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**SSF** REGIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM  
BRIGHT SPOTS ~ HOPE SPOTS

**When: July 1-3, 2024**

**Where: Larnaca, Cyprus**

**How: Submit abstract by March 15!**

2024 SSF REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM SERIES

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## 2024 Regional Symposium Series

### Proceedings

#### Small-Scale Fisheries Regional Symposium for Europe

#### ‘Bright Spots ~ Hope Spots’

July 1-3, 2024

Pervolia, Cyprus

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## **International Planning Committee**

**Katia Frangoudes**, IUEM/UBO

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**Alicia Bugeja Said**, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Animal Welfare,  
Malta

# SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

All sessions will be held at the Journalists' Village.

All time shown in Eastern European Summer Time (UTC +3).

**Monday, JULY 1<sup>st</sup> – DAY 1**

## REGISTRATIONS

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 08:30– 8:45

## WELCOME AND OPENING

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:45– 9:00

## SESSION 1: SHARING THOUGHTS ON 'BRIGHT SPOTS & HOPE SPOTS' FOR SSF EUROPE

**\*\*\* Open dialogue for all to participate \*\*\***

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00– 10:30

Chair: Ratana Chuenpagdee

**BREAK (10:30-11:00)**

## SESSION 2: FROM THE ECONOMIES AND LABOUR PERSPECTIVE

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:00– 12:30

Chair: Dražen Cepić

Speakers:

- **Silvia GÓMEZ-MESTRES**, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain  
*Community economies in western mediterranean small-scale fishing communities*

- **Luis MIRET PASTOR**, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain  
*The need for socio-labor data to address fisheries issues at the European level*
- **María Andrée LÓPEZ GÓMEZ**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada  
*Recruitment in Small-Scale Fisheries: Lessons from the North Atlantic*

### LUNCH (12:30-13:30)

### SESSION 3: FROM THE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM PERSPECTIVE

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 13:30– 15:00

Chair: Milena Arias Schreiber

Speakers:

- **Jose J. PASCUAL-FERNÁNDEZ**, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain  
*The Step-Zero of Marine Protected Areas: Small-scale fishers, Stakeholders Participation and 21st century challenges*
- **Kostas GANIAS**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece  
*Fishing over a Mediterranean coral bed: Can an environmental issue become a professional opportunity?*
- **Katia FRANGOUEDES**, IFREMER, France  
*A combination of conservation targets impacts SSF and fisheries governance: the example of Bay of Biscay in France*

### BREAK (15:00-15:30)

## **SESSION 4: FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVE**

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 15:30– 17:00

Chair: Jose Pascual-Fernández

Speakers:

- **Marios PAPAGEORGIU**, Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre & Association of Scientists and Fishermen Network, Cyprus/ University of Patras, Greece  
*Shaping the future of the Cypriot fisheries based on sector's needs: Moving towards a fishermen-centred approach to inform fisheries management*
- **Jaime RAMÓN-BRUQUETAS**, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain  
*Inadequacy of legislation to the market structure of small-scale fishery products*
- **Maria HADJIMICHAEL**, Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, Cyprus  
*Death by a thousand cuts? Understanding the multiple factors for the decline of the Cypriot small-scale fisheries*

**Tuesday, JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> – DAY 2**

### **EXCURSION TO FISHING COMMUNITIES (WITH LUNCH STOP)**

Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30– 15:00

### **SESSION 5: FROM FISHERS AND COMMUNITIES' PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15:00– 16:30

Chair: Katia Frangoudes

Speakers:

- **Chantal LYONS**, Bycatch Projects Lead at Mindfully Wired Communications, United Kingdom  
*Sounding out a cleaner catch: Fisher experiences from the Clean Catch cetacean bycatch mitigation trial*

**Wednesday, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> – DAY 3**

**SESSION 6: COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION FOR SSF FUTURE**

Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00– 10:30

Chair: Raquel de Cruz Modino

Speakers:

- **Cornelia NAUEN**, Mundus maris asbl, Europe  
*Men and women in artisanal fisheries securing futures together with conservationists*
- **Georgios NIKOLAIDIS**, University of Cyprus, Cyprus  
*Association Network of Cooperation between scientists and fishermen: A bridge of cooperation among scientists and fishermen following the principles of the bottom-up participatory approach to advice fisheries management*
- **Danijel KANSKI**, Fisheries consultant, Croatia  
*Small scale, big responsibility: Cooperatives in Croatian SSF*

**BREAK (10:30-11:00)**



## **SESSION 7: LIFE STORIES, SATISFACTION AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00– 12:30

Chair: Jaime Ramón-Bruquetas

Speakers:

- **Milena ARIAS SCHREIBER**, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain/ School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
*What is the future of our profession? Imaginaries and life stories across three generations of women on-foot shellfish collectors in Galicia, Spain*
- **Dražen CEPIĆ**, University of Zadar, Croatia  
*Generational renewal and job satisfaction of SSF in Croatia*
- **Raquel DE LA CRUZ MODINO**, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain

**LUNCH (12:30-13:30)**

## **SPECIAL SESSION 8: TBTI BOOK LAUNCH**

**"IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES: A LEGAL AND POLICY SCAN"**

Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13:30– 15:00

Chair: Ratana Chuenpagdee

Speakers:

**Julia NAKAMURA**, FAO, Italy

**Milena ARIAS SCHREIBER**, U. Santiago de Compostela, Spain / U. of Gothenburg, Sweden

**Alicia BUGEJA SAID**, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Animal Welfare,  
Malta

**BREAK (15:00-15:30)**

**SESSION 9: ROUNDTABLE ON 'REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND  
FUTURE PROSPECTS'**

Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15:30– 17:00

Chair: Ratana Chuenpagdee

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17:00– 17:15

## Abstracts

### **What is the future of our profession? Imaginaries and life stories across three generations of women on-foot shellfish collectors in Galicia, Spain**

**Milena Arias Schreiber**, CRETUS, Department of Applied Economics, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden [milena.schreiber@gu.se](mailto:milena.schreiber@gu.se)

**Katia Frangoudes**, Université de Bretagne Occidentale UBO, Brest, France

**Ingemar Bohlin**, Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

The on-foot harvest of shellfish has been carried out by Galician women since time immemorial. Until the end of the last century, women of young age– mainly from low-income families - were brought to the beach by their mothers and grandmothers to be taught where, when and how to collect shellfish. Since the process of professionalization of this on-foot shellfish fishery during the 1990s, this activity has only been allowed to women (or men) in possession of a fishing license (permex in Spanish) which is only granted to people older than 18 years. The professionalization also brought about the implementation of a co-management regime following international standards for sustainable exploitation of marine resources and the establishment of women shellfish collectors' associations with certain level of participation in decision-making arenas. Despite these developments, the number of on-foot shellfish collectors in Galicia has been in decline over the last two decades. Hard working conditions and the low profitability associated with diminished catches, habitat deterioration and climate change might be contributing to this decline. This paper uses life stories of women on-foot shellfish collectors belonging to three different generations and assesses the extent to which their visions of the future of the profession are influenced by their experiences, identities and family traditions. Drawing on the concept of imaginaries as collective representations of a desired future, the paper examines the values and

cultural changes that the advent of professionalization and sustainable development has had on this group of women in Galician traditional fishing communities.

**Keywords:** On-foot shellfish fisheries, Life stories, Imaginaries

## **Generational renewal and job satisfaction of SSF in Croatia**

**Dražen Cepić**, University of Zadar, dcepic@unizd.hr

**Danijel Kanski**, Fisheries consultant

**Branko Ančić**, Institute of Social Research in Zagreb

Fisheries are a sector of the blue economy that is increasingly facing problems of generational renewal. This is particularly an issue with small-scale fisheries suffering from more difficult access to resources due to competition from industrial and recreational fishing, regulatory issues, market access, and other reasons. In this paper, we explore this topic by analysing job satisfaction and factors which contribute to it, including incomes, inter-generational ties to fishing, identity, and values. Furthermore, we aim to unpack job satisfaction by analysing what fishing subjectively represents for fishers, such as: relaxation, freedom, source of livelihood, tradition, competition, physical effort, socializing, and enjoyment of nature. This is analyzed alongside their pro-environmental attitudes and support for sustainable management tools (e.g., support for closed areas, co-management, concerns for climate change). The analysis is based on the sample of 550 fishers from Croatia, collected as part of the project “Sustainable fishing: social relations, identity and co-management of Adriatic fishery resources”, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. The paper will focus on small scale fisheries, but the sample of general population of fishers (large scale, small scale, recreational) will allow a comparative perspective.

**Keywords:** Generational renewal, Job satisfaction, Identity

## **A combination of conservation targets impacts SSF and fisheries governance: the example of Bay of Biscay in France**

**Katia Frangoudes** UBO, Katia.Frangoudes@univ-brest.fr

**Adeline Bas**, IFREMER

The last years, numerous dolphin deaths were observed on French beaches and caused outrage from French eNGOs which have alerted French society and the public authorities about the situation. According to eNGOs the death of dolphins is caused from fisheries activity in particular some gears such netters or pelagic trawlers. eNGOS vision was supported by scientists because a large share of the dolphins' injuries appears to be caused by fishing gear. In February 2023, the European Commission announced the goal of shutting down several areas from fishing activities to preserve species and habitats in different EU regional seas, including the Bay of Biscay. One year later the Bay of Biscay was closed for one month to SSF vessels using nets as well to pelagic trawl while bottom trawlers continued to operate. In between, French government stated the objective to designate 10% of its seas as highly protected marine areas and several Natura 2000 areas located in Bay of Biscay need to become highly protected area with restrictions to all extractive activities mainly fisheries. The French fisheries industry reacted to this combination of conservation targets with demonstrations, without acknowledging the differences between the objectives. The presentation will focus on the arguments used by the different actors involved in this conflictual situation through analysis of articles published in national, regional, or sectorial newspapers, supplemented by data collected through interviews. The idea is to understand how conservation objectives are impacting gears deployed by SSF and how multilevel governance is responding to conservation claims.

**Keywords:** Conservation, Small-scale fisheries, Governance

## **Fishing over a Mediterranean coral bed: Can an environmental issue become a professional opportunity?**

**Kostas Ganias**, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,  
[kganias@bio.auth.gr](mailto:kganias@bio.auth.gr)

**Theofanis Karidas**, Fishers' association of Thermaikos Municipality

**Alexandra Tachoula**, School of Biology, Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki

**Chrysanthi Antoniadou**, School of Biology, Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki

In addition to serving as a significant location for small-scale fisheries (SSF), the Eastern Thermaikos Gulf (North Aegean) is an important habitat for the Mediterranean coral *Cladocora caespitosa*. We used information from fishers and on-site observations to map the spread of *Cladocora* beds off the fishing port of Nea Michaniona, which were found to cover the 5-25m bathymetric zone till the beginning of the deeper detritic/muddy zone. The coral zone is included in the operational area for shallow métiers of the local SSF, including gillnets for catching red mullet and trammel nets for catching common cuttlefish. Based on a comprehensive five-year monitoring assessment, it was observed that fishers using these métiers systematically collect and discard a large number of *Cladocora* specimens. While both gears catch a similar amount of *Cladocora*, trammel nets capture larger specimens than gillnets. The fishers appear to be well aware of the specific locations of denser populations, which they avoid in order to protect their nets. In a pilot project, we attempted to establish communication between a select group of fishers with a dive centre to investigate the feasibility of employing hot spots as sites for diving tourism. Both professionals exhibited a high level of enthusiasm, and notably, the fishermen showed a positive attitude towards the closure of certain grounds in exchange for alternative income from fishing tourism. The potential incorporation of such hot spots might be achieved by the expansion of a neighbouring Natura site situated along the coastline of Aggelochorion lagoon.

**Keywords:** Fishing tourism, Small-scale fisheries, *Cladocora*

## **Community economies in western mediterranean small-scale fishing communities**

**Silvia Gómez Mestres**, Dep. Social Anthropology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, [silvia.gomez@uab.cat](mailto:silvia.gomez@uab.cat)

**Beatriz Patraca**, Dep. Social Anthropology, Autonomous University of Barcelona

**Josep Lloret**, ICM-CSIC

The management strategy of the Common Fisheries Policy has only focused on reversing the trend towards overexploitation of resources by limiting fishing effort and the characteristics of fishing gear. However, these measures have not contributed to correcting the chronic overexploitation of resources and, moreover, have had socioeconomic consequences for the fishing sector. In particular, a 30% reduction of the fleet in the Mediterranean Member States, with the consequent destruction of jobs. CFP measures to alleviate this structural adaptation have been limited to promoting the diversification of fishermen's activities, subsidizing the lack of employment opportunities or simply compensating for the exit of the sector. This paper presents initiatives aimed at producing community-based initiatives, promoting cultural heritage, improving the value of the product and its commercialization in alliance with other social actors. This presentation aims to show the efforts that are being carried out to generate transformative changes from the community of the marine protected area of Cap de Creus made up of artisanal fishers, scuba divers, local entities and associations dedicated to the defense of the environment, scientists, and primary care health centers that promote the "blue recipe". Projects for the restoration and recovery of marine ecosystems, initiatives for the commercialization of local fish products, wellbeing and ocean literacy activities and the appreciation of cultural heritage are just a few examples of these efforts.

**Keywords:** Marine protected areas, Community economies, Transformative changes



## **Death by a thousand cuts? Understanding the multiple factors for the decline of the Cypriot small-scale fisheries sector**

**Maria Hadjimichael**, Senior Associate Scientist, Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, maria.hadjimichael@cmmi.blue

The Cypriot small-scale fishing fleet is the backbone of fishing sector in the Republic of Cyprus (RoC), constituting its largest fishing sector. Nevertheless, following this trend, small-scale fishers are increasingly being marginalised, both figuratively and literally, at sea. This presentation will explore the changes experienced by small-scale fishers in the RoC from the 70's onwards. The presentation will contribute to further understanding the multiplicity of factors driving small-scale fishers out of the profession. On one hand, one can identify issues such as overfishing, ecosystem changes and an increase in fuel costs which have made the profession unviable over the years. On the other, it is important to also note that there are management discrepancies which contribute to the increasing challenges faced by the sector such as the gaps in understanding the adjustments of the fishing fleet capacity since accession to the European Union, and the way different Blue Economy sectors have been displacing small scale fishers from an increasingly congested marine space.

## **Small scale, big responsibility: Cooperatives in Croatian SSF**

**Danijel Kanski**, fisheries consultant, barbaburaz@gmail.com

**Dražen Cepić**, University of Zadar

**Branko Ančić**, Institute of Social Research in Zagreb

Fisheries cooperatives play a crucial role in the sustainable management of fisheries and the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. The idea is that through collective action, small-scale fishers can more successfully achieve fairer prices in value chains and ensure that a larger portion of the value remains at the lowest levels of resource extraction. In this paper, we analyze three cases of fisheries SSF cooperatives in Croatia: from the island of Vis, based on demersal and pelagic long-lines; from the Velebit Channel based on traps and catching Norway lobster; and from the Istrian Peninsula representing a more general case of multi-gear, multi-species fishers. The paper explores issues related to the lack of vertical integration in value chains, consolidation of wholesale based on international firms replacing local traders, and its consequences on the diminished collective bargaining potential of the fishers. However, the paper also presents the potential for growth. The research was conducted as part of the project “Sustainable fishing: social relations, identity and co-management of Adriatic fishery resources”, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation.

**Keywords:** Fisheries cooperatives, Value chains, Traders

## **Recruitment in Small-Scale Fisheries: Lessons from the North Atlantic**

**María Andrée López Gómez**, Memorial University of Newfoundland,  
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**Carole White**, Global Environmental Justice Group, University of East Anglia

**Jahn Petter Johnsen**, Norwegian College of Fishery Science, UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

**Sharmane Allen**, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Paul Foley**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus

**Madeleine Gustavsson**, Ruralis – Institute for Rural and Regional Research, Trondheim, Norway

### **Estelle Jones**

**Barbara Neis**, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Nicole Power**, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Signe A. Sønvisen**, College of Fishery Science, UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

**Jostein Vik**, NTNU, Department of Sociology and Political Science. Trondheim, Norway

The experiences with ecological, economic and social collapse in North Atlantic fisheries after the 1970s, are the reason that fisheries policies in the countries around the North Atlantic contain measures to adapt their fishing fleets' capture capacity to resources and markets. The strong political focus on capacity control has in general resulted in a huge reduction in the number of fishing vessels and employment with effect on coastal communities' employment systems. This article is a comparative study that examines labour and recruitment of fishers in

SSFs in Norway, the United Kingdom and eastern Canada using a lens from Ribot and Peluso's Theory of Access. Scholars from the three countries performed a literature review of academic articles, grey literature and industry and government reports and used findings from their own research, to investigate how labour recruitment into SSFs is done, how it has changed, how different actors address it. Findings reveal similarities and differences across country cases that reflect socio-cultural, ecological and political-economic contexts that have impacted recruitment pathways. Findings reveal similarities and differences across country cases and that policy responses to recruitment challenges have been few and restricted in scope, with little attention to the regeneration of fisheries communities. The article addresses both Neo-liberal policies that support the corporatization of the fisheries and fisher-supported policies designed to protect the independence of SSFs produce tensions that can exacerbate intergenerational recruitment, endangering intergenerational equity, access to fisheries among historically marginalized groups and coastal communities' sustainability.

**Keywords:** Small-scale fisheries, Recruitment, Retention

## **Sounding out a cleaner catch: Fisher experiences from the Clean Catch cetacean bycatch mitigation trial**

**Chantal Lyons**, Bycatch Projects Lead at Mindfully Wired  
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**Alessandra Bielli**, Fisheries Scientist at Cefas

**Will Shugg**, SSF fisher, Mevagissey

**Barry Preston**, SSF fisher, Mevagissey

Clean Catch is a collaborative programme bringing together fishers, scientists, policymakers, environmental organisations, and others to develop and refine ways to monitor and mitigate bycatch in UK fisheries. As part of Clean Catch, the government agency Cefas has been running a trial with gillnet fishers in the southwest of England since 2021 to test methods – mainly pingers – to reduce bycatch of common dolphin and harbour porpoise. Although delivered in part by Chantal Lyons, the presentation will focus on the experiences of the two skippers involved in the trial who are attending the Symposium, including: how they were recruited to the trial and why they wanted to get involved; their practical experiences of working with others in Clean Catch to test the mitigation measures; how their input and feedback has been used over the course of the trial; the benefits they perceive from being involved; the things they wish had been done differently in hindsight; and their hopes for the future of bycatch mitigation in UK small-scale fisheries. Alessandra Bielli will contribute additional information from her perspective as a Fisheries Scientist at Cefas and support with answering questions as needed.

**Keywords:** Bycatch, Sustainability, Collaboration,

## **The need for socio-labor data to address fisheries issues at the European level**

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**Andrea Márquez Escamilla**, Universitat Politècnica de València

**Paloma Herrera Racionero**, Universitat Politècnica de València

In recent years, references to the fishing crisis have been continuous, especially in developed countries. However, quantifying this crisis in terms of employment is not an easy task, since databases are often incomplete and scattered. Quantifying and establishing temporal and geographic comparisons requires accurate data, which will be key to address problems such as generational replacement, working conditions, seasonality, illegal fishing, etc. This research will try to identify and pool databases on fishermen in different European countries in order to obtain an overview that will allow us on the one hand to identify problems and gaps that can be addressed in subsequent projects and research, both at European level and from different countries. This research presents an approach to fisheries statistical data obtained from Eurostat, as well as from the reports and databases elaborated by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), with a special interest in analyzing socio-labor data.

**Keywords:** Laboral data, Fisheries, Statistics

## **Men and women in artisanal fisheries securing futures together with conservationists**

**Cornelia E Nauen**, Mundus maris asbl, ce.nauen@mundusmaris.org

According to EuroStat data recorded landings of fisheries products from European waters were estimated at about 6 million tons in 2001, down to 3.2 million tons in 2022. Gradual decline slowed after the entering into force of the reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) end 2013, but was followed by a steeper decline after 2018. This casts some doubt on claims that the resources are nowadays better managed, even if a warming ocean provokes measurable poleward migration of species. Within this general picture, the broad-brush landscape is influenced by policy applications more in favour of industrial exploitations and regulatory and market environments making it very hard for many small-scale fishers (SSF) to remain in business, let alone attract younger successors for generational transition. In crowded marine spaces it is a challenge to allocate access rights fairly between fisheries, exclusion zones for resource and habitat protection or even recovery, platforms for fossil exploitation, wind farms, underwater cables and recreational uses. A number of local initiatives, e.g. in the Mediterranean spearheaded by artisanal fishers, seek to restore spawning grounds and other coastal habitats as a way to procure enough fish and other accessible activities to secure their livelihoods in the future. Despite valuable efforts of the SSF Cluster on the RISE UP to the Ocean platform collaboration and co-creation between SSF and conservationists is rather the exception. Here it is argued that trust-building between them could support structural shifts ending the on-going decline in biodiversity and ocean productivity.

**Keywords:** Small-scale fisheries, Ocean restoration, Cocreation

**Association Network of Cooperation between scientists and fishermen: A bridge of cooperation among scientists and fishermen following the principles of the bottom-up participatory approach to advice fisheries management**

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Association Network of Cooperation between scientists and  
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The Association Network of Cooperation between Scientists and Fishermen was established in 2020 under the "Thalassa 2014-2020" program to protect fisheries, safeguard fishermen's interests, resolve related issues, and ensure sustainable fish stock exploitation. Its founding members include the University of Cyprus – Oceanography Centre, Pancyprian Association of Professional Small-Scale Fishermen, Association of Polyvalent Fishermen, Pancyprian Association of Recreational Small-Scale Fishermen, Association of Net-on-Shoulder Fishermen and Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre. The association's primary objective is to create and establish a platform for scientists and fishermen to collaborate on actions such as protecting fisheries, securing fishermen's rights, resolving fisheries-related problems, and promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources. Additionally, it seeks to facilitate the application of innovative methods, develop fisheries-related expertise, and strengthen relations between fishermen. Furthermore, it aims to organize efforts to improve and develop sustainable fisheries, protect the marine environment in cooperation with competent authorities, coordinate members' activities, and foster social relations among members. It also aims to facilitate the transfer of ideas, experiences, and know-how from other countries. Since its inception, the network has facilitated dialogue between fishermen and scientists, resulting in significant actions. These include the production of scientific studies regarding the damages caused to fishing gear and catch from megafauna species, fuel and emission analysis in fishing vessels, tests on new selective fishing methods, studies on abundance and potential valorisation of invasive species and finally, the creation of a platform for promoting fishing tourism activities. These actions demonstrate the network's



commitment to collaborative efforts towards sustainable fisheries management.

**Keywords:** Fisheries co-management, Stakeholder engagement, Governance

## **Shaping the future of the Cypriot fisheries based on sector's needs: Moving towards a fishermen-centred approach to inform fisheries management**

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**Dimitrios K. Moutopoulos**, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Patras, Mesolongi, Greece

Despite the sector's minor contribution (0.5%) to the Cyprus Gross National Product, the fisheries sector in Cyprus is particularly important to the micro economy of coastal communities, offering direct and indirect employment and supporting small family business. However, like any industry, the Cyprus's fisheries sector faces its own challenges and opportunities. The current study aimed to 1) identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOTs) of the fisheries sector in Cyprus from Fishers' Ecological Knowledge (FEK) and 2) provide strategic recommendations for the overall improvement and sustainability of Cyprus' fisheries based on the sector's needs. Following a participatory approach, a workshop with 39 participants, 30 small-scale fishermen (SSF), 6 large pelagic fishermen (LPF), and 3 scientists was conducted in November 2023. The participants were active professional fishermen from all geographical regions of the Republic of Cyprus. The participatory fishermen were first introduced to the principles of the strategic SWOT analysis and then conducted the analysis. Based on the SWOT analysis findings, fishermen and scientists worked together to conduct a TOWS matrix analysis. Data from the

SWOT-TOWS analyses were descriptively presented and used to develop strategic recommendations for the sector. The results show that there are more Weaknesses and Threats (65%) than Strengths and Opportunities (35%), suggesting that the Cypriot fishing sector is currently struggling. The strategic recommendations proposed in the current study could significantly improve the sector's overall performance, giving a light of hope for the future of the fisheries sector in Cyprus.

**Keywords:** Fisheries co-management, Fishers Ecological Knowledge, SWOT

## **The Step-Zero of Marine Protected Areas: Small-scale fishers, Stakeholders Participation and 21st century challenges**

**Jose Pascual-Fernández**, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Social y Turismo, Universidad de La Laguna, [jpascual@ull.edu.es](mailto:jpascual@ull.edu.es)

**Raquel de la Cruz Modino**, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Social y Turismo, Universidad de La Laguna

**Jaime Ramón Bruquetas**, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Social y Turismo, Universidad de La Laguna

**Grecy Pérez Amores**, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Social y Turismo, Universidad de La Laguna

**Agustín Santana Talavera**, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Social y Turismo, Universidad de La Laguna

With a wealth of experience spanning over two decades in marine conservation and a thorough analysis of the step-zero processes of various marine reserves established in the 20th century, we are well-equipped to delve into the challenges that new marine protected area proposals in Spain face. Our direct involvement in several processes proposing new areas (Tenerife, Palamós, El Hierro) and our extensive knowledge of others proposed (La Gomera, Conil...) provide us with a unique and credible perspective. Since 2007, no new areas have been created, and while the 2008 economic crisis may have contributed to this, we believe other factors are at play. Notably, small-scale fishers have supported the plans in almost all new proposals. Similarly, the opposition to the proposals from specific stakeholders, mainly recreational fishers, and also poachers, highlights the magnitude of the issue. The disparity in the numbers and interests of the two groups is staggering. While there are approximately 1400 active artisanal fishermen in the Canaries, the number of recreational fishermen exceeds 90,000. This stark difference poses significant challenges for the step zero processes, especially when specific subgroups attempt to disrupt the processes using disinformation tools through social networks and other means. Understanding the actors involved in such processes, their methods and the instruments they use is a complex yet

crucial research topic. In this paper, we aim to present the current state of this issue and stimulate a discussion on the constraints that step zero processes face in an era influenced by social media.

**Keywords:** Marine Protected Areas, Small-scale fisheries, Spain

## **The need for socio-labor data to address fisheries issues at the European level**

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In recent years, references to the fishing crisis have been continuous, especially in developed countries. However, quantifying this crisis in terms of employment is not an easy task, since databases are often incomplete and scattered. Quantifying and establishing temporal and geographic comparisons require accurate data, which will be key to address problems such as generational replacement, working conditions, seasonality, illegal fishing, etc. This research will try to identify and pool databases on fishermen in different European countries in order to obtain an overview that will allow us on the one hand to identify problems and gaps that can be addressed in subsequent projects and research, both at European level and from different countries. This research presents an approach to fisheries statistical data obtained from Eurostat, as well as from the reports and databases elaborated by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), with a special interest in analyzing socio-labor data.

**Keywords:** Laboral data, Fisheries, Statistics

## **Inadequacy of legislation to the market structure of small-scale fishery products**

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Artisanal fishers consider that in some areas the current legislation does not suit their sector. The mismatches in relation to market structure and the marketing strategies of fishery products are a clear example. In addition, the transposition of European regulations by member countries into their own legislation can be uneven, which has different implications on the opportunities available to artisanal fishers depending on the side of the border where they fish. The EU Fisheries control system considers direct sale of a certain quantity of fishery products for private consumption. Spanish legislation allows Regional Governments to regulate direct sales, something that the Government of the Canary Islands has not developed. Therefore, currently, in the archipelago, an artisanal fisher cannot sell his catches directly to final consumers as they have traditionally done. Thus, the acquisition of local fish products in coastal areas is not easy, and those who want to purchase them must go to the few and expensive fishmongers that remain in large urban centers, or buy them through irregular channels in their community, from poachers or professional artisanal fishers who now sell them illegally. It would be interesting to develop a comparative study among member countries to analyze the effects of the different transpositions on the welfare of artisanal fishers and on the optimal food supply. The comparison of the impacts can shed light on the effects that unequal and inadequate implementation is having, and how to mitigate the negative ones.

**Keywords:** Small-scale fisheries, Markets, Value Chains

