

# ***GFCM SSF CONFERENCE:***

## ***CURRENT STATE OF SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN GREECE WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SOCIAL ASPECT***

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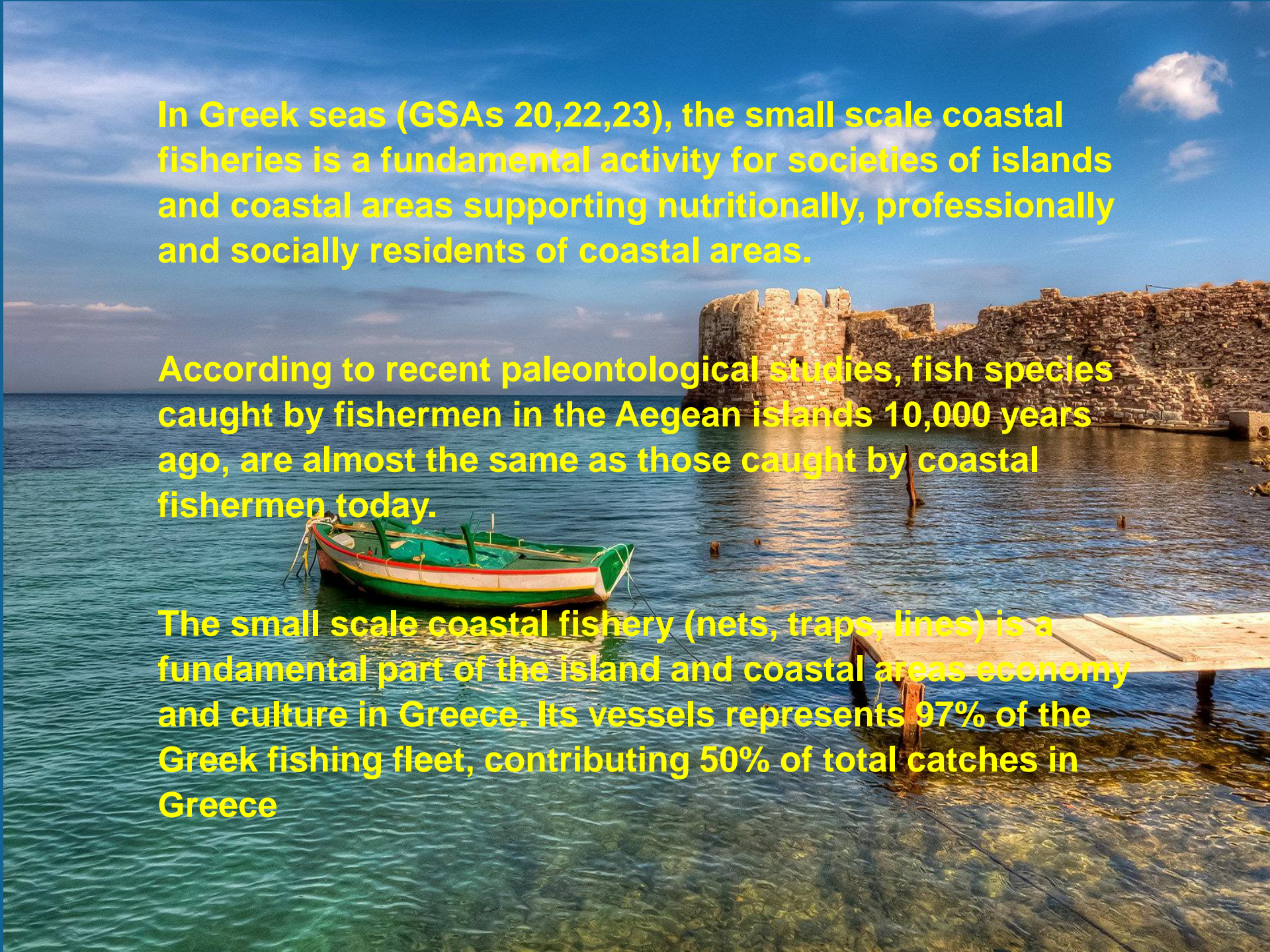
Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food  
Directorate General for Sustainable Fisheries



In Greek seas (GSAs 20,22,23), the small scale coastal fisheries is a fundamental activity for societies of islands and coastal areas supporting nutritionally, professionally and socially residents of coastal areas.

According to recent paleontological studies, fish species caught by fishermen in the Aegean islands 10,000 years ago, are almost the same as those caught by coastal fishermen today.

The small scale coastal fishery (nets, traps, lines) is a fundamental part of the island and coastal areas economy and culture in Greece. Its vessels represents 97% of the Greek fishing fleet, contributing 50% of total catches in Greece





## SMALL SCALE FISHERIES FLEET:

14,865 vessels

10,170 wooden boats

13,985 < 10m

They supply markets with fresh and high quality fish

### SSF characteristics:

- Wide variety of fishing gear
- Large numbers of small scale fishermen
- Fishermen are dispersed throughout the Hellenic territory
- Very selective fishing methods
- People in certain island/coastal areas are strongly dependent on it



# GEARS-TARGETED SPECIES:

## Major fishing gears:

- Nets
- *Lines*
- Trolls
- Traps

## Major targeted species:

- Red Mullet
- Common pandora
- White sea bream
- Common seabream
- Picarel
- Boops
- Swordfish
- Bluefin tuna

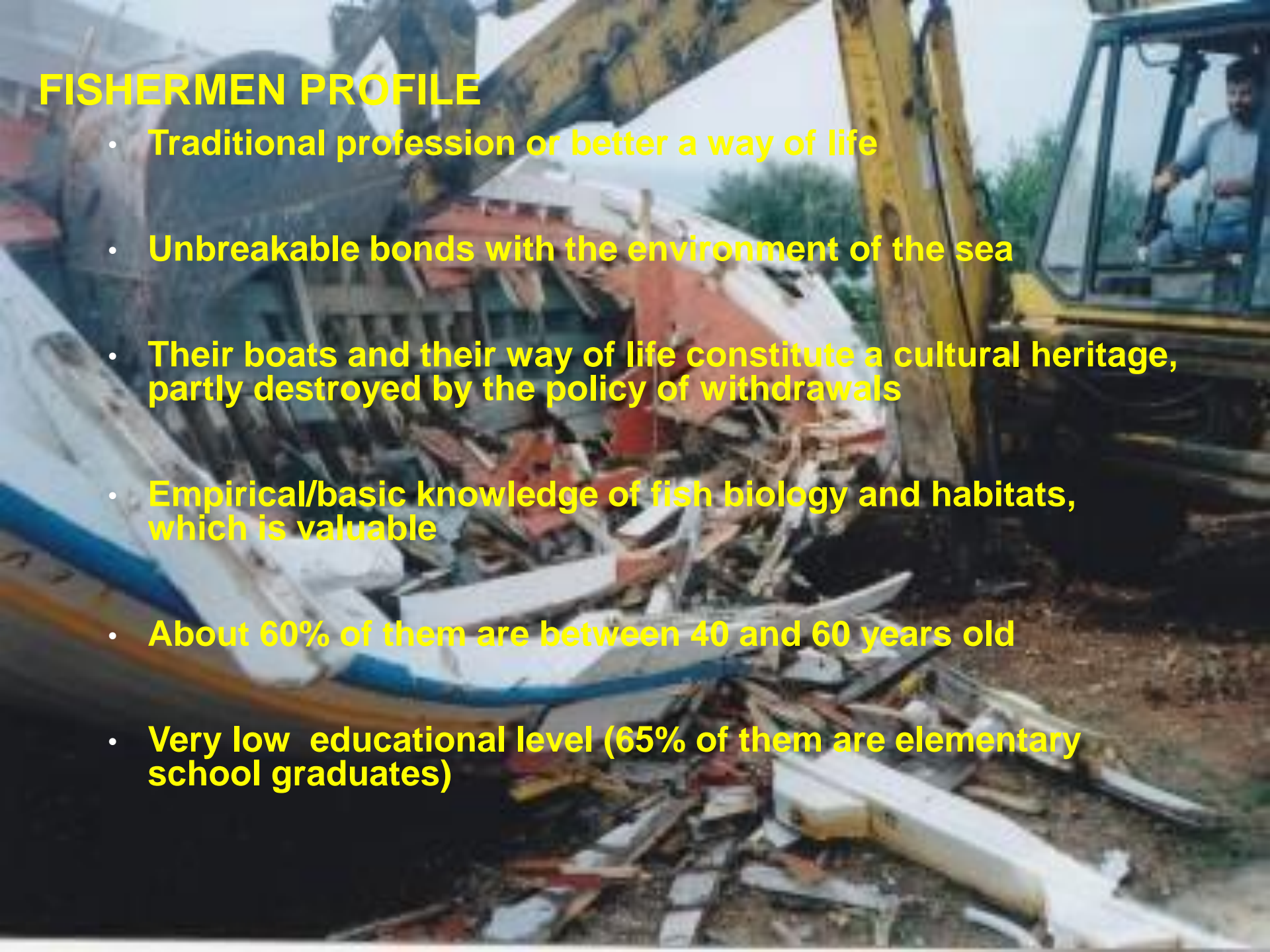
**In total 14 fishing gears and techniques are being used and 62 species are targeted.**

- **The wide variety of gears and catches depends on the region and time of the year**
- **The nature of small scale coastal fisheries (multi-gear and multi-species) makes its management very difficult**

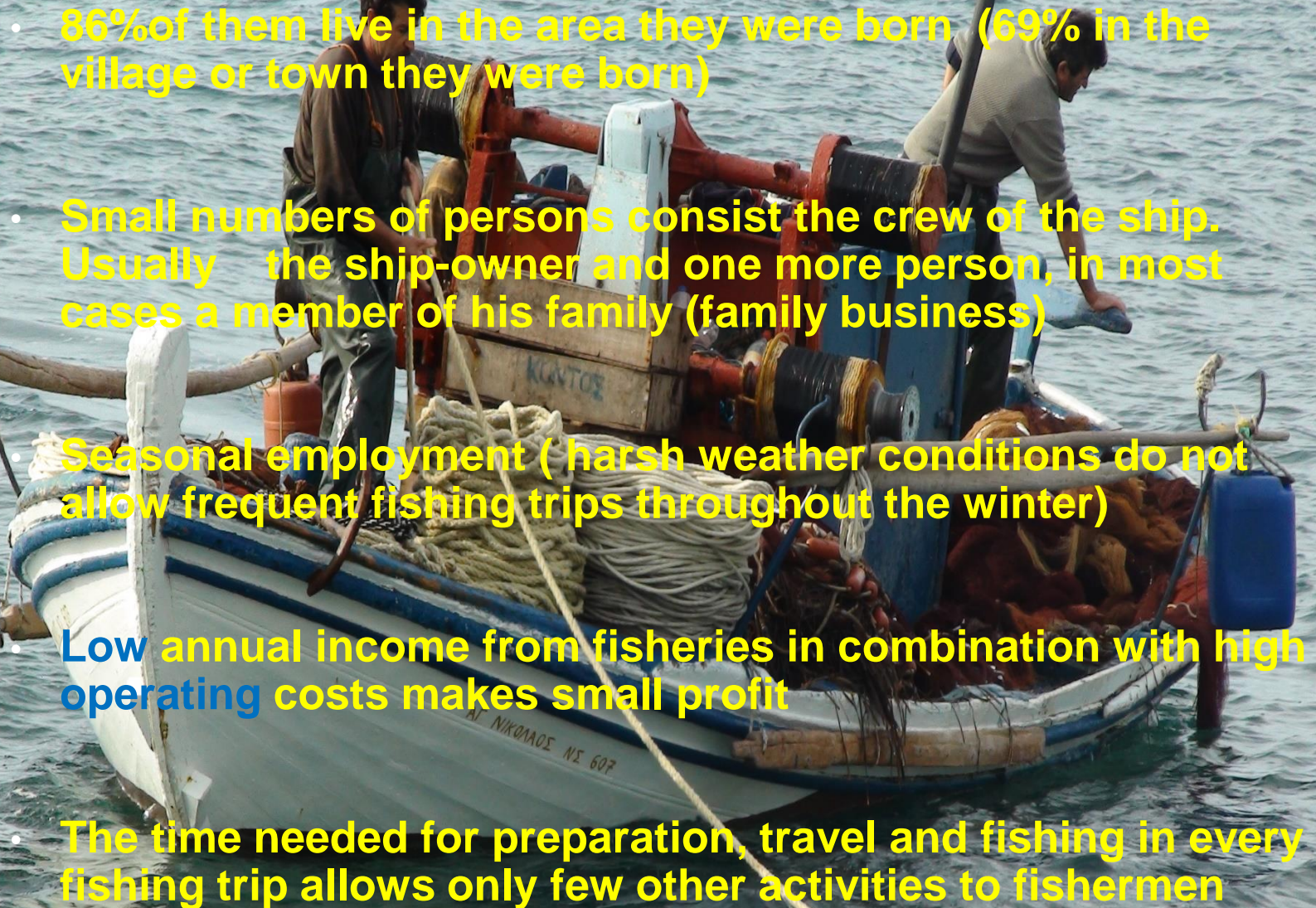


# FISHERMEN PROFILE

- Traditional profession or better a way of life
- Unbreakable bonds with the environment of the sea
- Their boats and their way of life constitute a cultural heritage, partly destroyed by the policy of withdrawals
- Empirical/basic knowledge of fish biology and habitats, which is valuable
- About 60% of them are between 40 and 60 years old
- Very low educational level (65% of them are elementary school graduates)





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- A photograph of a small, white fishing boat with blue stripes on its hull, floating on a choppy sea. Two men are on board. One man, wearing a brown jacket and dark trousers, is standing near the stern, handling a large coil of white rope. The other man, wearing a grey sweater and dark trousers, is standing near the bow, also handling fishing gear. The boat is equipped with various fishing equipment, including a large red and white winch, a blue fuel tank, and a blue buoy. The name "ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ" and the number "ΝΣ 607" are visible on the side of the boat. The background shows the open sea under a clear sky.
- 86% of them live in the area they were born (69% in the village or town they were born)
  - Small numbers of persons consist the crew of the ship. Usually the ship-owner and one more person, in most cases a member of his family (family business)
  - Seasonal employment (harsh weather conditions do not allow frequent fishing trips throughout the winter)
  - Low annual income from fisheries in combination with high operating costs makes small profit
  - The time needed for preparation, travel and fishing in every fishing trip allows only few other activities to fishermen

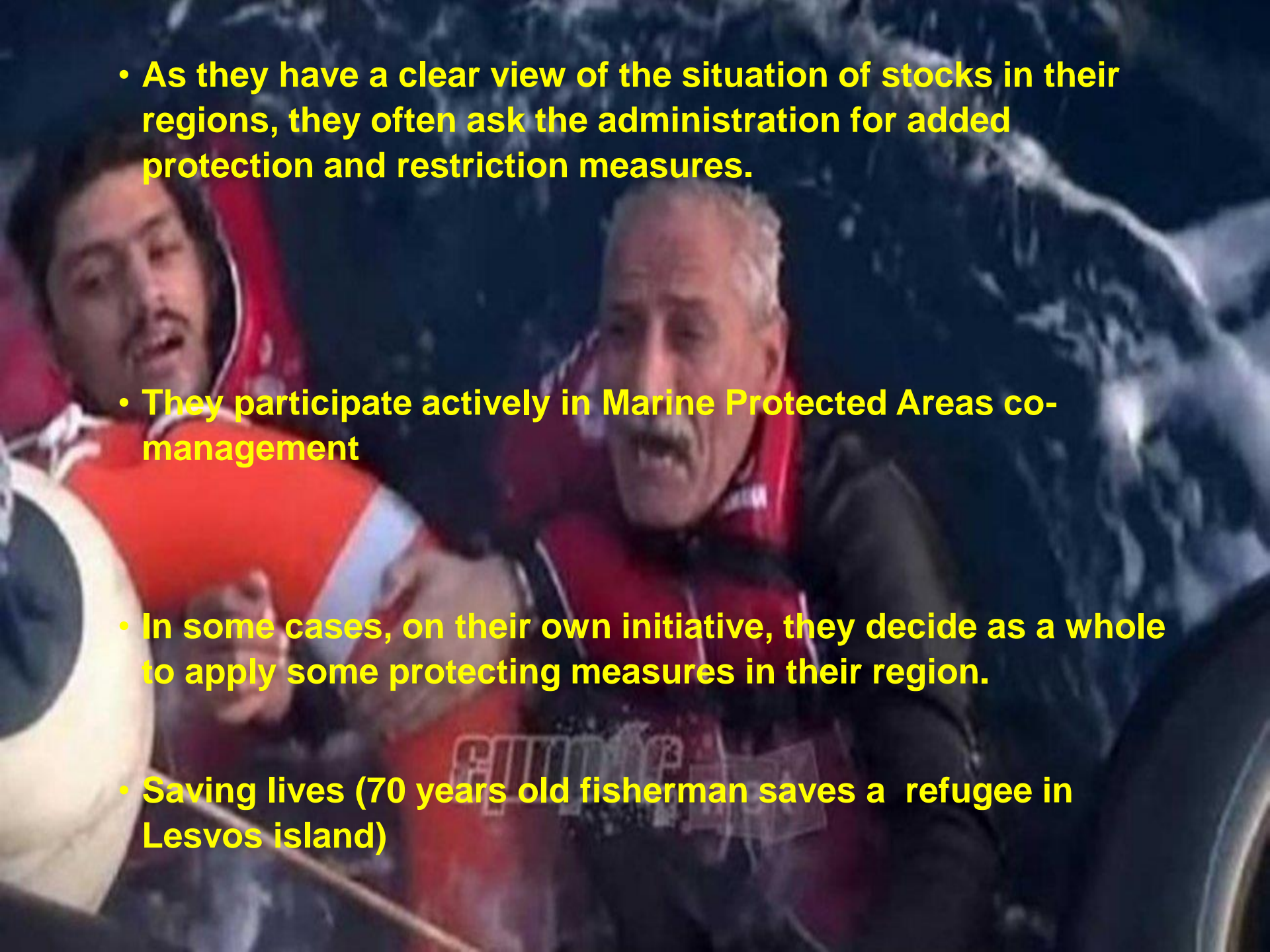


- As they have a clear view of the situation of stocks in their regions, they often ask the administration for added protection and restriction measures.

- They participate actively in Marine Protected Areas co-management

- In some cases, on their own initiative, they decide as a whole to apply some protecting measures in their region.

- Saving lives (70 years old fisherman saves a refugee in Lesvos island)



## **Main problems they face:**



**1.Decreased fish stocks**

**2.Pollution (contributes to fish stock decrease)**

**3.Climate change**

**4.Lessepsian invasive species**

**5.Monks / dolphins / turtles (destroy nets and catch)**

**6.Recreational fisheries**



**7. Obligations (by legislation), in which they cannot respond, often special technical knowledge needed**

**8. No possibility to improve the seaworthiness of their vessels**

**9. New generation doesn't find this profession attractive.**

**10. The traditional character of small scale coastal fisheries is dying little by little**

**11. An emigration wave created, mainly from South Aegean islands to European destinations due to the economic crisis**

A series of white diagonal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, located in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

## WHAT FISHERMEN ASK FOR:

1.Update of legislation

2.More protection means

3.Control of IUU fisheries

4.Contribution in decision making

5.Control on catch trafficking

6.Restrictions and control of recreational fisheries


7.'Realistic' obligations



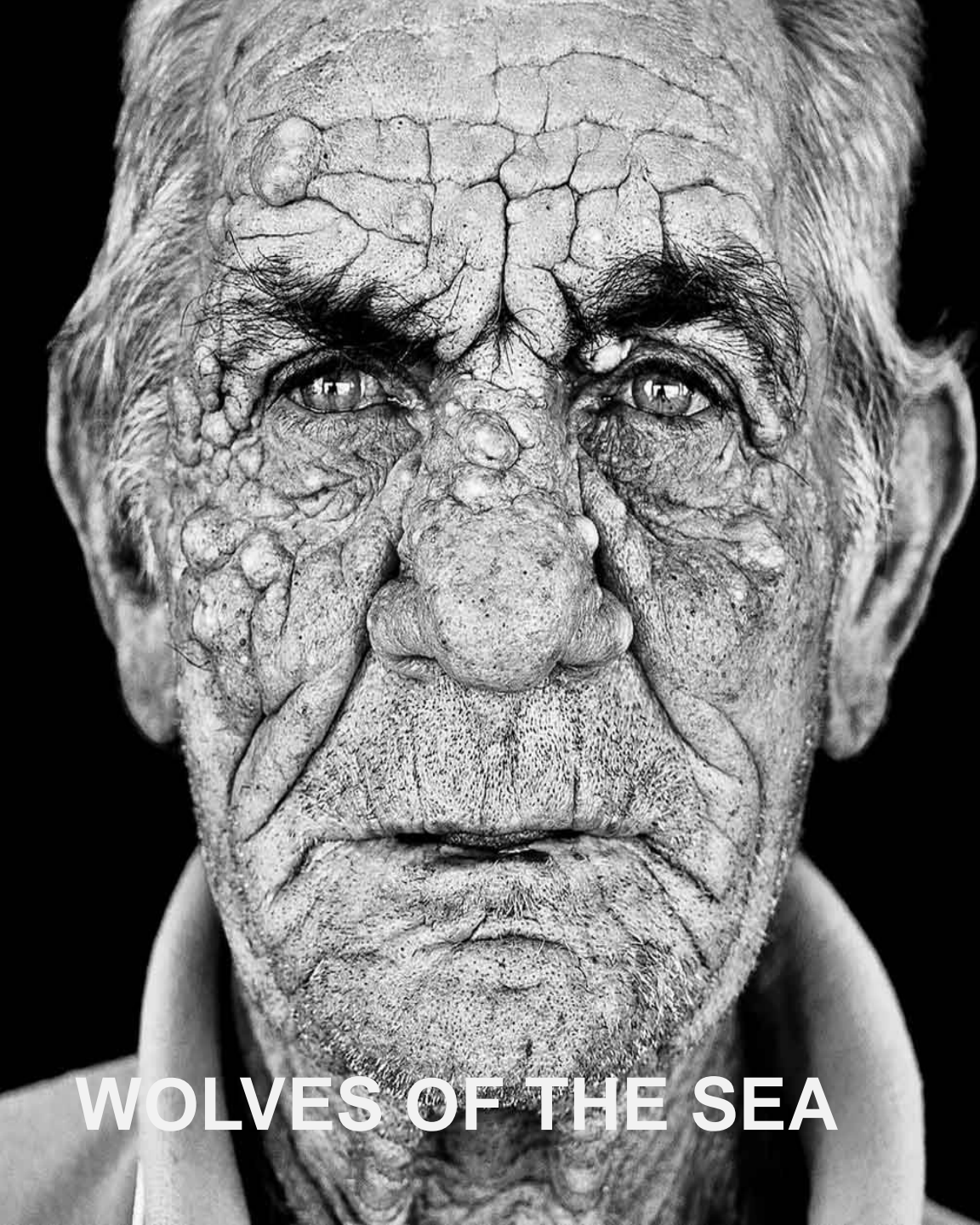


## WHAT WE CAN DO:

- Different management and control methods for small scale coastal fisheries and industrial fisheries.
- Small scale fisheries management requires taking into account biological as well as social and economical elements
- Avoidance of excessive and ineffective measures (restrictions, obligations etc) in national and international level
- make small scale fishermens' job easier , so young people may join

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- Improving their educational level
  - Initiatives need to be taken for their products to obtain added value
  - Encourage them to make associations and cooperations, so that they can control the subjects of fisheries management, environmental protection at local level, as well as the promotion of their products





# WOLVES OF THE SEA

**They are the last of their kind.  
They are threatened with  
extinction.  
Their way of life is threatened.**

**Since 2010, a photographer,  
Christian Stemper is  
photographically  
documenting the last  
remaining individual  
fishermen and their boats, on  
the Greek island of Paros.**

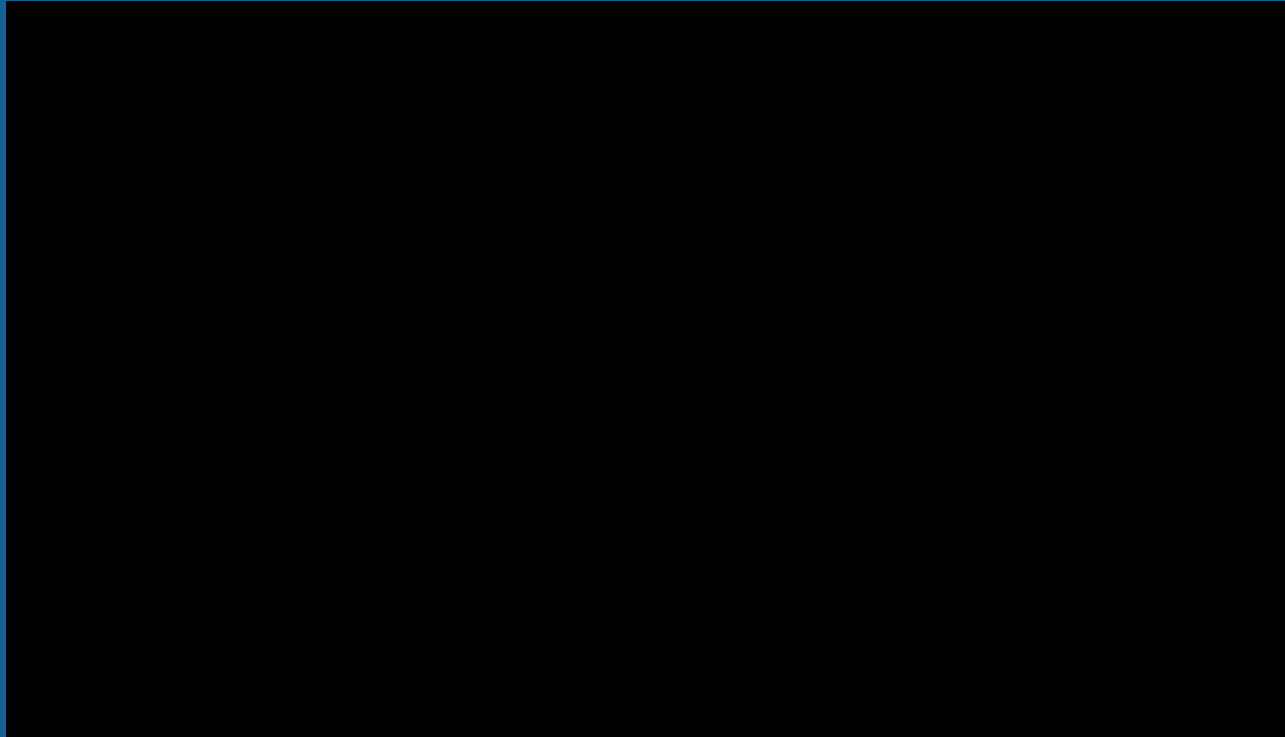
**A total of 99 Boats and 31  
fishermen.**

**Half of the boats that have  
been photographed in 2010  
do not exist anymore -  
destroyed, abandoned or sold  
to tourists.**

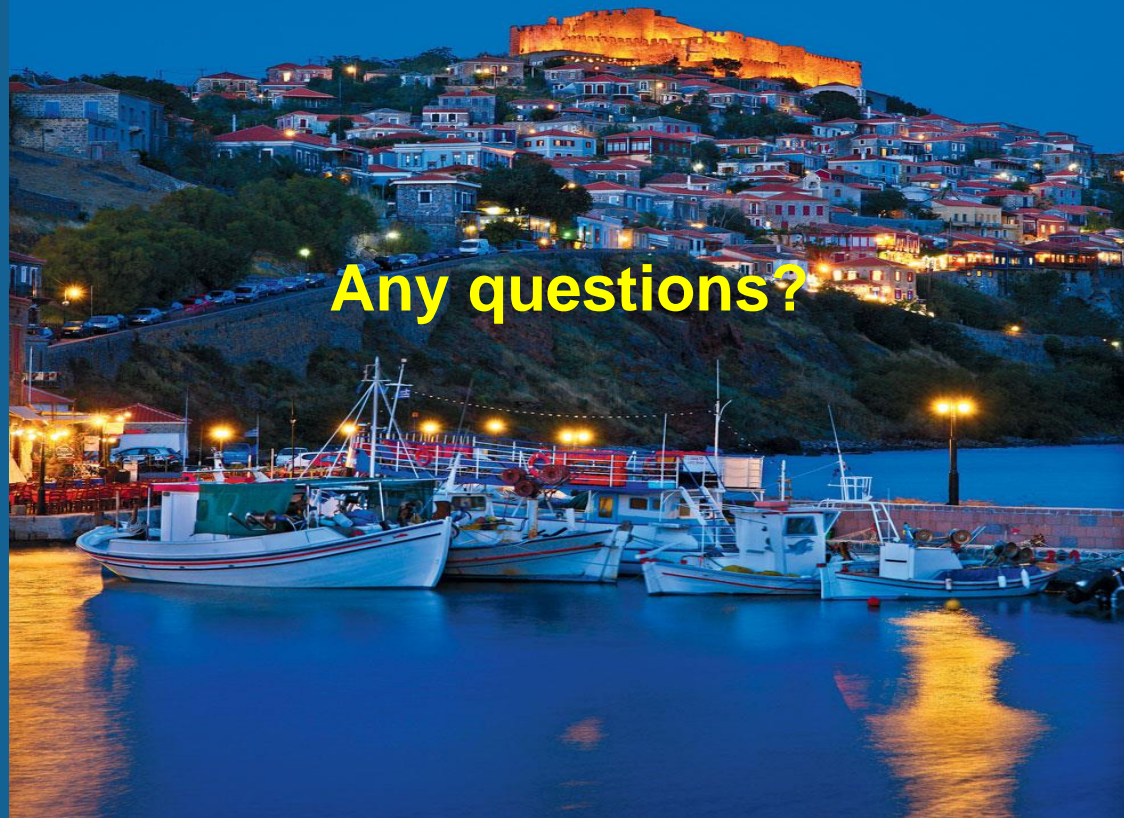
**Because no one wants to  
become a fisherman anymore,  
the traditional fishing craft is  
dying, and therefore a  
millennia-old tradition.**

# **LUPIMARIS**

## **Traditional Fishermen Of Paros Island – Cyklades**







Any questions?

**THANK YOU**

