

**LA CORUNA DECLARATION:**  
**PLACING SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL COASTAL FISHERIES**  
**AT THE HEART OF THE CFP REFORM**

Artisanal coastal fishing activities, account for around 80% of the fleet (by vessel numbers), catch around 30% of the fish by value, and provide 65% of direct employment in European Union fisheries<sup>1</sup>. Artisanal coastal fishing fleets that fish in a non-intensive manner, using a range of seasonally diverse fishing methods on a range of species, have a relatively low impact on the ecosystem.

Such fisheries also generate considerable ancillary jobs; they provide the social, economic and cultural fabric that sustains many coastal communities, where they make an important contribution to food security and political, social and economic stability.

Artisanal coastal fishing, if treated fairly, managed responsibly, with well defined rights, has the potential to deliver healthy fisheries over the long-term and sustainable livelihoods.

Artisanal coastal fishing fleets are highly dependent on the grounds they exploit and operate in some of the most sensitive and biologically rich marine ecosystems. As a result they have developed a broad range of responsible management measures. If given support and provided with equal opportunities by the European Union, by national administrations and by an appropriate legal framework, building on such measures could assure sustainable fisheries as well as the conservation of valuable marine ecosystems across Europe.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as promoters of marine resources conservation, social justice and economic equity, have an important role to play in raising public awareness about the future of fish stocks and sustainable development. They seek to democratise the policy-making and decision-making processes, make institutional processes more transparent and decision-makers more accountable.

Artisanal coastal fishing interests and NGOs both tend to be under-represented in decision-making fora, where they are given less participation rights, support and consideration than other interests.

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<sup>1</sup> No EU wide definition of coastal artisanal fishing exists. These figures are indicative, not absolute. They were provided by DG Mare as a portrait of small-scale coastal fisheries at the Seminar on Small Scale Coastal Fisheries on February 25 2010 in Brussels. 77% of the EU fleet are under 12 metres non-trawlers; estimates based on the Annual Economic Report indicate that vessels under 12 metres provide 65% of employment and 30% of the catch by value, subject to the uncertainty of the economic data provided by Member States.

Our organisations of artisanal coastal fishers and NGOs share a common interest in placing European fisheries on a sustainable footing by supporting the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in ways which ensure the recovery of fish stocks and marine habitats where necessary, the promotion of sustainable fisheries, a just allocation of fishing access based on social and environmental criteria, and an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from these activities.

We therefore have agreed to work together on the CFP reform to achieve these objectives, and we call on the EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, the EU Fisheries Ministers and the Members of the European Parliament to ensure that:

- A functional marine environment and a steady return to healthy fish stocks are achieved as a precondition for sustainable fisheries. To this end the potential of sustainable artisanal coastal fisheries for stopping overfishing, ending destructive fishing practices, and delivering fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks is fully recognised and placed at the heart of the CFP reform.
- The CFP reform process is just, transparent and democratic by ensuring the widest participation of men and women from artisanal coastal fisheries and NGOs at all stages.
- Priority access to fish resources is provided to those who fish in the most environmentally and socially sustainable way. Long term management plans are established which apply the appropriate measures through genuine bottom-up participative co-management processes that give due weight to sustainable development.
- Fishing policies, quotas and other management systems, and fishing methods do not cause discards of biologically, nutritionally or economically important fish and other aquatic species.
- Clear conditions and protocols are established and applied to avoid conflicts between different fleets targeting shared stocks or common fishing grounds.
- Decision-making promotes good fishing practices, valorises local fisheries' ecological and oceanographic knowledge, and promotes collaboration between fishers and scientists.
- Appropriate aid is provided through the European Fisheries Fund and other support measures for training schemes as well as for the development of effective co-management that promotes the participation of fishers, both men and women, in decision-making processes, thereby assuring their engagement in these processes.

## List of signatories to the La Coruña Declaration

Accionatura  
Action for Fisher People's Livelihoods  
Africa Contact  
African artisanal fishing organisations confederation (CAOPA)  
Ailerons  
APECE  
Artesanalpesca  
Artisanal Fishing Shipowners Association of Central and South Portugal  
Asociacion de Armadores de Artes Menores de Catalunya (ADAMEC)  
Asociacion de Armadores de Artes Menores de Galicia (ASOAR-ARMEGA)  
Association of Netherlands' Inland Fishers  
Birdlife International  
Black Sea NGO Network  
BLOOM Association  
CERAD International  
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)  
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)  
Cofradía de Pescadores de Cedeira  
Cofradía de Pescadores de Gandia  
Cofradía de Pescadores de Muros  
Cofradía de Pescadores de San Ciprio / Asociación de Pescadores y Armadores de la Provincia de Lugo  
Collectif Bar Européen  
Confraría de pescadores de Burela  
Confraría de pescadores de Lira-Carnota  
Confraría de pescadores de Ribadeo  
CRAM Foundation  
Deepwave  
Ecodesarrollo Gaia  
Ecologistas en Acción  
Eko-Unia  
Ent, environment and management  
Federacion Galega de Redeiras Artesas  
Federacion Provincial de Cofradias de Pescadores de Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
Fédération Francaise d'Etudes et de Sports Sous Marins - (FFESSM)  
Federacion Galega de Confrarías de Pescadores  
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation  
Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible  
GEOTA  
Goede Vissers  
Greenpeace  
GRIS - Gruppo Ricercatori Italini sugli Squali razze e chimere  
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Territorio e Ambiente  
Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA)  
Integrated Fisheries Foundation  
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)  
Irish Seal Sanctuary  
Irish Wildlife Trust  
Irukandji Aquatik Films  
Kenna EcoDiving  
Legambiente Onlus  
Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
LPN - Liga para a Proteccao da Natureza

Marevivo  
Mediterrània Centre d'Iniciatives Ecològiques  
MedSharks  
National Artisanal Fishermen Federation of Mauritania (FNP Artisanal)  
National Association of Small Boat Owners of Iceland  
NEREO  
New Economics Foundation  
New Under Ten Fishermen's Association  
North Sea Foundation  
OCEAN2012  
Oceana  
Our Earth Foundation  
People Uniting and Generating Aid for Development (PUGAD)  
Pew Environment Group  
Pro Wildlife e.V.  
Probitec  
Prud'homie de Pêche de Saint Raphael / Comité des Pêches du Var  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
SCIAENA - Marine Sciences and Cooperation  
Seas At Risk  
Shark Foundation  
Sharklab  
Sharklife Conservation Group  
Sharkman's World Organization  
Slow Food  
Swedish Professional Fishermen's Association (SYEF)  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)  
Tethys Research Institute  
The Danish Society for a Living Sea  
The Fisheries Secretariat  
The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity  
WWF