



C.I.P.S.

46th CIPS CONGRESS 2024

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EQUALITY COMMISSION REPORT

This document summarizes the work carried out over the past four years by the Equal Opportunities Commission of the Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS). It aims to highlight the importance of women's participation in sport fishing and the current challenges, including the issue of transgender athletes competing in women's events.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted recent years, but now social and sporting activities have resumed at full speed. The Commission continues its efforts to promote greater female participation in sport fishing. However, this goal can only be achieved if national federations actively collaborate to encourage the development of fishing among women—especially young girls—in their own countries.

CIPS is implementing initiatives to increase female participation in championships, supporting events exclusively dedicated to women, such as Carpfishing (under FIPSeD) and the Women's World Fly Fishing Championship. Although this may seem repetitive, it is crucial that national federations remain committed to involving more women across the various sport fishing disciplines.

A controversial topic, also discussed within the CIPS Praesidium following a request submitted by Ms. Emma Nicholson, Baroness of Winterbourne in England, responsible for the issue of gender equality between women and men, concerns the participation of transgender athletes in women's competitions. Recent events have sparked debates about the fairness of such participation, given the potential physical advantages men and transgender individuals may have over cisgender women. The Praesidium has decided to follow the guidelines and recommendations of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on this matter and has ruled to prohibit the participation of transgender athletes in certain women's competitions, such as the Women's World Carp Fishing Championship and the Women's Long Casting of Sea Weights. In case of doubts, a birth certificate will be required. This decision was made to ensure that competitions remain fair—especially in disciplines where physical strength is a determining factor.

Below is the full decision taken by the CIPS Praesidium on this matter:

No transgender competitor, i.e. any competitor whose birth certificate shows her original gender as male, may be admitted to participate in the Women's Carp Fishing World Championship for FIPS-Ed, the Ladies Long Casting of Sea Weights for FIPS-M and the Ladies Shore Angling Championships for FIPS-M. This decision by the CIPS Praesidium results from the fact that physical performance (ability



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to cast longer distances) and physical endurance are particularly important in these disciplines that do not only depend on technical ability, which could lead to disparities in comparison to other competitors. If a complaint is made against an athlete deemed to be transgender or in the case of doubts of the International Jury, the classifications will be drawn up and the resulting awards will be made, but these will be considered sub-judice. Only after the athlete in question has submitted the required birth certificate proving the non-sex change the results will be homologated and made officially as definitive. If it is established that the athlete has changed sex and is therefore not entitled to take part in the championship, the athlete and her entire team will be disqualified and the rankings and prize-giving will have to be redone.

To confirm the above, the British Supreme Court recently issued a ruling stating that transgender people do not have the right to be recognised as women by law and, therefore, to enjoy the protections guaranteed to people born biologically female.

Thanks go to the members of the Commission for the work they have carried out, and to those who will join the Commission in the future, we wish continued commitment to advancing gender equality in the sport of fishing.

Finally, a special remembrance goes to our friend Jill Mandeno, who passed away during this four-year term.

Barbara Durante
Equality Commission President