

D3.2.2

Document on guidelines for SSF sustainability protocol

The Shared Sustainable Fishery Protocol for SSF should be a path towards a greater focus on resources, the environment and sustainability, with the aim of shifting the vision of fishery operators from the search for immediate profit towards a constant gain in the Time.

The general guidelines were drawn up after a sharing activity with local operators who approved its contents.

The protocol will be based on three key elements:

1. **Respect**
2. **Reduction**
3. **Promotion**

Respect

- **of rules:** Members who will subscribe the protocol will commit to compliance with the rules on resource collection, hygiene, safety and trade. In particular, they will be organized in such a way as to give the fished product to one or more common landing points, so that the product can follow perfectly traceable routes;
- **of resources:** The focal point of the protocol will be the respect for the environment and the reduction of the impact on biological resources. Applicants will undertake to respect the biological cycles of exploited species, with a focus on egg spawning and hatching periods or particularly critical stages of the cycle itself. In addition, tools with low impact on the marine environment and high selectivity should be used, in terms of fishing effort, sizes of the catches and captured species. With regard to accidental catches (i.e. the capture of individuals who do not have the minimum size or no commercial value) operators will undertake to discard into the water as many living individuals as possible (as long as the legislation allows). Anyway, it is desirable that fishermen would take all the possible preventive measures to avoid the occurrence of accidental catches.

Reduction

Members will be committed to reduce the carbon footprint, reducing emissions from their activities, e.g. by operating on fuel consumption and avoiding waste, and optimize the resource exploitation, e.g. by operating on discard and by-catch.

Promotion

Primary purpose is to spread the protocol, as a virtuous practice within the entire high-Adriatic SSF, thus creating the conditions for a real change of perspective in the exploitation of resources: appropriate initiatives to highlight its value will therefore have to be put in place. This promotion activity will be carried out by SSF operators themselves and the partners of the Adri.SmArtFish Project, even after the conclusion of the same, within their own areas of competence.

Goals

The key goals that are expected to be achieved through the implementation (application) of the protocol are as follows:

- introduce and promote a real planning for the exploitation of renewable resources in the coastal area, to optimize and rationalize their use while ensuring an adequate level of protection of the coastal marine ecosystem, according to EU, national and local regulations;
- establish a direct and transparent channel of information with consumers and, in general, with the various stakeholders, to promote the products (also from an economic point of view) and to involve, for environmental and ethical aspects, all potential users in the process;
- improve the opinion about the world of professional fishing in the society, which is often considered responsible for illegal behaviours, destructive practices, etc.