



# FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PORTIVE ENSÊCHE PLA EAU DOUCE

## Assembly of FIPSeD

### Report of the President F.I.P.S.e.d. 2021 – 2024 April 24 - Bohinj (Slovenia)

I would like to begin this report on a very sad note. As you may know, our very dear friend Roland Marcq has had and continues to have extremely serious health problems which have prevented him from continuing his activity and which, unfortunately, I fear, will not allow it to continue in the future either. In fact, the news I received directly from his son, who contacted me, is unfortunately not good at all. Besides this painful and unexpected defection, the Executive Committee also had to do without the contribution of our friend Igor Chinyakov, due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, and very recently also of Dragan Boskovic, who is no longer President of the Serbian Federation.

The beginning of this four-year term was marked by the final blows of the devastating COVID epidemic, which unfortunately affected entire continents, causing countless deaths and a prolonged period of lockdown. In addition to this, the term witnessed both the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict—whose end is still nowhere in sight—and the eruption of the new and terrible Hamas/Israel and Hezbollah/Israel conflicts.

All of this caused significant economic hardship for all Federations, due to rampant inflation and the doubling—if not tripling—of the costs of flights, transport, and related expenses.

As a consequence, there was an initial sharp decrease in the number of teams participating in the various championships: from 327 teams in the pre-COVID and pre-war years (2018), the number dropped to virtually zero in 2020 (during the height of COVID), with only 13 teams taking part in the Ice Fishing World Championship, the sole event held that year.

Participation then rebounded to 191 teams the following year, 406 in 2022, and reached the more than remarkable number of 436 in 2024, showing an almost steady growth over time—also thanks to the launch of two new championships (Feeder U25 and Carp Fishing U22).

This result can only fill us with pride and once again highlights the excellent work carried out by the entire Executive Committee in the development of FIPSeD and CIPS.

The number of championships organised annually has continued to grow steadily. From 16 world and zonal championships held in 2016, we reached 27 in 2024. That year, for the first time, the following events were introduced: the U25 and Master World Feeder Championships, the Ladies and U22 World Carp Fishing Championships, the Street Fishing World Championship, the Trout Area World Championship, and the Kayak Fishing with Artificial Baits World Championship.

This clearly demonstrates that our International Federation is increasingly focusing on youth activities and on promoting our sport among the generations who will shape its future.

After many years during which the only zonal championship within FIPSeD was the European Coarse Angling Championship, this four-year term finally saw the launch of another zonal championship: the Pan-American Black Bass Championship. FIPS-Mer also succeeded in establishing its own zonal championship—the African Big Game Championship. These are major achievements, as they align with one of the goals expressed by the IOC: to increase sporting activity and the number of championships across the various continents. The next step must be to establish an Asian Championship in one of the many disciplines that are now part of FIPSeD and CIPS.

Over the course of the four-year period, numerous new Federations joined our family, while others, unfortunately, for various reasons, chose to leave. The overall balance, however, resulted in a modest increase of 2 units, with the number of affiliated Federations rising from 65 in 2021 to 67 in 2024. The attached table, which details the trend in FIPSeD affiliations over the past four years, highlights a noteworthy fact: of the 10 new affiliations recorded during this period, 9 came from non-European Federations originating from South or Central America, Africa, or Asia. This clearly demonstrates if any further proof were needed—the excellent work carried out by the entire FIPSeD Executive Committee, as well as by all the Federations which, through their athletes, have helped to promote our activities and increase our visibility and reputation worldwide.

Unfortunately, during 2024 some championships experienced problems due to incorrect organisation. This led to major difficulties and to the need to adopt solutions that were not provided for in the regulations, solutions that did, however, allow the championships to be completed to some extent. What happened, however, showed how necessary it is for the FIPSeD to pay more attention to the choice of organising countries and competition venues.

Fortunately, some of the problems are attributable to something extremely positive and vital for all of us: too many teams taking part, as happened at the last Carp Fishing Seniores Championships. This will inevitably force us to find solutions because there are very few competition venues that can accommodate such a large number of participants. For example, last year this Championship was held in Croatia and the organisers were forced to use two different lakes; the same will happen this year.

The problem of capacity does not only concern the aforementioned championship, but also, for example, the World Championship of Trout Area. Last year, in fact, 18 nations participated in Bulgaria, with a considerable increase in the number of participating teams compared to previous year's 11. This created numerous problems, starting with the limited space that forced us to reduce the space allocated to each competitor by a lot (below what was allowed by the regulations). The very high number of participants also put the organisers in a difficult position, as they were unable to provide the necessary marshals, but only half.

A broad discussion will therefore be needed to find solutions for the different disciplines so that we do not face the same problems again in the future.

Of extreme importance was the participation of a Japanese team in this championship, those to whom we owe the birth of the Trout Area, a team that at the end of the championship was by far the world champion and placed three of its members in the top four places (first, second and fourth) in the individual rankings. Also of great satisfaction was the fact that the “inventors” of this discipline were so impressed by the rules and the way in which this championship was conducted that they asked to organise it for 2026.

In 2023, at the World Street Fishing Championship held in Mantua (Italy), an app capable of interfacing with the computer programme used for compiling the rankings of all our championships was used for the first time. Last year, the same app, improved and refined, was used at the World Street Fishing Championship in Peschiera del Garda (Italy) and at the Kayak World Championship held in Bracciano

(Italy). Thanks to this application, it is now possible to record competitors' catches in real time, thus considerably reducing the time needed to prepare rankings.

The application, combined with the rankings programme, will also be used for all other FIPSeD championships, including those related to Coarse or Feeder Angling. In fact, starting this year, tests will be conducted during some world championships in feeder and coarse fishing to verify the full functionality of the app and how well it integrates with the rankings software. This will make it possible to enter weigh-ins and fish counts directly at the competition venue, with the data automatically transferred into the rankings system—allowing for near real-time final standings.

In terms of doping controls, during this four-year term, 90 tests were conducted: 30 in 2021, 20 in 2022, 18 in 2023, and 22 in 2024. The results received so far from the International Testing Agency (ITA), almost all of them, have been negative, except for six athletes who tested positive. Among these, two had their violations confirmed by WADA and received multi-year bans from competition. Two others were declared not guilty, having provided valid medical certificates proving the use of diuretics prescribed for hypertension. The final two cases are still awaiting verdicts, as they participated in recently held championships.

As always, I conclude my report by thanking all the members of the Directive Committee, without whose support it would not have been possible to complete the countless tasks that our role requires. Indeed, there are currently 27 World and Continental Championships, and if, as we expect, more Continental Championships are developed, that number could rise significantly. In such a case, a dedicated body beyond the Directive Committee may need to be established to ensure FIPSeD's presence and support at the various competition venues.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the national federations which, year after year, contribute more and more to making our beloved FIPSeD a truly great organisation.

FIPSeD President  
Prof. Ugo Claudio Matteoli