

Recommendation no. 15

Community Subsistence Fishing Concept

Considering the statement of the European Commission (EC), in response to recommendation 7/2020 of the Consultative Council for the Outermost Regions (CCRUP): "some Member States have recognized subsistence fishing as a concrete commercial activity for which specific fishing licenses are issued", we note that the "concept of community subsistence fishing" in the European Union is different from reality.

Also considering that, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a subsistence fishery¹ is a "fishery in which the fish caught is consumed directly by families, rather than being sold by intermediaries" - that is, a fishery in which the fish is not commercialized, a recreational and therefore non-commercial fishery.

The Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP) is pleased to note that, in the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (2018/0193), as regards fisheries control, point 5 (a), Article 5, mentions the following: "The Commission may adopt, by means of implementing acts, detailed rules on: the systems for recording or licensing recreational fisheries for specific species or stocks".

Therefore, we advocate that the "concept of community subsistence fishing", be defined within the framework of recreational fishing. This concept takes on particular importance in French Guyana, since its indigenous populations (with their traditions, cultures and historical rights) practice this type of fishery to provide food for their community.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/x2465s/x2465s0g.htm#TopOfPage>

We propose:

"Community subsistence fishing concept": recreational fishery practiced by certain populations, who catch fish exclusively to provide food for their community, using artisanal fishing gear and with low impact on the marine environment.

Therefore, these communities should be properly identified, and the relevant licenses issued by the Member State.

Best regards,

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

(David Pavón González)

Praia da Vitória, 4 August 2021