

...Italian fisheries sector is undergoing a deep crisis, whose main causes are:

- the overfishing of main demersal stocks;
- the climate change and the environment degradation;
- the oldness of fleet and the high energetic consumption,
- the inadequacy of the catch processes and their poor selectivity;

- the inappropriateness of preservation, processing and marketing of fish products;

- the difficulties in an effective management in all phases of fisheries sector, from net to table .

- The fisheries sector in Italy affects either biological factors, such as different productivities of seas in terms of species and quantity, or the socio-economic contest in which fisheries develop...
- It is well known that Mediterranean fisheries are multispecific, multigears and targeted to the human consume...
- Due to the high variability of Mediterranean habitats, fisheries have different peculiarities in different Mediterranean basins (the Adriatic Sea yields small pelagics, the Tyrrhenian Sea large pelagics and the Strait of Sicily groundfishs)...

Research and innovation must support fisheries sector to contribute to:

- Understand stock dynamics according to the variation of the environmental condition and the fisheries pressure;
- Assess the impact of fisheries on communities and habitat in which commercial stocks live within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management;
- Improve fisheries exploitation pattern s by increasing mesh size of nets, introducing escape route systems in the cod end and establishing trawling ban in recruitment areas;
- Promote a sustainable fishing, contributing to product value improvement from the fishing fleet (ecolabelling);
- Increase comfort and safety onboard, including the fishing activities;
- Develop the socio-economic sustainability of the fisheries sector by improving ICT onboard, in order to improve fisheries management and market approaches;
- Enhance fisheries governance, improving the co-operation among Managers, Fishermen, Researchers and other Stakeholders.

Ongoing national and international projects

National projects RITMARE (MIUR) Technological Districts - MIUR ITAFISH (MIPAAF) Long Term Fishery Management Plans (Regional and MIPAAF) Decision System Support in the Fisheries Sector (CNR)

<u>International projects</u> MEDSUDMED (FAO Regional Project) ADRIAMED (FAO Regional Project) Data Collection Framework (DG MARE CE) MAREA (DG Mare CE) MESMA (DG Research CE) CREAM (DG Mare CE) ERANET KBBE. 2012.1.2-13 fisheries, aquaculture and sea food processing (DG Research) Starting from this meeting, we would like to join future opportunities to:

- Take part in the activities of WGs of the EFTP;
- Plan cooperation and common work in the EU context;
- Plan cooperation and common work in the international context;
- Contribute to reach common positions on main challenges for sustainable fisheries.