

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE CATALAN SANDEEL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Success and challenges faced by the sand eel fishery co-management committee within its four living years



Presentation prepared by the Catalan sand-eel fishery Co-management Committee

7–9 March 2016, Algiers, Algeria

**Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries
in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea**

GFCM Regional Conference

CONTEXT



Gymnammodytes cicerelus (sonso blau)

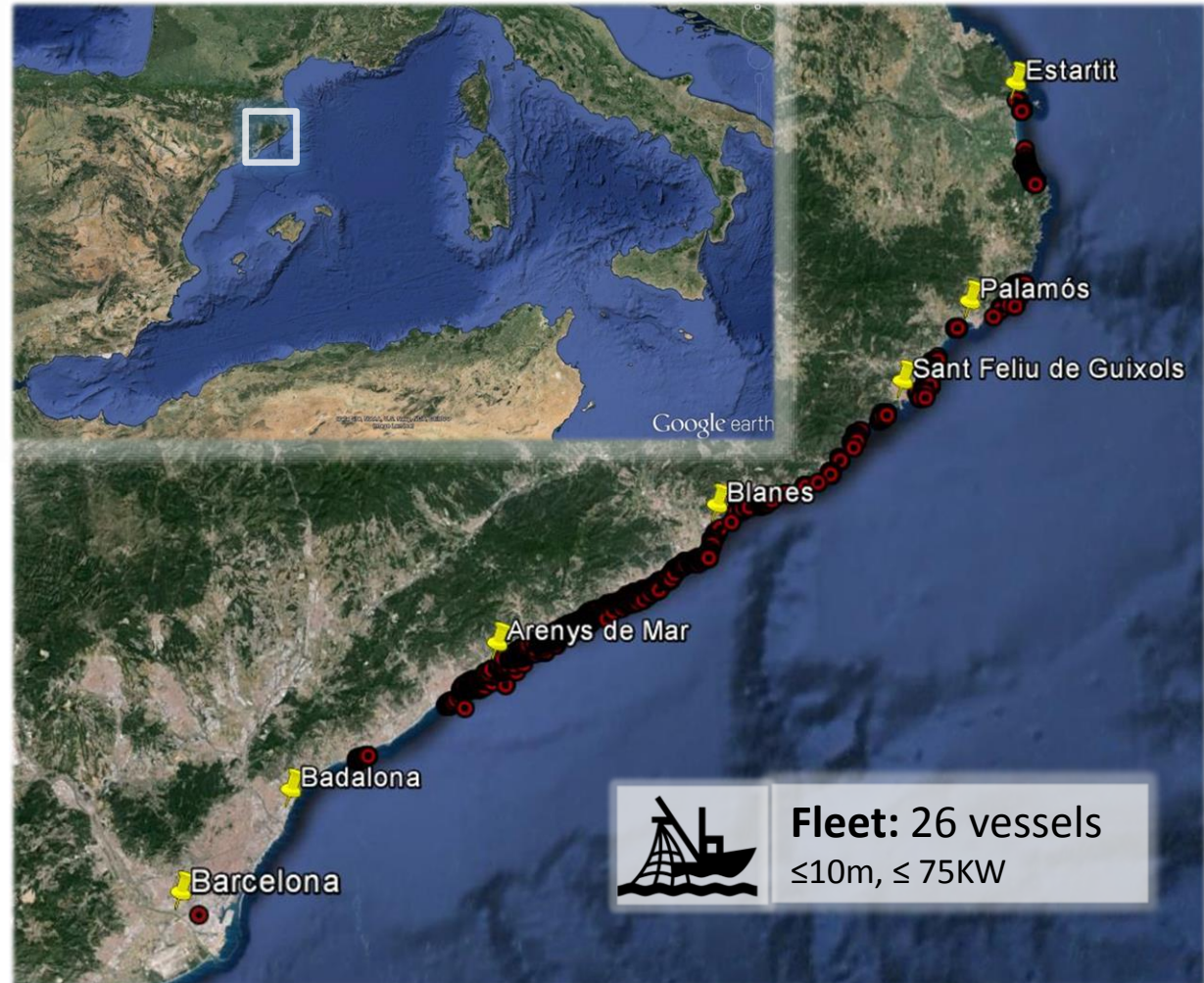


G. semisquamatus (sonso ros)



Crystallogobius linearis (llengueta blanca)
Aphia minuta (llengueta rosa)

The fleet uses a particular type of **boat seine** for targeting mainly **sandeel (sonso)** in shallow waters during most of the year and transparent goby (llengueta) mainly during winter



HOW IT ALL STARTED?

At the start of 2012, the European Commission (EC) decided to close the fishery due to the absence of an appropriate management plan and scientific monitoring



Facing shut down, fishers approached managers, scientists and NGOs for help

As a result a multi-stakeholder committee (CMC) was formed and launched a strategy:



April 2012

CMC constituted

May 2012
Scientific fishery approved

Feb 2014

MAP approved by the EC

March 2014

Appropriate Regulation approved

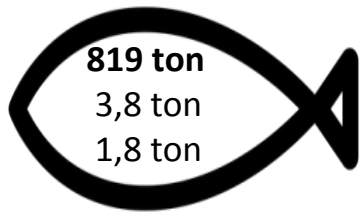


CO-MANAGEMENT

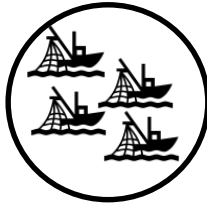
THE MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Multi Annual Plan (MAP) establishes **conservation objectives** and a **complete set of measures** to achieve them:

✓ Measures for controlling output and inputs



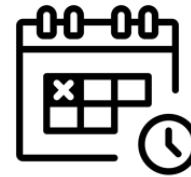
TACs



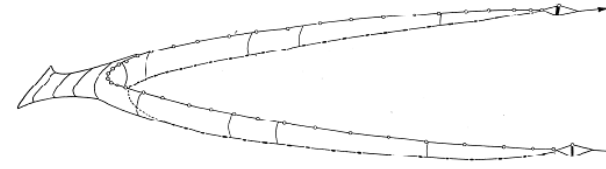
Closed census



Seasonal closure

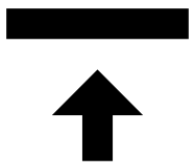


Fishing schedule

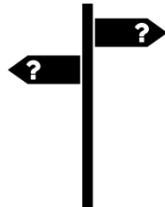


Gear tech. specifications

✓ Harvest control rules



Daily Quota



Quantifiable indicator



Reference points



Precautionary actions

✓ Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures



Detailed logbooks



Monitoring on board



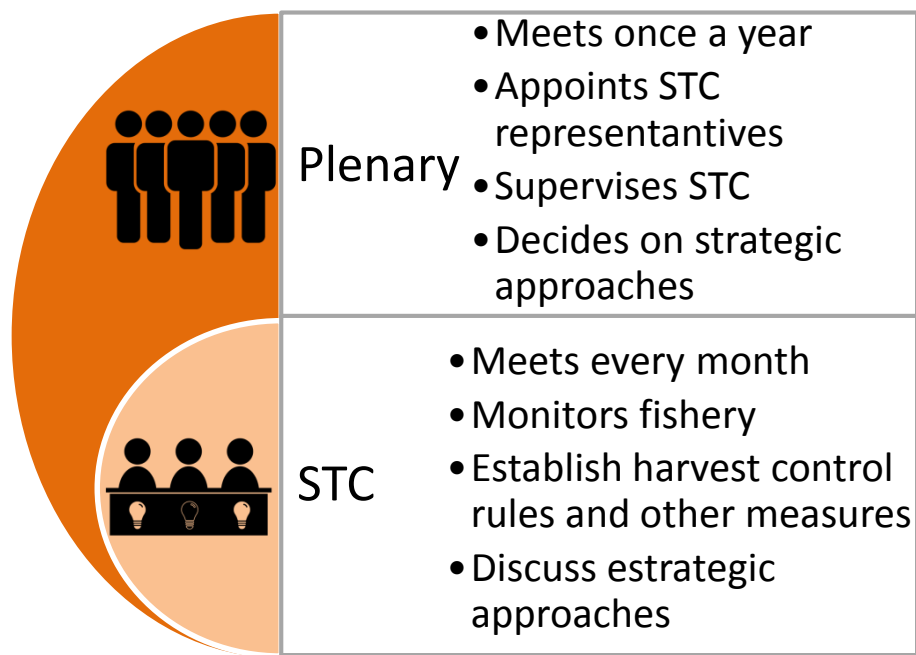
*Authorized landing harbors
and procedures*

THE CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

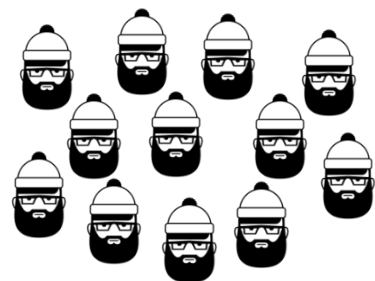
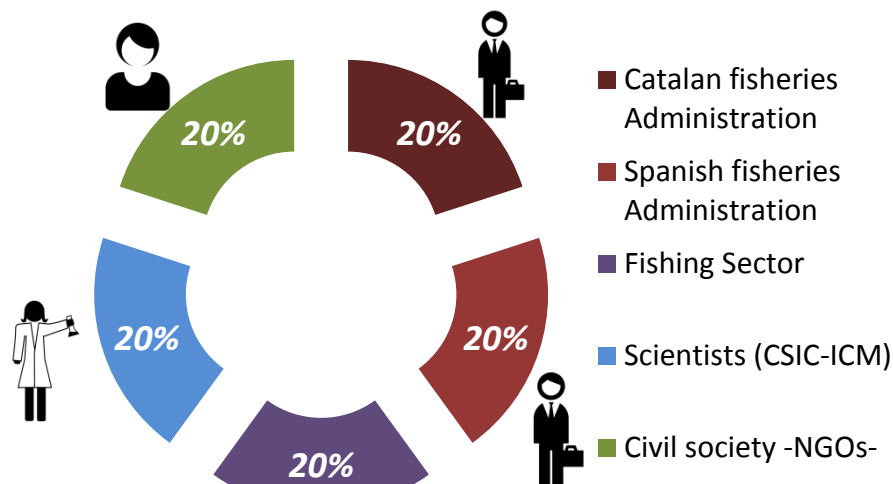


Fishery's management falls under the responsibility of the Co-management Committee (CMC)

The CMC has two constitutive bodies: Plenary (22 members) and Standing Commission (STC) of 10 representatives



Plenary & STC Composition



The STC also calls for an annual meeting with all the fishers



2 additional  as observers randomly invited to STC meeting

CO-MANAGEMENT HAS TRULY MADE THE DIFFERENCE

Along these 4 years the CMC has allowed us:



To be flexible



To respond in real time



*To **adjust harvest control rules and other measures**
finding **innovative solutions***

...and that means true adaptive management!

Key elements:

- Fishers and managers proactive towards a shared solution
- Trust at the STC allows open heart discussions
- The STC is a real decision-making body
- Positive leadership and fluent communication among fishers

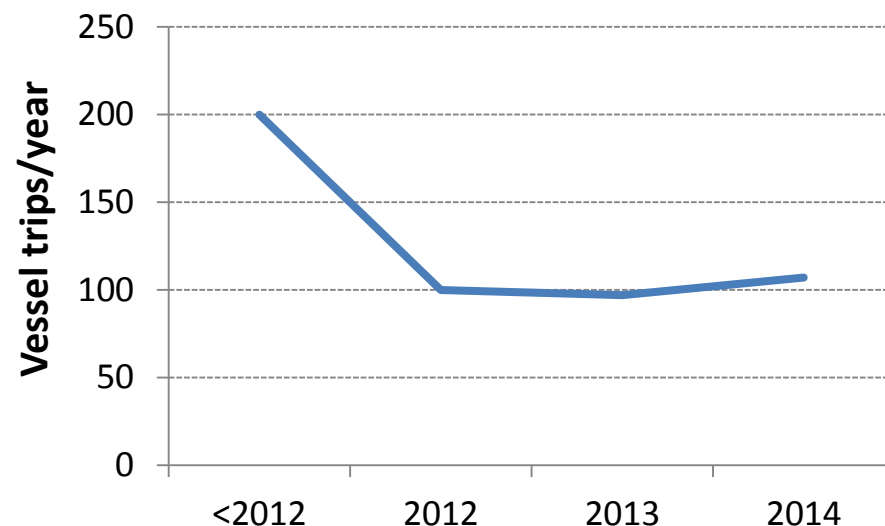
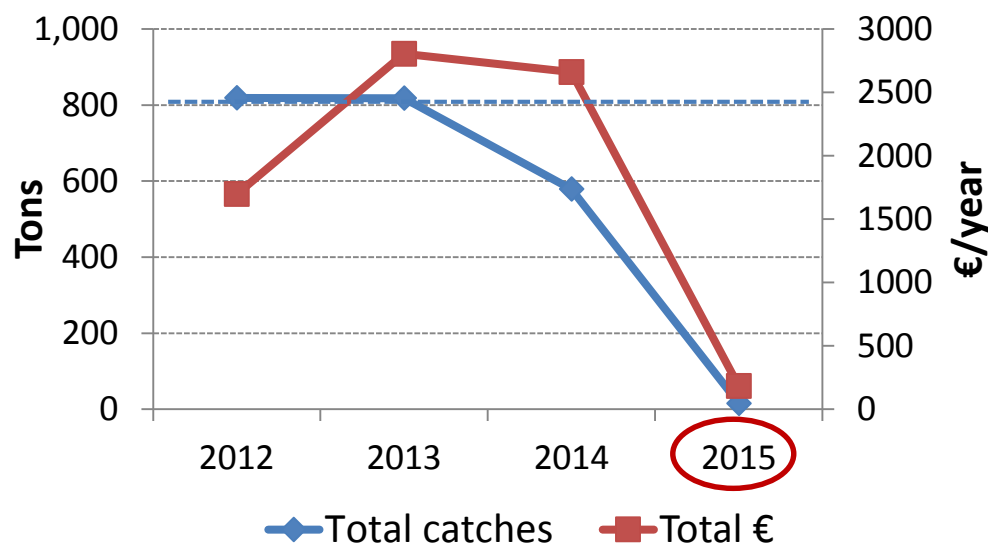




RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (I)

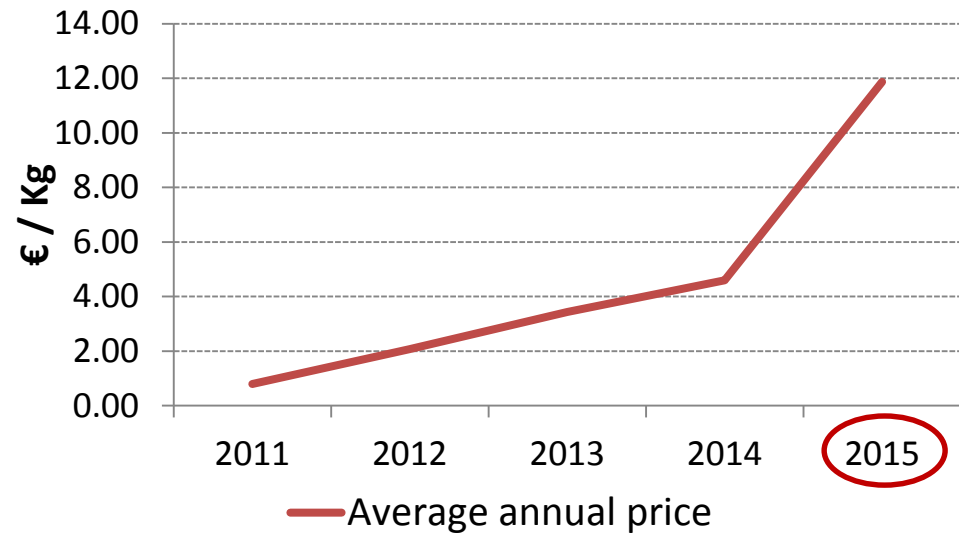


The CMC closed the fishery in July 2015



- Environmental factors influence sand eel recruitment and catchability. Historical series of landings have always been characterized by strong fluctuations
- Current TAC is considered to be set on precautionary levels
- Overexploitation is not likely to be the cause of the fishery collapse
- Illegal sale has been eradicated
- Fishing effort has been greatly reduced compared to previous situation:
 - 50% reduction in trips per year
 - Less fishing hours/day

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (II)



- Adaptive management allowed fitting landings to market demands resulting in increasing average prices
- In 2012-2014 fishers were spending less and earning much more
- Increased profitability and restricted access to the fishery has caused tensions within the fishing sector
- The CMC still suffers from legal weaknesses that jeopardize its viability

MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

- Co-management allowed for adaptive fisheries management
- Adaptive management allowed to increase profitability decreasing the fishing effort
- Increased sense of ownership among fishers: full compliance and commitment even during hard times
- To gain knowledge on the influence of environmental factors on sand eel recruitment and catchability is essential to ensure stock sustainability
- The CMC is facing a new challenge: keep finding solutions when resource is scarce
- All the representatives at the STC keep a strong commitment in spite of the crisis
- It is important to balance the necessary incentive access rights generate and the inevitable conflicts that may cause



KEEP
CALM
AND
KEEP
FIGHTING

- **It is essential that Competent Authorities (including RFMO) understand and support governance schemes, as a solid regulatory framework is a need to ensure their sustainability**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

REFERENCES

Lleonart J., Demestre M., Martín P., Rodón J., Sainz-Trápaga S., Sánchez P., Segarra I., Tudela S (2014) **The co-management of the sand eel fishery of Catalonia (NW Mediterranean): the story of a process.** In: Lleonart J., Maynou F. (eds), *The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas*. Sci. Mar. 78S1: 87-93. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3989/scimar.04027.25A>

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Watch a 7' VIDEO on the committee



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