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The new Common Policy of the Fisheries

De Pin, Antonio

Department of Economics - Ca' Foscari University of Venice

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The new Common Policy of the Fisheries

In the last few decades more than half of the natural heritage has been lost, this leads to investigate of conditions that may lead to biological collapse. It is true you cannot attend the progressive ecological imbalance without thinking there are no consequences.

While the absence of perception of danger could lead to weaknesses as inadequate responses, until it becomes impossible to culminate. The European Union also seems to be aware of this, trying to embrace new reforms to curb purely economic instances in favor of long-term policies.

The need to reorganize fisheries to protect biodiversity has given priority to the environmental dimension of sustainability, constraint for the explication of those economic and social. The objective is the defense of the sea and its species. Thus, the EU Reg. 1380/2013 defines the new Common Fisheries Policy (PCP), active since 1 January 2014, already formulated in the Treaty of Rome (Articles 38-43), and directly linked to the agricultural one.

The evolutionary dynamics has shown more and more the need to combat the excessive exploitation of marine, leading to periodic propositions of new measures. Though not sufficient to avoid the abundant subtraction of resources, with the lack of stock replenishment. For example, in 1995 the adoption of the Rules of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO, but is even from 1982 the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The new approach is long term: multiannual plans set stock targets, in quantity and size, to achieve sustainable levels. The new fleet's policy imposes on the States the burden of their downsizing, depending on the effective use, while public support is geared to improve safety conditions and actions at the service of sustainability. The application of rules implies a more effective system of controls and sanctions. The fishermen participating to the management of the sea through the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Regionalization coincides with the adoption of multi-annual plans, management of discards at sea, stock reserves, conservation measures, with the strengthening of the fishing unit rights and the improvement of fishery knowledge, while aquaculture is enhanced and supported the small-scale fishing.

From January 2014 must comply with the maximum sustainable yield, i.e. the maximum quantity that can be removed replaced by natural growth. For this, the reform entails the obligation to land the whole catch (95%), avoiding discards, representing a quarter of catch. Target is a selective fishing, the reliable data on the actual catch must be retained on board and counted on their respective quotas, in the context of long-term plan. The MSY (maximum sustainable yield) becomes the parameter able to conjugate environmental sustainability, with social and economic to.

The limits on catches, expressed in tons, or numbers, for different fish stocks represent the total allowable catches (TAC). These are divided into national quotas and then among fishermen. Quotas policy is no longer introduced to control the supply entered on the market, as in the example of the dairy sector, but to protect the productive potential. At the national level, reached the quota of the species, fishing is closed.

The system of transferable catch quotas (concessions) is introduced for ships of more than 12 meters in length and towed fishing gear. The respective holders are entitled to a percentage of fishing, at national basis, with the possibility of the rent, or exchange concessions, which are valid for fifteen years. The chance to transfer gives prospects for competitiveness in the sector, while reducing the excess capacity through selection.

The management of the national contingent make available a reserve for auxiliary catches, operations of accumulation, intertemporal exchanges to deal with any redundancy.

The fishing effort management implies marketing the species up to its amount. The Fisheries Organizations are to enforce the rules by promoting self-discipline.

In terms of funding, after the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance, active 1994-2007) and the EFF (European Fisheries Fund), the European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries is hereby established (EFMAF), for the period 2014-2020.

Actions contribute to replenish fish stocks, reduce the impact on the marine environment, eliminate discards, while supporting small-scale fisheries, young fishermen and local fisheries, as well as aquaculture. It is composed not for the purchase of new vessels, and for actions that go towards sustainability, so it abolishes aid for the definitive stop, due to reduced functionality in the reduction of fishing capacity. The budget for the EFMAF amounts to 6.4 billion euro, of which half a billion for Italy, which will have to submit the special Operational Program for the new seventh.

The new legislation rewards small-scale fishing, vessels of less than 12 meters in length and not using towed gear, for its social and cultural significance for the coastal regions. The small-scale fleet, in fact, constitutes 77% of boats, but only 8% of tonnage. They are exempted from regime of concessions, while it is subject to specific measures of the EFMAF. However, the prevalence of small boats of the Italian fleet results in relevance impact on coastal resources, in consideration of the particular conformation of our country. In this case, the economic and social dimension of the sustainability take premium, unfortunately, on that environmental.

If fishery cannot represent any longer the primary source of fish products, the reform promote aquaculture, on which are placed the most important expectations of protein supply on the planet, potentially environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. Thus, the Multiannual national plan specifies the growth targets in volume and value. In order to realize the potential of aquaculture,

attention is focused on the simplification of administrative procedures, territorial planning and the competitiveness of operators. The Plan reduces the licensing and authorization procedure to a month, in accordance with the environmental requirements.

The improvement in sectoral competitiveness is pursued with the Common Market Organization Reform (CMO), along with the EFMAF, to identify new business opportunities and marketing. The prediction of process certification and product, and thus traceability, intends to strengthen European competitiveness, with and new provisions on labeling, which help differentiate the EU product, which competes with imports do not always conform to the internal standards.

Especially felt the importance of increasing the responsibility of the consumer, whose choices are central for biodiversity. Thus, specific information campaigns intend to raise awareness to end users, whose accountability becomes the fulcrum of the whole chain. While the appropriate sustainability certificate becomes a simple tool, but important for responsible consumption and resource conservation.

From a structural point of view, the European Union has 83,000 fishing boats, with an average annual decrease of 1,5%, of which 13,000 Italians (15,9%), of which 8,700 artisanship boats.

The European Union is the fifth global fish producer and represents 4.4% of the market, while China alone accounts for 34.4%. The production, which is steadily decreasing, is to six million tons a year, aquaculture represent 20% of the total. Fishing in Italy has dropped to 196,000 tons, and so far are the aquaculture products, for a total sales of about two billion euros, 3.7% of the agricultural PLV. Among the bred products, half is shellfish and crustaceans, 28% from sea fish, 22% from freshwater. Europe is the world's third largest importer of fisheries products, after Japan and the US, with over sixteen million tons, the Italy contributes for 10%. Therefore, the per capita consumption of the Union is 23.3 kg year, against 25.4 kg in our country.

Sustainability-based approach to fisheries management is a required condition of the marine environment protection process. In particular, the Mediterranean for its special feature requires a joint action for the protection of its resources, largely compromised. However, the situation does not look better at a global level, where fisheries are under threat of over-exploitation. The large whales, which have disregarded the complex social and ecological interrelationships, appear on the verge of extinction, thus compromising the balance of the seas. The systemic approach indicates not compatible with the biological balance the dominance of a single species. Fish fauna, such as the animal, should not be object of collection in free nature.

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