



fishing tourism
for blue economy



Benchmark Study on Fishing Tourism



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Introduction

The Benchmark Study on Fishing Tourism is developed within the Intellectual Output n. 3 of the FIT4BLUE project. FIT4BLUE – Fishing Tourism for Blue Economy - is an ERASMUS+ funded project aiming to foster entrepreneurship in the field of fisheries and aquaculture as well as to enhance youth participation in the Blue Economy. The project counts on a partnership composed by Petra Patrimonia Corsica (France), Fundación para la Pesca y el Marisqueo and SGS Tecnos (Spain), Cooperativa M.A.R.E. and Haliéus (Italy) and IDEC (Greece).

The Benchmark Study on Fishing Tourism aims to assess the state-of-art of diversification of fisheries activities in 4 European countries (France, Spain, Italy and Greece), its constraints and bottlenecks and training gaps.

The Benchmark Study will draw up a reference framework of skills and competences to better guide the development of the FIT4BLUE training programs for trainers/mentors (Intellectual Output n. 1) and fishers/farmers and young workers (Intellectual Output n. 2).

At the methodological level, to implement the Benchmark Study on Fishing Tourism, an integrated model has been used.

As first, a common definition of what “fishing tourism” means within the FIT4BLUE project was carried out to harmonize the common understanding of several practices nowadays active in all countries involved. Secondly, a selection of thematics and subjects to be included in the Benchmark Study was made. Thirdly, a desk and field research analysis was carried out by partners. Fourthly, stakeholders committees/think tanks have been created in each country involving fishing cooperatives, policymakers, private training centres in the maritime and tourism field, etc. These committees/think tanks were actively involved by partners mainly through online meetings and phone calls (due to the COVID-19 emergency) and their findings collected in 4 Background Studies / Country Reports developed by each partner. A common questionnaire - previously defined by the project partnership - was used to collect information and data in the same, uniform manner. Finally, under the coordination of the IO’s leader, all partners contributed to develop the Benchmark Study on Fishing Tourism and to translate it in French, Italian, Spanish and Greek.

To facilitate the reader, we included in this document only the overall view of fishing tourism, trying to underline the common elements and the main differences in the sector in the 4 targeted countries (France, Spain, Italy and Greece). At the same time, much more detailed Country-specific information is included in the 4 Annexes to this document, each dedicated to one Country. Those documents have a structure similar to the present report to facilitate the reader in searching for more detailed information, but also to let those documents to be read as stand-alone National Reports.

Chapter 1: Definition of what is fishing tourism within FIT4BLUE project

What is fishing tourism

For the mere scope of the FIT4BLUE project, we include in “fishing tourism” all the activities aimed at spreading the value of the knowledge, cultural heritage and products related to job and traditions of professional fishing and aquaculture, as well as valorizing the sites where these activities take place.

Why fishing tourism

Fishing tourism was born as a diversification activity linked to the fishing and aquaculture sector with different objectives:

1. To give to fishers and aquaculture farmers the possibility of having an income different from the sales of the product fished or farmed;
2. To reduce the impact of professional fishing on fish stocks by promoting new activities that ensure a reduction in fishing effort and guarantee, for the future, both the conservation of marine resources and the livelihood of fishers;
3. To transmit to the public (citizens/tourists) new competences and knowledge that guarantee correct fruition of marine ecosystems, a greater awareness of the state of marine resources, the valorization of the socio-cultural and economic aspects of the fishing sector and the transmission of the related knowledge and traditions.

Fishing tourism activities

Fishing tourism includes, therefore, a set of recreational, educational, cultural, gastronomic and receptive activities that pursue the objectives listed above.

These activities can include, for example, the organization of excursions along coasts, lagoons, ports and ground structures, aimed at the observation of the professional fishing and

aquaculture activities, of the methods of handling, packaging, marketing and tasting the product, of the port areas and the cultural heritage linked to them.

Fishing tourism is carried out by professional fishing and aquaculture companies through various methods:

1. **(on-board activities)** Boarding of persons, not belonging to the crew, on boats in the availability of the same company. Boarding may or may not include fishing/aquaculture demonstrations and the consumption of local fishery/aquaculture products. Boarding can also be aimed at performing recreational or informative activities, sport/recreational fishing activities or scuba activities, in open waters or within concession areas used for aquaculture. The activity at sea can also foresee the use of a passenger boat from which to observe fishing demonstration activities carried out by others fishing vessels.
2. **(on-land activities)** Use of the house of fishers/farmers or use of ground structures (including moored boats) in the availability of their businesses or cooperatives, for hospitality and refreshment activities with fresh local products.
3. **(cultural-didactic activities)** Involvement of fishers/farmers in recreational, educational and cultural activities, carried out on port, in schools or at the beach. These activities should focus on the biology of the marine environment and on fishing traditions: fishing and aquaculture places (fish market, auction room, shipyard etc...) fishing/aquaculture tools, techniques, customs and recipes.

Chapter 2: Who can practice fishing tourism and which are target groups

As mentioned in the definition in Chapter 1, for the mere scope of the FIT4BLUE project the term "fishing tourism" is used in its broadest sense: both "on board" and "on land" activities are included as well as all activities involving artisanal and small-scale fishers and aquaculture farmers as main actors.

To start, we can say that fishing tourism, practised onboard or on land, is an activity that can only be carried out by entrepreneurs coming from the fishing and aquaculture sectors.

It is an activity that comes from the fishers themselves, who have thought about how to use their wealth of knowledge and traditions, linked to a fascinating natural environment such as the sea, to make tourism.

The main requirements to start a fishing tourism activity “onboard” in the 4 countries involved in the FIT4BLUE project (France, Spain, Italy and Greece) are:

- be an entrepreneur in fishing/aquaculture sectors
- have a fishing or aquaculture license
- have a fishing/aquaculture vessel
- have an insurance
- obtain a fishing tourism authorization (which normally indicates the fishing gears allowed onboard while practising fishing tourism)

The obtention of the fishing tourism authorization is normally subject to the verification of the safety condition of the vessel.

In **Italy**, the authorization is released by the port authorities (notably the “Capitaneria di Porto”) following the vessel stability tests carried out by a certification body (such as RINA or BureauVeritas).

In Italy, the legislation clearly states that fishing tourism can also be carried out directly by fishing cooperatives that have their dedicated boat or by farmers with an aquaculture license that have a boat registered in the V category¹. In this last case, the farmer can carry out fishing tourism activities also in the area granted in concession for aquaculture. In both cases, a specific fishing tourism authorization of one-year validity is required.

In **Spain**, the fishing vessel must obtain a “favourable report” from the National Administration regarding the conditions of maritime safety, navigation, human life at sea and pollution prevention, while there is no specific need for authorization for tourists onboard for tourism activities in aquaculture venues.

In **France**, the owners of professional fishing or aquaculture vessels must, first of all, hold an

¹ Vessels dedicated to serve aquaculture farms facilities

authorization on their navigation permit issued by the Departmental Directorate of Territories and the Sea (DDTM)².

In **Greece**, fishermen must apply for a specific license (Special Fishing Tourism License) from the Regional Fisheries Service with which the professional fisherman has been registered.

Regarding “**on-land**” fishing tourism there are some differences between the 4 countries considered.

Italy paved the way by introducing the concept of “Itti-tourism”³ which could be only carried out by professional fishers and aquaculture farmers.

In **Greece**, the fishing tourism activities “on land” carried out by fishers and aquaculture farmers are allowed and they are very developed, because fishers provide fishing tourism on board and, except in some cases, prefer to use taverns or tourist agencies for the rest of the provisions of “on land” activities.

In **Spain**, “on land” activities are not regulated within the fishing sector but within the tourism sector and they are often subject to the Regional regulations.

In **France**, only producers of molluscs and crustaceans from certain regions (Aquitaine, Brittany, Normandy and Occitania) can offer tastings of their products (mussels, oysters) on land, served exclusively raw, sometimes with the possibility of adding complementary products according to the provisions of some prefectural decrees.

The fishing tourism activity is opened to all people willing to experience a day on fishers’ boats: local tourists, international tourists, youngsters, older people, families, couples⁴. A fishing tourism trip could be benefitted alone or in little groups⁵.

² Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer

³ Tourist activities linked to fishery or aquaculture released “on land” by fishers/farmers by making use of the premises owned by them.

⁴ The minimum age allowed to be boarded is 14 in Italy, Spain and Greece and 12 in France.

⁵ In all countries involved, the number of passengers allowed onboard is proportional to the size of the boat, up to a maximum of 12 people.

In all the countries considered, the number of passengers that can be present on the boat varies according to the characteristics of the boat itself and can never exceed 12 people. The exact number of the maximum number of people on board is normally defined in the fishing tourism license (normally released by the port authority) based on the stability verifications or standard criteria such as the length and the height of the vessel, with some different parameters between Countries.

Minors under 14 years of age (12 for France) must be accompanied and will be under the responsibility of the accompanying person.

For all other activities that do not take place "on board" (guided tours, hospitality, gastronomy, etc.) there are no specific restrictions regarding fishing tourism regulations, neither on the number of people nor on age.

Chapter 3: Regulations of fishing tourism in each country

Normative references

As first, we must note that there is not a common European legal framework on fishing tourism. However, in 2017 a Resolution of the European Parliament⁶ approved the Report on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries⁷ providing some general indications on the subject. This represented very important guiding act, pushing for a desirable European directive on the subject, recognizing the *"untapped potential of fishing-related tourism, which can bring significant benefits to communities in coastal areas by diversifying the local sources of income; believes in this regard that fishing tourism at sea and fishing tourism on the shore can integrate commercial fishing and provide additional income for fishing communities"*.

⁶ Report on the role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries (2016/2035(INI)), available [here](#)

⁷ The role of fisheries-related tourism in the diversification of fisheries, European Parliament Resolution, 4th July 2017, available [here](#)

As regards the current national legislative framework, it is to be noted that specific legislation exists in all four countries involved in the FIT4BLUE project (France, Spain, Italy and Greece). The Italian one dates back to 1999, followed by those of the other countries (France 2011-2012, Greece 2012-2013, Spain 2014). Probably the Italian legislation, being the oldest one and having already been updated several times, is the most specific and detailed and already considers the “on land” activities. The other countries involved, in particular France and Spain, have younger regulations which still do not allow fishers/farmers to carry out many activities (on-board catering and “on land” fishing tourism).

This lack of uniformity between countries does not guarantee the same possibilities for fishers from neighbouring countries, up to the paradox that French boats from Corsica cannot do the same activities like those from Sardinia. A common European regulation would, therefore, be desirable.

It is important to underline that in Italy and Spain the national legislation is complemented by Regional legislation and regulations, due to shared competence of the two governing levels on the subject. This doesn't happen in France and Greece.

Safety regulation in each country

To bring inexperienced tourists on a fishing boat, the fisher will have to strictly adhere to safety rules in order not to take risks for himself and others.

Safety regulations are similar in all 4 countries analysed. Each boat must obtain a certificate of stability for the maximum number of people allowed on board. Individual protection devices available for each passenger (life jackets, lifebuoys) and collective protection devices (rafts) must be present onboard.

Regarding life jackets, in France and Spain, once on deck, tourists should wear a self-inflating lifejacket or device, other than the ship abandonment vest, which, without hindering their movements, is suitable to keep them afloat in the event of a fall into the water. This is not mandatory in Italy and Greece.

In all 4 countries, a first aid box in a rigid material, watertight, easily removable and floating, containing specific sanitary material must be present onboard.

In the same way, fire-fighting devices and VHF radio stations must be always present on board and must be periodically reviewed.

When boarded, instructions received from the captain and the crew must be strictly followed by tourists. Everyone must act responsibly and take care of their own safety and those of the others. Each passenger must occupy a safe place on the boat and must not move unless he receives specific instructions from the captain.

In case of danger, all passengers must remain calm and follow the captain's orders.

Hygiene regulation in each country

Concerning the hygiene regulation, it is to be highlighted that in two Countries (Spain and France) fishers/farmers cannot provide food onboard to tourists so that they are not concerned by the hygiene rules to be followed "on board" for fishing tourism.

In Italy and Greece, on the other hand, the hygiene package must be applied "onboard" in case of consumption of products by passengers, cooked onboard or precooked.

Hygiene package is a set of rules that define the requirements of the places where food is cooked and served, the characteristics of the equipment and the specific requirements for the various products of animal origin including live bivalve molluscs and fishery products.

This package assigns responsibility for the hygiene of food products directly to the various operators in the food chain through a self-regulation system, using the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points - HACCP method.

For what concerns "on land" fishing tourism, France has recently started catering activities linked to shellfish farms and, in this case, the regulation to follow is the HACCP.

On the other hand, in Spain, some "on land" activities linked to fishery exist, but these activities must be registered in the registry of tourist activities of the region and following the tourism regulations.

More in general, regarding "on land" activities, the HACCP rules are to be followed in all the 4 countries analyzed.

Summary table of regulations on fishing tourism in the 4 countries involved in the FIT4BLUE project (France, Spain, Italy and Greece)

	France	Italy	Spain	Greece
National legislation	YES	YES	YES	YES
First issued national legislation	2011-2012	1999	2014	2012-2013
Regional legislations	NO	YES	YES	YES
Fishing tourism "onboard" allowed	YES	YES	YES	YES
Catering onboard allowed	NO	YES	NO	YES
Fishing tourism "on land" allowed	Not for fishing, Under local conditions	YES	NO	YES. but not regulated
Hygiene regulation	HACCP rules to be followed on land	HACCP rules to be followed on board and on land	HACCP rules to be followed on land	HACCP rules to be followed on board and on land
Safety regulation	Each boat must obtain a certificate of stability for the maximum number of people allowed on board. Individual protection devices available for each passenger (life jackets, lifebuoys) and collective protection devices (rafts) are mandatory onboard.			
Limits the maximum volume of income that each fisher can derive from fishing tourism	50% below the threshold of € 36,100 in turnover	No limits: up to 100% of his total income	Not regulated for all the regions	Not regulated

Normative references in the 4 countries involved in the FIT4BLUE project

Italy

- [Ministerial decree 293/1999](#)
- [Law 96/2006](#)
- [Abruzzo \(Regional Law 23/2012\)](#)
- [Basilicata \(Regional Law 17/2005\)](#)
- [Calabria \(Regional Law 15/2009\)](#)
- [Lazio \(Regional Law 4/ 2008\)](#)
- [Marche \(Regional Law 33/2019\)](#)
- [Friuli Venezia Giulia \(Regional Law 25/1996\)](#)
- [Campania \(Regional Law 284/2008\)](#)
- [Tuscany \(Regional Law 56/2009\)](#)
- [Veneto \(Regional Law 28/2012\)](#)
- [Emilia Romagna \(Regional Law 22/2014\)](#)
- [Apulia \(Regional Law 13/2015\)](#)
- [Sardinia \(Regional Law 11/2005\)](#)
- [Sicily \("Regional" Law 9/2019\)](#)

France

- [Ministerial Decree, May 9th 2011](#)
- [Ministerial Decree, March 13th 2012](#)

Spain

- [Law 3/2001, of March 26, on State Maritime Fishing](#)
- [Royal Decree 239/2019](#)
- [Royal Decree 418/2015](#)

Greece

- [Law 4070/2012](#)
- [Law 4179/2013](#)
- [Joint Ministerial Decision 414/2354/2015](#)

Chapter 4: Organizational, legislative and bureaucracy constraints

Although fishing tourism is nowadays a reality known among fishers/farmers and it is present in all four countries considered, in none of these, this activity has yet expressed its full potential and, very often, is seen by those working in the sector as an opportunity very remote and difficult to implement, this is due to some problems.

Considering the information collected in the 4 countries, difficulties and similar limits emerged regarding fishing tourism. First of all, the bureaucracy that frightens the fishers and nips any idea of diversification in the bud. Even the limits and legal obligations, in many cases, force the fisher to pay high costs to make the boat suitable and compliant to the law or to follow rules and constraints that make the activity unprofitable (eg: the limited number of people on board).

The organizational problems are related to the difficulties of organizing an excursion at sea, of managing and collecting the adhesions of tourists, of managing people on board, of maintaining certain cleanliness of the boat, of managing safety and to coordinate and organize visits on land (fish market, museum, fishing port). These activities take time and attention and a fisher is unlikely to be able to support them alone. It is therefore fundamental on the one hand to create structures that support fishers in starting and managing activities, a task that can be carried out by the fishing organizations or cooperatives themselves, on the other, it is equally essential that fishers/farmers acquire managerial skills necessary to manage a whole series of problems that go beyond those strictly linked to fishing operations. The older generations are often not ready for this change, for this reason, the generational change is fundamental but, nowadays, it is not so frequent in the world of fishing. On the contrary, it is quite frequent in aquaculture.

Another important gap in all 4 countries is the lack of statistical data on fishing tourism. Indeed, there is no precise information on the number of companies implementing fishing tourism, on their income, on their organizational methods, etc., the only information of this type comes from past European projects that usually are old or not complete.

The knowledge of statistical data on the fishing tourism reality of the country or region could give to the fishers/farmers important information about how to start and manage the activity, about competition, about diversification ideas and examples of good practice.

As for Italy and Greece, these problems are aggravated by those relating to the administration of food cooked onboard, which bind the fisher to a series of rules on food hygiene (HACCP) which are often difficult to apply on a fishing boat.

Chapter 5: Cultural heritage of fishing and aquaculture

Traditional fishing activities are part of the European cultural heritage and contribute to the identity of coastal communities, also due to how they have contributed to shaping tastes, foods, traditions, history and landscapes: this aspect can and must be valued in the contact with tourists.

The term "cultural heritage" also refers to the ancient and profound relationship between man and the environment, of which fishers are living witnesses. Also in this context, fishing tourism can prove, on the one hand, an important laboratory linked to training and information in terms of sustainability and, on the other, a necessary enhancement of the fisher as a "guardian of the sea".

Fishing-related tourism activities can help increase the visibility of fishers/farmers and encourage appreciation and understanding of their complex activity.

In all the countries involved in the project, traditions related to the world of fishing and aquaculture are considered an important heritage to be handed down and preserved. Crafts, tools, techniques, stories and legends, traditions, recipes, characters and places are part of a cultural heritage that can attract many tourists and that can be perfectly explained and handed down by the fishers themselves.

For this reason, fishers and farmers should develop communication skills and should be able to entertain the public by being clear and concise by respecting the time's schedule.

In practical terms, we already can identify several initiatives able to valorize at the economic level the cultural heritage. As first, in several Mediterranean coastal cities, there are Museums dedicated to the maritime cultural heritage and the valorization of marine or lagoon environments. It could be worth exploring the possibility to increase the level of direct involvement of the fishers in those museums.

On the other hand, some private tourism companies already include harbours and fishing facilities in some characteristic tours, demonstrating that they can be appreciated by tourists when coupled with stories, sharing of traditions and showcase of products. Some “on land” fishing tourism activities have already started integrating similar land tours in their offer.

Chapter 6: Lack of official training programs, skills needs and training gaps of target groups

Lack of official training programs

To start a fishing tourism activity, fishers/aquaculture farmers must have specific skills that are often not yet present in training programs at both European and national level.

The project investigated, through a series of interviews with stakeholders of the maritime sector and the previous knowledge of the partners themselves, what are the main skills and main contents to be included in a training program aimed at fishers/farmers who want to start fishing tourism activities.

With the information collected, the project FIT4BLUE aims to create two training programs, one addressed to mentors/trainers to direct them on the contents to be treated during a course aimed at new entrepreneurs in fishing tourism and one addressed to fishers/aquaculture farmers to train them in starting fishing tourism activities.

This will serve to fill a gap that the project partnership has highlighted at European level (lack of an official European training program on fishing tourism) and at the national level in the 4 countries involved in the project. In fact, in 3 countries (Spain, France and Greece) there is any official or specific training program for fishers/farmers on fishing tourism and only in Italy there is a specific training program for fishers/farmers on fishing tourism but organised at regional level (in Veneto region)⁸.

In Spain, there are private entities that offer some notions of fishing tourism, safety onboard and planning of visits and itineraries. In other countries, there are training programs derived from European projects that have resulted in good practice manuals or training courses. In all 4 countries, there are no training programs for trainers.

Skills needs and training gaps of target groups

As said, the project FIT4BLUE collected, by interviewing some stakeholders, the most important skills necessary for a fisher/farmer to start a fishing tourism activity. Among the most important skills that emerged from the interviews in the 4 countries is that of oral

⁸ It is a mandatory course for fishing tourism “onboard” and “on land”

communication which is essential for contact with tourists. Many fishers/farmers are not used to public speaking and in some cases still use dialect. Making a fisher/farmer skilful in telling and exhibiting can certainly make the experience more accessible also for national and international tourists.

For this reason, the skills of the basic English language should be also developed, for the management of foreign tourists who, otherwise, risk not being involved and not appreciating the activity.

IT skills are also very important. The Internet and social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are now the most used channels to advertise a fishing tourism business. Not all fishers/farmers have the knowledge necessary to use social networks or websites via PC, laptop and smartphone and this is a gap that can damage the visibility of the activity.

Other important skills are the entrepreneurial and marketing skills, both to manage the business and to create a connection and agreements with tour operators, hotels, tourist offices and Pro Loco. In this sense, it will be important to develop the useful skills for this type of negotiation, notions related to knowing how to start collaborative relationships with structures dedicated to the management of groups of tourists and related to how to navigate a world already full of recreational activities.

The marketing skills are very important also because the fishers/farmers must be able to sell his product to tourists, whether it is a sea excursion along the coast, whether it is a product to be tasted, whether it is a cultural activity on land (port/fish market tours).

Knowledge of the tourism sector is therefore very important in order to know which target groups to contact and which channels to use.

Regarding the cultural and natural heritage of the area, basic training will be important to allow the fisher/farmer to tell both the history of the area and of the fishing port and the natural features of the coast. In this regard, in addition to the knowledge acquired on the field by the fisherman, some notions on marine biology and on the environmental characteristics of the coast can be very useful.

Another important skill is the knowledge of the safety regulations, fundamental for the fisher who wants to start this type of activity without incurring penalties and keeping guests safe.

In countries where there is the possibility of administering food onboard (only in Italy and Greece) or on land (in Italy, Greece, and, in some cases, in France and Spain), the knowledge

of hygiene regulations will be mandatory (HACCP regulation). Gastronomic and table service skills will also be very important.

Main skills emerged during stakeholders interviews

Skills and needs	France	Italy	Spain	Greece
Communication skills	X	X	X	X
IT skills (social network, web site)	X	X	X	X
Financial and administrative management skills	X	X	X	X
Basic training on the cultural and natural heritage of the area	X	X	X	X
Minimum English language skills	X	X	X	X
Entrepreneurial skills	X	X	X	X
Basic knowledge of the tourism sector and how it is regulated and organized	X	X	X	
Knowledge of regulations and safety rules	X	X		
Gastronomic skills		X		X
HACCP rules		X		X

Chapter 7: Examples of good practice

Although fishing tourism is still at an early stage, with various economic and regulatory difficulties, there is no shortage of virtuous examples of good practice in all countries. These examples involve not only individual companies but also cooperatives and associations that play a fundamental role as logistical and organizational support.

In Italy, five examples have been identified, different by region and operations. All of them have the gastronomic valorization of the product at the centre of their proposal, which proves to be the simplest and most effective tourist attraction. A tourism proposal that is then enriched with all the tangible and intangible assets related to fishing, aquaculture and sea.

In Spain, most of the best-known fishing tourism activities are concentrated in the Mediterranean area and Galicia. We have chosen some examples of different types of activities both on land and “onboard” and an example of a company that is responsible for promoting private initiatives that lack the means to manage reservations and direct promotion.

In France, good practises of fishing tourism in the Mediterranean are difficult to identify. This does not mean there are not any. The fishers located in the little fishing ports of the Côte d'Azur and Corsica do not communicate or very little in social networks because of lack of knowledge but mainly because it is not in their culture. This is why professional organizations manage, according to their competence, communication on fishing tourism from their own internet site. Indeed, the regional maritime fisheries committee of Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and Corsica have opted for the same logo available in regional language to identify fishing tourism in all communication media and ports. However, we can note some exceptions as in the department of Bouches du Rhône.

In Greece, there are only 150 fishers with a Fisheries Tourism License. Greek islands such as Crete, Santorini and Corfu have the best examples of fishing tourism. In Attica, the region with almost the half greek population, there are less than 10 fishers with Fisheries Tourism Licence. Significant is the fishing tourism example of Messolonghi see-lake.

Italy

Despite many difficulties, in Italy there is no shortage of entrepreneurial initiatives, which can be taken as a model both for implementing new models of income integration and for training purposes. Only a few of these good practices are presented below, concerning the various regional frameworks.

Good practice n. 1: Ligurian fishing tourism

Following the example of twenty years of fishing tourism in Sardinia, Liguria has distinguished itself at a national level, due to a strong effort in diversifying the available activities in the last five years. This was possible due to the important work of the fishermen's cooperatives, fisheries traders' associations in synergy with the offices of the Liguria Region in supporting the will of the fishermen to diversify their fishing activity, through the creation of facilitating regional regulations, joint participation in funded European projects and the creation of training activities aimed at creating developing entrepreneurial skills. The uncertain marine weather conditions that characterize this region especially in summer, have pushed fishermen to develop fishing tourism with a boat moored on the quay and focused on providing meals based on fresh and local fish. The companies that have distinguished themselves are the Fishermen Cooperative of Boccadasse (Ge), with the creation of the Ge8317 itti-tourism where tourists can have an aperitif on the beach, the Mare di Albenga Cooperative which offers an "onboard" didactic cooking service and small cruises, The Crazy Fish Cooperative of Varazze (Sv), Bistromare Cooperative with aperitifs on the beach and wines directly from the "heroic" vineyard curated by the fisherman himself and located on a Ligurian terrace cliff. An historic presence in the area is the pescaturismo Castel Dragone whose owner has transformed his purse seine boat into a floating restaurant and the Alalunga pesca of Savona Cooperative, composed by very young fishermen who, throughout the year, offer foil bags of fried fish on the quayside in the evening.

Fishermen Cooperative of Boccadasse (Ge), with the creation of the Ge8317 itti-tourism



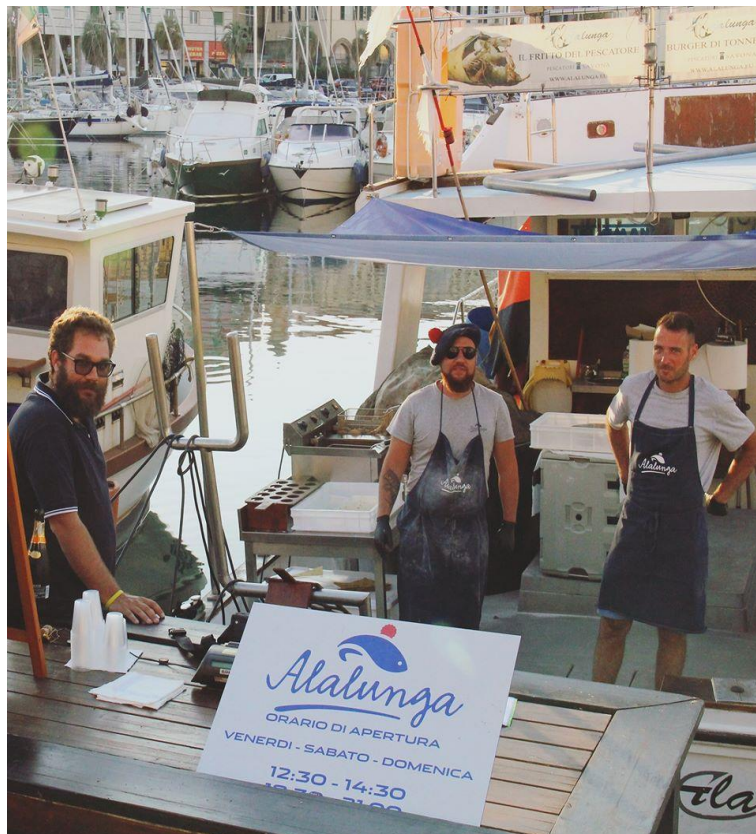
Mare di Albenga Cooperative-Liguria



Crazy Fish Cooperative of Varazze- Liguria



Castel Dragone - Camogli (Ge) - Liguria





Alalunga pesca of Savona Cooperative

Good practice n. 2: Fishing tourism of Paolo Fanciulli

When we talk about fishing tourism in Tuscany, we immediately think of Paolo Fanciulli who with his boat "Sirena" accompanies tourists to discover the beautiful coast of the Maremma Park. An innovator for other local fishermen, over the years he has successfully experimented with land-based fishing tourism based on organic products and made an important contribution to maintaining the marine biodiversity of the park with the creation of the "fish house", a submerged museum composed of Tuscan marble statues that act as artificial restocking barriers for local fish species.



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Good practice n. 3: Puglia Region

The Puglia Region, despite its reputation as a high tourist region, is characterized by the presence of few fishing tourism activities that over the years have been consolidated and remain in the area. The cause is to be found in a navy mainly consisting of bottom trawl systems, with boats that are not suitable for hosting tourists, but indeed very active in retail selling. As good practices we can point out the small fishing realities centred in the province of Brindisi such as pescaturismo Francesco, pescaturismo Angelo, My Way while in the area of Porto Cesareo there is pescaturismo Lo Sparviere with its large longline fishing boat that has also distinguished himself by converting his boat into a didactic place for school groups.



Pescaturismo Francesco



Good practice n. 4: Casa del Pescatore Cesenatico fishing cooperative

In Emilia-Romagna, a certainly cutting-edge example is the one of “Cooperative Casa del pescatore” in Cesenatico (FC). A cooperative officially founded in 1945, but that plunges its roots in a series of cooperation actions already implemented by a group of fishermen in previous decades. Today, despite the difficulties of trawling fisheries, thanks also to the important mussel farming sector, the cooperative is one of the most important and dynamic Italian productive companies. Over the years, apart from these undoubted entrepreneurial qualities, it has also been consolidating a new leading cultural activity, linked to the development of the material and immaterial heritage of the cooperative itself and its members.

The cooperative has a close relationship with the Maritime Museum of Cesenatico, museum excellence of European level, and has promoted and created a real historical archive, collecting photographic and film material, as well as recorded oral and written testimonies. A book has been recently published “Il mare non è un campo di grano. Interviste ai pescatori di Cesenatico” (The sea is not a wheat field. Interviews with Cesenatico fishermen) by Davide Gnola, self-produced by the cooperative itself.

Also, the Cooperative and its members have been carrying out both fishing tourism on board and on land for twenty years. In particular, these activities are managed by the fishermen's cooperative in collaboration with a cooperative that is expert in the field of enhancement of the territory, of the cultural heritage and of the environment and in the organization of excursions. This external cooperative acts as an intermediary between fishermen and citizens or students.

Always in the context of the enhancement of the product and of the fishing port, two very important events can be considered not only simple gastronomic country festivals but also real moments of valorization and dissemination related both to fish products and seafood and the culture of fishing and sea farming.

“Azzurro come il pesce” would have celebrated its twenty years this year, in early May.

“Il pesce fa festa” is the autumnal event that attracts thousands of people during four days, not only with its gastronomic stands but also thanks to the crowded meetings with fishermen,

mussel farmers, researchers, historians and all those who in various capacities revolve around the world of fishing and marine farming of Cesenatico.

Website 1: <http://www.casapescatore.it/Pescaturismo/>

Website 2: https://www.cesenatico.it/scheda_articolo.asp?id=320

Website 3: https://www.cesenatico.it/scheda_evento.asp?id=22

<p>Proposta 1</p> <p>Un giorno da pescatore!</p> <p>MATTINO ore 9,30 - 12,00 circa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ritrovo presso il Mercato Ittico di Cesenatico e imbarco a bordo del peschereccio - Illustrazione dei sistemi di pesca in uso nella marineria di Cesenatico a cura del comandante dell'imbarcazione - Visita ai vivai di mare per l'allevamento dei mitili (cozze): lavorazione, selezione e raccolta del prodotto per la commercializzazione - Dimostrazione di pesca con l'ausilio di attrezzi da posta (cogulli, tramagli e cestelli per lumachini) - Incontro al largo con pescherecci che effettuano la pesca a strascico e volante intenti a salpare le reti al termine della "calata" di pesca (*) - Rientro in porto <p><small>* E' possibile solo dal lunedì al venerdì esclusi i periodi di fermo pesca</small></p> <p>POMERIGGIO ore 14,00 - 15,30 circa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ingresso in Sala Asta del Mercato Ittico per assistere alle contrattazioni dei prodotti ittici <p>Quota di partecipazione individuale: € 50,00</p>	<p>Proposta 2</p> <p>Cesenatico e i suoi segreti</p> <p>MATTINO ore 9,30 - 12,00 circa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ritrovo coi pescatori presso il Mercato Ittico di Cesenatico - Sala lavorazione e allestimenti reti da pesca: incontro con i vecchi pescatori che esercitano l'attività di riparazione e allestimento delle reti da pesca e illustrazione dei sistemi di pesca in uso nella Marineria di Cesenatico - Magazzino approvvigionamenti reti, cordami, materiali e attrezzature di pesca - Cantieri navali, scalo di alaggio e varo natanti, Porte Vinciane - Centro di ricerche Marine, battello oceanografico Daphne - Fabbrica del ghiaccio - Vecchio borgo dei pescatori lungo l'asta di Ponente del porto - Visita al museo della Marineria: sezione galleggiante e sezione terra - Passeggiata lungo Corso Garibaldi e visita a Pescheria e Conserve <p>POMERIGGIO ore 14,00 - 15,30 circa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rientro in porto del pescherecci - Ingresso in Sala Asta del Mercato Ittico per assistere alle contrattazioni dei prodotti ittici <p>Quota di partecipazione individuale: € 10,00 Minimo 12 partecipanti</p> <p>Pescaturismo per le scuole è "La compagnia del pesce azzurro" www.giratlantide.net/lacompagniadelpesceazzurro</p>	<p>Tutti a tavola</p> <p>Esclusivamente per chi partecipa alle proposte 1 e/o 2 è possibile assaggiare al punto "degustazione" della Cooperativa Casa del Pescatore, un pranzo cucinato dai pescatori di Cesenatico, con pesce rigorosamente fresco di stagione, pescato dalle imbarcazioni della marineria.</p> <p>Il pranzo: un antipasto - cozze e vongole un primo piatto - spaghetti con le vongole o passatelli con brodo di pesce un secondo - grigliata o pesce fritto accompagnati da acqua e vino in abbondanza</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Proposta 2+pranzo di pesce</td> <td>€ 38,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposta 1+pranzo di pesce</td> <td>€ 70,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposta 1+2+pranzo di pesce</td> <td>€ 79,00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Le quote sono valide per minimo 6 partecipanti Periodi di effettuazione da maggio a ottobre Le prenotazioni devono essere effettuate con almeno una settimana di anticipo dalla data di partenza.</p> <p>SOGGIORNI DI pesca turismo</p> <p>Proposte per weekend fra le vele multicolori di Cesenatico alla scoperta del mare e delle sue tradizioni, alla ricerca delle radici più autentiche della Romagna a partire da € 170,00</p>	Proposta 2+pranzo di pesce	€ 38,00	Proposta 1+pranzo di pesce	€ 70,00	Proposta 1+2+pranzo di pesce	€ 79,00
Proposta 2+pranzo di pesce	€ 38,00							
Proposta 1+pranzo di pesce	€ 70,00							
Proposta 1+2+pranzo di pesce	€ 79,00							



Good practice n. 5: “Nonno Remo” fishing tourism

We can also find an example of good practice in Pescara (Abruzzo Region): The “Nonno Remo” clam fishing boat organizes full-day boat trips with lunch onboard, fishing trips or short trips with aperitifs at the open sea at sunset. The clam fishing boat also collaborates with research centres and health authorities by embarking technicians for sampling activities at sea.



Website 1: <https://www.facebook.com/pescaraturismo/>

Website 2: <https://www.pescaraturismo.it/wordpress/>

Good practice n. 6: Fishing tourism “Asia” and Itti-tourism “Al Fritulin”

In the Veneto Region on the Po delta there is another good example of fishing tourism: In the Scardovari lagoon there is “Pescaturismo Asia” that has a boat that takes tourists to make excursions in the Scardovari lagoon to view clam fishing and other types of fishing and to enjoy the nature of the Po Delta: "Visit the lagoons of the Veneto Regional Park of the Po Delta on the typical boats and in the company of local fishermen".

The same company has also an itti-tourism “Al Fritulin” that offers to customers only local products, farmed or fished: "Typical fish cuisine at km 0, directly from the fisher to our tables"



Asia
PESCA-TURISMO

ESCURSIONI GUIDATE
NEL PARCO REGIONALE VENETO
DEL DELTA DEL PO

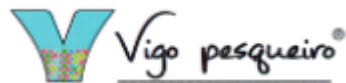
REGIONE DEL VENETO
PARCO REGIONALE VENETO
Il Turismo
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CELL: 348 2848885
WWW.PESCATURISMODELTAPO.COM

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/PescaturismoDeltaPo/>

Spain

Good practice n. 1: Vigo Pesqueiro



It is a product of diffusion of the maritime fishing heritage created by the FUNDAMAR Foundation in 2016. Vigo pesqueiro is a program that aims to carry out tourist activities that combines marine tourism with industrial tourism and that through different itineraries you can visit all the resources that, directly or indirectly, are related to the fishing sector (port, fishing vessels, research centres, museums, walking and boat routes...). The routes are designed according to the public: adult, child, at risk of exclusion, nationality, special needs.

Website: www.vigopesqueiro.com

Good practice n. 2: Amarturmar



The Cultural Association of Mulleres e Homes do Mar de Cesantes (Amarturmar) is an entity founded by six partners from the fishing and shellfish sector that aims to promote a type of sustainable tourism in the Cesantes and Redondela area.

They offer different types of routes:

- Seafood route on foot and afloat
- Choco and xeito route
- Port route

Website: <https://www.turismomarinero.org/>

Good practice n. 3: Amarcarril



The Carril shellfish association (AMARCARRIL) launches different routes to promote the shellfish activity, its surroundings by arranging it with product tasting (gastronomy). It also carries out inclusive routes for people with disabilities.

Website: <https://amarcarril.wordpress.com/>

Good practice n. 4: Foredunes, Coastal Heritage Training



The centre proposes to get to know the traditions, business activities and fishing which are part of their coastal heritage and its relationship with the environment so that people begin to value and protect the environment. This philosophy applies both, to the smallest when they come with their schools, to adolescents, adults and the "youngest".

Activities that can be carried out in the facilities are: a) Safe fishing; b) Bird watching and photography; c) Nature activities for the environment; d) School workshops

The workshops and activities that are carried out for the School Centers are oriented so that the students learn about Fishing and Coastal Heritage by playing, doing crafts, experimenting.

This is an example of activities that we carry out:

- Visits and workshops in a Canning Factory: Topics related to Food and Health, Gastronomy, production methods, fishing and related activities, etc. They will learn about the process of making canned products by hand, the properties of bluefish, they will experience the snoring of live tuna, and they will make their own canned mackerel in olive oil.
- Visits to La Lonja and fishing port: Visits in which they will see the types of fishing boats, they will experience the fish auction, they will smell what the sailors have caught in short, they will learn first-hand the primary sector of fishing.
- Workshops in traditional salinas: Knowing where the salt we consume comes from, the types of salt, the environment where the salt activity is carried out complemented by related workshops, is one of the visits, also outdoors, recommended for students.
- Boat trips and workshops: Our Coastal Heritage is characterized by unique landscapes: dunes, marshes, estuaries, river mouths. The best way to get to know them is by boat.

Website: www.formacionforedunes.es

Good practice n. 5: Turismo marinero Costa del Sol



The main objectives are:

- To enhance and improve the artisanal fishing sector
- To offer an economic supplement to fishermen and their families
- To help integrate women into artisanal fishing
- To spread the culture and seafood cuisine
- To offer a new sustainable and alternative tourist product for coastal towns, offering unique experiences in contact with its people, its culture and its traditions.

Activities:

- The marine gastronomic route to taste an authentic seafood meal: They are brought to places where the fishing activity takes place, such as the Live Fish Auction in Lonja (in the afternoon), the unloading of the fish, to visit the spectacular environment
- Discovering the history of fishing and the fisherman
- Excursion to the sea to see the work of the fishing boats live
- Sportfishing including: Professional instructor, Drinks and meals onboard.

Website: www.turismomarinero.com

Good practice n. 6: Pescaturismo Spain



The Pescaturismo Spain web platform aims to promote all the fishing tourism experiences throughout Spain. Pescaturismo Spain is a Web platform that, in collaboration with the Fishermen's Guilds, associations and other initiatives of fishing tourism and fishing tourism in different ports of Mallorca, Menorca, Galicia, Valencia, Catalonia.

This portal facilitates that the professionals of the sector can offer all kinds of excursions and activities of marine tourism, fishing tourism and excursions in traditional fishing boats.

Website : <https://www.pescaturismospain.com/>

France

Good practice n. 1: Fishing tourism in France, the discovery of professional fishing activities

Professional fishery organizations in PACA and Corsica centralize regional information on fishing tourism on behalf of their members. You can find on their website the contact details of the professionals who practice this activity. It is important to note that these two territories have opted for the same logo.



Website: https://www.crpmem.corsica/Le-Pescaturisimu_a281.html

Website: <https://www.crpmem-paca.fr/index.php/peche-maritime/pescatourisme>

Good practice n. 2: Fishing tourism in Carry le Rouet

Departing from Carry le Rouet, M Serge Piro welcomes you on board of his ship to reveal his know-how. From 7 am, at the first light of dawn, you will drop the moorings to discover the blue coast.

From Planier Island to the mouth of the Rhône, you will attend fishing for bluefin tuna or mackerel: you will learn the techniques of cane and broumé/foggy, then you will experience the thrill of lifting lines with a powerful adversary.



Website: <http://pecheaugros-carry.fr/index.php/serge-piro/>

Good practice n. 3: Fishing tourism in Corsica

In the framework of the TOURISMED project (co-funded by the INTERREG Med Programme), four fishers started to practice fishing tourism in Corsica. Nowadays in Ajaccio, Propriano, Bonifacio and Solenzara tourists can experience one day in fishers' boots.



Website: <https://fishingtourism.net>

Greece

Good practice n. 1: Michalis Fishing Tourism in Kefalonia



Captain Michalis Messoloras, his father captain Gerasimos and his wife provide a special experience to visitors of the quiet village of Svoronata, in the southwest of Kefalonia island: the opportunity to spend a day with their family and their loved ones on a traditional Greek wooden boat and fish with traditional ways.

Messoloras family was the first fishing family that applied fishing tourism in Kefalonia. They provide 4 different types of excursions:

- FOLLOWING MICHAEL'S BOAT, which is the typical excursion of fishing tourism. Visitors are closely following the process of how nets are picked up and have the opportunity to help to the extent they are allowed for their own safety and to make any questions they want. The traditional fishing methods used to allow visitors to see lobsters, crabs, sparrows, shrimps, scorpion fish, sea bass, sea breams and many more. Then, lunch is prepared in front of the visitors, as the staff prepare «bourgeto», a traditional Kefalonia dish made with various fish.
- FISHING TRIPS AT SUNSET
- SPECIAL TRIPS, where visitors can participate in swordfish fishing.
- AUTUMN TRIPS

Website: <https://michalisfishingtourism.com/>

Good practice n. 2: Aqua action, Mesolonghi-Aetoliko lagoon



The company “Aqua Action” was created in 2005 at Mesolonghi-Aetoliko and for several years worked side by side with its fishermen for the protection and promotion of the area.

The creation of the company was based on the awareness that alternative tourism can support the income of the local community and at the same time convince about the value of environmental protection itself.

In cooperation with the fishermen with whom it cooperates, they implement four daily fishing tourism programs:

- INTRODUCTION TO THE AREA AND THE FISHERMEN: The program involves a short tour in the region, with emphasis on the history of Missolonghi and the operation of the lagoon.
- THE NATURAL WEALTH, THE HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY IN THE AREA OF THE LAGOON: The program focuses on the mythology of the area, the birds, the production of salt in the lagoon and includes a tour of the magnificent forest of Fraxos.
- MEET THE LAGOON'S FISHES AND CULTURE OF THE AREA AROUND THE FISHERIES: The program focuses on the life cycle of fish and how it is captured by local artists.
- LIVING WITH THE FISHERMEN: The program focuses on the lives of fishermen, fishing and traditional fishing techniques. Visitors were not only provided with general information about the lagoon and the special features of the area but also they can stay in the fishermen's area with the development of various activities such as individual fishing for those tourists who want it.
- Watch demonstrative fishing activities by fishermen with the voluntary participation of hikers.

- Have lunch at sea with seafood made with local recipes by fishermen and with fish that will have been caught during the day's activities.

At the end of each tour, visitors receive a folder containing information material:

- Triptych for each region
- Guide for fishery products in the region
- Cd-rom to get to know the area, fishing and fishery products
- Form-page guide to fish (freshness, seasonal characteristics, etc.)
- Commemorative jar with natural unrefined salt (the famous "afrina" of Salinas)

Website: <http://www.aquaaction.gr/>

Good practice n. 3: Armenistis Fishing Trips



Giannis Athinaios is the only fisherman in Nea Makri, Attica, with a Fishing Tourism Licence. His vessel, Armenistis, has a capacity of 8 people and all the necessary equipment for vertical and treadmill but also for more specialized techniques such as slow pitch, inchiku, tenya etc.

Captain organizes fishing excursions in the area of southern Evia so that visitors can get acquainted with traditional and modern techniques of professional fishing.

Armenistis is an 11-meter traditional wooden trehantiri with a 135-horsepower PERKINS machine and features modern electronic and fishing equipment that meets almost every need for passengers.

Fishing trips are made by appointment between the captain and the interested parties. Thus, there are a variety of options in departure and return hours, but also in the content of fishing that can include fishing with nets, longlines, verticals, shovels, slow jigging and trolling. The schedule of the program is: 3 hours of demonstration of fishing techniques and procedures, 2 - 3 hours of fishing by visitors, lunch or dinner according to time with cold plates of cuttlefish and octopus with vinegar and return at the port.

Website: www.armenistis-fishingtrips.gr

Good practice n. 4: Giorgaros Fishing Tours



Giorgaros is the vessel of Anthi Arvaniti, captain and leader to the Santorini fishing experience as she belongs to a family with a long tradition in fishing on the island. The "Santorini Fishing Tours by Giorgaros", organizes all the details regarding the spots, the time, the equipment and everything else needed for visitors to enjoy fishing tourism activity in Santorini!

The people of Santorini Fishing Tours propose a range of fishing tourism programs:

- Sunset Fishing
- Deep Waters Fishing
- Tuna & Shrimp Fishing
- Overnight Fishing
- Fish and Cruise (at the famous volcano of Santorini or nearby islands)
- Fish & Cook

Website: <http://www.santorini-fishing-tours.com/>

Good practice n. 5: Fishing Trips "Sargos"

FISHING TRIPS "SARGOS"

Enjoy your fish cooked in local taverns or on boat by our crew!

FISHING TRIPS
FROM KISSAMOS PORT TO

- GRAMVOUSA
- BALOS
- RAVDOUCHA
- NOPIGIA
- AG. SOZON
- MIRTILOS GULF

FISHING BY:

- Net
- Fishing line, pole and traps
- Longline

with fishing boat "SARGOS"

Boat FISHING TRIP "SARGOS" is ideally situated at Kissamos, Chania, Greece Port of Kissamos in Kissamos only in 3.3 km from the centre. Owner of the vessel is captain Giorgos Kastrinakis.

Fishing trip "Sargos" offers fishing trips in various nearby areas and private beaches, where visitors can observe or participate in fishing by net, fishing line, pole and traps and longline.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/SargosTaxiBoat/>

Conclusions

Fishing tourism offers the possibility to entrepreneurs who carry out artisanal or professional fishing or aquaculture activities, single or associated in cooperative enterprises, to embark on their boat people, other than the crew, for carrying out activities with tourism/recreational purposes. Alternatively, fishers and aquaculture farmers can also do only “on land” activities that, in any case, are linked to the maritime sector.

With fishing tourism, fishers and aquaculture farmers become the protagonists of particularly sustainable and responsible tourism. In fact, it can support local entrepreneurship by safeguarding and disseminating the uses and traditions of fishing and aquaculture communities. It can also spread the principles of environmental and economic sustainability, the traditions of the trades and the aspects of daily life connected to them.

It should be reiterated that fishing tourism responds to the principle of economic, social and environmental sustainability, necessary for integrated management of maritime and lagoon activities as it represents an additional source of income but at the same time produces effects such as:

- the reduction of the impact on fish resources;
- the diffusion of knowledge about the sea, coastal and lagoon environments, fish species (such as "poor fish"), fishing/aquaculture tools and techniques, traditions, recipes and enhancement of places related to fishing/aquaculture;
- the raising awareness of public opinion about the problems that fishers and farmers face day by day.

The present document aimed to analyze how this activity developed in the 4 countries involved in the FIT4BLUE project. To do this, in the first place the knowledge of the project partners who have been working on the field in the fishing sector for years were used; secondly, interviews were carried out with experts in the sector who were asked to give a general opinion on the state of fishing and aquaculture and to assess both the quality and quantity of the real state of fishing tourism in their country.

The information collected framed the state of fishing tourism in the countries, making clear that fishing tourism is an excellent tool for sustainable development in the hands of

fishers/farmers but that, however, the critical issues for its further development are still many.

The main critical issues that emerged from the investigation can be summarized as follows:

1. non-uniform legislation between countries and practically absent at European level;
2. significant discrepancies between the countries involved in the permitted activities for fishing tourism;
3. uniformity between the countries considered concerning the lack of formal skills among fishers/aquaculture farmers;
4. uniformity between the countries considered concerning bureaucratic, organizational and legislative difficulties;
5. lack of official statistical data on fishing tourism;
6. lack of official training programs on fishing tourism in almost all countries, including for trainers.

Furthermore, fishing tourism is characterized by the not easy actions regarding adaptation and diversification of ancient and consolidated traditions, which have to deal with a scarce generational change.

On the contrary, there is a great wealth of non-formal and informal skills among fishers/aquaculture farmers from all countries, which must be absolutely preserved.

For all these reasons, the creation of a common training program, of European scope, which has the aim of containing within it all the cases and peculiarities of the 4 countries analyzed and which, at the same time, moves along a thread conductor of common actions to enhance the diversification sector of fishing and aquaculture is, nowadays, fundamental. Even more, because the shortcomings in the formal skills that emerged from partners are practically the same, as are the bureaucratic-legislative and organizational difficulties.

In the same way, the non-formal and informal skills that, over the years of activity, all fishers and aquaculture farmers acquire, must be enhanced and highlighted. These must be valorized, through the active participation of fishers and fish farmers, in the implementation

of training programs.

The training programs that will be implemented within the project will be two, the first for trainers, the second for fishers/aquaculture farmers. The data collected in this benchmarking study will therefore lead, on the one hand, to create a training program that addresses the trainers on the hot topics, the issues raised and the skills identified, on the other hand, to develop a second program that implements the ideas of the first, making them concrete content available to fishers/aquaculture farmers.

Annex 1: Fishing tourism in Italy

The Italian national legislation defines fishing tourism as "the set of activities undertaken by the owner - individual, company or cooperative - of a coastal fishing vessel that embarks persons, other than the crew, for carrying out tourist-recreational activities".

In Italy, fishing tourism can be practiced by

- ship-owners with a fishing license
- cooperatives and farm companies that have an aquaculture license
- fishing cooperative with a private boat dedicated exclusively to fishing tourism

In any case, a specific fishing tourism authorization of one year validity is required.

For what concerns "on board" fishing tourism, in order to obtain the authorization, fishers or farmers are required to have a valid fishing license, a registered fishing vessel at the port office's and an authorization to operate within coastal or short-range fisheries zones (marine protected areas).

According to the Italian legislation, people are allowed to participate in "on board" fishing tourism in the maximum number of 12 individuals (tourists, citizens, students, etc.).

The specific number is indicated in the authorization and depends on the characteristics of the vessel, in particular regarding its stability.

Persons of all ages, including children, can be accepted on board. The latter, if they are under 14, must be accompanied by an adult who will have full responsibility.

In Italy the "on land" fishing tourism is also often practiced and is known as "itti-tourism".

An itti-tourism activity is define as "hospitality, recreational, educational, cultural and services activity aimed at the correct utilization of aquatic ecosystems and fishing resources as well as the valorization of the socio-cultural aspects of fishing enterprises, carried out by entrepreneurs, individuals or associates, through the use of their own facilities or structures in the availability of the entrepreneur himself".

Of course, on land fishing tourism does not require a boat, but even in this case the activity can only be carried out by entrepreneurs belonging to the fishing and aquaculture sectors.

In on land fishing tourism there is no maximum limit in the number of people who can participate in the activities, without prejudice to other restrictions related to catering or hospitality.

Main types of fishing tourism in Italy

On board

- a. Mussel farmer who receives tourists on his boat and bring them to mussel farm facilities in order to fishing/view the product processing/tasting products;
- b. Clams fishing vessels that take people on board in order to swim off, eat and relax;
- c. Small fishing vessels (<15 meters) take on board persons to observe fishing activities (sail the small static nets) and taste fish cooked on board;
- d. Trawlers that carry out fishing tourism without the trawling tools on board (only using small static nets)

First on board (visit) and then on the land (eat)

- a. Support boat that takes tourists to view fishing/aquaculture activities and then takes them on land to eat the catch of the day or local product (Goro/Tyrrhenian Sea).

On Land

- a. Trawlers who organize lunches/dinners with their “catch of the day” on land in structures owned or owned by the fishing cooperative
- b. Guided tours of the fishing port and of the fish sales structures which may or may not foresee catering at the end of the tour

Reference legislation

In Italy, the “on board” fishing tourism is regulated at national level by the [Ministerial decree n. 293/1999](#). This decree governs fishing tourism in general terms, specifying which are the subjects that can practice it, which are the characteristics of the boats, which are the limits within which this activity can be carried out and also specifying the safety and HACCP standards.

In addition to the national regulation, on-board fishing tourism in Italy is also regulated at regional level⁹.

The “on land” fishing tourism is regulated by the [Law n. 96/2006](#).

Also in this case, each Italian region has its own specific legislation which determines limits and obligations.

Safety on board

For what concerns “safety on board”, in addition to the inspection to determine the maximum number of passengers, each boat must also be equipped with safety devices equal to the maximum number of passengers that can be boarded. The number and presence of these devices also depends on the length of the boat.

These safety equipments are:

A. Means of rescue

- Raft (only for boats with navigation limits from the coast of 20 and 6 miles respectively)
- Rescue belt (for all type of boats - one with light for each person on board)
- Lifebuoys with floating rope 30 meters long (for all type of boats)
- Lifebuoys with light and smoke buoy (only for boats with an overall length exceeding 10 m)

B. Distress signals

- Red light parachute flares (they are not necessary for mussel farms' boats)
- Red light signals (they are not necessary for mussel farms' boats)

C. Sanitary material

- First aid box in rigid material, watertight, easily removable and floating, containing specific sanitary material determined by tables A and D attached to the Decree of 1 October 2015

⁹ [Abruzzo \(Regional Law 23/2012\)](#); [Basilicata \(Regional Law 17/2005\)](#); [Calabria \(Regional Law 15/2009\)](#); [Lazio \(Regional Law 4/ 2008\)](#); [Marche \(Regional Law 33/2019\)](#); [Friuli Venezia Giulia \(Regional Law 25/1996\)](#); [Campania \(Regional Law 284/2008\)](#); [Tuscany \(Regional Law 56/2009\)](#); [Veneto \(Regional Law 28/2012\)](#); [Emilia Romagna \(Regional Law 22/2014\)](#); [Apulia \(Regional Law 13/2015\)](#); [Sardinia \(Regional Law 11/2005\)](#); [Sicily \(“Regional” Law 9/2019\)](#)

- D. Fire-fighting devices
 - Portable fire extinguishers (foam, powder, CO2)
- E. Radioelectric installations
 - VHF radio station
- F. Other signals
 - International code of Signals (ICS)

Hygiene package

Having the opportunity to give food to guests on board, in Italy the “hygiene package” is applied to fishing tourism, both on board and on land.

Hygiene package is a set of rules that define the requirements of the places where food is cooked and served, the characteristics of the equipment and the specific requirements for the various products of animal origin including live bivalve mollusks and fishery products.

We report below the minimum requirements common to all kinds of fishing tourism.

Food storage and packaging materials:

- Refrigerators or freezers for storing food at controlled temperatures;
- Washable and disinfectable devices for the conservation of raw and packaging materials;
- Hot and cold drinking water;
- Drinking water tanks in material suitable for food;
- Windows and outward openings equipped with easily removable anti-fly nets;
- Structures and equipment that guarantee protection against chemical, physical and biological contamination;
- Devices for the protection of food on display/administration (display counter fridge);
- Presence of toilets not communicating directly with the food handling rooms: a bathroom equipped with a sink with products and soaps for washing hands and a natural or forced ventilation system. Guest toilets must be different from staff ones;
- Food washing system and equipment washing system (hot and cold drinking water);
- Disposal of solid and liquid waste.

According to the regional provisions on food safety, there are "four operational cases" during fishing tourism on board:

- Grilled cooking of fish caught during fishing and prepared at the time
- Preparation and administration on board of processed dishes containing fresh fishery products caught during the fishing activity or obtained from raw materials stored on board also in refrigeration
- Administration on board, without further processing, of ground-prepared dishes in an appropriate room or on-board catering service
- Administration of pre-packaged/ready-to-eat food (always to be kept in the cold area)

At the same time, during fishing tourism on land, there are four "operational cases":

- Preparation and administration of elaborate dishes containing also fresh fishery products caught by the fisherman, (up to 10 seats): domestic kitchen
- Preparation and administration of prepared dishes containing also fresh fishery products caught by the fisherman (more than 10 seats): professional kitchen
- Transformation of fish products for tasting, administration, marketing on the farm directly to the final consumer: professional kitchen
- Processing of fish products for local retail marketing: laboratory

Organizational, legislative and bureaucracy constraints

Despite the variety of possible activities that can be carried out both on board and on land, in Italy fishing tourism has not yet taken hold in such a deep-rooted way.

One of the reasons is that the annual profit of conventional fishing is still greater than the fishing tourism one.

Other reasons are:

- Bad knowledge of fishers of the opportunities offered by fishing tourism
- Conviction that it is an unprofitable activity
- Low propensity for change due to the advanced age of fishers
- Difficulty to comply with hygiene and safety standards
- Bureaucratic difficulties in starting the activity
- High costs for families with modest incomes

- Dimensions of the boats that do not allow the boarding of a sufficient number of people to have an effective profit
- Presence of many competitive tourism activities on the territory and along the coast

Statistical data

From the early days when the Regulation of fishing tourism became law, the Regions of northern Italy reported the highest level of adhesion and propensity to diversification. Indeed, in Tab. 1 is shown the number of authorizations granted in the last 12 years since the enactment of the national laws of fishing tourism.

Tab.1

ITALIAN REGION	N° of authorizations granted of Harbour office from 2000 to 2012
Liguria	290
Emilia Romagna	229
Sardinia	218
Calabria	203
Campania	200
Sicily	136
Lazio	79
Friuli Venezia Giulia	64
Veneto	46
Abruzzo	42
Tuscany	37
Apulia	34

It is clear how these types of activities are more present in north Italy rather than south Italy.

The major differences found is that the number of possible “fishing tourism” days are lower compared to “traditional fishing” days (Tab. 2). The cause is the uncertainty of weather conditions that are different in northern and southern Italy. In fact, in the Italian areas where the number of annual days for fishing tourism is low (e.g. Ligurian sea bordering Liguria and

Tuscany regions), the main “diversification activities” are retail sales of fish directly to tourists and citizens or sell local fish through the fishing tourism on land.

Tab.2

ITALIAN SEA	ANNUAL DAYS OF ACTIVITIES OF FISHERS	
	Fishing Tourist days	Fishing traditional days
Ligurian sea	19	202
Sardinia sea	46	173
Tyrrhenian sea	41	200
Ionian sea	40	183
Adriatic sea	34	203

In some parts of Italy, fishing tourism is not economically advantageous for fishermen because both the economic demand towards the tourist and the days dedicated to this activity are low. In fact, fishing tourism turns out to be an seasonal advantageous economic instrument in supplementing the annual traditional fisheries income (Tab.3).

Tab.3

ITALIAN SEA	REVENUE OF ACTIVITIES OF FISHERS IN EURO	
	DAILY	YEARLY
Fishing Tourism	437	15344
Fishing tradizionale	192	36750

The boat type does not allow the accommodation of an economically profitable number of people, when it comes to small boats (average of 11 meters) or bottom trawling fishing boats. There is no difference between the vessels used for fishing tourism and traditional fishing. Therefore, the fishing vessels fishing in the Ionian Sea contribute the fleet with the largest average length (14 meters). In the Ligurian Sea the fishing units have an average length of 11 meters while in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Adriatic Sea and Sardinian Sea the fishing units are an

average length of 10 meters overall. In fact, the fishing boats operating in the Ligurian Sea can accommodate on board an average of 7 tourists per excursion, excluding the crew. For the boat operating in the Sardinian Sea the maximum capacity is 10 tourists on board, while for the fishing units of the Tyrrhenian Sea, Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea the maximum capacity is 9 people on board (Tab. 4).

Tab.4

MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF TOURISTS ON BOARD		
ITALIAN SEA	NUMBER OF TOURIST ON BOARD	AVERAGE LENGTH OF FISHING TOURISM VESSELS IN METERS
Ligurian sea	7	11
Sardinia sea	9	10
Tyrrhenian sea	10	10
Ionian sea	9	14
Adriatic sea	9	10

In 2017 in Liguria the number of authorizations granted by the Harbour office was 59 units while in Puglia was only 3 units. Nowadays under the programs of training as Interreg Mediterranean – Tourismed (2018) the number of licensees in Puglia has increased to 15 units while in Liguria there is no reported strong growth by fishing tourism. However, around 52% of the fishing tourism on board activities in this region has been converted into fishing tourism on land.

Training programme

In Italy only the Veneto Region has a mandatory training program already identified. Other manuals were created within some European projects. There are no training programs aimed at teachers.

Gaps of skills

The necessary skills to be trained that emerge from the Italian context are listed below:

- Communication skills and ability to display, in a verbal relationship directed to guests, their professional and cultural knowledge, in the broadest sense, related to history, fishing techniques, environment, gastronomy, etc;
- Minimum English language skills, in order to be able to relate directly to foreign guests, notwithstanding the need for a translator for all those activities that take place with foreign groups mainly related to cultural aspects;
- IT skills to carry out a promotion of the business directly or indirectly through specialized agencies on the web and social media;
- Gastronomic skills, from traditional gastronomic knowledge, in the broadest sense, to awareness of hygienic-sanitary laws and measures.
- Fishers and farmers should have the strength and entrepreneurial skills to create a link and agreements with tour operators to advertise themselves. In this sense, it will be important to develop the skills useful for this type of negotiation, giving the fisherman notions relating to the understanding of the state of the tourist offer in the area, notions relating to knowing how to start collaborative relationships with structures dedicated to the management of groups of tourists and related to how to juggle in the midst of a world already rich of recreational activities.
- HACCP system and certifications for the food administration
- Knowledge of regulations and safety rules
- Financial management skills
- Entrepreneurial skills

Cultural heritage

The seafaring tradition is recognized in Italy as a cultural heritage that must be preserved and handed down as much as possible.

We are talking about crafts, tools, techniques, stories and legends, traditions, recipes, characters and places that have characterized the world of fishing/aquaculture and that are an important heritage that can attract tourists and curious people.

The fact that in Italy this aspect is highly regarded is demonstrated by the presence on the territory of many museums of the sea that aim to enhance these cultural aspects related to

the sea and the activities related to it. Among the best known museums we have those of Genoa, Naples, Palermo and Cesenatico.

Fishers and aquaculture farmers should be involved in the activities to enhance the cultural heritage of fishing/aquaculture sectors, because they can guarantee a valuable contribution in telling the fishing fleet history, the evolution of fishing/aquaculture techniques, describing the work places and sales places on the port, and also suggesting how to buy (recognize local and fresh fish), clean or cook fishes and mollusks.

Conclusions

“On board” Fishing tourism in Italy is well regulated and a wide range of activities are allowed, that would give the fishers/farmers the opportunity to exploit all the potential of this activity, reaching a good level of profit. However, fishing tourism has not yet caught on in the territory, except in rare cases. This can be attributed to various factors including the difficulty of starting the activity (bureaucracy), the lack of propensity for renewal (very high average age of fishermen), the difficulty of practicing both traditional activities (fishing/aquaculture) and fishing tourism at the same time, the poor earning in relation to the low number of passengers allowed, the lack of skills and knowledge of those involved in fishing and aquaculture sectors and the difficulty of complying with safety and hygiene regulations.

The "on land" fishing tourism, with the addition of the excursion along the coast by boat without catering on board, instead have easier restrictions to respect and allow “on land” catering to a greater number of people with better profits.

This picture pushes us to say that, at least in Italy, the successful start of a fishing tourism activity is closely linked to the almost total abandonment of fishing activity, at least in the summer period. Furthermore, we can say that, for practicality and simplicity of compliance with the regulations, the form that most facilitates the start of diversification activities is that of fishing tourism "on land".

In addition, it is important to consider how important is the renewal and rejuvenation of fisheries and aquaculture workers and that these workers are trained on the fundamental skills identified during this study. In this perspective, the development of the training programs envisaged by the project will be fundamental.

Annex 2: Fishing tourism in France

Fishing tourism in France is not very exploited by fishers and shellfish farmers as a smart and sustainable economic diversification activity, mainly because only artisanal and professional fishers and shellfish farmers are allowed to practice it as well as because the tourist experience is limited to a simple observation of fishers' and shellfish farmers' activities. In fact, in France tourists are not allowed nor to fish or swim as well as to eat on board.

Another important limitative aspect is played by the fact that fishing tourism is allowed only within 6 nautical miles.

As happens in other countries, also in France tourists' safety is a key aspect to carry out fishing tourism activity. In fact, fishing tourism vessels must meet specific safety requirements, such as:

- an area dedicated to the reception of passengers, outside of the seafarers' work areas, with fixed benches
- safety barriers on the sides of ships in passenger areas
- life jackets and an (inflatable) life raft.

Then, it is important here to underline some general rules applicable to fishing tourism's vessels in France that could be useful for fishers and shellfish farmers willing to start up a fishing tourism activity:

- the general condition of the vessel and the number of crew members on board are a key aspect
- generally, each 2 linear meters, 1 tourist is allowed to be on board
- children under 12 years old are not allowed to be alone on board. They must be accompanied by one adult

In order to meet safety requirements, before every boarding, the fisher plays a pivotal role explaining tourists:

- How to wear lifejackets and built-in flotation devices
- What are behaviours to be followed during the whole experience, including those in case of emergency, such as how to cut the throttle of the engine, how to launch a distress alert using the radio, how to use a lifebelt

Unlike other countries, such as Italy, any on land activities involving tourists can be performed by a French fisher or shellfish farmer. In fact, itti-tourism is not allowed¹⁰.

As for legislation, fishing tourism has been authorized in France only in 2011, firstly for aquaculture vessels, and in 2012 for fishing vessels¹¹. Specific rules could be also applied at regional level, following Interregional Maritime Directions' (DIRM) or Regional Security Commission's ordinances.

As for the state of play of fishing tourism in France, the pilot territories are Corsica, the Arcachon basin and the PACA region which historically are at the origin of fishing tourism in France. In Aquitaine, fishing tourism is promoted by the Pays du Val de l'Eyre through the brand "Embarquez".

In the whole France, about thirty artisanal fishers and shellfish farmers are allowed to practice fishing tourism: ten in Corsica; nine in the PACA region (3 in the district of the Bouches du Rhône and 6 in the Var district); and the remaining part in the Arcachon basin and in Aquitaine.

In our point of view, one of the biggest challenges faced by French fishers is that there is any organisation at regional or national level ensuring the marketing and promotion of fishing tourism activities. French fishers are left alone carrying out their own promotional activities.

¹⁰ However, there are regional exceptions only for shellfish and marine farmers. In the regions of the Atlantic coast and in Occitania, shellfish farmers are allowed to offer tasting of their product. This activity can be carried out with raw products, within the harbour and following a specific authorisation provided through a prefectural decree. In the Var, shellfish farmers are also allowed to offer tasting of their product to tourists but only grilled products with boiled potatoes can be tasted (also in the Var it is needed an authorisation through a prefectural decree.

¹¹ The French legislative framework is composed by two main decrees: the [Ministerial Decree, May 9th 2011](#) and the [Ministerial Decree, March 13th 2012](#)

However, in past years in the Valinco valley in Corsica, thanks to two European projects¹², stakeholders at local and regional level started to adopt an holistic approach and to integrate the promotion of fishing tourism within the general territorial marketing activity to attract tourists interested in sustainable tourism.

So, to conclude, in France rules about fishing tourism are very limited and are focussed on safety requirements. It is important that the principle of economic diversification is recognised as a key aspect for fishers and shellfish farmers, also because the average age of French fishers is very high (in Corsica is over 50 years old).

¹² The first project implemented in the Valinco valley was [TOURISMED](#), a project co-funded by the Med Programme with the aim to define a Mediterranean Business Model for fishing tourism. The second project, already ongoing, is [ENSAMBLE](#). It is co-funded by the EASME Programme. ENSAMBLE aims to engage and raise awareness of local and territorial stakeholders about the importance of fishing tourism.

Annex 3: Fishing tourism in Spain

According to the Spanish legislation, fishing tourism is defined as all tourist activities linked to the fishing/aquaculture sector and it can be done “on board” or “on land”:

- Fishing or maritime tourism: this is an activity aimed at enhancing and disseminating the activities and products of the marine environment, as well as the traditions, heritage and the culture of the sea. These activities are usually carried out on land.
- Aquaculture tourism: this is an activity oriented to the valorization of the aquaculture activity and its products. These activities can be carried out both on land or on board.
- Pesca-tourism (fishing tourism on board): type of fishing tourism activity carried out on board of fishing vessels by artisanal and professional fishers. As in France, also in Spain tourists are not allowed nor to fish or swim as well as to eat on board.

Regulation in Spain

At national level, the [Law 33/2014](#), amending [Law 3/2001, of March 26, on State Maritime Fishing](#), introduces and defines for the first time the fishing tourism activities. The on board activity is regulated by the [Royal Decree 239/2019](#).

To carry out fishing tourism “on board”, a fishing vessel must obtain a permit stating that all conditions related to passengers’ safety and prevention of pollution are respected. The boat must also have the civil liability insurance in force.

Here below there is a summary of the most important aspects to be respected in Spain:

- The vessel must be accessible for tourists, including for persons with disabilities
- Vessels shall have sufficient life-saving and safety facilities for all persons boarding
- The vessel must be equipped with life raft equipment
- A minimum number of two members of the crew must be on board
- Vessels must be equipped with clear instructions for emergency as well as useful information must be provided to tourists.

In Spain, tourists experiencing fishing tourism can buy or eat fishery products caught during the trip.

As for fishing and aquaculture tourism activities on land, there are not so many restrictions, but these activities must be registered in the registry of tourist activities of the region and should be put in place in accordance with the tourism regulations.

In Spain, tourists are clustered according to the fishing tourism activity they want to perform:

- Fishing tourism and aquaculture tourism on land is accessible to all. Specific requirements regarding the minimum age of participants, maximum number of participants, etc, are set up according to the typology of activity to be carried out.
- Pesca-tourism (fishing tourism on board). The number of participants is fixed according to the length of the boat¹³ and people under 18 years old are not allowed to take part in a fishing tourism trip without a written authorization signed by parents or accompanied by them.

¹³ 2 tourists are allowed to be on board of vessels up to 8 meters in length; 4 if the vessel is between 8 and 12 metres; 8 is between 12 and 20 metres; 12 tourists if the vessel is more than 20 metres.

Annex 4: Fishing tourism in Greece

In Greece, fishing tourism activity includes:

- the demonstration of fishing techniques and the methods of breeding and cultivation of aquatic organisms
- the active participation of tourists in using tools and methods of fishing¹⁴
- all the activities related to hosting and catering services in coastal, riparian and lakeside fishing areas
- the provision of information, monitoring or participation in activities, actions or activities that can be developed with the aim of entertaining and gaining the knowledge and experience of the visitor-tourist through his contact with fishing and sponge fishing and the natural, social and cultural environment
- the organization of educational and training seminars to enhance tourists' knowledge about sustainable fishing and aquaculture.

While experiencing fishing tourism on board, tourists can actively participate in fishing as well as eat caught products (this opportunity can be also exploited on land).

In Greece, fishing tourism can be implemented by fishing vessels meeting the following conditions:

- having a total length of up to 15 meters
- being equipped with a professional fishing permit
- being equipped with a Certificate of Airworthiness (Security Certificate, General Inspection Protocol, Ship License as applicable)
- complying with all rules applicable for maritime safety, staffing, hygiene and suitability of the fishing vessel for boarding passengers.

¹⁴ This is a particularity of the Greek model of fishing tourism: in fact, professional fishing boats are not allowed to host tourists experiencing a sea voyage or simply swimming in the sea. Tourists must experience and practice fishing methods.

Fishers must ask for a specific license (Special Fisheries Tourism Licence) to the Regional Fishery Service where the professional fisher has been registered. Several supporting documents are required, such as:

- a declaration stating that the vessel is equipped with a gear able to host tourists on board
- photocopy of the fishing license of the vessel in force
- photocopy of the insurance coverage certificate for civil liability

The maximum number of tourists on board may not exceed 12 and tourists younger than 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult¹⁵.

In Greece, fishing tourists can also experience accommodation and catering services in coastal, riparian and lakeside fishing areas (itti-tourism).

In Greece, there are differences between on land and on board activities.

As for the legal framework for fishing tourism, in Greece there are three main sources:

- [Law 4070/2012](#): The purpose of the provisions of Articles 174 to 186 of the Law 4070/2012 is to develop, organize and supervise small-scale activities and entrepreneurship in the field of fishing tourism. The law contains the first definition of fishing tourism in Greece as well as territories and periods of the year allowed to practice fishing tourism.
- [Law 4179/2013](#): Modification of the previous law of 2012.
- [Joint Ministerial Decision 414/2354/2015](#): This decision defines the conditions, terms and procedure for conducting fishing tourism by professional fishers¹⁶

¹⁵ The General Port Rules define the maximum number of people on board, according to the length of the vessel. 12 people are allowed to be on board of vessels from 7 to 10 metres; 10 people for vessels of 6 metres; 6 for those of 4 metres and 4 for vessels of 3 metres.

¹⁶ Other laws that should be mentioned as they include requirements in fishing tourism are: the Law 4492/2017 (recently modified by the Law 4673/2020) that refers to the fishing tourism for inland waters and Law 4582/2018 (Thematic Tourism) which adapts the definition of fishing tourism to Outdoor Tourism and also give details about management - exploitation and location of tourist ports.

As for safety and hygiene regulation, in Greece fishing tourism vessels must be equipped with

- First Aid kit with drugs, medical and pharmaceutical material¹⁷
- rescue equipment
- firefighting equipment
- navigation lights.

¹⁷ The quantities of medicines and medical equipment are determined depending on the duration of the trip. Drugs and medical equipment are recorded on a specific sheet.

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