



General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Commission Générale des Pêches pour la Méditerranée



LaMed-1 Project

The reform process of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): position of and proposals for small-scale fisheries in the French Mediterranean

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What's legal definitions for small-scale fisheries ?

- **FRANCE** = new since Decree No. 2011-697 of 20 June 2011 defining the concept of small scale coastal fisheries mentioned in 6 ° of II of Article 262 of the General Tax Code, "the small coastal fishing means fishing conducted through vessels whose overall length is **less than twelve meters**, using **only non-towed gear** and the output at sea does not exceed **24 hours**. " = Motivation purely fiscal (Value Added Tax exemption) for European harmonization
- **EUROPE** = "fishing by fishing vessels whose overall length is **less than twelve meters** and **not using towed gear** as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to 2004 Regulation of the Commission on the file of the Community fishing fleet " (or art. 26 Regulation 26th of July 2006).



Small scale fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean

- **French Mediterranean** : According to Fleets Files (Regional Committees), SSF are more than **80%** of the of the global fleet (fishing units).
- **Mediterranean** : Significant **homogeneity** see follow-up data FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture) and GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean), RAC-MED, well synthesized in the report information of the French National Assembly of June 9, 2010 (RI No. 2618 of the Commission on European Affairs, *Prospects for sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean*, presented by Mr. LECOUCHE, June 9, 2010, 88p.).



History and context of the reform of the CFP

- **2002:** previous reform with evaluation before 2012
- **2009:** Green Paper + consultations (late 2009/2010)

Synthesis with - Identification of **five structural problems** of the CFP: **1)** excess capacity, **2)** strategic objectives (??), **3)** long-term decision-making framework, **4)** responsibility and involvement of professionals, **5)** Rules compliance, enforcement (cultural)

- **Differentiation** of Management Policies, with priority action on artisanal fisheries (SSF)

- **July 13, 2011:** Proposal for a Regulation of the Parliament and Council



The "future" legal status of SSF in the hands of States Members

- **Art. 27-2:** States should extend to SSF, the system of transferable fishing concessions (TFC) = Blank check
- **TFC (art. 28):**
 - **Fishing rights (revocable) from the States members "fishing opportunities"** (art. 16 and 5...relatively fuzzy concept, based on fish stocks, groups of fish stocks and fishing capacity = TAC ???). **Assigned to all fisheries, subject or not to TFC (art.33).**
 - **Individual or collective management**
 - **Awarded under multi-year plans**
 - **Validity of concessions ≥ 15 years, unless serious offense or non-utilisation for 3 years successively**
 - **Obtaining a TFC, shall entitle to obtain individual fishing opportunities (art. 29, IFO, annual with possible fee)**
 - **Transfer of the TFC in the State and between States (regulations) and renting of IFO (idem)**



Position and perspectives for SSF (1)

• **Risk of TFC ? : 1) global process of privatization of natural renewable resources; 2) risk of windfall profits and private income to their owners (with structural/economic weaknesses of SSF, with very limited financial capacity to invest...and to access to TFC; 3) Phenomena of speculation, with reports of activities and investments in the areas of small-scale fisheries (factor of imbalance)**

• **Interest of TFC ? (if it's completed...) : 1) Limiting cost for granting concessions (especially for collective management). No details as to the cost of TFC is required under Regulation (to my knowledge ...); 2) introducing a territorial dimension in the TFC, as much adapted to the conditions of practice of SSF in the Mediterranean and to protect their space : coastal zone (with limits ??), sharing stocks (huge biodiversity and low biomass) and flexibility of techniques and fishing periods**



Position and perspectives for SSF (2)

- **Easier to maintain a differentiated regime ...Particularly in the Mediterranean, which is not, of course on the whole, under the European Union "jurisdiction" !! Induce the question of the coherence of fisheries management on a semi-enclosed sea.**
- **The other proposals of the text project: Art. 2.3 et 2.4 : EAF (art. 5) and environmental integration; Art. 5 : definition of mixed fisheries (interest about flexibility of SSF); Art. 7d: gear selectivity; Art. 7h: pilot projects on fisheries management modes; Art. 8: taking into account local regulations (decentralized) existing; Art. 10 and 11 multi-year plans for managing specific species (tuna, eel); Art. 12: Natura 2000 at sea with phasing in coastal areas; Art. 43.1c : Aquaculture as a tool of diversification of fishing activities (extensive approach and additional element of flexibility of SSF)**



Position and perspectives for SSF (3)

- **Correct the institutional weakness of SSF about organization and representation :** **1) Breakdown of activities and practices, Individualistic and opportunistic strategies, strong territorial identity, weak institutional representation and crisis of historical representation structures - prud'homies (legitimacy, effectiveness and disciplinary, loss of skills); 2) Institutional strengthening initiatives :** professional syndicate (Union) and process of European Plat-form for Artisanal Fishermen's (Spain, France, Italia, Greece) since july 2011 : common declaration and public hearings
- **Existing management tools (local) :** **1) Work on the complexity and diversity of SSF (from lagoons to high sea); 2) Their capacity of professional regulations (prud'homies, etc.); 3) The suitable, territorial and alternative nature of practices.**