<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the Fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy.

\* The way in which the different types of recreational fishing are implemented in each OR should be specifically assessed by the local management bodies.

Issues such as the **commercial/business nature of tourism fishing** should also be taken into consideration in the **collection, processing and analysis of information leading to a better understanding of the ecological impact caused by each type of recreational fishing.**

Therefore, we also propose clarification of the concept of tourism fishing:

**Concept of tourism fishing - commercial activity consisting of the provision of services from a vessel licensed for this purpose, the purpose of which is to transport and facilitate the fishing experience for clients.** This is a profit-making activity and as such it should be subject to specific management measures in order to differentiate it from non-profit recreational fishing.

We therefore consider the need for greater intervention by the European Commission in the monitoring of recreational fishing in the outermost regions to be very relevant, supporting local structures in the creation, investment and analysis of all the ecological, economic, social and historical dimensions of this type of fishing, given that specific and targeted management will create easier management and control processes that are more appropriate to each situation.

Best regards,

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

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(David Pavón González)

Praia da Vitória, 16<sup>th</sup> of June of 2021