
MINUTES

Meeting of Working Group 2 to the BISAC "Sustainable Fishing – gears and resources" on 18.02.2019

Today, on February 18, 2019, in Golden Tulip Hotel, "the Boulevard" Hall with an opening hour at 13:00, was held a working group 2 "Sustainable fishing - facilities and resources", with the following agenda:

1. Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF);
2. Consideration of the are short-term and long-term targets, which were covered by GFCM and their breakdown of the Regional Plan of Action for SSF;
3. Comments and discussion;
4. Presentation "Sustainable management of fisheries – marine mammals interaction" – Mihaela Mirea, Costin Timofte;
5. AOB.

The members who attended the working group were: Dimitrina Kostova, Lubov Georgieva, Dimitar Kanariev, Kiril Zheghev, Dragos Buhai, Florin Luchian. The meeting was attended by officials and guests from DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission - Ms. Pinelopi Belekou, from the Institute of Oceanology, Varna - Assoc. Prof. Violin Raykov and from the Institute of Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Constanta - Prof. Simeon Nikolaev.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the BISAC - Mr. Yordan Gospodinov, as the moderator of the meeting was Ms Dimitrinka Kostova, representative of the "European Association of the Fishermen in Black Sea", whose members are small-scale fishermen and for leading protocol was elected Ms Elena Peneva.

On items 1 and 2 of the agenda, Mr Gospodinov presented the working document "Regional Action Plan for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean and Black Seas- Priority actions and short-term/mid-term targets", prepared by DG MARE . The objective of the BISAC working group was to bring together the efforts and views of its members, representatives of the fisheries and environmental organizations from Bulgaria and Romania, and to indicate specific priorities and timelines for the implementation of the Small-Scale Regional Plan, on which the BISAC will work and will make recommendations to be presented to DG MARE before the GFCM Working Group on SSF on 6 and 7 March in Montenegro.

Ms. Pinelopi Belekou presented the state of play and gave an overview on the preparation of the GFCM Working Group on SSF. She highlighted the need to prioritise the actions provided by the RPOA SFF, namely the actions that are most urgent to implement within the GFCM for the Black Sea, such as a clear characterization of small-scale fisheries and the relevant timelines. She added that a

similar request has been addressed to MEDAC. She invited BISAC to provide its valuable contribution on priority actions and short-term and mid-term targets in the view of the Black Sea specificities. She strongly encouraged BISAC to participate actively in the Platform 'Friends of SSF' and to follow the upcoming GFCM WG on SSF.

Following is the presentation of Prof. Simenon Nicolaev, "Presentation of small-scale fishermen in Romania".

The presentation highlighted some of the major challenges facing small-scale fishermen, namely:

- Heavy working conditions;
- Aged material base;
- High fuel cost;
- Inappropriate sea fishing vessels;
- Lack of mechanization of the work of the vessels, which leads to low productivity;
- Low added value of production;
- growing Natura 2000 areas also affecting traditional fishing areas;
- Lack of marine aquaculture in Romania;

Proposals for solving some of these challenges are:

- Construction of fishing ports;
- Professional training and awareness of fishermen;
- Improving the circuit - catch - production and processing - final product realization.

Comments:

Ms Pinelopi Belekou: Thanked for the comprehensive presentation and queried if similar presentation is provided for Bulgaria. Prof. Nikolaev informed that a joint study for the Bulgarian small scale fisheries sector is dated in 2013 with Assoc. Prof. Violin Raykov, but it is not updated.

Ms Dimitrina Kostova: The meeting in Montenegro is ahead and the BISAC has to come up with a specific recommendation. As a representative of small-scale fishermen in Bulgaria, she proposed the following:

1. Measures to deal with deep and coastal abrasion (related to climate and environmental issues) item I As a result of the deep abrasion, the Black Sea coast is ruined by the waves. In consequence of the warming is rising sea levels, leading to the entry of the water basin inland. Over the last 100 years, the Earth's temperature has risen by 0.74 degrees Celsius, which also has an impact on the penetration of the inland water basin.

2. Measures to acquire knowledge, skills and specific competencies among representatives of small-scale fishing on opportunities for diversification of economic activities in fisheries areas to cope with the volatility of earnings;

3. Measures to promote entrepreneurship in fisheries areas, incl. women entrepreneurship: organizing specific trainings, mentoring and consulting for entrepreneurship competences and the opportunities for diversification of economic activities in fisheries areas; (item F,H).

4. Promoting cooperation (regional and transnational) between local and regional authorities, NGOs, small-scale fisheries, businesses and academics (focusing on tackling climate change and finding solutions to common competitiveness and quality issues of living in fisheries areas).

5. Creation of clusters to diversify activities in fisheries areas, incl. clusters for the development of sustainable tourism focusing on specialized (non-mass tourism), eg ecotourism, cultural tourism, etc.

Mr Yordan Gospodinov made a proposal to limit the number of fishing nets in order to avoid conflict between shipowners and small fishermen, because there are currently kilometers networks placed outside the fishing zones of SSF, who have no identification and ships them drag.

Another on what should be emphasized and BISAC can give recommendation is the issue concerning the places for landing catches, as they should be regulated not only for ships and fishing boats but also for recreational fishermen. These boats could catch 100 kg and even more fish, which then is on the market without these catches have been reported. These boats must have a catch reporting device, moorings, and have trace back capability.

Mr Kiril Zheglev: If we want to help the fishermen, the greatest need is to build infrastructure - ports, conditions for selling fish - markets and martens. Vessel maintenance conditions should also be created - places to be repaired. Investments by the European Commission are a good thing, but they are misguided. Fishermen are very conservative people to participate in various programs because this is linked to a lot of documentation. Very few fishermen have the capacity to develop projects, and if someone does, he will not share it with others. According to him, investments should be directed directly to building ports and infrastructure, because fishermen will then adapt. As regards the improvement of fishing gear as well as illegal and unregulated fishing, the role of scientific institutes should be to provide fishermen with environmentally friendly means of fishing. It is important, according to him, that the EC should fund research institutes to develop projects for fishermen, but research to be practical, because it has not been so far.

Prof. Nikolaev: We need to think about coordination between science and the final economic agents. EU Member States have an interesting tool for stimulating small-scale fishermen, namely operational funding programs. For example, the Blacksea4fish project has a tool for exchanging information between stakeholders.

Mr Yordan Gospodinov: Propose one of the directions on which to concentrate the BISAC is action No. 13 of the plan drawn up by the GFCM - good access to mooring sites, adding to it all hygienic requirements.

Ms Mihaela Kandeia Merea: Suggests that the CSFM should also go to action No 53 of the plan have provided places for collection of waste from the sea, sorting and transportation.

Mr Yordan Gospodinov: Bulgarian and Romanian fishermen seized two specific species from the Black Sea – rapana venosa and mussels. As to Rapana add value and are exported to third countries. But exports – only the rapana meat is 1/6 of its weight. The organic product that remains - the shell is not used for anything and the mountains accumulate from this waste. He suggests that the BISAC recommend that this residual product be returned to the sea because it forms the sea sand or is used to create natural reefs. For now, there is no technology to produce something out of the shell, except for calcium for birds, but under a new regulation this is no longer allowed.

Mr Florin Luchian: In Bulgaria, unlike Romania, there are more small-scale fishermen organizations. There is only one Federation in Romania. Her representative was invited but could not

attend this meeting. The Secretariat of the CSFM has undertaken to ask for written proposals on small-scale fishermen, so that the RCCM can come up with a united opinion.

Mr Dimitar Kanariev: In item 52 (Climate and Environment) of the plan - the use of non-meaty species, perhaps refers to rapana. He queried Ms Pinelopi Belekou whether the GFCM has taken into account that he is a predator and feeds on mussels that are the Black Sea's filter. Also suggests in paragraph 53 of the plan that the word "can" be deleted from the text so as to read: "these plans include compensation schemes for the collection of marine waste".

Ms Pinelopi Belekou reiterated the recent developments for rapana fisheries in the context of GFCM. , She mentioned that the species was considered invasive being at the same time a commercial stock with high value. This was taken into account from the GFCM and the species removed from the invasive priority stocks list, considering this as commercial priority stock. To this end, a Recommendation was adopted in 2018 GFCM annual session, establishing a regional research plan. The objective of the plan is to improve scientific knowledge on rapana fisheries. She added that issues related to interaction of rapana with other stocks, are included in this plan.

Conclusion: The Working Group agreed on the view that the BISAC should focus on items 13, 53 and 54 of the timetable for implementing the regional scale action plan for small-scale fisheries. As to come up with a final statement, the group will wait for the written proposals of the Federation of small-scale fishermen in Romania.

Following is a presentation by Michaela Mirea and Kostin Timofte “ "Sustainable management of fisheries – marine mammals interaction".

Prepared the minutes: Mrs. Elena Peneva

Chairman of the BISAC : Yordan Gospodinov