



RISKS OF HOMELAND TREASON IN ARGENTINE FISHING

The Captains of Argentina, as delegates of Public Authority, represent on each fishing vessel the nation, and day by day, together with our crews, we devote our lives in the sea to bring food for the Argentinian population and protect food sovereignty.

For that reason, the sovereignty in the Argentine Sea, in its almost five thousand kilometres of coast, and in its two million square kilometre continental platform, up to the Mile 200 and the area adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone, is a topic that beats together with every captain's heart, every time we have to face the issue known as "Mile 201".

The "Mile 201" is a scenario of barbarism, predation and violence, in which the modern sea pirates, protected by flags of Korea, China, Russia, Spain, English and South Africa, and many more vessels that fish in our sea without any flag, many large foreign vessels that fish squid and hake.

And we, the Argentinian fishermen, are witnesses of the "efforts" made by foreign vessels present in the "Mile 201", forming what would be called a floating city, lightning the sea and horizon during day and night. These vessels, are constantly trying to attract and keep Argentine Illex Squid in international waters, and prevent it from returning to the Argentine Sea, so that the they can continue predateding it.

While this happens, Argentine Authorities give their backs to the Sea and the fishing resource, and above everything, to the only truth that we are a river State, rich in a natural resource as fish, and that 50 % of our population is under the level of poverty and suffers from hunger.

We know this. We also know that within the "Mile 201" issue another conflict is included, one which an inalienable for every Argentine's heart: the recovery of our Malvinas.

Many fishing businessmen take advantage of this, as they fish with an English permission in the Malvinas Area, and then they move outside the "Mile 201".

Argentina's Chancellery, on behalf of the National State, has been responsible for the passing of Law 25,290, and consequently the New York Agreement, called "United Nations 1995 Conference for Highly Migrating Species". Once again, the Argentine show a wrong and coward behaviour, having a current legislation in our country that we think are not obliged to fulfil at the international sphere.

The New York Agreement foresees the creation of Regional Organizations for Fishing Ordination, under the acronym OROPs, but once they are formed, they will infiltrate the sovereignty of river countries in its own seas, apart from ruling international waters.

Argentina, looks sideways, without serious concern for fishing neither in nor outside EEZ (ZEEA) Fishing businessmen that fish in the Argentine Sea, that use English permissions in Malvinas area, have decided to adopt a dominant position in National Fishing Policy, creating private organizations to try to regulate Fishing. In one year, this group of Chambers that claim to represent our country, is strangely integrated by the same people that integrate Foreign Chambers. These, have built organizations which Statutes show other objectives "... the possible



distribution of fishing shares, according the due priority of the National State and those who carry out a legitimate and responsible exploitation". Businessmen want to decide who fish, and how it is done.

Last week, it has been spread that an Agreement was signed between ANAMER (National Association of Hake Freezer Trawler Owner), representing Argentinian companies, and the CEPESCA (Spanish Fisheries Confederation), that aims to reorganize a "Technical Commission for Conservation and Sustainability of Sea Resources in the Southwest Atlantic". What is really strange is that even though different managers have signed the agreement, the president of ANAMER and CEPESCA is the same person, Mr. Juan Manuel Liria. This agreement has been signed by Mr. Alan Mackern on OPRAS (Organization for South Atlantic Resources Protection) behalf. To sum up a new commission would be added to the existing OPRAs in Argentina, and SINDIP in Brazil. All this seems strange for Fishing Captains in Argentina. Moreover, in internal documents OPRAS call the Malvinas Falklands, apart from the fact that a member of its Managerial Commission, Mr. Eduardo Pucci, has made allegations in favour of OROPs creation, as was published in the organization's official website.

Taking into account that in the actions carried out by these Chambers and Business Organizations, that try to represent the interests of Argentine Fishing, several international agreements have been signed, notifying them to the United Nations, FAO and OMI, the Fishing Captains of Argentina warn the following:

To the authorities of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and the Federal Fishing Council, about the facts exposed before, with the objective that the situation and its relation with New York Agreement, Law 25,290 is investigated, also if the Bi national Commissions constituted by OPRAS are authorized to work in Argentina. Anyway, these authorities will inform if they have delegated their functions to avoid fishing predation in any of the Chambers mentioned before, or if in case of continuing with their actions they might be incurring in homeland treason for assuming faculties of Foreign Affairs and conduction of Fishing policies which correspond to the National State.

To companies that integrate OPRAS: *Pesquera Deseado, Estremar, Iberconsa, Arbumasa, Argenova* and *Pesquera Buena Vista*, to ANAMER, CAPA (Argentine Chamber of Jigger fishingVessels), and OPRAS itself, that AACPyPP -Argentina's Association of Fishing Captains- disagree completely with the fact that Business Chambers have direct influence in the solution of conflicts related with Fishing Resources, without taking into account the opinion and will of sea workers.

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