

The Institute for Economic Research in Fishery and Acquaculture (IREPA) was established in Salerno in 1982 with the purpose of promoting the development of economic research in the fishing sector and providing the required support to the Public Bodies involved in the management of fishery and acquaculture.

The Province and Municipality of Salerno, the Chamber of Commerce of Salerno and Naples, The Regional Union of Chambers of Commerce are IREPA partner Institutions.

The Institute's activity has been marked by its interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of the fishing sector. Since its beginning of activity, IREPA's profile has been characterized by its contribution to the formulation of National policy and by an active participation to the works of International Agencies.

Since 1994 IREPA has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry Policies actively co-operating to the drawing of documents related to the planning of the sector. Among the most recent activities the Institute has contributed to the drawing of the planning documents required by Rule (CE) 1198/2006 concerning the European Fishery Fund and 1967/2006 concerning the management measures for the sustainable exploitation fisheries resources in the Mediterranean Sea.

The development of a wide and reliable statistical system represented one of the most relevant features of IREPA's commitment in favour of National Administration. Over the last few years such activity has become a crucial one and the Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of producing statistical data related to the fishing sector in Italy. Nowadays, IREPA operates within the National Statistical System (SISTAN) and is responsible for the coordination of the National Programme for Data Collection (Reg. (CE) 199/2008) concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.

Scientific research represents an important area covered by the Institute's wide range of activities. Since the first years, IREPA has carried out intensive research on both European and National programmes. Since then, the Institute has assumed a leading role within the network of international research.

Thanks to the experience gained over the years, IREPA contributes to the works of the OCSE Fishery Committee, FAO, STECF and other scientific agencies of the European Union.

In order to improve and promote the circulation of scientific outcome in fisheries economics, the Institute has set up an editorial line.

Over the years, IREPA has further developed its initial interdisciplinary approach. The Institute is presently involved in a number of activities all related to the fishing sector. Besides the main

fields of activity, at present, IREPA's covers a number of areas such as, development of information system, quality certification and advanced methods for remote satellite monitoring applied to the fishing sector.