

# Newsletter FLAG COSTA DELL'EMILIA-ROMAGNA

## **SPOTLIGHT ON A VARIETY OF INITIATIVES OF FISH OPERATORS AND EMILIA-ROMAGNA COAST FLAG TO FACE THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

The current health emergency caused by the coronavirus COVID-19, concerning the whole planet, is putting a strain on many sectors, not least fishing and aquaculture. The demand for fresh fish and seafood has fallen due to market stagnation, closed restaurants and foreign trade crisis. Fishing fleets in Italy and in many EU countries are anchored, mostly moored quayside for weeks now.

The COVID-19 epidemic has created an unprecedented situation. In order to respond to this crisis, to overcome the challenges we face, a general mobilization of the actors involved in the sector is needed. Emilia-Romagna Coast FLAG, together with local fishermen of Emilia-Romagna Coast and Emilia-Romagna Region, each within its respective area of competence, but simultaneously in synergy, are cooperating and implementing initiatives to face the ongoing crisis, with the aim to mitigate its impact as much as possible.



### Summary:

- **The fishermen of FLAG Marineries** pag. 2
- **Fisheries Coop deliver the local catch at home** pag. 3
- **FLAG CER initiatives** pag. 4
- **Work in progress** pag. 5

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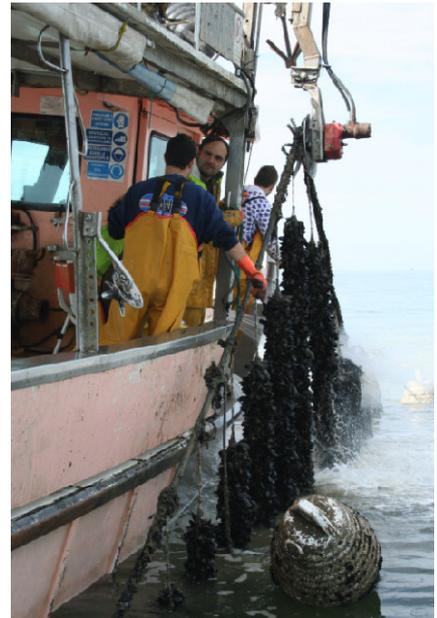
NEWSLETTER n.2



## THE FISHERMEN OF THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA COAST FLAG AT THE FOREFRONT FOR COVID19 EMERGENCY

The consumption of seafood and fresh fish has collapsed, restaurants are closed, and foreign trade is only partially active. Despite the difficult situation, the fishing operators of Emilia-Romagna coast are trying to react with determination to the challenge that these hard times are inflicting, showing among other things all their **solidarity**.

**In Cervia LA FENICE does not stop:** Cooperative "La Fenice", which has been operating in the quality mussel farming sector since 1993 and specializes in the production and trade of branded mussels "Cozza di Cervia", continues to carry out its activities because mussels must be cultivated and the production cycle cannot be stopped. So, what to do with the surplus product that has no market outlet? The cooperative has decided to **donate it to families and citizens in need**, with the help of the Municipality of Cervia, which has worked to facilitate the free distribution of the product within the food supply, thanks to several agreements with numerous commercial businesses helpful to distribute the mussels. (<http://www.flag-costaemiliaromagna.it/news/cozze-cervia-02042020/>).



A significant sign, of creativity and of a spirit of solidarity, because the initiative is also a nice way to contribute to support people who nowadays are unfortunately in distress.

And they are not the only ones....

**In the town of Goro**, the captains of five trawlers have decided to head out to sea and the whole catch has entirely been donated to families and elderly people in need. Upon returning to port, volunteers and civil protection workers waiting for them, contributed to the partition and packaging of caught fish (shrimp, cuttlefish, squid, moles sole and more) followed by the distribution to citizens. An expression of great sensitivity from the sector of the fisheries nowadays more in difficulty due to the coronavirus, since the local fish market is open only two days a week.

Cesenatico fishery community got itself equipped to cope with the emergency and, not only with anti-COVID-19 safety devices for commanders and crews who, 'armed' with masks, gloves and shielded helmets, are carrying out solidarity initiatives. All fishermen, led by Coop. Casa del Pescatore and in collaboration with Social Services, parishes and Civil Protection, have joined the initiative of fish delivery, which is being donated to shelters and families in need.





## EMILIA ROMAGNA FISHERIES COOPERATIVE DELIVER THE LOCAL CATCH AT HOME

Also, fisheries cooperatives organized themselves to implement strategies against the epidemic that forces us all to the "different" and "outdistanced" lifestyle. As in other sectors, the strategy of home delivery is a solution to be ridden to encourage the consumption of local fish. Starting from **Legacoop Emilia-Romagna**, which has activated the campaign **#restateacasaAPORTARVELO# cipensiamonoi** campaign, to more local solutions.

Fishermen of **Lavoratori Del Mare Cooperative** in Rimini go out to sea in total safety just as the operators of the fish markets, who are working in safe and hygienic environment. The result is an excellent fresh product available every day for end-consumers.

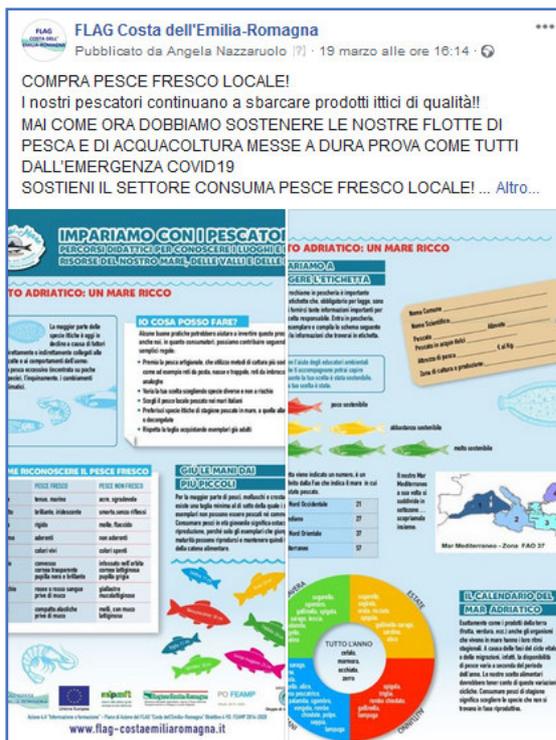
The collaboration between fishermen, **Little Fish** company, which for several years has been involved in local products' transformation and distribution, among other things, on the tables of regional schools, and **Orapesce**, a company which created an e-commerce portal ([www.orapesce.it](http://www.orapesce.it)) to offer home delivery of Adriatic catch, allows consumers to receive local fish in their homes: fresh, clean .. and home delivered! An ambitious and important project, even more for the responsibility of the maintenance of the cold chain system, available on the whole regional and national territory.



## FLAG CER INITIATIVES

To support the fishing and aquaculture world, FLAG CER has implemented actions to inform interested parties through the constant dynamism of its communication tools, in particular the website [www.flag-costaemiliaromagna.it](http://www.flag-costaemiliaromagna.it) and the Facebook pages COSTA DELL'EMILIA-ROMAGNA FLAG, added to those of concluded projects (FESTIVAL DEL MARE and PASSAGGI DI MARE)..

A **communication campaign** focusing on the invitation to consume fresh local fish has been promoted on social networks, through the dissemination of worksheets that emphasize the **nutritional value and well-being of local catch** and the methods to make balanced and sustainable purchasing decisions, thus capitalizing on the results of the “Let's learn with the fishermen” project, in the contest of which the worksheets have been produced.



Furthermore, through the same channels, FLAG CER disseminates the initiatives organized independently by the operators.



With reference to the projects related to call for proposals about **Act. 1Ca Intervention C "Fishermen interventions aimed at improving waste collection from the sea together with products from fishing activities, including the collection of marine litter by fishermen"** and call for proposals Act. 1B "Redevelopment of embarkation and disembarkation places", considering the contingent situation, due to which the projects cannot be started and / or terminated and reported within the deadlines foreseen by the relative calls, the **FLAG CER has extended the above mentioned deadlines for project realization and reporting with the aim of facilitating the beneficiaries to complete their activities.**

In addition, with reference to the 46 projects carried out with call for proposals **Act. 1Ca Intervention B "Aquaculture Companies"**, all of which completed and reported, to speed up the process of grant deliveries to the beneficiaries, **the Intermediate Body / Emilia-Romagna Region has simplified the grant reimbursement procedures of the 46 involved aquaculture companies**, for a total amount of € **307,691.33**.



## WORK IN PROGRESS

The **Emilia-Romagna Coast FLAG** will shortly publish a call to encourage diversification and integration of fishermen's income by promoting different forms of **fisheries tourism and fishing tourism** and is also drawing up a call for **lagoon fish farming**.

**At European level, specific measures are being taken** to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic in the fishery and aquaculture sectors, with the European Parliament legislative resolution of 17 April 2020 on **the amended proposal of EU Reg. 1379/2013 and EU Reg. 508/2014 and therefore through the use of the European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EMFF)**. Measures which should allow support for temporary cessation of fishing activities, for assured and evident economic losses of aquaculture farmers and producer organisations, provided that they are determined by the emergency COVID 19, as well as measures involving the granting of financial compensation to aquaculture producers and processing companies, and support to producer organizations and associations of producer organizations for the temporary storage of fishery and aquaculture products for human consumption in accordance with EU Reg. 1379/2013. The proposed measures should be eligible retroactively as of February 2020.

**At national level, Program Management Authority and Regions will be responsible for all actions to implement the measures** indicated at European level within the EMFF Operational Program, as well as to provide **any additional extraordinary measures and financial resources** to support the fishery and aquaculture sectors to face the COVID19 crisis.