

Opinion 89: Reaction to the planned prohibition of all fishing using drift gill-nets

Addressees: Council of Ministers, European Parliament, European Commission

Whereas:

- the impact analysis carried out by the European Commission in the framework of the modification of the measures governing drift gill-net fishing,
- The draft European Commission regulation prohibiting such fishing techniques, published on 14 May 2014,
- The discussions that took place at the Executive Committee meeting on 12 June 2014,
- The different Contributions received by SWW RAC's secretariat,

SWW RAC members:

- Greatly regret that the current provisions for drift gill-net fishing have never been implemented or effectively enforced.
- Wish to register their disagreement on the form, and state that it is not acceptable to call a standard into question because it is difficult to enforce.
- Highlight the fact that the European Commission's proposal unfortunately relies on economic data that is too fragmented.
- Wish to point out that the fishing companies concerned do not have the opportunity to delay compliance, and that more than just the loss of turnover, this prohibition would endanger the very existences of these companies.
- Are shocked by the statement made by the European Commission that "while it cannot rule out the possibility that the prohibition may have an impact on some of the ships that carry out this type of fishing, the overall socio-economic repercussions of the total prohibition are however considered to be negligible on the national and sub-regional scale".
- Consider that the number of fishing companies potentially affected by this proposed prohibition, based on the technical definition of this equipment, may be very much greater, and concern other artisanal fisheries.
- Consider that the issue of incidental catches should be assessed at the scale of the fisheries and the spatial dynamic of the species referred to in annexe VII.I of EU regulation no. 847/1997.

The members of SWW RAC recommend:

- That all possible efforts should be made to ensure the provisions currently in force are fully implemented and effectively enforced.



- If it is necessary to change the regulatory corpus at European level, the definition of the best management tools to be implemented should be based on a regionalised approach.
- These tools should be based on precise documentation, and take account of the dependence of the artisanal fishing companies, so as to avoid endangering their existence.

Contributions received: Federación Galega de Cofrarias de Pescadores (annexe 1), CNPMM (annexe 2), OCEANA (annexe 3)

