REPORT

on specific actions in the Common Fisheries Policy for developing the role of women
(2013/2150(INI))

Committee on Fisheries
Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

Rapporteurs: Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Raül Romeva i Rueda

(Joint committee meetings - Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure)
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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on specific actions in the Common Fisheries Policy for developing the role of women (2013/2150(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the legislation applicable to the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), in particular Council Regulations (EC) Nos 2328/2003, 861/2006, 1198/2006 and 791/2007 laying down the rules and agreements in relation to Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector¹,


– having regard to its legislative resolution of 6 February 2013 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy³,

– having regard to its legislative resolution of 12 September 2012 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products⁴,


– having regard to the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015 (COM(2010)0491),

– having regard to its resolution of 15 December 2005 on women’s networks: fishing, farming and diversification⁵,

– having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2012 on small-scale coastal fishing,

³ P7_TA(2013)0040.
⁵ P6_TA(2005)0532.
artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy¹,

– having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy²,

– having regard to its resolution of 12 September 2012 on ‘The reform of the common fisheries policy – Overarching Communication’³,

– having regard to the hearing on women and the sustainable development of fisheries areas held by the Committee on Fisheries on 1 December 2010,

– having regard to the hearing on developing the role of women in European fisheries and aquaculture held in the European Parliament by the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality on 14 October 2013,

– having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the joint deliberations of the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality under Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (A7-0070/2014),

A. whereas the work carried out by women in fisheries and aquaculture is not recognised and generally remains invisible, even though it represents considerable economic added value and contributes to the social, economic and environmental sustainability of a large number of communities and regions in Europe, particularly in areas that depend on fishing;

B. whereas more than 100 000 women work in the fisheries sector in the Member States, 4 % of them in the extractive sector and with jobs linked to the activities of fishing boats, as net-makers, port workers or packers, 30 % in aquaculture, chiefly shellfish gathering on foot, and around 60 % in the processing industry;

C. whereas the work traditionally carried out by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is arduous: shellfish gathering on foot, traditional selling of fish in the form of mobile sales, on stalls or in shops, the manufacture and repair of fishing nets (net-makers), unloading and classification of the catch, and packaging work in particularly harsh climate conditions;

D. whereas the statistics grossly underestimate the reality of female work in some of these sectors, and the widespread economic crisis and high unemployment in some Member States has helped to further increase these figures and has led to a growing number of women engaging in activities in the fishing sector, particularly land-based shellfish gathering, as a means of complementing or even ensuring their family income;

E. recognising women’s contribution in activities related to fisheries and aquaculture, in

¹ P7_TA(2012)0460.
² P7_TA(2012)0461.
³ P7_TA(2012)0336.
particular those connected with making and mending fishing nets, unloading and classifying the catch, managing on-board supplies, fish processing, packaging and marketing and the management of fishing businesses;

F. whereas in paragraph 30 of its resolution of 22 November 2012 on small-scale coastal fishing, artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy, Parliament called on the Member States to take account of the importance of the economic, social and cultural roles of women in the fishing industry, so that women can have access to social benefits, and emphasised that the active participation of women in fishing-related activities helps preserve and ensure, firstly the survival of the fishing sector, and secondly that of traditions and specific practices, and also helps safeguard the cultural diversity of the different regions;

G. whereas in its legislative resolution of 12 September 2012 Parliament called for action to be taken to foster women’s participation in producer organisations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;

H. whereas in paragraph 31 of its resolution of 22 November 2012 on small-scale coastal fishing, artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy Parliament called for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to provide funding to foster women’s participation in the fisheries sector, support women’s associations, promote vocational training and enhance women’s role in fishing, by granting support for both activities carried out on land and those associated with fishing, both upstream and downstream;

I. whereas in paragraph 39 of its resolution of 22 November 2012 on small-scale coastal fishing, artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to take steps to ensure that women benefit from equal pay and other labour, social and economic rights, including insurance covering the risks and measures for applying early retirement weightings to compensate for the arduous nature of the work (night working, danger, working hours decided by the pace of production and fishing opportunities) to which they are exposed by working in the fisheries sector, as well as recognition of their specific disorders as occupational diseases;

J. whereas statistical data on the labour force, and in particular on gender distribution in certain activities and on artisanal or small-scale fishing, extensive aquaculture and related activities, are given low priority by comparison with data on catches, landings, tonnage, etc;

K. whereas the statistical data for the EU and the Member States concerning the workforce in the fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors are not complete, harmonised or broken down into indicators that would make it possible to estimate women’s contribution in these sectors;

L. whereas, in spite of the work carried out by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and their key economic contribution, women do not benefit from proper social and labour protection or appropriate professional and labour status;

M. whereas women suffer economic discrimination in the fisheries sector and are paid less
than men for the same work;

N. whereas in many cases women’s work in the fisheries sector has no legal recognition and no access to social protection to match the specific risks and health effects linked to these activities;

O. whereas in paragraph 42 of its resolution of 22 November 2012 on small-scale coastal fishing, artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to take steps to achieve greater recognition, both legal and social, for the work of women in the fisheries sector, and to ensure that women who work full- or part-time for family undertakings or assist their spouses, thereby contributing to their own economic sustainability and that of their families, are given legal recognition or social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status, in particular by applying Directive 2010/41/EU, and that their social and economic rights are guaranteed, including equal wages, unemployment benefits if they lose their jobs (temporarily or permanently), the right to a pension, work-life balance, access to maternity leave, access to social security and free health care, workplace health and safety, and insurance covering risks at sea;

P. whereas in its resolution of 12 September 2012 Parliament referred to the need to give greater legal and social recognition and recompense to women’s role in the fisheries sector, to give women rights equal to those of men, and to give the spouses and life partners of fishermen supporting the family undertaking a legal status and social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status;

1. Urges the Commission to launch a specific statistical programme for regions that depend on fishing, paying particular attention to artisanal and coastal fishing, traditional fishing methods and specific marketing channels, and to the work and social and labour conditions of women shellfish gatherers, net-makers and artisanal workers in fisheries and related activities, with the aim of assessing the specific needs associated with women’s activity and enhancing the social recognition given to these extremely arduous occupations;

2. Considers it necessary to improve the collection and analysis of statistical data on employment in the fisheries sector, broken down by gender, type of activity and type of employment (self-employed, employed, part-time, full-time, occasional), so as to make it possible to arrive at an estimate of women’s contribution in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;

3. Urges the Commission to ensure that the collection of gender-disaggregated data also covers the catch sector and that new indicators are introduced, such as age, education and training levels, and activity of spouse or partner;

4. Considers it necessary to establish clear definitions regarding the statistical indicators used for the collection of workforce employment data in fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors; also considers it necessary to draw up a harmonised set of statistical indicators at EU level, and calls on the Member States to provide, in due time, full data in accordance with those indicators;
5. Urges the Commission and Council to grant legal and social recognition to the role played by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and in the sustainable development of areas that depend on fishing, with the aim of removing all economic, administrative and social barriers that stand in the way of their participation on equal terms;

6. Urges the Commission and Council to encourage the Member States to regulate and recognise as occupational diseases injuries to joints, back injuries and rheumatic diseases caused by the harsh weather conditions in which women shellfish gatherers, net-makers, processing workers, fishers and sellers have to work, as well as injuries caused by lifting excessive weights;

7. Urges the Commission to recognise that the work carried out by women helps to improve the traceability of fishery products, which in turn contributes to consumer knowledge and ensures higher standards of quality and safety of fishery and aquaculture products, thus increasing the economic, gastronomic and tourist opportunities available to fishing areas;

8. Calls for the creation (under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and/or other instruments) of specific support mechanisms that can be activated in emergencies (natural disasters), as well as of financial compensation mechanisms to assist fishermen, fisherwomen and their families during temporary fishing bans, especially in areas where fishing is the sole source of earnings;

9. Considers it necessary to foster and provide financial support for the establishment of women’s associations through national and European women’s networks, in order to increase the visibility of women in the fishing sector, create social awareness of women’s contribution to fishing activity, facilitate the exchange of experience, and communicate women’s needs and demands, from local government level up to European bodies;

10. Urges the Commission and the Member States to facilitate access to funding for women’s organisations in fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors, enabling them to implement their initiatives, consolidate their organisations and contact other women’s organisations for exchanges of experience and good practice;

11. Considers it necessary to promote and strengthen women’s effective participation in consultative bodies, advisory councils and decision-making, representative, regional and professional bodies, guaranteeing their participation in decision-making in both public and private sectors on equal terms with men;

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2013-2020

12. Notes that only one Member State has made use of the opportunities offered by axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund to finance projects whose beneficiaries are women, and urges the Member States to seize the opportunities offered by the EMFF in order to:

- apply the principle of equal opportunities, both when drawing up and when developing or implementing operational programmes;

- make the fisheries sector more women-friendly by redesigning the sector and providing suitable facilities (such as changing-rooms on vessels and in ports);
support associations of women and their organisation in networks (e.g. net-makers, port workers, packers);

support projects to mitigate the problems arising from the working conditions of women harvesting shellfish on foot, including measures to balance work and family life;

support projects to promote, diversify and raise the profile of the role played by women in fisheries and aquaculture;

offer women and girls easier access to training by financing specific training and vocational education and professional recognition of their activity; Member States should, for this purpose, launch processes for obtaining officially recognised skills certificates and set up training centres for the professional activities traditionally carried out by women in the various communities;

offer girls improved employment opportunities and support continuity between generations, in particular by developing activities that are sustainable for the marine environment;

boost vocational training, in particular for women working in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, with a view to increasing their opportunities for accessing management posts and skilled technical and managerial jobs related to fisheries, on the basis of equal pay;

enhancing women’s role in fishing, in particular by granting support for activities carried out on land and activities associated with fishing, both in production and in processing, marketing and sales;

promote business initiatives launched by women, including, where appropriate, the economic diversification of certain activities related to the fisheries sector, among them activities such as museology, cultural traditions, crafts, gastronomy and the restaurant industry;

promote business initiatives in areas of activity unrelated to fishing in coastal areas where jobs have been lost as a result of implementation of the fisheries reform;

13. Urges the Member States to facilitate soft loan channels that will make it possible to avoid the specific difficulties faced by women in relation to financing projects eligible for inclusion in national programmes under the EMFF;

14. Calls on the Member States to support women’s business initiatives by facilitating a favourable microcredit system and providing adequate information regarding funding opportunities;

15. Urges the Member States to take measures to develop and modernise local infrastructure, diversify economic activities and improve the quality of life in fisheries areas, particularly areas entirely dependent on fishing, so as to ensure their sustainable development, while combating poverty in general, and particularly where it affects women and children, and
seeking to prevent violence against women and domestic violence;

16. Reiterates the positions taken in the context of the procedure relating to Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), as regards boosting women’s participation in all areas of research, projects and scientific disciplines, in particular the participation of women who dedicate their working life to research into the marine environment;

17. Calls on the Member States to

- grant legal recognition to the work carried out by women who make an economic contribution to the family or who contribute through their work, even where they are not paid;

- guarantee support for women, granting them unemployment benefits where they are forced to stop working (temporarily or permanently), the right to a pension, work-life balance, access to maternity leave (whatever their marital or civil union status within the couple), access to social security and free healthcare, and protection against risks arising from their work in the maritime and fisheries sector;

18. Notes that in paragraph 28 of its resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy Parliament calls for the EU, through the WTO, to work towards penalising countries that discriminate against women, and that in paragraph 45 of the same resolution it urges the Commission, during the negotiations on fisheries agreements, to ensure that the coastal state dedicates a substantial part of the sectoral support for development to the recognition, promotion and diversification of women’s role in the fisheries sector, ensuring the application of the principle of equal treatment and opportunities for women and men, with regard in particular to training and access to funding and loans;

19. Urges the Commission to ensure that the European gender dimension is embodied and guaranteed in economic partnership agreements involving the fisheries sector;

**Basic regulation on the common fisheries policy**

20. Urges the Member States to ensure compliance with the objectives of the new common fisheries policy in relation to access to fishery resources based on transparent environmental, social and economic criteria, incorporating the principles of equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men;

21. Urges the Member States to recognise the occupational status of women in the event of temporary cessations of activity, including biological rest periods;

22. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure compliance with Directive 2010/41/EU, so that women working full- or part-time in family businesses in the fisheries sector or supporting their spouses or partners, thereby contributing to their own economic sustainability and that of their families, as well as women who make their livelihood from such activity without belonging to a family unit, are given legal recognition and social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The aim of this report is to consolidate the knowledge, recommendations and initiatives of the Committee on Fisheries and Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in relation to the socio-economic role played by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in the context of the reform of the common fisheries policy.

The specific activities undertaken by the European Parliament’s Committee on Fisheries with regard to developments in gender equality in the common fisheries policy in recent years include the European Parliament resolution on women’s networks: fishing, farming and diversification (2004/2263(INI)), the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 and the 2010 hearing held by the Committee on Fisheries on women and the sustainable development of fisheries areas, which highlighted the difficult conditions faced by women in the fishing world and the need to promote women’s participation in all areas of fisheries policy.

The Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a joint hearing on developing the role of women in European fisheries and aquaculture on 14 October 2013. That hearing analysed women’s situation in the fisheries sector, their role in creating new opportunities in coastal communities, new features in relation to measures to support the creation of women’s networks and the exchange of best practice, gender mainstreaming in the various stages of implementing the European Fisheries Fund, particularly axis 4, and future prospects in the context of the reform of the common fisheries policy.

In relation to the ongoing reform of the common fisheries policy, attention might be drawn to the report on small-scale coastal fishing, artisanal fishing and the reform of the common fisheries policy (2011/2292(INI)), which addresses key aspects of women’s role in fisheries linked to improvements in social and working conditions and their economic, social and cultural roles, as well as the overarching communication (2011/2290(INI)). The latter highlighted the need for greater legal and social recognition and emphasised the significant work carried out by women in the fisheries sector and their role in securing the family livelihood, encompassing both married and unmarried couples.

Even though women play a key socio-economic role in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, it is rare for specific reference to be made to guaranteeing equal conditions in terms of women’s access to work linked to fishing in fisheries plans, programmes and legislation.

Women’s work in fishing and related activities is often invisible, complementing the work carried out by their partners in an economic climate that is becoming increasingly harsh for family businesses. In these situations there are no fixed wages or social benefits. For some women, moreover, this activity is their only source of income.

The lack of statistical information on the role of women in the world of fishing, and the inaccessibility of what information there is, represents a significant obstacle when it comes to evaluating the functions carried out and their economic contribution. It is difficult to gain a
detailed picture of women’s current working situation in fisheries and aquaculture when data is not broken down by gender and type of activity in the fisheries sector, and the focus is on fisheries production.

The new common fisheries policy is to contribute to the protection of the marine environment, and in particular to attaining good environmental status by 2020, as laid down in Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive). This means that the contribution made by women working in artisanal fishing also needs to be addressed, since their environmentally friendly work will be a key factor in complying with this Directive.

It must also be borne in mind that women and young people are hardest hit in times of recession or economic crisis such as the present, and they are the first to see their job opportunities, wages and working conditions deteriorate.

There are currently a number of fishing-related women’s associations and organisations in Europe, set up to defend equal rights and provide a channel for advice, and enabling women to maintain links, improve coordination and gain access to aid. In 2008 there were 18 organisations active at local or regional level in the EU, four national organisations, one national network, three transnational networks and one European network.

The most comprehensive women’s network in Europe is AKTEA, whose objectives include raising women’s profile in fisheries and aquaculture and related activities, raising awareness of women’s contribution in these sectors, promoting women’s participation in decision-making processes in these sectors, exchanging experience, etc.

Training is a crucial aspect of development and professionalisation in any area of work. Tasks carried out by women in artisanal fishing need to be covered in recognised courses that will help ensure that this type of work continues to exist in our society. Emphasis should also be placed on the need to learn how to use IT tools that are more specific and more closely geared to women’s managerial activities in the fisheries sector, in order to develop business activities and family ventures.

Work is currently underway on the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for the period 2013-2020, which will be the main instrument to help provide funding in the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The Member States will need to ensure, within the framework of the new EMFF, that young people and women in the fisheries sector have access to ongoing training so that they can improve their position in the fisheries labour market, with a view to promoting women’s role and ensuring that they are present in all representative bodies.

Support also needs to be provided to promote and help maintain women’s associations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, so as to boost their presence, confidence and social recognition.

A further important aspect is the participation of women researchers in the field of the marine
environment, particularly in the area of women’s employment in the fisheries sector and the state of resources. Such research is vital for sustainable exploitation, factoring in the possible effects of climate change.

Article 79 of the EMFF states that support may be granted, inter alia, to types of operations involving scientific analysis and CFP implementation, national multi-annual sampling programmes, research surveys at sea, etc., but the new EMFF also needs to ensure the collection and continuing analysis of data relating to women’s employment in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and their socio-economic contribution to the sector. This will also go some way towards meeting the general criteria laid down in Annex III of the EMFF (‘General Ex ante conditionalities’), which require the effective implementation and application of an explicit strategy for the promotion of gender equality through, inter alia, a system for collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data and indicators and the development of evidence-based gender policies.

The new EMFF should also promote support for all women whose work has made an invisible contribution to the family livelihood, whether as spouses, life partners, etc.

The general principles governing fisheries policy are laid down in Article 2 of the new basic regulation on the common fisheries policy, while Article 7 refers to targets for the sustainable exploitation of stocks and measures to minimise the negative impact of fishing activities on marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems. In order to achieve these targets, it is vital to spotlight the work carried out by women shellfish gatherers, since they exploit fishery resources sustainably, in a way that respects stocks and their regeneration, and they are well aware that they will have no resources left to carry on working if they exceed the limits of their particular environment.

The new common fisheries policy should seek to achieve objectives linked to the principle of equality, the historic recognition of women’s socio-economic role in the world of fishing, non-discrimination on grounds of gender, the necessary social measures and unemployment assistance, and action to promote women’s inclusion in committees and advisory councils and their participation in associations, as well as identifying the necessary financial instruments and social measures and support for women fishery workers affected by biological rest periods.

To sum up, it is clear that the needs facing women working in the fisheries sector are numerous. Their working conditions need to be regulated and their situation brought into line with that of men, working conditions in the sector need to be attractive for future generations, and women’s contribution to the development of sustainable fisheries needs to be recognised. To this end, it is vital that the current reform of the common fisheries policy should lay the foundations for support, guidelines, plans and training programmes, and the necessary recognition and equal rights that will guarantee a better and stable future for women working in the fisheries sector.
# RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>23.1.2014</th>
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| Result of final vote | +: 32  
|                  | -: 3  
|                  | 0: 2  |
| Members present for the final vote | John Stuart Agnew, Kriton Arsenis, Edit Bauer, Alain Cadec, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Iratxe García Pérez, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Isabella Lövin, Astrid Lulling, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Krisztina Morvai, Angelika Niebler, Siiri Oviir, Antonia Parvanova, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Ulrike Rodust, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Joanna Senyszyn, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzypulewska, Struan Stevenson, Isabelle Thomas, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa, Marina Yannakoudakis, Inês Cristina Zuber |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Anne Delvaux, Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Christa Klaß, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Angelika Werthmann |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote | Elisabetta Gardini, Anna Hedh |