



Sixth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Discussion Panel A

Fisheries and their contribution to sustainable development

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New York, 7th June 2005

Extractive fishing sector

Scope

- Spanish companies with long distance fleets and fleets in other European Union countries.



Extractive fishing sector – Key aspects



- Regulated and strategic economic sector.
- Sustainable, responsible and legal fishing.
- Involvement in the decision-making process: co-responsibility.
- Legal protection and stability.
- Fight against IUU fishing: RFOs role
- Other factors that influence the conservation of marine environment.

Regulated and strategic economic sector

- Drives the economy of many regions.
- Sector with direct influence on the economic and social development of other important sectors.
- Sector that contributes to the economic and social development of less developed countries.



Responsible, legal fishing.

- One of the most regulated sectors of the world
- Technical measures: minimum sizes, mesh size, catch limits, limits to grounds, closed seasons in space-time, limits on effort, etc.
- Obligations related to maritime navigation, safety and hygiene in the work place, control of fishing activities, sanitary conditions of production, etc.
- Regulations generating additional exploitation costs taken on by shipowners – inequality in terms of other fleets involved in illegal fishing.

Sustainable fishing

- Responsible fishermen's objective: makes it possible to obtain the maximum possible benefits from the ecosystem in a longlasting manner.
- Ideal situation: by applying a given level of effort, maximum catches are obtained and sustained over time.
- 76% of fish stocks in good condition: 3% underexploited, 21% moderately exploited, 52% fully exploited (FAO).
- 24% overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion (16, 7 and 1% respectively) (FAO).

Involvement in the decision-making process



- A useful, efficient system of fisheries management calls for understanding, acceptance, consensus of opinion, co-responsibility and participation by the sector.
- Establish permanent institutional frameworks to allow the scientists, sector and administrations to meet.

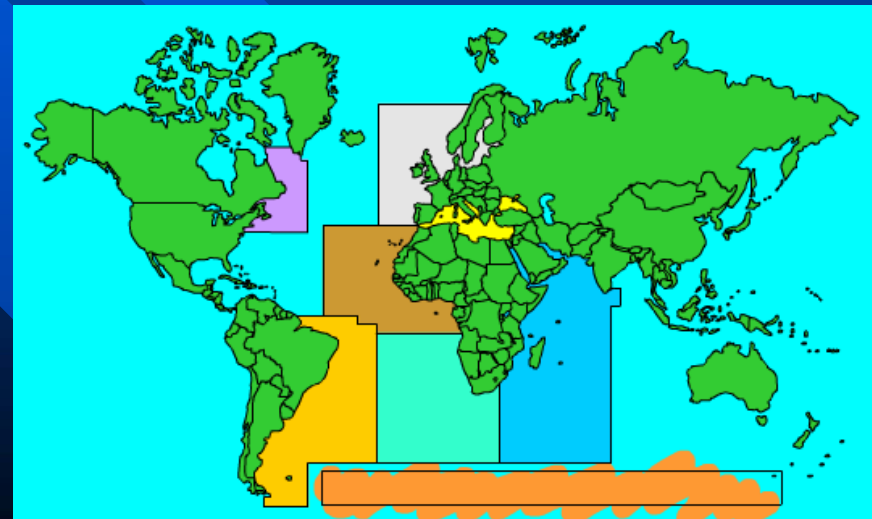
Legal protection and stability

- Develop acceptable measures with the consensus of opinion of companies.
- Need to analyze and study the restrictive measures required in each case on a zone by zone basis.
- September 2003 – “European Code of good practices for sustainable, responsible fishing”.



Fight against IUU fishing: RFOs role

- Need for multilateral cooperation.
- Set up trade measures as the best way to combat IUU fishing.
- Need for the RFOs to cover all fishing areas.



Other factors influencing the conservation of the marine environment

- Contamination caused by activities on land and by hydrocarbons
- Effects of climatic change
- Effects of oil and gas prospection
- Effect of maritime transport
- Dumping waste
- Etc.

Conclusions

- The responsible, legal extractive fishing sector is a strategic, highly regulated economic sector that needs the following to develop sustainable fishing:
 - Legal protection and stability.
 - Active participation, from the outset, in the decision-making process, working together with scientists and administrations.
 - Combat IUU fishing.
 - For the RFOs to regulate and cover all the fishing areas, at all times, acting on a multilateral basis, imposing trade measures on those who fail to comply.
- Responsible fisheries = responsible market
- There are many other factors affecting conservation of the marine environment that should be taken into account.