

Adri.SmArtFish

D.5.1.1 – Joint Discussion Board Meeting n.1

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16th, 2019

Time: 12.00 – 12.40

Moderator: Fabio Pranovi, *Professor of Fisheries Ecology – Ca’Foscari University*

Participants:

Luca Tenderini, *Responsible for EMFF MA – Veneto Region*

Dionisio Crosera, *president of CoVePa (Venetian Consortium of Artisanal Fishermen)*

Robert Momić, *president of fishermen in Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts*

Kristijan Zović, *Croatian representative of SSF in MEDAC*

Lav Bavčević, *Fisheries expert – University of Zadar*

Giovanni Dean, *Confcooperative – Fedagripesca Friuli-Venezia Giulia*

Meeting Transcript

Luca Tenderini: SSFs is a very relevant sector in the Northern Adriatic, it is necessary to invest on it, to sustain jobs and families, and help it have a greater weight in the decision-making and coastal management processes. There have already been initiatives to sustain fisheries in the Northern Adriatic – Veneto Region has been Partner within several previous ETC Projects focusing on Fisheries, starting from ADRIFISH. This time though we are embarking in a whole Project focusing on SSFs, and we have the added value to have the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture in the Partnership. Its contribution will be fundamental for the accomplishment of Adri.SmArtFish objectives, since it can directly intervene on regulations in its Country.

Dionisio Crosera: Adri.SmArtFish objectives are ambitious but undertaking such a Project is much needed. SSF enterprises are normally very self-centred and quarrelsome, but until they won't be capable of cooperation at the basin scale, effective management of natural resources will not be possible, also because of the natural mobility of fish assemblages. In addition to the benefits for the sustainability of the marine environment, the success of Adri.SmArtFish will allow sustaining operators and their families.

Momić: It is an important project, and it's good that so many Regions/Counties as well as the Ministry of Agriculture are taking part in it. There have already been successful synergies in the past, and it is fundamental to work together also with institutions such as MEDAC. The Adriatic is a small sea, and it is necessary that all stakeholders work together to a common goal.

Zović: The Project needs to be the link between SSFs and the Politicians – it must aim to have an impact at the decision-making level. It is important to share both problems and best practices within the sector and make EU aware of them.

Bavčević: This project represents a good chance to make people and decision-makers alike familiar with the SSF sector, since, at the EU level, it is still perceived more as a social phenomenon, while it is really an economic activity in its own right and must integrate with trawl and recreational fisheries. It is also a little studied sector, and the Project is important to define the state-of-the-art.

Dean: Friuli-Venezia Giulia is a pioneer regarding the Project's objective, since it has an SSF consortium active in the last 10 years. The project is very important at the local level, because in Friuli fisheries are a small reality, and it is likely that in the near future only SSFs will survive. We have already created a discussion board in which the various fishing consortia discuss issues, often fighting over them, but finally coming out with shared guidelines, and this allows fisheries management to be based on inputs from the discussion board. Scaling-up this work model to the whole GSA17 is the right way to go.

Fabio Pranovi: *The ambition to create a cross-border consortium is scary, but it is the only way to go to ensure a future for the SSF sector. Which are your thoughts?*

Luca Tenderini: it is an ambitious goal indeed, but an effort must be made, and someone must make the first step. The Project serves this purpose, but it will have success only if fishermen believe in it.

Dionisio Crosera: There will be many difficulties, but if we do nothing, Adriatic SSFs will face extinction. This is a good incentive to work together, for example to regulate market prices of SSF produce.

Momić: There will be legislative issues to solve, and it is up to the Ministry to deal with those. It will also be important that Partners from the opposite sides of the Adriatic work together, to address their different environmental and socio-economic conditions towards a common goal.

Zović: Differences exist not only between Italy and Croatia, but also between Northern and Southern Croatian Counties: this must not be an obstacle, and it is important to address common problems.

Bavčević: For the Project to be successful, Small-Scale Fishermen must unite, by finding common interests, resources and shared market sectors.

Dean: the critical issue is to define the characteristics of the consortium we want to create: it needs form and contents. SSFs are very heterogenous, regulations presently don't consider this, but the Consortium must aim to valorise such variety.

Fabio Pranovi: *Surely the Project will serve to create a "container" – it will be up to the operators to fill it and make it work. Any comment from the audience?*

Igor Coccato (Director of Fishermen's Cooperative "San Marco"): I'm positive that the project will help to find a shared governance system. Important points to address will be:

- Creation of a shared management plan
- Favour innovation to give SSFs a greater role within the blue growth framework
- Reduction of un-sustainability

Fabio Pranovi: in this moment, another aspect to consider is that there are many IT-HR project with goals converging with those of Adri.SmArtFish, such as Fairsea, and the strategic project ARGOS. These projects must interact, to find synergies and unify initiatives, so to maximise the participation of Fishermen and the Public.