

**Transversal workshop  
on the monitoring recreational fisheries  
in the GFCM area**

**Palma de Majorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010**

**REVIEW OF THE RECREATIONAL  
FISHERIES IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF EGYPT**

Recreational Fisheries (RF) in Egypt is a traditional hobby particularly in the coastal large cities like Matrouh, Alexandria, Damietta, Port Said and Al Areah. Such fishing activities practice individually or in groups, with or without a boat, for leisure purposes, and they not sell catching fish.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The Article 65 of the Egyptian Law on Aquatic Fishery of 1983 provide that RF regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the licenses fee should not exceed 50 Egyptian sent (0.1 US\$) for one day and 5 LE (less than 1 US\$) for one month and 20 LE (less than 4 US\$) for annual license. The law also prohibited shored-based recreational fishermen not carry more than one fishing rod with maximum of two hooks.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORKS (continue)

The licenses issued and recorded by the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclaims.

The Egyptian law regulate the RF, but there is no compulsory licensing system. Thousands of people practice the RF without licenses at least in the larger cities on the Mediterranean Sea.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORKS (continue)

Granting a leisure license to a vessel, does not mean a right to fish, but it permit the possessor and his accompanists to practice RF (e.g. it is not required for participants in the sport contest to hold a RF license).

In Egypt, it is required a license for underwater diving using SCUBA (or other artificial breathing apparatus). In addition, night-time underwater RF is prohibited. Moreover for security performs recreational fisheries with any method should be between sunset and sunrise is prohibited.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING CLASSIFICATION

In Egypt recreational fishing can be divided into amateur and sport competition recreational fishing.

Amateur fishing which is defined as unorganized hobby fishing (i.e. it is not associated with a specific event or competition). Catch from amateur fishing is retained for private consumption. Only about 3500 persons have licenses to practice such activities along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING CLASSIFICATION (continue)

They are shore based, boat-based and underwater fishing (practice with skin-diving) using harpoons or collect aquatic organisms by knives and hands e.g. octopus. Some people used few units of Nets (gillnets, trammel net, etc.)

The type of recreational fishing is the closed water body amateur RF (e.g. Port Fouad saline lake).

## RECREATIONAL FISHING CLASSIFICATION

Sport fishing which is described as an organized activity involving free competition between people to catch the largest fish of certain species, the largest number of specimens or the largest total weight depending on the rules of each particular competition. About 375 persons were engaged in the last national competition at September 2010 in Alexandria.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING CLASSIFICATION (continue)

They utilize fishing or leisure boats and can be divided under two sub-categories: stationary fishing (anchored), and active fishing (which uses the forward motion of the boat to assist in the fishing activity). They mainly use hooks (hand-line, trolling line with or without bait).

## RECREATIONAL FISHING CLASSIFICATION (continue)

Usually the competition conducted in trolling fishing and anchored boat fishing. Sport fishing competition regulatory frameworks:

Regarding local competitions, federated fishing societies could organize a free (unlimited) number of local contests.

In Egypt several clubs have a right to organize a sport fishing contest among their memberships or for open participants.

## Competition regulations

Competition regulations covered the following points: fishing areas, crew, boats in competitions, distance between boats, competition cancellation, fishing timetable, fishing tackles and baits, security, judges and classification. Fish species and its minimal weight were also covered (e.g. in the trolling, one fish should not be less than half kilogram).

## Competition regulations (continue)

In details, regulations covers both the competition organization logistics (e.g. material means, age, conditions for championship, organization committee, jury, cancellation) and the competition logistics themselves (e.g. length of contest, registration conditions, team composition, control, radio, boat, fishing equipment, fishing zone, prizes).

## TARGETED SPECIES

Many fish species are targeted and interested for recreational fishermen (e.g. *Epinephelus spp* (Groupers), *Euthynnus spp* (Kawakawa), *Scomber spp* (Chub mackerel) *Scomberomorus commerson* (King fish), *Pomatomus saltatrix* (Blue fish), *Serranus spp* (Comber), *Trigla spp* (Gurnard), *Saurida undosquamis* (Lizard fish), *Diplodus spp* (Braem), *Pagellus erythrinus* (Pandora), *Dicentrachus spp* (Seabass), *Sparus aurata* (Gilthead seabream) and *Siganus spp* (marble spinfoot).

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR KIND  
ATTENTION**