RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SUSTAINABILITY: FAO CODE ADOPTION'S INDICATORS IN A NORTHERN ADRIATIC AREA

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From a legislative and a conceptual point of view, the responsible fishery issues in the EU derive from the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) and the European Code of Practices for Sustainable and Responsible Fishery (2003). In many cases the adoption of these rules is quite difficult and slow. This paper is aimed at defining and applying a SWOT-derived methodology capable of identifying the main factors of weakness and strength that may affect the fishing industry as a result of the application of the indications contained in the local and international regulations. The research of innovative models of economic-environmental evaluation for the fishery sector permits preventive analysis of a practice's sustainability using multicriterial biological, abiotic, social and economic indicators. The sustainability concept adopted in the paper is related to the FAO definition involving the impacts on the all ecosystem's components: social, economic and environmental. The selected model includes parameters linked to all these factors in order to achieve by the end to an aggregate but multidimensional judgement on the adoptability of these rules. The surveyed area include some "marinerie" (seaports) along the Italian coast of the Northern Adriatic Sea (Emilia-Romagna region) and is focused on the firms adopting the trawling technique. The use of a multicriterial methodology is vitally important both for fishing companies – which can insert alternatives within its evaluations that would otherwise be difficult to cost-analyse – and for public bodies called upon to express judgements on activities carried out and to stimulate the adoption of responsible fishing techniques.

Keywords: responsible fisheries; sustainability; Northern Adriatic sea; multicriterial methodology