

 **Opinion 72 of the SWW RAC****Context**

In its consultation on the future of RACs and their composition, the European Commission (EC) highlights the fact that small-scale fishing needs to be better represented on a European level. The SWW RAC's Traditional Fishing Working Group, which met on 5 December 2012 in Madrid, expressed its concern about the lack of adequate representation for a sector as socially important as small-scale fishing in discussion forums and decision-making regarding fishing on a European level.

We request that the EC meet with representatives of the Traditional Fishing Working Group so that our concerns can be outlined and to find possible solutions in order to achieve adequate representation for this small-scale sector in the EU.

**Proposed stages:**

I. We request that the EC finance a study to draw up an inventory of the small-scale fishing sector to create a map of representative organisations in this sector across the EU. This inventory would provide a clearer impression of the importance of this sector and problems specific to it, such as its desire for representation and visibility on a European level.

II. We request that a conference be held to highlight the different issues of the community small-scale sector to discuss and find solutions to the problems identified when reforming RACs, and to ensure that there are mechanisms in place to support the fair representation of this sector across the whole of the EU and to be able to deal with, among others, common themes that affect this entire sector. This conference must rely on the presence of all stakeholders concerned by coastal fishing.

