

“Piloting of eco-innovative fishery supply–chains to market added–value Adriatic fish products”

Priority Axis: Blue innovation

1.1 - Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area

D3.2.1 Report on Consultation Meeting with relevant fishing operators in Italy

WP3 - Piloting of sustainable and eco-certified fishery productions/ A3.2. Selection of sustainable fisheries and guidelines on how to reach sustainability standards

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1. Introduction

The present report, corresponding to deliverable **D3.2.1 “Report on Consultation Meeting with relevant fishing operators in Italy”** details the outcomes of the first round of Prizefish partners and stakeholders’ consultations carried out in the framework of the Activity 3.2. **“Selection of sustainable fisheries and guidelines on how to reach sustainable standards”** of the Work Package 3 (WP3) **“Piloting of sustainable and eco-certified fishery productions”** of the Prizefish project.

The purpose of the consultation meetings was to understand which are the fishing operators in the Italian side of the Adriatic Sea potentially interested in entering a new certification process ad-hoc implemented for the Adriatic fisheries. The consultation provided, in addition, information and data regarding the social and economic importance of fisheries at local level and on traditional fisheries skills, to be integrated in the “Guidelines on how to reach sustainability standards” (deliverable D3.2.3). The consultations have been planned in accordance with the first selection of fisheries carried out in the mapping phase, under Activity 3.1. (D3.1.1: Report of the mapped fisheries in Italy). The meetings have been organised in Caorle (close to Venice, in Veneto region), in Marina di Ravenna (the sea-side of Ravenna, in Emilia Romagna region) and in Ancona, for the Marche region fisheries.

In Caorle, the meeting (February 5th) has been held at the Producers Organization (PO) Bivalvia (OP BIVALVIA) premises. OP BIVALVIA, partner number 10 of the Prizefish project (PP10), represents around 75% of the clams fishing operators in the Veneto region, managed through the consortia of Venezia and Chioggia. These fishing operators have already been appointed by the MSC certification but are potentially interested in a new typology of certification.

In Marina di Ravenna, the meeting (February 6th) has been held at the CESTHA premises. CESTHA, partner number 4 of the project (PP4), has facilitated the consultation with local fishing operators. Here the discussion has been focused on wild mussels’ fishery and passive gears’ fisheries (see next paragraphs for details). The attendance of the president of the cooperative *La Romagnola*, leading the wild mussels’ fishery, has strongly benefited the knowledge of this very specific and local fishery.

A third meeting has been held in Ancona (February 28th), at the CNR/IRBIM (partner number 2, PP2) premises, hosting key stakeholders for the clam fisheries in the Marche region: from the



local consortium in charge of the sales operation (Co.Pe.Mo.) to the key representatives of the regional administration, ASSAM, interested in the promotion of regional fishery products and partner number 3 (PP3) of the Prizefish project. All the meetings were attended by a mix of fishing operators and scientists.

2. Objectives, tasks and main findings of Activity 3.1: Analysis of state, management and seasonality of fisheries in the Adriatic Sea/ Mapping of Italian Fisheries

During the meetings a brief overview of the Work Package 3 (hereinafter the WP3) main objectives and first findings was provided to attendees, in order to create the right context for discussion.

The main aim of the WP3 is to integrate the sustainability standards outlined in the most used certification bodies as a tool to drive management and sustainability improvements and transfer best practices. This can be achieved through the development of a new certification scheme for the Adriatic fisheries, whose novelty is the combination of environmental protection with the economic dimension and social aspects. The overall expected outcome is the improvement of Adriatic seafood market by recognizing and rewarding sustainable fishing practices and influencing the consumer choices when buying and consuming seafood, adding a benefit to products from responsible fisheries.

The object of this report falls under Activity 3.2, whose main purpose is the selection of sustainable fisheries and the implementation of guidelines on how to reach sustainability standards. In the framework of such activity, a detailed scrutiny of the fisheries, taking into account also the social and economic importance at local level as well as the traditional fishery skills is planned. The development of precise guidelines on how to reach sustainable standards, which will lead to deliverable D3.2.3: Sustainability guidelines, will be customized considering the peculiarities of the fishing activities carried out in both sides of the Adriatic Sea.

The aim of the consultation meetings has been to allow understanding of which are the potential operators that are interested in the certification process along the Italian side of the Adriatic. The selection process starts from a first list of fisheries, pre-selected during Activity 3.1, whose results has been an extensive overview and mapping of all the Adriatic fisheries, according to available statistics and providing data on the most important association gear/species, ending up with a first list of the most important fisheries for the Italian side of the Adriatic Sea (deliverable D3.1.1: Report of the mapped fisheries in Italy).

The list (table 9 in the D3.1.1 Report) includes the top-20 species in terms of value (average 2015-2016 data), among which, the most important (first two) are Striped venus fished by dredgers and European anchovy fished by pair trawl.

Considering the limited environmental impacts of some gears, in addition to the top-20 species in terms of value, the following fisheries have been considered as potential source of eco-labelled products and therefore potential “candidate sustainable fisheries”: a) changeable nassa fished by miscellaneous gear (basket traps); b) spottail mantis squillid with Set gillnets (or small pots); c) common cuttlefish fished by pots; d) common sole fished by Set gillnets (anchored).

Even if no statistics are available, other 2 potential fisheries have been added to the potential ones to be further analyzed during the next steps of WP3: 1) hydraulic dredges for razor clam; 2) hand harvesting of mussels from scuba divers, working on Adriatic gas platforms.

Razor clams are now subject of a restocking phase and are considered a good candidate for an eco-labeling process, considering that in the same area the clam fishery is certified according to the MSC standards. The underwater fishing of wild mussels is a special features of Ravenna seamanship, which has a great potential for sustainability certification since it relies on a mild impacting technique.

3. Overview of current fishing activities with a focus on the key fisheries identified as fisheries of interest under D3.1.1

In the following paragraphs, details will be provided on the outcome of the three consultation meetings held in Italy in the week commencing the 3rd February 2020.

3.1. PO BIVALVIA consultation meeting: Bivalve fisheries in Northern Adriatic

Date: 5th of February 2020.

Location: PO Bivalvia, 30021 Caorle (VE), Via Traghete, 68/C1

Attendees: CNR-IRBIM (PP2), NISEA (external expert), PO BIVALVIA (PP10), UNIBO-CIRSA.

During the Caorle meeting, the interest of fishing operators and the discussion has focused on clam and razor clam fisheries, carried out by hydraulic dredgers operating in the area of Venice, from Chioggia to Caorle. The main target resource is the *Chameleagallina* (striped Venus clam),

which is of native origin and harvested with hydraulic dredges. Other species of bivalve mollusks (razor clams - *Ensis minor*, smooth clams –*Callistachione* and European aurora venus clams –*Venerupisaurea*) are also fished using this system.

The bivalve fisheries are historically managed by a co-management system, a good example of integration of the management and the marketing side. Indeed, in the upper Adriatic, the co-management has evolved in a system where the two consortia, in charge of the management of the fisheries (Co.Ge.Vo. of Venice and Co.Ge.Vo. of Chioggia), are working under a common umbrella, the PO called OP Bivalvia. About 75-80% of fishing boats managed by Consortia adhere to OP Bivalvia, a very high level of participation that allows the PO to take decision that really can have an impact on the sector, from a marketing point of view.

While the local Consortia are responsible of the management measures (mainly, limitation of fishing days and establishment of maximum daily fishing quantities on a co-management basis), the PO help fishing operators to match supply with market demands and support them in creating added value.

By acting in this way, the system has allowed OP Bivalvia to obtain, in July 2018, the first MSC certification in the Mediterranean Sea, e.g. striped venus (*Chameleagallina*). Indeed, even if something can be improved in terms of management and impact on the habitats, the co-management system in place, where the role of Consortia and the PO are different and well-defined, is a clear example of responsible fisheries.

OP Bivalvia has showed great interest in adhering to the new voluntary scheme of certification proposed by the project. As stressed by them, the involvement in Prizefish of a POs offers the opportunity to strengthen cooperation and transfer of knowledge between fishing operators and scientists and researchers, integrating a science-based perspective in the projection of commercial fishing interests.

In particular, they welcome very much a certification scheme ad-hoc implemented for Adriatic fisheries, where the geographical attribute could distinguish the local production from others. Besides increasing in value regional and local fisheries, the new certification scheme proposed by Prizefish would offer, in addition, a wider scope compared to MSC, encompassing not only the environmental, but also the social and the economic dimension. The interest could be both on the *Chameleagallina* (striped Venus clam) fisheries and on the razor clams, *Ensis minor*, fisheries. As far as the first, the idea could be to associate the MSC certification with the new Adriatic responsible certification. By doing this, they could combine sustainability standards

with responsibility ones: indeed, the proposed certification scheme would allow fishing operators to be rewarded for applying responsible fishing practices. Furthermore, they find interesting the proposal to associate, for the first time, environmental protection aspects with the economic dimension and social aspects. The management system in place allows to think that this association could be feasible, as it happens in other EU fisheries, e.g. Icelandic fisheries. The fisheries are very important at national level as it represents 20% of the national production, with around 4,000 tons of production, almost equally distributed among Venezia and Chioggia ports (source: OP Bivalvia)– for more details see Deliverable 4.1.1.

On the other hand, OP Bivalvia hopes that the new certification scheme proposed by the project could be applied to the razor clam (*Ensis minor*) fisheries. Traditionally *Chameleagallina* is the target species of dredgers along the Adriatic coast while *Ensis minor* is target for dredgers operating along the Tyrrhenian coast. Even if not so common, data testify that in the past razor clams were fished also in the Northern Adriatic (Chioggia, Venezia and Monfalcone areas). Since the end of the first decade of this century, the Veneto ports have suffered a collapse of the resource so actually fishing for razor clam is no longer carried out (some catches appear until 2018 in the Monfalcone area). However, in 2018 a restocking activity (experimental) was started and carried out in the Chioggia-Venezia fishing compartments. In spring 2019, young specimens of razor clams (3-4 cm) caught by the Tyrrhenian dredgers in the Gaeta waters, have been brought to Veneto waters following a careful transport procedure: putting bivalves in baskets wrapped by tissues, time by time wet with sea water, to avoid that the air conditioning system of the refrigerator trucks would dry the specimens. Once arrived at destination, razor clams have been carefully implanted in the sandy bottoms of the Chioggia and Venice waters. A careful monitoring activity has been carried out, with the help of scientists. Unfortunately, the bad meteorological conditions of autumn 2019 occurred in the Venice lagoon (high water and the flood of the main rivers) have almost completely destroyed the razor clams experimentally brought there. But there is a strong willingness to try again this year as the first results in the first months after the “sowing” appeared to be positive. In addition, the development of razor clam fisheries may also bring benefits to recreational fisheries, since the maggots and worms that are regularly collected during the fishing of razor clam are not recorded as by-catches, and can be re-used as fishing baits in leisure fisheries(not for longline fishing). In order to understand what the impact of a certification could be, historical trend on landings and prices of clams have been discussed with fishing operators. MSC label is used on one of the two frozen brands distributed by OP Bivalvia (i.e. “La Venexiana”), together with the organic label. The fresh products are sold mainly to local wholesalers and the price is variable, according to

market demand and supply (some competitors), changing in a range between 2.80 and 5.90 EUR/kg. On the other hand, considering that there are very few competitors on the market of frozen clams, OP Bivalvia is able to ensure more stable price for the related products: frozen clams are sold at a price ranging from 6.00 to 8.00 EUR/kg (higher than the fresh ones considering the costs attached to processing and packaging). For more details on landings, activity, daily quota and prices see Deliverable 4.1.1 containing the OP Bivalvia case study.

Unfortunately, considering that the MSC certification has been obtained very recently and it takes some time to be applied, there are still no statistics available that allow to consider how the certification has impacted the sales of clams. In general, considering the reasons that have led OP Bivalvia to ask for MSC certification, it could be argued that some foreign markets (as Germany and/or Switzerland) could be entered only if clams have an eco-labelled certification attached.

To give an idea of the economic dimension of the razor clam fisheries, some statistics on landings and prices have been discussed with fishing operators. Razor clams are highly appreciated bivalves all over Italy, and the prices is almost the same in all the GSAs, around 9 €/kg – Table 1.

Table 1 – Ex-vessel price or razor clams (*Ensis minor*) in Italian GSAs, 2017.

Year	Ex-vessel price €/kg			
	GSA 17	GSA 18	GSA 10	GSA 9
2017	9.21	9.08	9.23	8.94

Source: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-dissemination>.

3.2. CESTHA consultation meeting: Fisheries in Marina di Ravenna

Date: 6th of February 2020

Location: CESTHA, via Molo Dalmazia 49- 48122 Marina di Ravenna

Attendees: CNR-IRBIM (PP2), NISEA (external expert), CESTHA (PP4), Cooperativa La Romagnola, UNIBO.

In Marina di Ravenna the interest of some fishing operators and the related discussion has been focused on wild mussels caught on gas platforms, common cuttlefish fished by fyke nets (locally called cogolli) and spottail mantis shrimp fished with small pots.

Wild mussels

The underwater fishing of wild mussels is a special feature of Ravenna seamanship and has a great potential for certification since it relies on a mild impacting technique. Two fishing cooperatives, eight vessels and thirty operators employed in the sector are engaged in this fishing, which is open from spring to the end of autumn. The collection of mussels is conducted by scuba-diving and by specialized technical operators, since the fishing is simultaneously an unload activity to maintain the gas platforms clean. Indeed, to practice this type of activity, fishing operators stipulate with the gas platforms' owners (ENI) a special contract of maintenance. The catch of mussels is literally handmade, scraping the underwater "legs" of structures, with the collection that concerns only those individuals of more than 25 mm. The work is physically demanding but does not fall within the list of heavy and arduous professions under national law and does not entail a specific risk of accidents.

The product ends up directly on the market when it has been caught on inactive gas platforms while it is destined to some relaying treatments when mussels are caught on active gas platforms. The fishing cooperative applies a random rotation on the platforms assigned to fishers (because relaying treatments produce some costs).

Compared to the quantities of mussels produced by traditional farms, volumes are attested to a significantly lower percentage (approximately 7.5 tons of wild mussels are fished each year) but the quality of the product - which is in all respects a wild and non-reared animal - is considered to be superior by consumers.

Indeed, even if in the past some criticism has been raised against the quality of mussels' meat because of their origin (they grow on the metallic legs of the gas platforms), the health analysis carried out in the past and those carried out systematically by the sanitary presidia (ASLs) confirm that the product is completely safe and that the quality of the meat is largely superior to the farmed ones. This is the main reason why the price is generally higher (around € 4.5/kg, even 3 times more than the farmed ones) and is highly requested from the market (mainly local consumers and restaurants).

Fishing operators are very well organised and demonstrate a good willingness to test the certification scheme proposed by the project. The main reason is the chance to differentiate the wild products from the farmed ones. It is, indeed, not so uncommon that some fishmongers sell farmed products with a "wild" etiquette, creating in this way a distortion on the market and negative economic effects on fishing operators. Another element to support the Prizefish proposal, is that the new certification scheme could expand the ability of the product to penetrate new markets and attract a larger number of buyers, given that at present time the marketing of wild mussels is based on a local and self-controlled supply chain.

PILOT ACTION: CESTHA, PP4 will support fishing operators with the official registration of the trademark "cozza selvatica" (wild mussel). This trademark will contribute, in parallel and in line with the certification approach, to create value added to the products and distinguish them, on markets, from farmed mussels, commonly different in taste.

Cuttlefish fisheries by pots

Fishing operators in Marina di Ravenna seem to be interested also in testing the certification approach proposed by the project to the cuttlefish fishery. It is an artisanal fishery, carried out by small vessels (no longer than 12 meters). Cuttlefish are fished with fyke nets, locally called "cogolli". The fishery is very selective, and the species have a high commercial value: ex-vessel price around 10 €/kg in 2017 in GSA 17¹ where the landings by pots accounted, in value, for 5.7 million € on average in 2015-2016 (D 3.1.1).

The interest in following a certification approach is to reward fishing operators for some responsible practices that are implemented, since some years, in Marina di Ravenna. Here, fishers have been trained and ecologically educated by local scientists (especially CESTHA staff) and now they feel responsible of the impact of their activity. In the light of this, they are

¹Source: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-dissemination>.

implementing different actions, one of which, very surprising and interesting for the discussion, is the cuttlefishes' eggs recovery.

In the past, was common that fishers, once have recovered pots at the end of the season, cleaned pots by using some quick and strong procedures: they generally used a strong water flush with chemical additives. This was done because cuttlefishes lay eggs during their stay in the pots, when in waters. By cleaning pots from eggs, large amounts of eggs were destroyed, with a clear impact on the stock. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020, has provided financial support for the acquisition and testing of "collectors" to catch cuttlefish eggs. The eggs, treated as non-target species, hatch in recovery tanks and are then put back into the sea. These "best practices" are positively considered in the context of a potential future approach of responsible certification. However, in the case of bad sea condition, fishermen using fyke nets usually remove the gears from the sea to avoid damages and gear loss. Therefore, there is the high risk of cuttlefish eggs destruction. Differently the rigid pots used in other areas for cuttlefish, are kept at sea even with heavy storms because such gear is heavier and there is not risk of losing them. Moreover, it is well known that rigid pots usually are more selective than fyke nets (Scarcella et al., 2001).

PILOT ACTION: CNR-IRBIM will provide rigid pots (around 50) to local fishermen (2/3) during the cuttlefish fishing season to understand if such gear is effective and can reduce the amount of eggs loss.

Mantis shrimp fisheries by small pots

Squilla mantis fishery with small pots is an artisanal fishery. In the overall GSA 17 it is valued around 3.3 million € (D 3.1.1). In 2018 the species was sold at around 10 €/kg (ex-vessel price²). The fishery here concerned is in line with sustainability parameters, but the stock is at risk of collapse.

Since *Squilla mantis* fishery with small pots can potentially have a non-selective fishing impact, due to the catches of other non-target species as gobies (e.g. *Gobiusniger*), during the consultation meeting PP2 and PP4 agreed to purchase a number of traps for *Squilla mantis*, as thematic equipment to be engaged in the framework the Activity 3.2. of the Work Package 3.

PILOT ACTION: CNR-IRBIM will provide small traps for mantis shrimps(around 150) that will be modified by PP4 and distributed to local fishermen (2/3 boats) during the fishing season to

²<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-dissemination>.

understand if such gear is effective and can reduce the amount non target species in the catches.

3.3. Consultation meeting at CNR-IRBIM: Bivalve fisheries in the Marche region

Date: 28th of February 2020

Location: CNR IRBIM, Largo Fiera della Pesca, 60125 Ancona.

Attendees: CNR-IRBIM (PP2), ASSAM (PP2), Co.Pe.Mo., NISEA and UNIBO (by remote).

Bivalve fisheries

The meeting held in Ancona with local fishing operators and ASSAM Marche was aimed at understanding if there is an interest, also in this region, to follow the certification approach proposed by the project.

The main interest expressed by fishing operators is on the clam fishery. The Marche region clam fishery is the most important at national level, both in terms of number of boats (220 on around 700 active in Italy³) and in terms of production (around 50% of landings on the overall national production of clams⁴). Around 460 persons are employed on board of dredgers fishing clams in the Marche region.

Below the distribution of dredgers over the four main ports, representing, each of them, a specific Consortium (Co.Ge.Vo.) for the management of the clams' fishery – table 2.

Table 2 – Number of dredgers authorised to the clam fishery in the Marche region Co.Ge.Vo, 2018.

Number of dredgers	Ports (and Co.Ge.Vo)			
	Pesaro	Civitanova Marche	San Benedetto del Tronto	Ancona
	65	25	56	74

Source: Piano di gestione nazionale per le attività di pesca con il sistema draghe idrauliche (Decreto 17/06/2019)

³Source: Piano di gestione nazionale per le attività di pesca con il sistema draghe idrauliche (Decreto 17/06/2019)

⁴Source: The clam fishery sector in EU – The case Adriatic Sea case, Research for Pech Committee. Scarcella and Cabanelas, 2016.

The idea of following a certification approach which focuses on the origin (e.g. Adriatic) and on the responsibility, seems to have an appeal on the fishing operators who attended the meeting. An important asset of the certification process could be, for instance, the opportunity to differentiate some bivalve Adriatic products on some specific markets (e.g. Spain). As stressed by Co.Pe.Mo in this respect, on the Spanish market the value of the local “lupini di mare” is high and therefore an Adriatic certification scheme, which incorporates the sustainability as well as the quality of the product, could contribute to ensure stability of price. In addition, even though at the present time Co.Pe.Mo is not expanding its capacity of production, the certification scheme proposed by the Project could complement the chain of custody certification they already use, ensuring that the products come from a responsible fishery.

As regards mussels, it has been stressed that consumers pay huge attention to the area of harvest and, therefore, the traceability of the origin is even more important. ASSAM Marche highlighted the possibility to develop a harvesting of wild mussels also on the Central Adriatic gas platforms, following the fishery practiced in the North.

The certification scheme to be developed in the framework of the project, should raise the potential of the Adriatic Sea, as one of the richest fishing regions in the Mediterranean with important and responsible fishing communities. It is, nevertheless, essential that the proposed approach would be followed by single fishers as it requires, as any certification approach, a strong involvement of fishing operators.

Operators attending the meeting represent only a part of the supply side, being mainly involved in the marketing one. A further and deeper analysis of the willingness and the feasibility of the proposed certification in the Marche clam fisheries is therefore needed. To this end, participants agreed to organize a further consultation of Marche fish producers’ organizations in due time.

4. Identification of value chain of species under consideration

The implementation of any certification approach requires to have a good knowledge of the price formation over the value chain of the products, of how many steps are needed for the product to reach final consumers. Moreover, it is crucial also to know who are the final consumers, in order to investigate on willingness to pay (WTP) for a price premium generally attached to a certified product. Therefore, it is extremely important, for a feasibility analysis, to build the value chain of the products under analysis.

During the meetings with fishing operators, an example of a value chain build-up for the “fasolari” fishery (*Callistachione*) in Northern Adriatic was given. This example can be followed in the next steps of the analysis (Figure1).

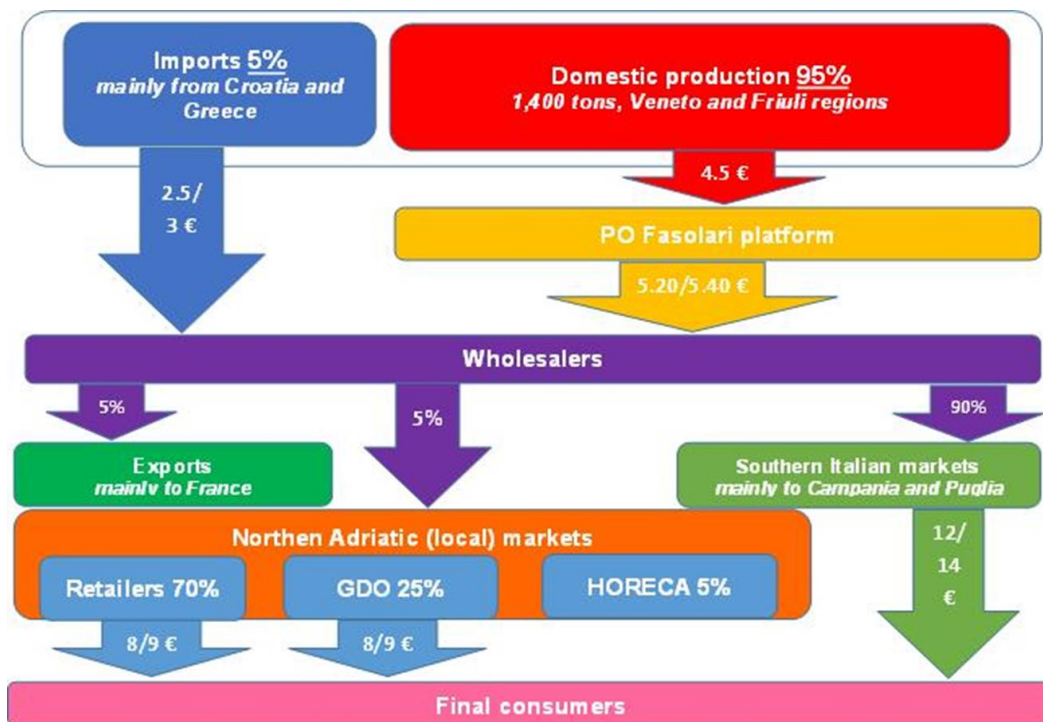


Figure 1 – Value chain of Smooth clams/“fasolari” (*Callista chione*) caught by dredgers in Northern Adriatic. Source: elaboration on OP Fasolari information provided for the H2020 SUCCESS project.

5. Conclusions: Rapid assessment of fisheries of interest

To conclude the fishing operators interested in the implementation of the certification process proposed by the Prizefish project are:

- Operators adhering to the PO in charge of managing the marketing aspects of the clams fishery in Northern Adriatic, i.e. OP BIVALVIA, that represents around 75% of the clams fishing operators active in the Veneto region, managed through the consortia of Venezia and Chioggia. These fishing operators have already been appointed by the MSC certification but are potentially interested in a new typology of certification.
- Fishing operators active in the wild mussels' fishery through the cooperative La Romagna and its partner Nuovo Conisub, both located in Marina di Ravenna. The two cooperatives represent 100% of fishing operators practicing this fishery (8 boats) that is a specialty of Ravenna seamanship and has a great potential for certification since it relies on a mild impacting technique.
- 100% of fishing operators active in the local cuttlefish fishery by traps and implementing some sustainable practices, e.g. recovery of cuttlefish eggs (around 10 boats active in Marina di Ravenna). In addition, to improve the sustainability and responsibility performance of this fishery, the project will provide rigid pots (around 50) to 2/3boats during the cuttlefish fishing season to understand if such gear is effective and can reduce the amount of eggs loss.
- 100% of fishing operators active in the local mantis shrimp fishery (around 6 boats active in Marina di Ravenna and 4 in Cervia, another small port up-north). Since the fishery of this species with small pots have a non-selective fishing impact, due to the catches of other non-target species as gobies (e.g. *Gobiusniger*), the project will provide small traps for mantis shrimps (around 150) that will be modified by PP4 and distributed to 2/3boats during the fishing season to understand if such gear is effective and can reduce the amount of non-target species in the catches.

- Potentially, fishing operators active in the clams' fishery in the Marche region as well as in gas trots fishery with small pots, most probably with a focus on those operating in the Ancona and Senigallia ports.

According to what reported in the previous paragraphs, a first assessment of all the above mentioned fisheries against the main aspects has been carried out. For all the fisheries under observation there is a clear interest in improving the economic performance, most of the time held back by very low prices, consequence of a very fragmented marketing system. In this system wholesalers have, most of the time, the bigger power. Where POs are really operating, fishers can benefit of price stability. A certification approach could help if producers are able to coordinate their actions: bigger is the number of producers following the certification, higher would be the result in terms of impact on the market.

From an environmental point of view, the analysed fisheries have a strong component in terms of responsible fishing practices. Clams fisheries in Veneto are also MSC certified and this would help in following the new certification approach. The wild mussel fishery is carried out by a very mild impacting technique, the same for the cuttlefish fisheries, very selective, being made with pots and improved by responsible fishing practices, e.g. as eggs' recovery.

As far as the social dimension, at a first glance all the fisheries comply with the main security and health requirements. Furthermore, all the fisheries have a strong cultural component, being in most cases traditional fisheries or iconic for local consumers. As far as the governance aspects, there is a strong evidence of efficacy for the clam fishery and an evidence of high participation and responsibility for the others.

During the meeting a very first draft of the standards that will constitute the core of the certification proposed by the project was presented to fishing operators. The standards cover the three dimensions: economic, environmental and social (Table 3).

In conclusion, the fisheries that will be further scrutinised in the framework of activity 3.3 and for which pre-assessments (Deliverable 3.3.2) will be carried out are:

- hydraulic dredge fishery for striped venus clam and/or razor clam;
- traps for common cuttlefish;
- small pots for spottail mantis squillid;

- small pots for changeable nassa;
- hand-harvesting of Mediterranean mussel from gas platforms with scuba divers.

Other fisheries in Italy would be further considered, in the case othe partners will evidence such need.

Table 3 – First draft of the standards of the responsibility certification proposed to stakeholders for the fishery under consultation

Dimensions	Criteria
Economic	Commercial interest (current value)
	Potential value (opportunity to grow)
	Key markets (export, regional, domestic)
	Market potential (what could be developed)
	Added-value (potential product development)
Environment	Selectivity (extent of by-catch)
	Selectivity (extent of unwanted catch)
	ETP impacts (protected/vulnerable species)
	Habitat impacts (type and severity)
	Fleet performance (fuel use/efficiency)
	Fleet performance (waste management)
Social	Fleet Interest (in project participation)
	Governance (extent & efficacy of management)
	Fair labour (ILO requirements)
	Jobs supported (fishing)

	Jobs supported (supply chain)
	Small-scale fishers (participation)
	Cultural importance (traditional/iconic fishery for the area)

6. Site visits

After the meeting the conveners have allowed attendees to visit the sites. In Caorle, attendees were able to visit the plant where clams are subject to different treatments: cleaning operation, refrigeration, packing and labeling (MSC).

In Marina di Ravenna it was possible to visit Cestha premises and to have a look at the gears used for cuttlefish and *Squilla mantis* fisheries.

Caorle pictures



Marina di Ravenna pictures



Map of the gas platforms



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