



The movement of ferries linking Ancona with Greece, and Croatia which faces it, is one of the port's two major activities. The other is provided by fishing vessels. The docks may be quiet towards the end of the week, but it is not always so; one day spent on the quayside will bear this out.

One Thursday – the end of the fishing week in Ancona – is particularly revealing. Between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m., almost 50 boats of the same type, approximately 20m long, gradually enter the docks housing a mere ten or so trawlers. The endless parade of vessels is followed by an inspection by two patrol boats from both the police (the 'carabinieri') and Customs (the 'Guardia di Finanza'). These vessels are responsible for ensuring compliance with the regulations ensuring that fishing is stopped on Thursdays, except in bad weather, where they would have been unable to go to sea on previous days. The trawlers then land their catches, mostly made up of cuttlefish, Norway lobster and grounding, all destined for the Italian fresh-fish market.

Around noon, another equally big fleet returns. This time, it consists of boats equipped with dredges for catching 'vongole' – small clams or gurnards – one of the leading products of the port of Ancona. Half of them will be exported to Spain, with the remainder sold on the domestic market.

Finally, between mid-afternoon and nightfall, it is the seiners' turn to land small pelagic fish, mainly anchovies, another product that has earned Ancona its good name. With the fishing docks full up, the last few vessels have to land their

catches on quaysides usually given over to other activities.

This problem of space may be obvious to the observer, but it is scarcely highlighted by the producer organization, though they do recognize it. Instead, they prefer to discuss the problems associated with continuity of the resource. As in other climes, it can be a paradoxical field and the quantity of small-sized species is astonishing. Yet, the need to conserve fish resources is well publicized, however. This includes limiting fishing time, as previously mentioned, and creating artificial reefs aimed, in particular, at limiting the activities of trawlers within three nautical miles.

Questions put to Spartaco ROSSI of the Cooperativa Pescatori moto pescherecci

Pesca Info (P.I.): Is the limitation of fishing time a measure you are happy with?

Spartaco ROSSI (S.R.): We actually prefer the limitation of fishing effort – by reducing the number of fishing days at sea – to a reduction in the number of boats or seamen. In this way, we are in keeping with the national regulations advocating such measures.

P.I.: You are seeking to limit fishing activities both in space and time. Could you tell us about this?

S.R.: Trawling is prohibited within three nautical miles and this measure is very difficult to enforce without preventing the actual presence of boats. This is the prime motive behind introducing both artificial reefs and simple cruciform structures aimed at preventing trawling on 25 km² within the coastal area of Ancona. A number of other ports in

the Marche region have started to take similar steps, though not sufficiently so. This is why we have proposed extending this initiative throughout the region. The coastal area is actually divided into several sections, each one facing one of the other main ports: Fano, Senigallia, Civitanova Marche, San Benedetto del Tronto. I hope that these ports will follow our example.

Data sheet Ancona

- *Location:* Marche, Italy.
- *Fleet:* 210 boats, including 170 of over 15m (1 550 in the Marche region).
- *Type of fishing:* deep-trawling (60 vessels), shellfish-dredging (70 vessels), purse seine (40 vessels), small-scale fishing (40 vessels).
- *Output:*
 - *species:*
 - demersal fish: 'vongole' or gurnard (*Chamelea gallina*), hake (*Merluccius sp.*), cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*), Norway lobster (*Nephros norvegicus*), mullet (*Mullus sp.*), sole (*Solea sp.*)
 - pelagic fish: anchovies, mackerel.
 - *volume:* 12 500 tonnes (including 7 500 tonnes of pelagic fish and 2 000 tonnes of clams).
 - *value:* 80 billion lire, or **ECU 41.5 million**
- *Jobs in fishing:* 800 (4 700 in the Marche region).
- *Jobs in fish-trade processing:* 1 700 in the Marche region.





Common Fisheries Policy

The Marsource project

A component of MARIS

MARSOURCE is a sub-project of MARIS, a G7 initiative aimed at creating the Maritime Information Society. Other sections of MARIS relate to the environment (SAFEMAR), multimodal transport (MARTRANS) and maritime industrial production (MARVEL). The objective of MARIS is to demonstrate the advantages of a global information system in these different fields.

MARSOURCE: fishing and the ocean

The MARSOURCE project, managed by the European Commission (DG XIV), seeks to contribute towards the setting-up of an information network system on fishing and the oceans. The aim is to link existing databases in various fields, i.e. fish resources, the marine environment, fisheries activities and scientific research. The project aims at improving the level of transparency and the circulation of information within the fisheries sector; it is part of the objective of conserving fish stocks and the strengthening of efficiency in the marketing of fishing and aquaculture products. It seeks to encourage the use of new communication and information technologies in all fields to promote the work of fishermen.

Access to various types of information

MARSOURCE seeks to encourage

an approach that starts from the basics. It will enable the various operators in the fisheries sector to have access by electronic means to information regarding:

- fish resources (the state of stocks, TACs, quotas, catches),
- the markets (withdrawal or guide prices, producer organizations, etc.),
- trade (EU imports and exports),
- fisheries production (statistics on landings according to quantity and value) and aquaculture production,
- fleet (number of vessels, tonnage, power),
- research (projects, scientific studies),
- other Internet sites relating to auction markets, regional centres and various international organizations.

Progressive implementation

MARSOURCE will be implemented in stages. At this stage, it links existing data banks in the European Union, but later it will also integrate external information sources of a more commercial nature. At the same time, a regional and transnational electronic marketing system is being supported, along with new services and platforms for all forms of co-operation. An initial appraisal and presentation of the project will be held during the World Fair in Lisbon, which will be devoted to the oceans. An Internet site is now operational and has been quite successful; it may be accessed at the following address: <http://www.marsource.maris.int/>



PESCA on the spot

'Pesca' transnational projects

Within the framework of PESCA, the European Commission will be issuing, on an annual basis, calls for proposals relating to transnational co-operation and networking projects among areas dependent on fisheries.

Following the second call for proposals of this type, published in the Official Journal (OJ) in May 1997, the Commission received some thirty proposals from which nine projects were selected, accounting for Community support of approximately ECU 400 000.

The exact contents of the projects and the categories of recipients vary greatly, although two main types of project may be distinguished, relating to:

- the socio-economic diversification of areas dependent on fisheries, either within the sector (development of aquaculture, opening up of new markets), or towards other activities, such as tourism,
- networking among the actors of a particular category (auction markets, producer organizations, communes). In this respect, the ever more frequent use of new information and communication technologies could be noted, enabling actors involved in the various stages of marketing, for example, to communicate in real time by electronic means.

A third call for proposals is scheduled to be published in the OJ before the summer.



Interview of the month

Interview with Christof Malysse of NV Lobster Fish SA, Brussels

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.

Pesca Info (P.I.): Could you describe your activities to us?

Christof Malysse (C.M.): Our company has two activities: the trade and processing of seafood products. We specialize in shellfish, which we redistribute on the Belgian market. We work a lot with the fresh-fish sector (lobsters, spiny lobster, edible crab, crayfish, as well as oysters) and in the frozen-fish sector (prawns, Norway lobster, spiny lobster tail). Our processing activities involve the production of lobster and shrimp croquettes, as well as lobster soup.

P.I.: Where do the products you sell in fresh form originate?

C.M.: Lobster arrives at Ostend from Halifax, Canada, by plane, on one to two charter flights per week. We import it directly, while we buy spiny lobster from other traders. Crayfish is also flown in from Portugal or Turkey. We get our supplies of edible crab from Rungis and ship them by lorry, just like oysters from Lower Normandy in France and Zeeland in The Netherlands.

P.I.: What problems do you encounter in obtaining your supplies?

C.M.: We have few problems. Our fresh products are brought live or vacuum-sealed and therefore already require an impeccable quality that the vets need only confirm. The opening of borders has made it easier to cross customs and means valuable time can be saved. This has also increased competition, and lobster, which is considered a luxury good in Belgium, is taxed at 21%, compared with 6% for our Dutch competitors and 5.5% for the French. Even if we get back VAT, this is still a considerable outlay for us. We would prefer greater harmonization within the EU in this regard.

P.I.: Would you request more from Europe in this field?

C.M.: Yes. On the whole, Europe is an advantage for us; we managed to have our premises brought up to standard without difficulty. The same could not be said for a number of our colleagues, however, who were forced to leave the centre of Brussels in order to meet Community requirements. Others were not strong enough to afford such measures and had to close down.

P.I.: In your opinion, are Belgian quality requirements stricter than before?

C.M.: No, no more than before. We supply caterers and private individuals who have always demanded high quality. But for them, just like wholesalers who obviously demand a minimum of quality as well, it tends to be the price that matters.



Newsflash

European Newsletter on Fisheries and the Environment

The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) in London is launching a new European Newsletter on Fisheries and the Environment in spring 1998. The aim of the newsletter, which is being financially supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG XI), is to increase information and awareness of the fisheries and the environment issue, while contributing to the creation of a 'network' of subscribers and contacts. The newsletter will be produced in French and English and will be distributed free of charge on a twice yearly basis.

Anyone interested in receiving copies of the newsletter should fax their details to Mrs Clare Coffey at IEEP on: +44 171 799 2600, or email them to: ccoffey@ieeplondon.org.uk

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

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