

PROPOSAL

**CONFEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE PESCA
RECREATIVA RESPONSABLE**

**IMPUTS FOR A
REGULATION
OF THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES**



SCESS – 15/16 FEBRUARY 2.013

1. We take as starting point the topics tried in the meeting 2.012

Report of the 12th Session of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences

FAO HQs, Rome, Italy, 23-26 January 2012

OVERVIEW OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE GFCM AREA

1. The SCESS pointed out again the importance for GFCM Member Countries to determine, as part of their fisheries management, the following criteria and conditions:

- the maximum number of gear (pole and line) per person;
- the maximum number of branch line per gear;
- the maximum number of hooks per line;
- the maximum daily catch per person;
- the sensitive coastal areas (e.g. opening of coastal lakes, mouths of rivers)

In doing so, any recreational fishing exceeding these limits or which operates in the determined sensitive coastal areas would be considered to be a commercial activity.

Ref: 124/AV MED RAC POSITION ON RECREATIONAL FISHING Rome, 5 May 2.011

3. Mr Esteban Graupera informed the SCESS about the outcomes of the Regional Advisory Council for the Mediterranean (RAC MED) Working Group on recreational fishing held in Barcelona in March 2011. In particular, the RAC MED expressed unanimous support for the recommendations¹ proposed by SCESS to the SAC in 2011, namely to:

i. Adopt and include in the GFCM Glossary the following amended definitions:

- *Recreational fishing*: Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained
- *Underwater fishing*: Recreational fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques without the help of mechanical devices (e.g. scooter)

¹ See GFCM/SAC 13/2011/INF.7 Draft Report of the 11th Session of the SAC/SCESS, p. 6.

- ii. Provide a definition of “*Pesca turismo*” to be included in the GFCM Glossary (it was agreed that this activity should not be part of recreational fishing)
- iii. Develop a common and harmonized scientific monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries, with respect to basic indicators to be assessed for each segment (leisure and sport) and each modality (shore based, boat based, underwater fishing) namely:
 - a) Number of licenses issued
 - b) Targeted species list
 - c) Catch amounts by targeted species (kg)
 - d) Recreational fishing expenditures per fisher (i.e. hotel, restaurant, transport, fishing gears [e.g. baits and accessories])
 - e) Age and gender of recreational fisher
 - f) Fishing days per year and average hours per fishing day
- iv. Adopt an obligatory licensing system for the recreational fisheries in the GFCM Area (not to be seen as a tax or levy, but used only for monitoring and enforcement of the sector).

4. The SCESS reiterated the need to elaborate a Code of Practice/Technical Guidelines on recreational fisheries, in support of the responsible development, promotion and management of recreational fisheries in the GFCM Area.

and from Spanish recreational fishing from boat, C.E.P.R.R. make the following contributions:

2. Having present the last recommendations of:

FAO TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES. No. 13. Rome, FAO. 2012.

3. Having present the conclusions of the First Mediterranean Congress of Marine Recreational Fishing, the last normative of the Spanish administration in connection with the fishing license from boat, the consequent registration/census of the recreational fishing fleet, also the normative of the French administration with respect to the traceability with an identification system such as cutting a part of the caudal fin, equally that of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (USA) in relation to the systems of the capture limits (daily bag limit).

1. RECREATIONAL FISHING DEFINITIONS

Recreational Fishing:

*Fishing activities, exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure, **tourism** or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained.*

Original SCESS definition:

Recreational fishing: Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained

1.1 SEGMENTS

Leisure fishing:

Recreational fishing activity practiced for hobby.

Tourism charter recreational fishing

Recreational fishing activity practiced with a rented boat and a skipper or fishing guide on board.

Sport fishing:

Recreational fishing activity practiced with competitive intentions, within an established institutional framework which sets clear rules.

1.2 MODALITIES

Shore-based:

Recreational fishing activity practiced from the coast: beach, cliffs, piers or other manmade installations or by wadding out.

Boat-based:

Recreational fishing activity practiced from a boat

Underwater fishing:

*Recreational fishing activity practiced as a leisure, **tourism** or sport by snorkeling techniques without the help of mechanical devices.*

Original SCESS definition:

Underwater fishing: Recreational fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques without the help of mechanical devices.

1.3 PESCA TURISMO

Pesca Turismo is not part of recreational..

Pesca Turismo could be a interesting complementary activity to the professional fishers, it is generally performed by fishermen on his own boats.

2. CATCH AND RELEASE

Under normal circumstances marine recreational fishers should be able to make a reasonable catch for home consumption throughout a leisure activity which is sustainable for the environment and which provides, social and economic benefits.

The action of recreational fishing has generally the option avoid or release alive the captures that are not targeted (juvenile, specimens that do not meet the allowed minimum size, those which are threatened and those that belong to protected species)

Catch and release as an ethical attitude to conservation of the marine resources.

Catch and release must be not considered as a fishing method or modality in itself.

Catch and release represents the philosophy of the “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” FAO 1.995 in the recreational fishing.

Catch and release practice facilitates the collaboration between the recreational fishing sector and the scientific community in the study and the monitoring of the species.

3. LICENCES

3.1 INDIVIDUAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSES:

Shore-based

This license should be required to any kind of fishing that is practiced in shore-based modality.

Underwater

This license should be required to any kind of fishing that is practiced in underwater modality.

3.2 BOAT BASED RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE:

This license should be required to any kind of recreational fishing that is practiced in the boat based modality.

The boat based fishing license is the tool to have a recreational fleet register/census .

3.3 REGISTER/CENSUS OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FLEET

The creation of the Register/Census of Sea Recreational Fishing boats is a must to manage the recreational fishing from boat.

The Directorate General of Fisheries Management of the Spanish Fishing Secretary (Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs), has created a Register of marine recreational fishing boats (Real Decreto 347/2011, de 11 de marzo, por el que se regula la pesca marítima de recreo en aguas exteriores). This Register will comprise the Regional Administration registers and must be updated at least once a year.

3.4 TOURISM CHARTER RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE

The recreational boat-based license should be enough for the development of the activity of the tourism charter recreational fishing segment.

Other such administrations as fiscal, tourism, health, etc may require documentation corresponding of agreement with the national regulations.

3.5 SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION/LICENSE

Under certain circumstances, special authorizations could be required, in addition to the generic RF licence, to fish species under specific conservation measures. .

Authorization/licences for threatened species

Species-based licences can be appropriate for species in vulnerable situation according to scientific advices or species subject to a rebuilding program.

Authorization/licences for historical reasons

In France, fishing for bluefin tuna from an anchored boat required a derogation issued by Maritime Affairs for historical reasons

Authorization/licences for use of traditional and passive gears

Recreational fishers should need a special authorization for the use of traditional and passive gears.

Authorization/licences for to fish in MPA's

They are convenient as a means to managing fishing reserves.

3.6 DURATION OF LICENCE

The duration of a licence is one of the basic elements of the access title issued to recreational fishermen. Our experience in Spain recommend 3 years.

3.7 LICENSE FEES

Recreational fishing license should be free of charge.

3.8 LICENCE ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS

Under 16 years a familiar authorization should be needed.

4. CONSERVATION MESURES

4.1 HOOKS LIMITATIONS

The limitation of the hooks size in function of the species objective is an appropriate conservation tool.

Double and triple hooks should not be used. Only single hooks should be used to avoid damaging the fish and to facilitate unhooking it.

Circular hooks should be implemented. This would make the catch and release easier.

4.2 GEAR LIMITATIONS FOR SHORE BASED MODALITY

We suggest a maximum number of 2 gears (Rood and Reel) per fishermen.

Hooks number limitation per gear should be established too. We suggest 4.

4.3 GEAR LIMITATIONS FOR BOAT BASED MODALITY

We suggest a maximum number of 2 gears (Rood and Reel) per fishermen with a maximum of 8 gears per boat.

Hooks number limitation per gear should be established too. We suggest 4 per gear.

There should not be a limitation for artificial lures used per gear.

Limitation on maximum power for electric reels should be set (we suggest 300 W)

4.4 DAILY BAG LIMIT

Catch limitations, often in the form of daily bag limits expressed in total weight or number of specimens.

4.4.1 WEIGHT LIMITATION SYSTEM

Some countries had adopted a global weight daily bag limit including all the species of fish or other marine organisms. However, these global limits often included exceptions for a plus of a single fish heavier than the determined limit.

That approach has demonstrated not to be useful for all the situations.

Adopting the weight limitation generally accepted in the Mediterranean countries, 5 Kg. per fisher, we observe for exemple, in the case razor fish 5 Kg. could be considered a slaughter and with other species 5 Kg. do not arrive to one fish.

This system of weight limitation should be used for species with no commercial value.

We suggest the authorization of 5 Kg. plus of a single fish heavier than the determined limit, per fisher on board and to limit the maximum of recreational fishers per boat.

4.4.2 QUOTA FOR SPECIES OF HIGH ECONOMIC VALUE SYSTEM

From Spanish regional governments authorized to fish a specific quantity of some species of high economic value for the commercial fishing, as in the case of the cephalopods, sea urchins, razor fish and others.

At the international level, ICCAT stated in its recommendation 06-05 BFT that ICCAT member countries shall take the necessary measures for recreational fishing to prohibit the catch of more than one piece of bluefin tuna in each sea trip. The approach of limiting the quantity of the number of captures is progressing in other ICCAT species in rebuilding program, as the swordfish.

This method, the number of fishes by species, will probably be developed in U.E. in the next with threatened species of being on exploited.

The limitation of the number of fishes is especially appropriate for the species of high economic value, such hake, tuna, etc., because it facilitates the activity of fishing of the authorized captures, the data information, the tracebility and the inspection.

The authorized quantities should be different for each specie, each basin and probably in each zone, depending of the situation of the resource and the coincidence with commercial captures. It is a recommendable measure.

4.4.3 MIXED SYSTEM

In order to eliminate confusions, in case the bag limit is composed by two or more different types of species (i.e. commercially and not commercially valued) the method of the weight should be applied,

In the USA state of Florida the limit for species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or two fish per harvester per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities.

ANEX: FLORIDA SALWATER RECREATIONAL 2.012 FISHING REGULATIONS.

4.5 REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND PASSIVE COMMERCIAL FISHING GEARS.

In Spain set *a minimum distance of 0,107 nautical miles from commercial fisheries practice in which RF is prohibited. It is a recommendable measure.*

4.6 PROXIMITY TO THE AQUACULTURE FACILITIES AND FARMS

In Spain *is mandatory to maintain a minimum distance of 0,107 nautical miles from the perimetral line of aquaculture facilities and farms. It is a recommendable measure.*

4.7 AGRESIVE SUBSTANCES

Spain specified in its RF regulation that *certain substances were not allowed for use in RF: Narcotics, chemicals, explosives, contaminants or poisonous substances should be forbidden for fishing. It is a recommendable measure.*

4.8 ARTIFICIAL ATTRACTION

In general the use of lights for attracting fish should be forbidden, but the use of one lamp with a maximum power of 100 W or 2.000 lumens (12 V) should be authorized for the squid fishing.

4.9 SPACE AND TEMPORAL LIMITS

In some seasons, recreational fisheries may share the same zones than other marine and coastal users. In this context, spatial and temporal restrictions could be applied

4.10 SPECIFIC LIMITATION FOR SHORE BASED MODALITY

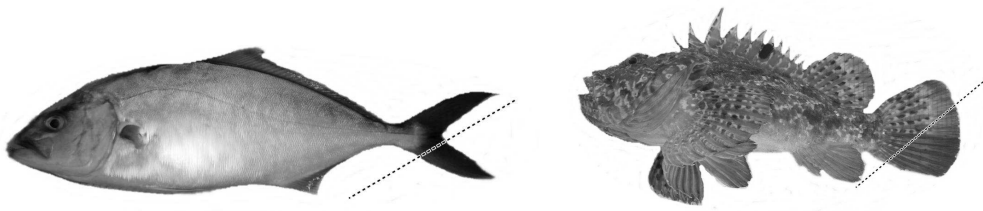
Fishing is often prohibited in harbours and access channels.

4.11 SPECIFIC LIMITATION FOR BOAT BASED MODALITY

RF from boat based should not be practiced on commercial/professional fishing boats.

5. TRACEBILITY

In order to fight selling of RF catches, fish species of high economic value should be subject to an identification system such as cutting a part of the caudal fin, like just requested by French Regulation.



6. SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

For the reason that during competition a group of anglers focuses its catch in a relatively small space, a previous authorization from authorities is necessary.

Fisheries managers should guarantee that strict control of fisheries competitions is carried out, requiring complete reports of the activity to the organizers (spatial coordinates, date, modality, number of participants, quantities of fish caught, species).

The fishing competition organizer should be responsible of the compliance to the different authorizations required.

In most cases the winner is the fisher that capture more than others in weight. Then the daily catch limits are generally exceeded during competitions. This approach is incompatible with the concept of sustainable and responsible recreational fishing. It would suit that the competition regulations they had to evolve toward other valuation systems.

In fishing competitions should be also absolutely forbidden to sell or trade the catches obtained.

In the sport fishing competitions targeting species subjected to a rebuilding program, catch and release practice should be mandatory.

The properly managed competitions can be a tool for data collection.

Fishing competitions are subjected to the respect of the relevant national maritime safety regulations.

7. RECREATIONAL FISHING TOURISM CHARTER

Recreational fishing tourism charter is a growing activity in Mediterranean basin often inconsistent in terms of regulations.

In addition of the boat based recreational fishing license, it seems reasonable that should be mandatory complementary regulations for the commercial development of the activity of recreational fishing tourism charter, an authorisation issued by administrations of tourism, commercial, fiscal, etc.

Spain, which classified charter boats, obliged these vessels to be matriculated under a separate listing. It is a recommendable measure.

In recreational fishing tourism charter should be also absolutely forbidden to sell or trade the catches obtained.

Applicable and homogenous Mediterranean legislation should be developed.

8. DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

ICCAT has adopted its recommendations stating that Contracting Parts shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the Scientific Committee on Research and Statistics.

There is no general system in U.E. Mediterranean Members States obliging the recreational fishers to declare catch levels; therefore to have a reporting system is necessary for a R.F. management.

To know the recreational fishing effort it is necessary to establish the appropriate systems of information to facilitate or to obtain the captures data. It is convenient to know the volume of captures of each one of the species for each one of the months of the year, to have knowledge of the temporary impact about the resource and to manage RF appropriately.

Each one of the recreational fishing segments requires a specific system to report data to get a “harmonized scientific monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries”:

To the tourism charter recreational fishing, since for their development a professional skipper intervenes, a collection of data of captures can settle down for fishing day.

To the sport fishing (competitions) since it should have a person or organizing entity to which has been authorized for the development of the competition a collection of data of captures it can settle down for competition.

To the leisure fishing, giving for well-known the number of R.F. actors in the monitored area through of licences number, to have a knowledge of the carried out effort, in our opinion we should have three regularly inputs:

- 1) Information facilitated by voluntary members of the collaborating stakeholders.***
- 2) Statistical of landing in the recreational harbours, not to confuse with inspections.***
- 3) Recreational fishing activity carried out under the supervision by technicians of fishing administrations or scientific collaborating institutions.***

Indicators to be assessed for each segment (leisure and sport) and each modality (shore based, boat based, underwater fishing) namely:

- a) b) Targeted species list
- b) a) Number of licenses issued
- c) f) Fishing days per year and average hours per fishing day
- d) c) Catch amounts by targeted species (kg) **per month**

- e) d) Recreational fishing expenditures per fisher (i.e. hotel, restaurant, transport, fishing gears [e.g. baits and accessories]) **per segment and per modality.**

- f) e) Age and gender of recreational fisher

9 TARGETED SPECIES

Recreational fisheries (RF) targeted species differ from one basin to another throughout the Mediterranean sea. It is interesting to note that the species targeted by marine recreational fisheries do not always overlap with those species targeted by the commercial fisheries in the area (i.e. sardines, anchovies, etc.)

Nevertheless gastronomic culture in Mediterranean influences the election of the targeted species and hence, in many cases, those of the recreational fishing coincide with those of the commercial fisheries, especially in those species which are historically recognized as part of culinary tradition, valued in the gastronomic aspect and consequently in the economic value aspect.

We can adopt that the marine recreational fisheries potential target species are those admitted by CGFM for all the fishing sectors.

10. RECREATIONAL FLEET ECONOMIC DATA

Las flotas de pesca marítima de recreo en el Mediterráneo; peso económico y social. 2.007.
Dr. Ramón Franquesa, Gabinete de Economía del Mar, Universitat de Barcelona

- Inversión en el buque
- Gasto licencia
- Gasto salarios marineros en barco y puerto
- Gastos de funcionamiento: carburante
- Gasto en restauración y alojamiento
- Gasto en amarres
- Gasto en seguros
- Gasto insumos navales y pesqueros (electrónica, cebos, aparejos)
- Gasto en mantenimiento y reparación de los buques
- Gasto formación y publicaciones
- Gasto transporte e hibernaje del buque
- Gasto en concursos y asociaciones

11. SOCIAL ASPECTS

Age and gender of recreational fisher

12. TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES. No. 13. Rome, FAO. 2012.

Published for fisheries administrations and others.

A POPULAR REDUCED CODICE IS NEEDED.

