



Atlantic Arc Commission

Minutes of the Seminar

organised by the Atlantic Arc Commission Fisheries Group
26 February 2015, Nantes (Pays de la Loire-France)

Speakers' presentations
are available on our website at the following link: www.arcatlantique.org

Background

This seminar was organised at the kind invitation of Mrs Adeline L'Honen, Regional Councillor of the Region Pays de la Loire and Chair of the Atlantic Arc Commission Fisheries Working Group. It focused on the "Future of fishing in the Atlantic Arc: regionalisation of the Common Policy Fisheries" and brought together two MEPs, a number of regional politicians, as well as socio-economic actors from the fishing industry within the Atlantic Regions. Issues were addressed in two panel discussions:

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Regional support for the Atlantic fishing industry: expertise to be promoted

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: How to implement the CFP in the Atlantic Sea Basin

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Regional support for the Atlantic fishing industry: expertise to be promoted - Moderator: Giuseppe Sciacca

✓ **Adeline L'Honen**, Regional Councillor, Pays de la Loire and Chair of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission Fisheries Working Group

Adeline L'Honen opened the seminar by recalling the importance of the Atlantic Arc Commission Fisheries Working Group. She reaffirmed the Pays de la Loire's commitment to regional cooperation at European level as shown through its participation in several European projects. Region Pays de la Loire is also substitute member for Cantabria (Presidency of the Atlantic Arc Commission) on the CPMR Political Bureau.

Ms L'Honen then emphasised the need to capitalise on past experiences to successfully address the new programming period on specific topics such as the discard ban, selectivity of fishing gear, modernising fishing vessels, protecting small-scale coastal fisheries, adding value to fish products, aquaculture and protecting the coastal environment.

- ✓ **Ricardo Serrão Santos**, MEP - Member of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament: *“What instruments/funding to implement the CFP within the Atlantic sea basin?”*

Ricardo Serrão Santos introduced his presentation by briefly recalling how the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) worked generally under the CFP, especially with regard to sustainable development. He then reminded everyone of funding opportunities in specific areas:

- Partnerships between scientists and fishermen to promote knowledge transfer;
- Innovative proposals for the preservation of marine biological resources;
- Protecting and restoring marine biodiversity;
- Tackling climate change and improving the energy efficiency of fishing vessels.

He then pointed out one of the new features of this programming period: the ability to combine different sources of funding (EMFF combined with HORIZON 2020, COSME or LIFE, for example). Finally, he presented the decision-making process within the European Parliament, which for the first time had joint power of decision on the Common Fisheries Policy, and stressed how difficult it was to define a common position on the discard ban within the European Parliament.

→ Link to Ricardo Serrão Santos’ [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

- ✓ **Stéphane Travert**, Regional Councillor responsible for Fisheries, Basse Normandie (France): *“Aquaculture, a promising sector for Atlantic Regions”*

Stéphane Travert presented the fish farming industry in the Basse-Normandie region, highlighting the great potential for aquaculture: 350 companies, 3,200 direct jobs and 11,000 indirect jobs.

He specified that the areas in which the Region was particularly active were oyster farming, marine fish farming, seaweed farming and shellfish farming.

Stéphane Travert stressed in particular that Basse-Normandie had decided to ringfence 30% of the EMFF for aquaculture in the region. Finally, he made the connection with other business sectors strongly related to aquaculture activities: facilities, research, education, ship building or renovation (fishing vessels), etc.

- ✓ **Juan Carlos Maneiro Cadillo**, General Secretary for Fisheries of Galicia (Spain): *“Small-scale coastal fisheries: a socio-economic asset for the Atlantic basin”*

Juan Carlos Maneiro Cadillo began his presentation by recalling some general data on small-scale coastal fishing in Galicia, which represents some 3,800 vessels, more than 5,000 jobs, 60 million euros, and 22% of landings. Galicia has 51% of the Spanish EMFF envelope.

He continued his speech with an analysis of small-scale coastal fishing in Galicia:

- **Strengths:** viable small businesses, widespread use of fixed gear, positive effect on the social fabric of small communities, significant source of jobs, low power consumption.
- **Weaknesses:** income inequality, low contribution to the income of the Region, low economic drive (aging fleet), little or no investment, small vessels.
- **Opportunities:** selling points (ecological, small-scale industry, local products) product differentiation, easier to adapt and apply technological progress.
- **Threats:** environmental degradation and depletion of fish stocks, competition for coastal areas, introduction of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs)

Apart from financial support from the EU, Juan Carlos Maneiro Cadillo pointed out that several measures need to be taken to support small-scale coastal fishing: **environmental measures** (improving the environment of marine coastal areas), **social measures** (strengthening the social fabric and resilience

of coastal communities to prevent the depopulation of rural coastal areas), **economic measures** (fostering innovation) and **governance measures** (introducing licences to facilitate and reduce the costs of monitoring and preserve protected species).

Juan Carlos Maneiro Cadillo concluded by highlighting the need to establish differential treatment for small-scale coastal fishing and to promote its development.

→ Link to Juan Carlos Maneiro Cadillo's [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

- ✓ **Christophe Clergeau**, 1st Vice-President of Pays de la Loire Region (France): *“Towards a more sustainable and safer Atlantic fleet: the Region’s commitment to building vessels of the future, a socio-economic asset for the Atlantic basin”*

Christophe Clergeau indicated that the Pays de la Loire Region had decided to develop a project on hydrogen propulsion under the “Ships of the Future” call for projects launched by France aiming to ensure the sustainability of the fishing industry and to modernise vessels. The choice of hydrogen propulsion is explained by the development of offshore wind power in the region with the objective of storing wind energy as hydrogen that would be available through short distribution channels in the Region’s ports. Two demonstrators are under development, including one in Pays de la Loire, the “Philippine” (12 metre vessel), in order to carry out a one-year test. The challenges of the project are to reduce the energy bill, improve working conditions (deafness, health), and contribute to sustainable fisheries within a blue growth approach.

Christophe Clergeau concluded by emphasising that the EU’s decision to ban subsidies for the renewal of the fleet under the EMFF did nevertheless remain a stumbling block.

- ✓ **Rodrigo V. Oliveira**, Regional Under-Secretary of the Presidency for External Relations – Azores Regional Government (Portugal): *“Adding value to fisheries and its communities in an Autonomous and Outermost Region”*

Rodrigo V. Oliveira gave a brief overview of the Azores: 9 islands, Portuguese Autonomous Region, low fish stocks, 2.5% of the Portuguese territory, 13% of catches, 20% of the country’s fishermen and 20% of fishing exports. The main challenges for the Region are training, developing new technologies and promoting responsible consumerism. One of the regional government’s priorities is to diversify activities which are still highly concentrated (3,000 fishermen and 600 vessels, 4 tuna canning plants). He concluded his remarks by stressing the social and economic importance of fisheries for the Outermost Regions.

- ✓ **Yvan Yvan Guiton**, Director for the Sea, Maritime Development and Coastline - Brittany Region (France): *“Seaweed farming – What challenges and opportunities for the Atlantic Arc?”*

Yvan Guiton presented the BREIZH’ALG programme. Brittany Region has identified seaweed as a promising sector and an interesting response to the drastic reduction of the fleet to achieve sustainable fishing objectives. Almost all seaweed production in France is concentrated in Brittany (laboratories, research centres, processing plants). The seaweed industry is identified as a high potential growth sector: seaweed production concentrated in northern Brittany (e.g. production of seaweed based sodium). Seaweed is used in various sectors: cosmetics, pharmaceutical, industrial and food sectors (though not greatly developed), packaging, etc. The role of the Region is to put players in contact with one another and to foster the emergence of flagship projects for growing and harvesting seaweed. Educating people to consume seaweed could help to develop this market in Europe in the future.

→ Link to Mr Yvan Guiton’s [PowerPoint presentation](#).

**PANEL DISCUSSION 2: How to implement the CFP in the Atlantic Sea Basin –
Moderator: Pauline Caumont**

- ✓ **François Gatel**, Secretary General of AGLIA: *“Presentation of the REDRESSE project REDuction des REjets et Amélioration de la SElectivité dans le Golfe de Gascogne / Reducing discards and improving selectivity in the Bay of Biscay”*

François Gatel introduced his presentation by stating that the introduction of the new CFP and the “no discards” policy offers only two solutions: to land all catches or improve catching methods. Professions from the Bay of Biscay have opted to improve practices “sorting on the seabed rather than on deck.” On the topic of selectivity, gear is already available and being used (Nephrops grid, square mesh cylinder, etc.). The question is how to mix these tools to improve selectivity.

AGLIA is involved in studies yielding concrete results on hake and Norway lobster: 30% of hake catches (i.e. 14 million fish) and between 20 and 45% of Norway lobster (ie. 70 to 120 million) were spared.

François Gatel then presented REDRESSE project (Bay of Biscay) which is led by AGLIA.

- 2-year project, worth one million euros financed by France Filière Pêche, IFREMER and 4 French Atlantic regions (Brittany, Pays de la Loire, Poitou-Charentes, Aquitaine).
- Objectives: continue efforts to improve selectivity, activity by activity, and determine whether or not the devices are effective.
- Several phases for carrying out the project: analysis of the causes of discards, establishment of indicators, in situ test, socio-economic impact assessment and communication to convey the results to industry professionals.
- Tests conducted so far (including the T90 method) method have provided good results.

In conclusion, the initial results will be presented in 2015 and assessed by the European Commission.

→ Link to François Gatel’s [PowerPoint presentation](#).

- ✓ **Jean-Marie Robert**, Secretary General of the South Advisory Council: *“Presentation of the results of the GEPETO Project - Long-term transnational fisheries management”*

In his introduction, Jean-Marie Robert recalled the example of the Bay of Biscay anchovy: closed fishery between 2005 and 2010 due to the annual setting of fishing quotas and heavy socio-economic consequences (abandonment of 50% of fleets). Current management mechanisms (multi-annual) are intended to prevent such a reoccurrence. Management plans constitute the new keystone of the CFP to achieve the new objectives and better take on board the socio-economic aspect (taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development). The regionalisation of the CFP must allow for the creation of a third consultation channel through advisory councils (working on the discard ban, for example).

He then presented the GEPETO project (completed in 2014), funded by the Interreg-Atlantic Area programme. Its two aims were to implement long-term management and create a knowledge base. The new CFP calls for a more collaborative work (more complex political objectives).

→ Link to Jean-Marie Robert’s [PowerPoint presentation](#).

- ✓ **Kieran Moylan**, Representative of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (Ireland): *“Presentation of the results of the MARNET project on maritime socio-economic indicators in the Atlantic Arc”*

The Marnet project ran for two and a half years and was financed by the Interreg-Atlantic Area Programme. The project originated from a desire by the five members of the Atlantic area to address the lack of indicators for comparing the marine economies of these states.

This project has enabled joint work to be undertaken by econometric experts, marine economists and statisticians to develop a multi-level indicators database (national, regional and local) on the maritime

economy in the Atlantic Arc. It has produced a set of data on economic activities used to analyse the development of the sectors concerned. 15 key areas are addressed including tourism in coastal areas (regional level), education and goods transport.

→ Link to Kieran Moylan's [PowerPoint presentation](#) and to the [Marnet Project](#) website

✓ **Jean-Claude Cueff**, Acting Chair of the Aquaculture Advisory Council: *“Setting up, objectives and operation of the Aquaculture Advisory Council: challenges and opportunities for Atlantic transnational cooperation”*

The Aquaculture Advisory Council (AC) was set up in March 2015 to address the mismatch between aquaculture and the logic of the new CFP based on fishing basins. The Aquaculture AC covers all fish farming activities (fish, shellfish, seaweed, etc.). To date, a list has been drawn up of organisations wishing to be members of the Council: a number of associations identified by the European Association of Shellfish Producers, 25 associations identified by FEAP (Federation of European Aquaculture Producers), 70 agricultural-based organisations (farmers and livestock breeders), Civil Society: 19 environmental organisations and 2 consumer organisations. Scientific and veterinary expertise is also considered crucial, though the representatives of these organisations cannot be members.

The main objective is to make proposals or management recommendations to the European Commission. Current challenges for transatlantic cooperation (salmonids, oysters, turbot, seaweed) are:

- Fast-growing consumption (8/9% per year). The EU does not produce what the market would like to consume.
- Administrative Regions should play role in zonal planning to avoid mixing problems creating conflicts (e.g. visual interests).
- Need to identify suitable species.
- Zonal plan required for fish farmers: access to production licenses, simplification of administrative procedures to set up in business (the processes are too complicated and lengthy at present).

In conclusion, Jean-Claude Cueff called on the Regions to simplify procedures for setting up aquaculture businesses.

→ Link to Jean-Claude Cueff's [PowerPoint presentation](#)

✓ **Isabelle Thomas**, Full Member of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament: *“Initial assessment of the ‘regionalisation’ of the new CFP”*

Isabelle Thomas recalled the essential role of the European Parliament in streamlining the new CFP, the objective of which was to better manage stocks taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). However, she expressed her disappointment with regard to the regionalisation of the CFP in relation to initial expectations: all actors involved believed they would gain more power: the European Commission, European Parliament, Regions, States. This point had not been clear for any of the stakeholders.

According to Isabelle Thomas, the problem lies in the application of the delegated acts which leave hardly any prerogative to the European Parliament and the Council.

She also pointed out the inappropriateness of some excessively radical measures taken by the European Commission to address relatively limited circumstances (eg. driftnet ban because of fraud in Italy).

In conclusion, Isabelle Thomas called on the CPMR and the Atlantic Arc Commission to start contributing already towards preparing the next CFP and to ensure that regionalisation is actually introduced.