MEDAC - Registered Office Via XX Settembre, 20 - c/o MASAF - 00187 Rome (Italy) - Tax identification number 97534810581 - Association registered with the Prefecture of Rome as a legal entity n.1224/2017

Ref. 80/2024 Rome 10 April 2024

MEDAC REPLIES TO THE EC CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL DATA IN FISHERIES SUGGESTED BY THE COORDINATOR OF WG5

ANNEX 1: SOCIAL DATA IN FISHERIES

Questions on social data
1. Looking at the list below, could you indicate which of the policy areas should be addressed as a matter of priority?
2. Looking at the list below, could you indicate if any area/aspect is missing?

List of policy areas

A. State of play:
- a. Current socio-economic situation of fishers (working conditions, safety, type & number of contracts over a year, well-being, training & skills, social position in society, income, employment type, age, gender, etc)
- b. Comparison of situation to other sectors (in terms of danger, difficulty, etc)
- c. Level of awareness of sustainability issues (environment, social, economic)
- d. Working conditions of non-EU workers onboard EU vessels fishing outside EU waters (equal treatment, equal training / skills, etc)
- ***e) type of remuneration whether per part (share-fisher) or fixed, i.e. monthly.***
- ***f) respect and coverage of the National Collective Bargaining Agreement.***
- ***g) wage parity: the wages of the flag country must be applied (this concerns above all companies working outside the EU that apply the wages of the countries where they fish, which are much lower than the European ones)***
- ***h) Fishers' place of residence and related costs for travel, food and accommodation***
- ***i) Safety level on board: number of accidents at sea.***

B. Assessment of management measures:
- a) Impact of EU conservation measures on fishing communities in terms of employment, working conditions and potential for social conflict
- b) reduction of maritime space due to restrictions on fishing activity: concentration of fishing vessels in ever smaller spaces with related conflicts, including social ones.
- ***c) On the issue of quotas, the economic impact must be analysed. Check whether the quota is sufficient to maintain the overall costs of the enterprise, and therefore of labour, as MEDAC calls for in management plans where the socio-economic impact should be assessed upstream. Moreover, the national fishery profiles should be considered.***

C. Dependency:
- a. Vulnerability of fishers (wages, contracts, social coverage, pension, predictability of business environment, financial position, work safety, etc.)

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info@med-ac.eu
+39 06.46.65.21.12 T

med-ac.eu
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma (Italy)

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b. Level of adaptability to current changes (business structure, polyvalence including other non-fishing activities, training & skills, duration of residence (e.g., likeliness to accept moving), working rhythm

c. Impact of the employment of non-national fishers (EU and non-EU) on fishing communities

d) Low wages mean less access to credit for both workers and companies

e) Personal protective equipment (PPE) that conforms to the sector. (Often these devices are taken from other trades and adapted to the fishing sector)

f) Training on the management and storage of waste that is fished out of the sea.

D. Mobility:

a. Number of fishers that have tried to work in the fleet of another EU country but couldn't (link to mutual recognition, training)

b) the lack of generational turnover is also caused by poor profitability

c) the role of schools needs to be reviewed

d) lack of adequate support for periods of inactivity,

e) excessive health risks and dangers,

f) excessive bureaucracy and controls.

E. Immaterial value:

a. Perceived historical and cultural importance of the fishing community in the EU by different categories of the population

b) The fishery importance for the local community must include all the activities connected with the extractive sector, such as the value chain, but also the gears industries and shops, etc

c) MEDAC advice on the new generation of fishers (Ref.59/2024, 8 March 2024)

- support to the fishery communities, the traditional social role in different areas of the Mediterranean

F. Generation renewal:

a. Attractiveness of the profession for the younger generation (working conditions and safety for men and women, training & skills, safety, income, social coverage, pension, working hours, time away from home, employment type (self-employed, full time, part time, etc.), level of professionalization, use of IT/technology, integration of environmental concerns, etc.)

b. Number of fishers that have "dropped" or discontinued the family business, and reasons (safety, income, hardship, family itself doesn't want them to continue)

c) MEDAC advice on the new generation of fishers (Ref.59/2024, 8 March 2024)

- Urgent need of shared standards for training courses for fishers involving the relevant stakeholders to tailor the new fisher in the Mediterranean

- recognition of the working rights of the "non-EU new fishers"

- safety on board and social protection

- sustainable management of fishery resources

new technologies to support the sustainability of the fishery activities

- equal opportunities, in terms of rights, mutual recognition of the roles, promotion and the integration of women in the fishery sector

- valorisation of landings
- business creation and management
- financial tools/projects available to support the fishers in the future (EMFAF/other projects)

G. Engagement & compliance: a. Level of engagement of fishing communities (through representative bodies)

b. Type of representation in local/national decision bodies

c. Role of producer organisations and fishers' associations

d. Perceived role and impact of these organisations and associations in fisheries management decisions

e. Influence of fishing communities influence on compliance.