

Meeting with the Seas

**Round table – Artisanal fisheries. Competition,
sustainability and respect**

Roberto Rodríguez Prieto

Artesans da Pesca

Miren Garmendia

Federation of Guilds of Gipuzkoa

Arantza Murillas

Principal Researcher. Sustainable Fisheries Management. AZTI

The last of the presentations of the first day of the Meeting with the Seas was marked by a round table made up of Roberto Rodríguez Prieto, of Artesans da Pesca; Miren Garmendia, secretary of the Federation of Guilds of Gipuzkoa, and Aranta Murillas, sustainable fishing management researcher.

The first to appear on stage was Arantza Murillas, who described a project that has been launched on the Basque coast to create a special map of the artisanal fishing boats that are fishing, the species they're catching, the kilos, the cost and the impact of each of their incursions in real time. Captains and fisherman are collaborating selflessly with this task. Thanks to the initiative, the impact of fishing in each habitat can be better planned and sustainability boosted. This project is supported by the Basque Government.

Meanwhile Miren Garmendia spoke of the fishermen's responsibility to leave the sea in optimal conditions for the future professional generations. She also wished to highlight the work that is being carried out to identify, via certification, the fish that follow the sustainability patterns and appealed to consumers to only acquire products that bear this certification.

In third place, Roberto Rodríguez spoke to explain how the small fisheries are disappearing and how they have seen their work swallowed by other fisheries. For him, the key has been the alliance with the catering sector which has brought them visibility. "When we fish, we try to treat the fish as well as possible, as that allows it to preserve all its qualities. This results in better fishing and less impact and aids sustainability. There is much ignorance of the world of the sea, we need to try and better the use of what it provides us with."

Arantza Murillas is a doctor in Economy from the University of the Basque Country (Department of Fundamentals of Financial Analysis). She has worked on more than 20 European projects relating to valuing of natural resources, valuing of the services of the ecosystems, valuing of financial impact, formation of prices, markets, management of fisheries and economic valuing of the European policies.

Miren Garmendia is the director of the Organisation of Producers of inshore fishing in Gipuzkoa (OPEGUI), which achieves great successes within the fishing sector, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for sustainable fishing of the sardine, the anchovy and the longfinned tuna, which allows the consumer to choose a fully sustainable, natural product of great nutritional value and great quality.

Roberto Rodríguez leads an artisanal, responsible and sustainable fishing project in which boats do not surpass 18 metres in overall length and fish close to the Galician coast, within a 12-mile radius, employing small-scale techniques or, in the case of deep-sea species, the purse seine. In his opinion, the minimum sizes, species and closed seasons are sacred.

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16 al 19 de junio
de 2019

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