



Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive

C.I.P.S

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CIPS EQUALITY COMMISSION

At its most recent meeting, the Equality Commission decided to resend the questionnaire that had been circulated a few years ago to the National Federations. The purpose of this questionnaire is to assess the roles held by women within the governing bodies of the various federations, as well as to understand whether and how sport fishing activities are promoted among boys and girls, and in which disciplines.

From the responses received to date – which have been shared among all members – regarding competitive activities organised for women, it is clear that female participation in championships organised by the three international federations remains limited, and that relatively few women hold managerial or leadership positions.

To date, only a limited number of questionnaires have been returned; therefore, those federations that have not yet responded are kindly invited to complete and submit the questionnaire as soon as possible.

Over the past three years, FIPSeD has established a new women's championship, namely the **World Carp Fishing Championship for Women**, which is held alongside the U22 Youth Championship.

Furthermore, starting from this year, FIPSeD has decided to reduce the number of competitors in the **World Coarse Angling Championship for Ladies** to four athletes. This decision follows feedback from several nations that reported difficulties in sending five competitors plus one reserve to this event.

In addition, FIPSeD has included in all international championship regulations a specific provision stating that “*there are no restrictions on the participation of female athletes in national teams or individual pairs*”, in order to remove any possible doubts regarding eligibility in each Championship.

Likewise, the international federation FIPS-Mouche has established the **Women's World Fly Fishing Championship**.

With regard to FIPS-Mouche, it is worth noting that, following research conducted after a suggestion made to the Italian Federation of Sport Fishing and Underwater Activities during the *Pescare Show* held in Italy in February 2026, it has emerged that in the United States fly fishing has been used as a form of psycho-physical supportive therapy for women who have undergone mastectomy. The organisation involved is called “**Casting for Recovery**” (<https://castingforrecovery.org/>), whose programme offers a recreational fishing experience providing significant benefits during the post-cancer recovery journey. Participants share time and experiences, receive psychological and physical support, and benefit from direct contact with the natural environment. This approach offers not only gentle physical activity, but also an opportunity to improve mental well-being and overall quality of life.

Furthermore, the colleague Helen Reinford informed the Commission that there is also a similar initiative in Ireland *Casting for Recovery*. *Fishing for Life* is an organisation in the UK in 2008 where those with or recovering from breast cancer meet monthly where in a supported environment they can learn to fly-fish with the guidance of coaches. Aside from the well-being benefits of gentle exercise in the outdoors it has been proven that casting helps with tissue repair and muscle strength.

As a Commission, we will endeavour to establish contact with this organisation in order to explore the possibility of future collaboration and to verify whether similar programmes or branches exist outside the United States.

During the Commission meeting, member Celia Barreda proposed a project aimed at enhancing the visibility of women in the field of sport fishing. The project was shared and endorsed by the Commission and involves carrying out a series of interviews or feature articles – preferably in written form, for ease of execution – highlighting the experiences of women engaged in this sport at both competitive and federative levels. The objective is to bring greater awareness of this reality both within the sector and in society at large, where it often remains largely unknown.

The content would focus not only on sporting achievements, but also on personal backgrounds and the specific challenges many women face, such as balancing work and family life, motherhood, and maintaining continuity in competitive activity.

This initiative could be developed in a coordinated manner, with the active involvement of the members of the Equality Commission. Considering the representation of the different international federations (FIPS-ED, FIPS-MOUCHE and FIPS-MER), it is proposed to divide the work by areas of expertise, with each member contributing from their respective field, and to publish the resulting content on the CIPS website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the Commission – Celia Barreda, Helen Rainsford and Misako Ishimura – for their valuable support.

Barbara Durante