



pesc*info*

European Commission Delegation
Library

N°12/EN

2300 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

EXPO'98 Lisbon: an international exhibition focusing on the sea

In May 1998, Lisbon will be the setting for the last international exhibition of the Century with a theme oriented towards the future: "The oceans – a heritage for the future". However in Portugal, some say that it is also meant to remind Portuguese, on site, other Europeans and visitors from all over the world that Lisbon was once the centre of the world. Other port cities have also played an important role in Europe's maritime history: before Lisbon (Venice, Bruges, Barcelona, etc.) and later Lisbon (Cádiz, Amsterdam, London and Hamburg). However, Lisbon was the turning point; its hour of glory corresponded to major discoveries, at the time when European fleets left continental waters for the first time and headed for Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean and Asia.

Lisbon wants to use this prestigious past as a basis to look towards the future. The ocean will be the underlying theme found in various pavilions, including those of EU Member States, with evocative titles such as: "Knowledge of the seas", "Future", "Utopia". This large-scale exhibition will be the opportunity for the European people to become re-awakened to the importance of its characteristics, history and maritime activities.

The EU will also be in attendance with a pavilion to present the policies and actions it carries out on a Community scale. EXPO'98 which will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors, will also provide the opportunity for the EU to raise public awareness on a number of matters which it is deeply concerned about. In the field of fishing it would like to remind the public that the sea's living resources constitute a source of natural economic and food health which must be protected, wealth in terms of nature, economy and food, and, as such, should be conserved. Conserving these resources, necessary for the lasting development of fishing activities, is not just a matter for fishermen and other people working in this industry, but also for consumers and the population as a whole.

With the new technological era, EXPO'98 also offers an ideal forum for informing experts and other users in the fishing industry of the advantages that new technology may offer them, for instance to improve knowledge on the condition of various resources in the different zones. In particular, the EU will introduce 'Marsource', the G7 project in which it is the leading party, and whose aim is to facilitate access to information in the fishing world. Furthermore, in association with the competent Portuguese authorities, it will arrange visits to a fishing vessel with a prestigious past: the "Creoula", and on two research vessels, the "Noruega" and "Capricornio".

Over several months Lisbon will be the sea capital, both for the thousands of visitors to EXPO and for those who, without travelling, may pay a virtual visit to the exhibition via the various sites it will have on internet, including those of the European Union.

The Editor

Contents

- Region of the month: Reposaari, Turku and Pori (Finland)
- The Common Fisheries Policy: fishery research.
- PESCA on the spot: the AGLIA fishing and sea culture observatory
- Interview of the month: C.C.Cid Vellido, fresh-fish producer organization, Barbate (Andalusia)
- Newsflash

Region of the month

Reposaari, Baltic herring



At first Reposaari appears to be an extremely modest port with its two quays and its two almost empty harbours. Situated on the Gulf of Bothnia, in the vicinity of the town of Pori, it is, nonetheless, the main Finnish fishing port in terms of landed value.

(continued on page 2)



It should be pointed out that with approximately 3 000 fishermen, including just over a third on a full-time basis and catches of some 100 000 tonnes, Finnish sea fishing remains relatively modest. Baltic herring accounts for 90% of catches tonnage-wise, but only corresponds to approximately 55% of the landed value. Following on from herring, and still in terms of quantity, are sprat and cod. Value-wise after herring, salmon holds second place (13%), despite the low tonnage (1%).

Nevertheless, the extent of fresh-water fisheries should also be taken into account, especially in value; this is due to the considerable area of lakeland in this country. Fresh-water species contribute to the diversity of Finnish products all the more so as they are also to be found in the slightly salty waters of the northern Baltic, especially in the Gulf of Bothnia. As a result, alongside salmon or "lohi" - highly valued in Finland, as elsewhere - the following may be found, including at sea, rainbow trout, whitefish or "siika" and vendace or "silakka" (*Coregonus spp.*), pikeperch or "kuha" (*Stisostedion lucioperca*), perch (*Perca sp.*) and bream (*Abramis sp.*).

However, in a port such as Reposaari, the two main target fisheries are herring and salmon. Herring provides high volumes; it is caught by trawlers often operating on the other side of the Gulf of Bothnia close to the Swedish coast. The upholding of agreements between Swedish and Finnish fishermen and the fact that access is prohibited to other fleets was one of the important negotiation points at the time of Sweden and Finland's accession to the EU.

Nevertheless fishermen in the zone are still subject to the same

restrictions as their European counterparts. Quotas, in particular, are imposed on them, especially within the framework of the International Baltic Sea Convention. Heavy restrictions have thus affected salmon fisheries.

The warehouse in Reposaari port contains an impressive range of frozen herring to be exported for human consumption (in Russia), but especially as animal feed. These products are, in fact, exported to mink farms in Asia, especially Japan. Moreover, Japan and Russia represent the two main importing countries in value of products from Finnish waters. On the other hand, salmon, caught by fleets of netters and fixed installations (traps), is for local consumers.

Reposaari owes its importance to the existence of a merchant port which must remain accessible all the year round. Large icebreakers work continuously to open up a path towards the east during the winter months when the entire Gulf of Bothnia is iced over. Surrounding fleets make the most of this opportunity to land their catches throughout this season, during which fishing activities are greatly reduced precisely because of the climatic conditions.

The fleet is widely dispersed throughout the rest of the year. There are approximately 70 ports in Finland, but a number of other informal landing points should be added to this figure. Likewise for processing companies which are equidistant from various landing points. This dispersal is accentuated by the fact that they sometimes work on products from fresh-water fishing grounds, which generally involves small-scale concerns. Thus, in the Pori region, no companies are near the coast. These companies have their own means of

transport - small refrigerated lorries - which collect the fish from its landing points. This is why Reposaari has no fish market. Apart from the large warehouse for herring, there is, in fact, only a modest storage structure to compensate for any possible delays.

However, major efforts have been undertaken to improve the running of this industry. Here, as elsewhere, quality is the order of the day!

Data sheet Reposaari

- **Location:** Turku and Pori, Finland.
- **Type of fishing:** pelagic trawl for herring (*Clupea harengus*), drift nets for salmon (*Salmo salar*) and whitefish (*Coregonus spp.*).
- **Fleet:** 39 vessels fishing full-time in Reposaari, plus 30 vessels which land there occasionally.
- **Output:**
 - **volume:** 15 000 tonnes, 99% of which is herring.
 - **value:** 20 million Markka (ECU 3.4 million, compared to approximately ECU 23 million for all Finnish sea fishing)
- **Number of fishermen:** 100.
- **Number of processing firms:** 64 in the whole of the Turku and Pori region (out of 218 in Finland).





Common Fisheries Policy

Fishery research

The management of fisheries must rely on accurate scientific and technical analyses. To promote scientific research, the Commission benefits from a specific budget under the Community's framework programmes. Furthermore, the Commission has an additional budget for the co-financing of scientific and technical studies in support of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Framework programmes

Since 1983, the research supported by the European Union has been co-ordinated within framework programmes. These generally incorporate a programme specifically focusing on issues concerning fishing and aquaculture, including FAR (1987-1991), provided for by the second framework programme, AIR (1990-1994) by the third, and FAIR (1994-1998) by the fourth. The AIR programme, for example, enabled 75 research projects to be selected by calls to tender and to be co-financed up to a level of ECU 48 million. Each of these programmes has had a specific objective corresponding to the Commission's medium-term priorities. The FAR programme, for example, was intended to establish, as a priority, the scientific foundations for the effective implementation of the CFP. The AIR programme was intended to concentrate more on harmonization between the production of biological resources, the needs of consumers and the processing industry. Finally, the main aims of the FAIR programme, in force until 1998, are to find out how to optimize production, and the

use of fishery resources and to take into account the interaction between production activities and the environment. Socio-economic aspects of the fishing industry also explicitly come under the aims of FAIR.

The fifth framework programme, which will cover the period 1998-2002, is currently being drawn up. One of its main focal points will be improvement in competitiveness and employment in rural and coastal areas.

Scientific and technical studies

The framework programmes are intended to focus on supporting innovative research. However, the Commission also needs to be able to promote studies and activities which provide the basic data required for research or which answer questions of current interest. Each year, between 50 and 60 projects are selected by calls for proposals, with a budget of almost ECU 13 million. In 1997, proposals for projects including data collection to evaluate the state of stocks, the extent of the fishing power of vessels and its relation to the mortality of fishing populations, an appraisal of the impact of fishing on the environment, an improvement in communications between the world of research and the fishing industry, and an optimization of control mechanisms of fleet activities were invited under this procedure.

A call for proposals for socio-economic studies was also issued in 1997, relating to subjects including the socio-economic impact of technical measures, or employment in the fishing industry.

PESCA on the spot

The AGLIA fishing and sea culture observatory

The AGLIA (Great Atlantic Coastline Association) gathering elected representatives and experts industry representatives from three French regions (Aquitaine, Pays-de-la-Loire and Poitou-Charentes), set up a fishing and sea farming observatory in early 1997. Half of the total project cost of ECU 1.4 million has been financed by Pesca, the remainder being financed by the regions concerned.

This project contains two sections. One section deals with socio-economic aspects, including a synthesis and analysis of regional, national and international data, supplemented by background information gathered from firms. It has been entrusted to Nantes University's LEN-CORRAL laboratory. The other section is oriented more towards the living resources sector (target fishing or aquaculture species) and is under the charge of the Institute of Aquatic Environments in Biarritz.

This project brings together a wide range of partners, with professional organizations dominating the socio-economic end and a strong scientific representation for the 'living resources' section.

The aims of this regional observation mechanism consist of:

- providing experts and managers from the industry with useful statistics data in a relatively accessible form.
- enabling collective studies, decided on by experts and elected representatives, to be conducted more easily.
- promoting recognition of the industry's professions by the authorities.



Interview of the month

Interview with Cristobal Carmelo Cid Vadillo, President of the fresh-fish producer organization of the port of Barbate, Andalusia

Editor's note: intended as a medium for freely voiced opinions, this PESCA section publishes the views held by professionals. These articles therefore express the opinions of the authors alone.

Introduction: The port of Barbate lies at the Atlantic end of the strait of Gibraltar, just a few nautical miles from the Mediterranean. The PO interviewed represents wet fishing.

P.I. (Pesca Info): Could you give us a brief description of the main fishing activities in Barbate?

Cristobal Carmelo Cid Vadillo (CCCV): Barbate's fishing fleet includes 40 vessels with a tonnage varying between 40 and 90 gross registered tonnes and an engine power of 400 to 600 hp. The fleet is mainly involved in anchovy fishing or, when supplies are scarce, sardine fishing.

The crew is made up of some 20 men, two of whom are assigned to the deck with another two in the engine room.

P.I.: What are the advantages or problems presented by the European Union?

CCCV: Spain's entry into the European Union has given rise to

a series of structural and organizational changes for the Spanish fishing fleet. As I already mentioned, our fleet is mainly involved in anchovy fishing and our accession to the European Union has resulted in a fall in these products, following an influx of French and Italian anchovies on our market. We have been forced to change our way of thinking and ensure better presentation of our products and fight to regain our traditional markets rather than devote ourselves entirely to fishing.

P.I.: What measures do you suggest to resolve these problems?

CCCV: Fish consumption in the European Union is low, particularly in northern countries. Fortunately, old habits are changing and restaurants are increasingly offering shellfish and fish-based dishes. Spain is no longer alone in consuming a lot of fish and imports and exports are starting to balance each other out.

P.I.: To what extent is the PESCA initiative likely to be of interest to you?

CCCV: The PESCA initiative, as it was presented to the fishing industry, was of great interest, enabling all those fundamentally involved in fishing to diversify their economic activities. The reality has proved different, however, since these funds have gone to local authorities and various independent and public bodies to the extent that we do not know how useful or profitable the PESCA Initiative devised by the European Union has been.



Newsflash

Expo '98 in Lisbon, from 22 May to 30 September 1998

Enquiries: EXPO'98

- Tel: (351) 1 831 98 98

- Internet: <http://www.expo98.pt>

Fifth interregional 'PESCA' meeting

The fifth interregional meeting organized within the framework of the PESCA Community Initiative will be held in western Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany on 12 and 13 February next. It will be devoted to the integrated management of coastal areas.

PESCA Info will return to all these interregional meetings in a future edition.

"The future of the market for fishery products in the EU: responsibility, partnership, competitiveness" (COM (97) 719 final).

The Commission is launching a broad exchange of views from the world of fishing on the field covered in this document, presented to the Council in December 1997. To obtain the text, visit DG XIV's site (<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg14/dg14.html>) or write to us.

This column is available to you if you wish to announce various events or actions likely to interest the fishing world.

Pesca info is published by INFOPARTNERS S.A. on behalf of the European Commission, DG XIV. PESCA Info is published 10 times a year in all Community languages.

Editor in chief:
Director-General DG XIV

The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the European Commission.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at:

Pesca Info

European Commission

DG XIV/A/2 - J99

Rue de la Loi, 200

B-1049 Brussels

Fax: +32 2 299.30.40

URL: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg14/pesca>

URL: <http://www.pesca.lu/>