



Sea Bass management - Italian campaign

Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) is one of the most valuable and important fish in Mediterranean coastal waters for recreational fishing and its related economy.

The evident decline of the wild stock, which could be naturally abundant in our seas, highlights the urgency of stock and fisheries assessment. Lack of these data makes implementation of proper management difficult.

The critical situation of sea bass stock in the Mediterranean adversely affects the recreational fishing economy with loss of income and jobs.

Italian coastal areas have a huge potential to be exploited which could benefit the recreational fishing sector. More and bigger bass would attract more anglers from Italy and abroad. More recreational anglers means more economy and more jobs to coastal communities and the Italian economy.

With the lack of a national management plan for sea bass, a precautionary approach should be adopted. Technical restrictions to both commercial and recreational fishing are required in order to protect essential fish habitats and to reduce the fishing effort but they are inadequate for the purpose without a proper control policy and enforcement on illegal fishing.

What we want in the Mediterranean Fishery

- ✓ A research program to assess the wild sea bass stock and the related recreational and commercial fisheries
- ✓ A national sea bass management plan
- ✓ The minimum landing size set at 40 cm to give most fish the chance to spawn at least once
- ✓ A recreational daily bag limit set in number of fish
- ✓ The prohibition of nets, longlines and passive fishing gear within 500 metres from the shore whatever the water depth
- ✓ The inland brackish waters and sea waters regulation to be harmonized
- ✓ A control scheme on seafood supply chain, enforced at local level, to fight illegal fishing and illegal sales of catches.

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