

## Recommendation n°72

### **Concept of Artisanal Fisheries of the Outermost Regions**

The concepts of local, coastal<sup>1</sup> and artisanal or small-scale fisheries<sup>2</sup> have proved insufficient to characterise the fisheries practised by artisanal fishers in the Outermost Regions (ORs). Both concepts present restrictions in terms of vessel gross tonnage and engine power; however, such restrictions should not be applied to vessels operating in the ORs, since they use artisanal and sustainable fishing methods such as pole-and-line and handlines.

Considering the concept of artisanal and small-scale fisheries<sup>2</sup> defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as “*traditional fisheries involving fishing households (as opposed to commercial companies), using relatively small amounts of capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels (if any), making short fishing trips close to shore and mainly for local consumption. Such fisheries may be for subsistence or commercial purposes*”.<sup>3</sup>

Considering further that FAO recognises the vital importance of artisanal and small-scale fisheries, as reflected in the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*, which seek to support the crucial role of this sector in food security and poverty eradication, given that artisanal fisheries are rooted in communities and in their values and traditions.<sup>3</sup>

Considering that, with regard to artisanal fisheries, the Common Fisheries Policy (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) states, in its recitals, that this policy should contribute to “*a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector, including small-scale fisheries*”; that “*Member States should endeavour to give preferential access for small-scale, artisanal or coastal fishermen*”; and that “*small offshore islands which are dependent on fishing should, where appropriate, be especially recognised and supported in order to enable them to survive and prosper*”.<sup>4</sup>

Considering that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides a legal and policy framework that allows fisheries management in the outermost regions to be

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<sup>1</sup> Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM). (n.d.). *Fleet*.

<sup>2</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2015). *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*. Rome: FAO.

<sup>3</sup> Parliamentarians for Global Action. (2020). *Small-Scale Fisheries: Sustainable Development and Food Security*.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy.

adapted to local specificities, in particular Article 349 TFEU, which states that “*Taking account of the structural social and economic situation of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, which is compounded by their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, economic dependence on a few products, the permanence and combination of which severely restrain their development (...)*”<sup>5</sup>.

Considering the sixth paragraph of the new ICCAT Recommendation on the management of tropical tunas, which reads: “*Small-scale fisheries, including those operating in overseas territories and outermost regions, of a CPC shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs*”.<sup>6</sup>

Considering that vessels from the outermost regions mainly operate using artisanal and sustainable fishing methods, such as pole-and-line and handlines, which have a low environmental impact, and considering that the aforementioned concepts do not fully reflect the reality of the ORs due to their limitations, in particular as regards vessel gross tonnage and engine power, the CCRUP considers that there is a need to better adapt the concept of artisanal fisheries to the unique conditions of our Regions, recognising the sustainable nature of the fishing practices used and the socio-economic importance of fishing activity for coastal communities in the ORs.

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<sup>5</sup> European Union. (2012). *Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union*.

<sup>6</sup> International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). (2024).

Thus, the CCRUP recommends the adoption of the “concept of artisanal fisheries in the Outermost Regions”, which reflects the value of our fisheries, as set out below:

**Concept of Artisanal Fisheries in the Outermost Regions: Commercial, traditional and environmentally respectful fisheries, with a low impact on fishery resources and a heavily dependence on coastal communities. Can be practiced: on board a vessel (registered in the Outermost Regions), or on foot from the shore, using artisanal and selective fishing gear.**

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

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(Ruben Farias)