

Translation of the note 307227 dated 2013/03/08 of the European Commission.

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Mr Victor Badiola  
SWW RAC  
Station Ifremer  
8 rue François Toullec  
56100 Lorient  
France

Subject: SWW RAC Recommendation on small-scale fishing

Your ref.: *Opinion no. 72, dated 18 December 2012*

Mr Badiola,

We thank you for your opinion on small-scale fishing. Small-scale fishing represents an important part of fishing in the European Union with approximately 80% of the boats and 50% of jobs in the sector. There are also special regulatory measures designed to support small-scale fishing. In the context of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission has proposed to increase the aid to the most vulnerable fisheries that play a vital role in coastal communities, especially the most isolated communities (if these communities are sustainable). Please find our reply below which follows the structure of your letter.

Proposal to hold a meeting with the small-scale fishing working group

We agree to meet the representatives of the traditional fishing working group and to discuss subjects specific to this fishing category in greater detail. This meeting could take place at the time of the next meeting organised by SWW RAC for example.

Study of the drawing up of a map of organisations of the artisan fishing sector

It is always important to gain better knowledge of the small-scale fishing sector (representative organisations, specific problems, etc.). In the context of the collection of fishing data, the Member States must collect the socio-economic data used to analyse the changes in the sector and provide the Commission with this data. We are nevertheless conscious that there is still a large amount of work to be carried out to improve the availability and quality of the data. The Commission continues to work in this direction but the sector can also make a contribution. We would like to suggest you harness the efforts of the RAC members (those who are in the field and have the best knowledge of the realities of small-scale fishing), in order to contribute the missing information and data.

Conference to set out the different issues of the artisan sector

It is indeed an interesting idea to allow the small-scale fishing sector to become better organised and identify common messages. For this reason, we encourage the small-scale fishing sector to organise such a conference. This could take place once the map of representative organisations of small-scale fishing has been drawn up.

If you have any questions relating to this reply, we suggest you contact Mr Olivier Baudalet, coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils ([olivier.baudeleec.europa.eu](mailto:olivier.baudeleec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.68.70).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', written in a cursive style.

Lowri EVANS