

WEBINAR 12

19th September 2018 | 04.30 p.m. – 06.30 p.m.

SUBJECT MATTER

Models of management of fishermen association in the Mediterranean Sea

COORDINATORS

Paolo Fiume	CIHEAM Bari
Antonio Errico	Magna Grecia Mare Association

INTERPRETER

Philippe Debs	CIHEAM Bari
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EXPERT

Rocco Cazzato	Private Consultant – President of fishermen Cooperative
Francesco Capraro	Private Consultant – President of fishermen Cooperative
Cosimo Montinaro	Private Consultant – President of fishermen Cooperative

			LOCAL	FISHERMEN PRESENT
			REPRESENTATIVE	
COASTAL COMMUNITIES	ALBANIA	Porto Palermo	Endora Celohoxhaj	4
	ALGERIA	Algeri	Rafik Mecellah	
	EGYPT	Marsa Matrouh	Ashraf El Sadek Hoda Abdelmoniem	4
	ITALY	Tricase	Antonio Errico Salvatore Baglivo	5 + some members of Magna Grecia Mare Ass.
	LEBANON	Tripoli	Akmed Akra	
	MOROCCO	Nador	Naijb El Ouamari	4
	TUNISIA	Zarzis	Sami Dabbouni	

PRODUCED MATERIAL

- Integral recording of Webinar via platform Zoom;
- Summary report.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

Today's Webinar has addressed the issue related to "Models of management of fishermen associations in the Mediterranean Sea" on the suggestion and specific request of the Egyptian community.

The issue of cooperative or association forms is a very delicate issue all over the world because it concerns the ability of certain categories of professionals to work together.

The Tricase and neighboring communities fishing cooperatives have been invited to support the discussion and as a concrete example of management of these organizational forms. In fact, the meeting was attended by Francesco Capraro, president of the Cooperative "Pescatori Salentini" of Castro, Cosimo Montinaro, president of the Cooperative "La Folgore" of San Foca, Rocco Cazzato, ex-president of the Cooperative "Pescatori Salentini" of Tricase and now president of the Cooperative "Anime Sante".

Starting from the illustration of the functioning of the existing cooperatives in Tricase and in the neighboring communities, we tried to summarize the main aspects of the fishermen's cooperatives or associations in the Mediterranean and to analyze the similarities and differences, especially with regard to the activities, the financial aspects and the problems.

In Italy the interests of the fishermen are managed at national level by the trade associations or by trade union forms that represent the general interests of the category. Locally, fishermen are often organized into cooperatives. Some identified representatives support members in the management of their business and in the resolution of any problems.

In fact, the first task of the cooperative is to assist members in managing administrative and tax issues, which are difficult to manage directly by the fisherman. All the practices relating to requests for authorizations and licenses and payments of social security contributions, etc ... are in fact carried out by the cooperative. The cooperative is based mainly on the membership fees paid annually by the members. Very often the larger cooperatives can also support the members by offering them a series of additional services (for example supplying the ice needed for fishing trips ...). In order to guarantee greater revenue for the organization and therefore for the members themselves, some cooperatives are organized for the marketing of processed and packaged fish products. Interesting is the formula of the consortium of cooperatives, which is a group of cooperatives which are dealt with management of services such as the supply of equipment to members at cost-effective prices, achieved through centralized purchasing.

In Morocco there are different forms of association to protect the interests of fishermen who are cooperatives and associations at local level, but also national institutions such as federations and the Chambers of Fisheries (4 in total throughout the Kingdom of Morocco, directly elected by fishermen, operating under the supervision and financial control of the State). In addition to the membership fees paid by the members, the cooperatives in Morocco operate in the search for alternative forms of livelihood that may derive, for example, from external financing or from the sale of products. The Moroccan community is interested in learning about innovative ideas for the marketing of cooperative products. The community's interest, manifested during the Webinar, is above all related to the commercialization of the blue crab, an alien species increasingly present along the coasts of Morocco

The Egyptian community is interested in knowing exactly the functioning of the cooperatives, above all in terms of decision-making capacity and control of the activities carried out, if they are not in compliance with the law. They also ask to know the role of the cooperative towards the protection of the environment.

These requests are answered by Mr. Cosimo Montinaro, presenting the figures of the decision-making bodies of the cooperatives in Italy, represented by the Partners' Meeting and by the Board of Directors. The decisions are taken unanimously during meetings among all the members of the cooperative. The Board of Directors is usually composed of 4-6 persons and establishes the allocation of sums and dues. The regulation within the association / cooperative is regulated by the statute that establishes the obligation to respect the decisions taken by the Partners' Meeting or by the Board of Directors and which also has the obligation to participate in the association activities, under penalty of exclusion from the cooperative .

In the protection of the environment and in relation to the problems of pollution that involve the territory, the cooperative is a spokesperson for such situations in the competent institutions.

The Albanian community reports the situation in its own area and its fishermen's cooperative, placing particular emphasis on the environmental issue, on the respect of fish stocks and on the need to integrate the income from fishing activity with other forms of income, which may be those related to tourism. The fishermen are custodians of an immense culture that can interest and recall that type of experiential

tourism that has been increasingly affirming in recent years. The fisherman can and must also become an operator in the tourism sector. The diversification of fishing activities would make it possible to improve the economic situation of the category, while at the same time increasing the protection of fish stocks which, in the past, have been over-exploited in an attempt to improve their income.

In Algeria the concept of a cooperative linked to the world of fishing is a new concept. While there is an association for the agricultural sector there is no law that allows fishermen to join in any cooperative or association form.

The conclusions of the Webinar have revealed the existence in the Mediterranean of multiple forms and models of association. Each model presents a series of peculiarities but also common problems almost always linked to the organizational aspect.

The comparison between the various associative models is certainly interesting as it would be interesting to identify a perfect associative model that is a true and good practice for the whole Mediterranean.

