

Reinforcement of the technical capacity of SWW RAC's "Insular sub-division" Working group

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The restructuring of the group has been an important step in its development. Initially, there were no representatives from the Canaries in this group, but since 2009 a few members have joined the group.

Although this group is made up of quite representative participants (we should however note that there is a majority of participants from the Azores and less participants from the Canaries), we note that the group does not operate in an optimal manner at the present time and that it produces few recommendations to the European Community.

However, different key points have gradually been highlighted for the 3 groups of islands that make up each of these archipelagos. Without providing an exhaustive list, we can mention the subject of agreements concerning tuna fishing concluded between these archipelagos, the consequences of the regulations adapted by ICCAT for this fishery, the special features of the artisan fisheries with the particular difficulty posed by the transmission of scientific data to the fishing communities, the increase in the value of the products of these fisheries (and the specific point of the air transport aid regime).

Consequently, it is not the lack of concrete, important subjects that prevents detailed argued recommendations being produced by this group. It is more the lack of the technical capacity to read, analyse and comply with the applicable regulations and standards, in order to propose solutions applicable to the very real problems for the fleets and the communities of fishermen in these archipelagos.

Indeed, the reality of the associations of fishermen is that it is difficult for them to pay competent, efficient technicians to do this work. We should nevertheless stress the fact that fishermen participate in this unique group of the SWW RAC. Although it can be said that their participation is very positive for the representativeness of the group, we cannot ask fisherman, in addition to their work and voluntary commitment to come to these meetings, to do the work of statistical analysis that is required in the context of the RAC. Neither is it possible for the SWW RAC secretariat to free up more time to help the group.



- For all the reasons stated above, SWW RAC would like to consider the possible solutions for providing financial support to this group. At this stage, SWW RAC would like to know whether the European Commission, the States concerned (Portugal, Spain) and the autonomous governments are disposed to provide financial support for this technical reinforcement.

Origin of the opinion: SWW RAC “Insular Subdivision” working group discussed during the meeting on 18 February 2013 in Madeira