

Technological gaps and needs to foster a circular economy for the fishing sector: a zero-emission fishing fleet

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About Federpesca

The Italian National Federation of Fishing Companies (FEDERPESCA) was established in 1961. Since then, it has been a member of CONFINDUSTRIA. It associates, represents and protects the Italian shipowners and companies of the fishing sector towards Italian and EU Institutions.

Member companies (approx. 2,000) are engaged in fishery and in the processing and marketing of fishery products, in the production of nets, equipment and services for the fishery, shipbuilding and production of plants and equipment within the enlarged fish supply chain.

Federpesca is part of the National Fisheries Observatory, and it is part of the Bilateral Fisheries Authority (E.BI.PESCA). In particular, Federpesca represents the fishing enterprises in negotiating with the union on the regular national collective agreements for fisheries workers.

Collaborates with several Italian and European Universities; in particular, it has two framework agreements with two Italian Research Institutes: National Research Council (CNR) and Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn.

FEDERPESCA **is member of the BIG (Blue Italian Growth), and of the Maritime Cluster.** Their missions are:

- To create a national community in the context of blue marine economy;
- To promote an innovation-driven blue growth to foster the cooperation with Third Countries and to transfer new technologies and skills in research partnership;
- To promote the integration of existing infrastructures and existing skills.



Fisheries & PNRR

Among the important projects started from the PNRR, the Maritime Economy sector represents an overall and specific strategy, supporting the development and competitiveness, on a productive and territorial scale, for the general economy of our Country.

Fishing is strategically important because of it is a capillary spread across the territory and the involvement of two key supply chains, maritime and agri-food..

Italy is **one of the leading consumers of fish** in Europe, but the fisheries needs for structural interventions for by two relevant data: the Italian fishing fleet is among the oldest in Europe (**the average age of fishing boats is 31 years**) and **over 80% of the product consumed is imported**.

To be **in line with the European Agenda 2050**, Italy also with the PNRR have to launch a concrete strategy for the fishing sector regarding the renewal and modernization of the Italian fishing fleet, to fill the gaps for to **answer the satisfaction of demand internal**, the **tutela of environment**, the **production costs**, the **safety of workers on board**, and therefore on the **competitiveness** and **sustainability** of the all fisheries chain system, the support about skills and jobs for the generational change also.



Fisheries & Blue Economy

The needs of the sector for a sustainable fishing:

- to reduce the consumption and the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere;
- to improve the vessels' performance, in terms of environmental impact, onboard operations and product quality;
- to improve the digitalisation and integrated management of navigation and onboard systems to support more efficient and sustainable fishing activities;
- to foster the Blue Skills;
- to promote the fish products through awareness raising campaigns for consumers on the purchase and consumption of local products and through the adoption of appropriate traceability and authentication systems;
- to foster business competitiveness in the valorisation, traceability and consumer awareness.
- to tackle social dumping;
- to tackle illegal fishing ;
- to foster generational renewal.



Conclusions

The renewal of the Italian fishing fleet cannot be ignored, making the fishing sector more attractive to younger people. A renewal programme is also vital for technological innovation, environmental impact, energy saving, and work and navigation safety, which the sector needs to stay competitive in international markets.

The revitalisation of the sector is necessary because of the significant reduction suffered by the national fishing fleet in recent decades. Our data say that today the fleet has about 12,000 motor fishing boats, or 17% of the EU fleet, with 25,000 employees. But it is also one of the oldest and most uncompetitive fleets compared to other EU countries, with an average age of 31 years.

All this while the per-capita consumption of seafood products globally, in the EU and Italy in the first place is constantly increasing.

Therefore, the modernisation of the fishing fleet is essential to meet the domestic demand (Italy is self-sufficient only for 15% of its demand), to ensure environment protection, cost-quality production, adequate working conditions and safety on board and, therefore, the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector.



The future of fishing necessarily depends on a re-development of the fleet:
up-to-date fleet with modern technologies, well-prepared crews, management
of the sector coherently with the value of the production, respect for and
management of the environment, and valorisation of the product.

Thank you for your kind attention!

