

11.12.13  
OCTOBER  
2023THE INTERNATIONAL FISHING  
INDUSTRY TRADE FAIR10H > 18H30 | PARC DES EXPOS LORIENT BRETAGNE SUD  
WWW.ITECHMER.COM15<sup>th</sup>  
editionPress release  
12th June 2023

## ITECHMER 2023

### FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND MARITIME PLANNING

The international fishing industry trade show will be held for the 15th time on October 11-12-13, 2023 at the Lorient exhibition center. France's leading commercial fishing exhibition, ITECHMER is committed to offering a program that addresses the major challenges facing the French and European fishing industries. This fifteenth edition will be marked by several highlights, including a panel discussion on the challenges of maritime planning for fishermen, and a Blue Day on technologies for sustainable fishing.

#### MARITIME PLANNING AND FISHING REGULATION

Every year, ITECHMER holds a debate with a European dimension. After the Brexit issues for the three previous editions, a panel discussion entitled «**Maritime planning: access to resources in the future**» will bring together key players in the European fishing industry on **Friday October 13, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

The objective of this debate is to discuss the issues and consequences of maritime planning, and more broadly of the Common Fisheries Policy, for fishermen and territories.

Coactivities on the maritime space, development of marine areas and limitation or banning of fishing in certain protected areas including Natura 2000... which issues are of capital importance for the entire industry and coastal communities. It is also a major challenge for the sovereignty of France's and Europe's food supply, and for guaranteeing the sustainability and quality of our food.

Round the table, **MEP Pierre Karleskind, Chairman of the European Parliament's Pech Committee**, also as representatives of the fishing industry, local authorities, fishermen, environmental associations, and scientists will debate these issues. Already strongly affected by the energy crisis and the consequences of Brexit, the trawler fleet targeted by the banning measures advocated by the European Commission will also be represented by **Ivan Lopez (Spain), President of EFBA, the European alliance for bottom fishing**.

Ivan Lopez comments: «*The growing pressure of new oceanic activities on the exploitation of the seas has led to a process of «zoning» the sea, particularly regarding the areas where these activities can be developed, but also the areas to be protected. For many, zoning has left fishing out of the process, with the idea that you can always fish anywhere. But fishing should not be banned from some areas, particularly in those that have been traditionally worked. The future of our industry will be largely determined by the debate surrounding this process, and by the question of whether the only activity that has always been at sea will have (or rather maintain) the capacity to develop.*»

#### A BLUE DAY ON «TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHING» ORGANIZED BY PÔLE MER BRETAGNE ATLANTIQUE

In line with the theme «**Innovating to transform the marine industry**», ITECHMER will be hosting a special day dedicated to innovations and «technologies for sustainable fishing» on **Thursday, October 12**. It will be organized and presented by the **Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique** as a Blue Day.

Two topics will be addressed: The first will explore gear design and innovative systems, as well as ways of monitoring gear patterns to better control or, in some cases, eliminate their impact. The second will address both the collection and recovery of used fishing gear or gear harvested at sea, and the potential of new biodegradable nets.

«*As a driving force behind maritime innovation in Brittany and Pays-de-La-Loire, the Pôle Mer Bretagne is also present at ITECHMER this year as a member of the expert committee. This not-to-be-missed event showcases the many innovations in the fishing industry and stimulates the creativity of all the stakeholders who converge on this biennial event. The Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique will also be running «pitch your innovation» sessions, enabling pre-selected companies of all sizes to briefly present their innovative ideas or products, and to enrich the exchanges in the aisles and on the exhibition stands.*»

ITECHMER is an event organized by Lorient Bretagne Sud Expo-Congrès with the support of Lorient-Agglomération and the Brittany Region.