

Fisheries in Albania

Albania has two seas, Adriatic and Ion Sea and has a coastline of 427 km. In Albanian territory are 4 big natural lakes, Shkodra Lake, the biggest one in Balkan, Ohrid Lake, Great and Little Prespa Lake. Also, there are an important number of artificial lakes and reservoirs that are creations on lately 60 years. More important are the hydropower lakes on the river Drin cascade and about 570 agriculture reservoirs dispersed in all country. Albania has also a number of lagoons with a total surface of 10.000 ha. The more important lagoons are Karavasta lagoon with a surface of 3.900 ha, Narta lagoon with a surface of 2.800 ha and Butrinti lagoon with a surface of 1.600 ha. A considerable number of river transverse Albania from east to west characterized from clean waters. Here we can mention the Drini Rivers, Buna, Vjosa, Shkumbini, Semani and Bistrica River etc. The big diversity of damp environments and water property makes fishing one important reality of development and working possibility.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Fishery Directorate are the administrative body of the fishery sector. Fishery Directorate is organized in two sectors; Fishery Resource and Fishery Inspectorate sector. This last has his local representatives in 14 main districts. Fishery Inspectorate is responsible for the fish law application control and local representatives of Fishery Directorate.

Albania is member and participates actively in the number of projects and Fishery Regional Organizations. She is the member of GFCM (General Fishery Council for Mediterranean), of FAO, assists in intergovernmental organization of EUROFISH (International Organization of Fishery Development in East and Central European Country) as sequel of EASTFISH and in the number of international projects in fishery field such ADRIAMED, MEDITS etc.

The sustainable of fishery development, with the purpose the growth of the fishery output till in the optimal limits made up one of the principal objective of Albanian fishery developing strategy and approved from Albanian Government on Green Strategy of Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The important investments are accomplished every year in this sector with government budget. The public investments gave and are giving their assistance in the address of the hydrologic balance improvement, in the increase of the level of the fingerling production and in the strengthening of the fish law application.

In this field are accomplished important investments in private sector. So, actually our country have a fishing fleet from about 174 boats dispersed in four main ports; Durres, Vlora, Shengjini and Saranda, where are employed about 900 persons. To this fleet we add and a considerable number of workers that occupied with the services such joinery, electricians, boats repairing, engine and nets repairing this number goes on 1.500 workers. The fishing fleet is oriented mainly on trawl fishing with about 62% of the fishing boats.

After the privatization of whole fishing sector on the years 1990-1994 this sector went to the full restructuration. Today the whole fleet is privatized. The same for the aquaculture farms. Exception makes only the farms under the Fishery Research Institute to which is the duty of application of inland water restocking program.

Albania exports her fresh production giving considerable inputs in the foreign currency in the Albanian economy. It is calculated that the half of the marine production goes for export in the community market, mainly Italy and Greece. For this purpose are building 35 establishments for the collecting, elaborating of fish with the principal destination the export to this market countries and inner market. These establishments are constructed according the norms and KE standards and are provided with the identification number which make possible their export productions. Only in this sector actually works regularly over the 550 workers, which occupied with the fish products elaboration, mainly for export.

It is of a particular importance also the fishing in the fresh water, in the lakes, lagoons and agriculture reservoirs where this activity performs from the little groups of fishermen's on the family bases. In this activity are employed over than 2000 persons who have the fishing as unique incomes for him and their family.

An important place gets also the scientific research, which except the level academic, is realized from the Fishery Research Institute, Durres. This Institute has 52 persons and has in its disposition 5 centers of fingerling production with the restocking aim. In priority of the scientific work of this Institute are the fish stock, Albanian lagoons and their potentials and restocking of the Albanian inner water with fingerling.

Indication of the concern and support of this sector from the Albanian Government is the Fishery Developing Project which is in the its preparing faze. This Project supporting from the Word Bank, through its components has the aim to establish and strength the Fishing Regional Associations with the goal the improvement of the Marketing of fish products, to input a new techniques for a

responsible fishing, aquaculture developing and fish ports management.

The further strengthening of this sector will drive on the improvement of little fishermen's lives level and increasing of their incomes to make possible the reduction of the poverty level.