

ANTONIO GARCÍA-ALLUT
FUNDACIÓN LONXANET PARA LA PESCA SOSTENIBLE
Littoral and Marine Chair of the Board of UICN Spanish Committee



Antonio García-Allut has been involved with artisanal Spanish fisheries for more than twenty years and leading the new governance approaches in which fishers are becoming proactive agents within fisheries policies since 2001. Antonio promoted the creation of the Lonxanet Foundation, www.fundacionlonxanet.org, in 2002 with the mission of contributing to the strengthening of artisanal fishing and the people involved, establishing links with the fisheries sector that favors proposals, projects and acts based on sustainability and social participation criteria. These initiatives have aided to minimize their problems and to position artisanal fishers as custodians of the aquatic ecosystems in which they work.

Antonio has a PhD in Social Anthropology and he currently teaches at the University of La Coruña (Spain). He is a member of UNESCO Chair of Sustainable Coastal Development and he has been a researcher on small-scale fisheries from the 90's, taking a systemic and bottom-up approach. This approach has allowed him to define innovative methodologies (model of Co-management Fishing Protect Areas and actually to identify Sustainability Indexes for the productive fisheries systems in Spain).

In addition to this academic background, he has had the ability to penetrate inside the fisheries artisanal associations, first as an observer and afterwards as a tactical facilitator, to allow the design of protected marine areas of fishing interest co-managed by fishers and local administrations, implementing in this manner the methodologies previously established. This achievement has driven to that the fishers' ecological knowledge has been integrated in fisheries biology and management.

These bottom-up processes have had synergetic effects and other initiatives and projects have been aroused from fisher associations with the support of Antonio and the team of Lonxanet Foundation. One of the more important enterprises has been the direct sale and marketing of the artisanal fisheries products. This model has been exported to other European, Latin American and African communities, www.recopades.org ; www.pescaenlinea.cl, and has received important awards (SME Week 2010 Opening/EEVA Ceremony - Brussels).

As a consequence of all these activities, Antonio has been called to participate from 2009 within the design of the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. He has been speaker and adviser in different fora such as the Advisory Committee of Fisheries of DGMARE (EU Commission) and the Committee of the Regions. His contributions have been in the field of overfishing control, the access rights to fish of artisanal fishworkers, and new models of participative governance.

Antonio is also an active member of ICSF animation team, <http://www.icsf.net>, an international fishworkers organization. From this position he has been involved in different United Nations

processes such as the Biodiversity Convention (CBD Nagoya 2010) and UNCSD Rio+20 in June 2012. At the UNCSD Rio+20 Summit he was selected as a speaker at the High Level Round Table with Heads of State and Government, where he exhibited Marine Protected Areas co-managed by artisanal fishers as an experience worth replicating. During the preparatory process prior to the Rio+20 Summit, Antonio's organization made proposals that were taken into account and effectively incorporated in the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want, concerning sustainable artisanal fishing communities.

The holistic model for artisanal fisheries management promoted by Lonxanet Foundation has led Antonio to be involved at the XXII Conference of Ministers of OLDEPESCA region in Latin America, www.oldepesca.com, in 2012 and to be required as an expert speaker by Globe International, a global legislators organization, www.globeinternational.org. More recently, in October 2013, he was invited by the Spanish Parliament to testify on small and medium-sized fisheries businesses and their relation with the new European Fisheries Fund.

Lonxanet Foundation is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (registration number NG/25300) and is currently chairing the IUCN Spanish Committee for Littoral and Marine issues.

Finally, the Lonxanet Foundation has applied for the ECOSOC NGO Status. The application has been positively recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its 2014 session.

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