

Venice, October 18th 2016 - Artisanal fishing
Contribution by Dionisio Crosera, artisanal fisherman from Caorle (Italy)

Good morning! I'm Dionisio, I was born in 1956, I live in Caorle and I come from a family of fishermen, it has been confirmed by investigations in the Venice state archives. The craft was reported on the official documents and acts: it's interesting to note that for the fishermen's wives was often reported as the statement "nets maker". We can imagine that in the last Century, when all the nets were made by hand with cotton yarn, mesh after mesh, how much the cooperation of women was essential for the fisheries activities.

Fishing I carry out is based on traditional and artisanal methods by choice, for passion and because I believe that this is almost the only opportunity to still allow young people a future in fishing.

A real thanksgiving to those who helped with the event today, to the attendants and to all those who in various ways are activated to enable new generations to live on fishery.

Along with some colleagues fishermen in Veneto, I am committed to see if there are solutions to enable small-scale fishing to survive. We plan to set up a consortium that represent among the institutions and propose effective solutions for the defense of our class.

In the last decades, fishing has undergone great changes for both the industrial and technological progress which inevitably have altered the environment. The consequences have resulted pollution, exploitation of resources, restriction of fishing areas, different activities such as merchant shipping, tourism and sports conditioning significantly the small-scale fisheries.

What you could we do today for fishing? What solutions we can all put in place to mitigate the difficulties? I think that the project that DG MARE commissioned to Unimar and MEDAC is going in this direction and together we can find solutions that strengthen small-scale fisheries.

As is known, small-scale fisheries is made up of small fishing units, with a very low impact on the resources, satisfying the income of the majority of fishermen while fishing with larger units needs more fish catches for a minor part of the fishing fleet.

Artisanal fishing can survive if the competition with the other activities will give space to carry out its own, trying to reconcile its activity with respect for the sea, as did thousands of years. Today the materials have changed, but conceptually the systems are still those used by the Apostles at the time of Christ. The strength of small-scale fisheries should be the respect and the safekeeping of the resource for the benefit of future generations.

The contribution that I would like to bring doesn't mean to be a pre-established solution, but questions aimed to seek answers with all of you:

What is artisanal fishing? Who are the fishermen of artisanal small-scale fishing?

How many the small-scale fishermen are? How many families live on small-scale fishing?

What is their impact on fish stocks? Are there spaces for their future of this type of activity?

Is possible to share the same areas with hydraulic dredge fishing, beam trawl and pelagic trawl?

How is it possible the co-existence with other nautical activities as passenger transportation, beach tourism, sports?

How much illegal fishing affects the sector? (Very common in our coasts).

Is it possible to set up management frameworks of artisanal fishing areas?

What market is today the most appropriate and responds to the needs of the sector?

More questions which may become proposals already in responding together.

Today the information technology can help fishing making networks and help in the data dissemination.

Some economic experts say that the market is done by the demand while supply adjusts and optimizes to it, while success derives from the responsiveness capacity. It is essential to always have an open look and consider that the fish stocks are a exhaustible resource, that on the

resources depend many families, often small-scale fisheries ones, and that we all have a credit for the future generations.

With the highest availability for effective work I remain available and I thank you all for the work done and to do, together with the fishermen.

I.T. can help small-scale fishing, as well.

Companies can communicate through tablets equipped with simple software: the research for statistical data, the Ministry for licenses and vessels control, the fish markets for the traceability and transport obligations, the direct customers, the fish markets, restaurants and families. Furthermore, the company will also be able to promote the product through photos and videos, the gear used and the environment in order to provide customers direct information that inform about the particularities of responsible fishing: an added value that can be propagated with our ideas...

Dionisio Crosera - Fisherman