



Living rivers: a driver for sustainable regional development

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Traditional fishing and environmental conservation in the Po Delta'

- Description

*The **Comacchio lagoon** is an extraordinary nursery habitat for juveniles of species of both commercial and conservation interest: eels, anchovies, shrimps and mullets*

Fishing activities (lagoon aquaculture)** in Comacchio lagoon are directly regulated by the **Po river Delta Park Managing Authority

*Particularly, **eel fishing** represents an important heritage of an ancient activity of local villagers and is yet carried out with traditional and extensive practices.*

*The **Comacchio lagoon** requires a continuous and expensive **management** of the several locks made by the Po river Delta Park MA: they have to be opened and closed, in order to allow species movement and to supply fresh and sea water for habitat and species conservation.*



Traditional fishing and environmental conservation in the Po Delta'



- **Results**

*The revenues generated by fishing is reinvested by the Po Delta Park MA in the **environmental conservation and management of the lagoon**, thus representing an **implicit Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) scheme** which guarantees habitat and fishery conservation.*

Moreover, part of the catch is directly sold to local population, thus contributing to local sustainable development and the preservation of cultural values.

*This practice involves different stakeholders and beneficiaries. Fishing generates direct and indirect job positions for the local community. The **Po river Delta Park Managing Authority** achieves the goal of conserving habitat and species, while maintaining traditional fishing practices and supporting tourism in the lagoon.*

- **Timing** 1991 - ongoing

- **Budget:**

*The practice **does not need** any external financial resource; it is managed by internal staff, both seasonal and permanent. 2 permanent workers are employed for fishing and management activities.*

The total revenues generated by fishing activities in 2018 was 185,667 € of which 24.760 (eels – 6.875 kg) directly sold to local population, also representing an identitarian cultural value (sense of place)

- **Responsible organization:**

Po Delta Park Managing Authority– mpiapagliarusco@parcodeltapo.it

<u>Activities 2018</u>	<u>Annual costs</u>
Regional projects (historical pickling factory, only in 2018) of cultural inheritance and environmental management	86,500
Seasonal personnel	18,500
Non-seasonal personnel	31,800
General expenses	13,000





Thank you!

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