

SUMMARY OF THE CORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN SEA

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*FREMSS PANEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF HORSE MACKEREL AND
MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN SEA*

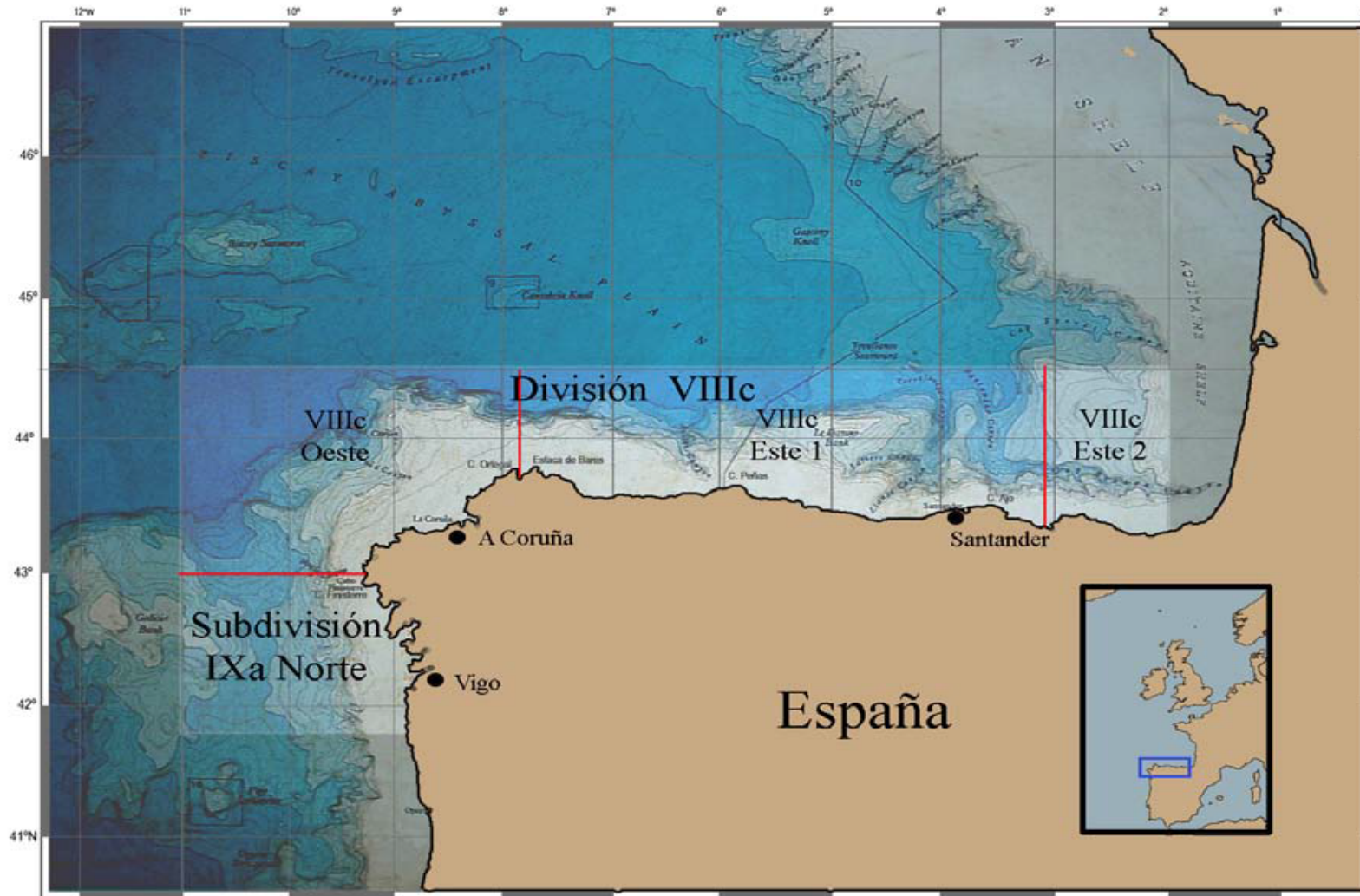
DRAFT OF BASE PAPER FOR PREPARING A MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HORSE MACKEREL AND MACKEREL POPULATIONS IN THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN SEA

PREPARED BY: FUNDACIÓN RENDEMENTO ECONÓMICO MÍNIMO SOSTIBLE E SOCIAL (PANEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF HORSE MACKEREL AND MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN SEA).

SOURCES USED:

- CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE FREMSS PANEL FOR SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF HORSE MACKEREL AND MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-WEST CANTABRIAN SEA.
 - DOCUMENTATION AND ARGUMENTS OF THE FISHERIES COMMISSION, INTERNATIONAL AND COMMUNITY REGULATIONS, AND WORKING PAPER OF THE COMMISSION SERVICES CALLED "SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT *which is included in the paper on Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multi-annual plan for the populations of cod, herring and sprat from the Baltic Sea and for fisheries that exploit these populations and modifying the (EC) Council Regulation no. 2187/2005 and repealing the (EC) Council Regulation no. 1098/2007*".
 - CONCLUSIONS DERIVED FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING ON "MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT" HELD IN BRUSSELS AT THE FISHERIES COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITH PRESENCE OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION, ON 23 FEBRUARY AT 15 HOURS.
 - THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY IN DATA AND FIGURES, BASIC STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2014 EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 - ANALYSIS OF FISHERIES SECTOR, XUNTA DE GALICIA, IGE
 - ICES 2014. Report by the ICES Advisory Committee. ICES Advice. Books 7 and 9.
- MYFISH Project (Maximising Yield of Fisheries while Balancing Ecosystem, Economic and Social Concerns). 7th European Union Framework Programme (FP7/2007- 2013, grant agreement no. 289257).
- Analysis and Registries Service of the Sea and Rural Environment Board.

Graphic of the Plan





The RMS (Maximum Sustainable Yield) should of course also be profitable. This is why parameters will be found that assess the profitability of these fisheries.

The purpose of this plan lies in finding a point between the biological RMS and the economic and social RMS, and in this respect this plan is based on the premise that the different dynamics not of the fish but of the fisheries and their different interactions must be examined. In this respect the MYFISH project has reached important conclusions. The main purpose of the MYFISH (7thFP) Project is therefore to define suitable management strategies to make sure that the fishery is ecological, economic and socially sustainable. The RMS concept has consequently been extended, integrating economic and social components. The initial results of the assessment of the biological and economic impact of different management strategies for the North-West Cantabrian Sea fishing ground show that the quotas of horse mackerel and mackerel condition the artisanal and trawl fisheries in this region. An increase in these quotas, compatible with the stocks sustainability objectives could come to represent more than a 30% increase in the present net value of the fishery.

This plan is based on the following premises which are compatible with the regulatory and political repository of the common fisheries policy:

One:

Have a profitable fishery for horse mackerel and mackerel; fishermen cannot go bust.

Two:

Aim at high catches to supply a market that is in deficit in the EU, within respect of the RMS objectives which are marked in this plan.

Three:

The stability of the horse mackerel and mackerel fisheries must be guaranteed. The fact that it is not possible to predict the future level of fishing possibilities makes it difficult for the sector to plan its activities, with the consequent risk of additional adaptation costs being produced.

As a consequence of ATCs (Admissible Total Catches) that are too low and maintaining a mortality for fishing at these fisheries that is far below what an economic and social and also biological RMS objective would admit, also aimed at obtaining an economic and social profitability for these fisheries, has generated a reduction in yields, income and elimination of Fisheries units made with investments coming partly from EU fishing funds, causing fishing units to be definitively scrapped which due to the present legal and political framework are incapable of obtaining an economic and social profitability which at no time would endanger the biological profitability of these fisheries and achieving a RMS in 2020 (we are including documents regarding the vessels that were scrapped in 2014 and 2015 and which were used for this fishery (ANNEX III).

To face this problem and this situation, the following proposal is raised:

To group these horse mackerel and mackerel populations in a single management plan, which enshrouds evident advantages, such as stability and foresee ability of the most important catches for the fleet in the fishing zone which the Plan would embrace, the increase in the probability of fulfilling the international obligation to reach the RMS by 2020 at the latest, and also the added value which a management plan offers.

Technical and regional environment control measures will likewise be established in that plan for the fleet concerned by this plan in order to guarantee that technical and control measures are adapted to the specific nature of the fleet which this PLAN involves, and comply with the criteria of good governance and guarantee the success of the PPC.

Including the horse mackerel and mackerel populations in a multi-annual management plan will provide a systematic base to fix the annual ATCs, so that the affected fishing sector will be able to count on foreseeable catches, which will help it to plan its activities and help towards stability in supplies. It will also create added value, because the management plans are generally a preliminary requirement for a fishery to be able to obtain a certification [for example, from the *Marine Stewardship Council* (MSC)]. Fish caught at certified fisheries may be marketed at a higher price.

Eliminating the present fishing effort management system with the division of horse mackerel stocks in the VIIIc-IXa dividing line, with different ATCs for each stock, without there being an exception that enables one to go beyond the special condition of a 5% maximum transfer of quotas between both zones. The present situation of two stocks of horse mackerel divided at the VIIIc-IXa border, together with including the stock of mackerel from the management zone established in the North Atlantic general stock are questionable practices and which make a regionalised, efficient and optimum management difficult from a biological, economic and social point of view.

All this would lead to having a single fishing zone, which will simplify the legislative environment and will reduce the administrative burden for the Member States and the fishing sector.

The specificity of the exploitation model with boats composed of coastal vessels that dedicate their catches to human consumption with an economic structure formed by small and medium size enterprises, many of them of a family nature and with a strong social impact in coastal Regions such as Galicia, make it necessary to also establish specific management criteria. (INCLUDED HERETO AS ANNEX V ARE STATISTICAL DATA OF THE COMMISSION ON FISHING EMPLOYMENT AND DEPENDENCE IN REGIONS OF THE EU).

This plan would also avoid the production of discards derived from lack of quota of those species, because the state of under-exploitation of these resources that is currently found in this zone is causing the current available quotas for the different fleets to be unable to cover all the catches which could be made within the targets of a F-RMS for these species in the field of the zone which would be included in that plan. In accordance with this, the preliminary results of the MYFISH Project show that the quotas for mackerel and horse mackerel stocks are below the catch capacity of these species in the North-West Cantabrian Sea. At present the fleet should discard large quantities of mackerel and horse mackerel (which in terms of weight means more than 80% of the total discard). More extensive quotas for these species would reduce the present value of discard in the zone to 44%.



LOGICAL ASPECTS:

With regard to mackerel, and since a specific ATC should be considered, in tune with the management model of the horse mackerel population of the West, for the zone which this plan covers, taking $FRMS=0.25$ as reference point for this stock, we consider an increase of some 40,000 t. in the quota assigned to Spain for 2016 would mean an increase of 0.01 in the fishing mortality for all the stock.

This reference to the increase of + 0.01 for the entire stock should then be applied on the quota assigned to Spain for the geographic area of the Plan, forming the summands of the Spanish quota assigned to this stock, plus the 0.01 increase in the global F., which determines a specific ATC for the management zone.

With these parameters, the incidence of this increase in fishing mortality derived from applying the above formula would imply an adjustment in the fishing possibilities in the zone of the scope of the MULTI-ANNUAL plan with scarce incidence in obtaining the $FRMS = 0.25$, and with a high economic and social incidence since it means an average increase in the catches of this fleet which will facilitate the consolidation of the economic and social fabric of the zone without endangering the biological objectives.

It is evident that an increase of 40,000 T. for the management zone of this Plan or more, if applicable, depending on the global parameters, would facilitate the optimisation of the catches of this specie and would make it possible for the deficit mackerel quota vessels in the zone of the scope of the Plan to have sufficient resource to maintain the enterprises and jobs in zones that are highly dependent on these fisheries.

SOCIAL ASPECTS.

INCREASED NUMBER OF JOBS

According to the statistics for 2012 which were published by the Instituto Galego de Estatística (Galicia Statistics Institute) in 2014, the sector employs more than 33,000 people, two thirds of whom correspond to fisheries and aquaculture activities and one third are employed in the processing industry. The weight of the sector in terms of employment amounts to 3.2% of the total for Galicia.

The evolution in employment in the sector is negative, a thing that is common in activities related with the primary sector. Thus, if in 2000 there were 44,230 people who worked in the sector, in 2012 there were only 33,222 left, namely a loss of 25% in jobs since the year 2000 (IGE 2014). Análise Sector da Pesca).

According to the job coefficients employed by the Inst. Gal de Estatística, fisheries generate 17.6 jobs in the economy for every million € produced, 10.6 of which are generated in the actual fisheries and the remaining 6.9 correspond to indirect jobs in other branches of the economy that supply inputs to the fisheries or to their suppliers (IGE 2014. Análise Sector da Pesca).

It is calculated that for every additional ton of mackerel or horse mackerel that the fleet which fishes in the zone of the Plan can catch, 8.90 working hours could be increased in the marketing sector (we are including as ANNEX II a table from the ASOCIACIÓN DE EXPORTADORES DE A CORUÑA). (A Coruña Exporters Association)

DEPENDENCE

In accordance with the statistical data of the EU, the regions in the zone which are covered by this plan are among the most dependent in the fishing activity.

To understand the significance of the sector better in certain municipal and district economies, the Instituto Galego de Estatística highlights cases such as that of Ribeira, where 27.8 % of the GDP of the municipality is due to the activity of the fishing sector, whereas in Camariñas, A Pobra do Caraminal, Burela, Catoira and Xove the sector's contribution was more than 20% (IGE 2014. Análise Sector da Pesca). INCLUDED HERETO AS ANNEX IV

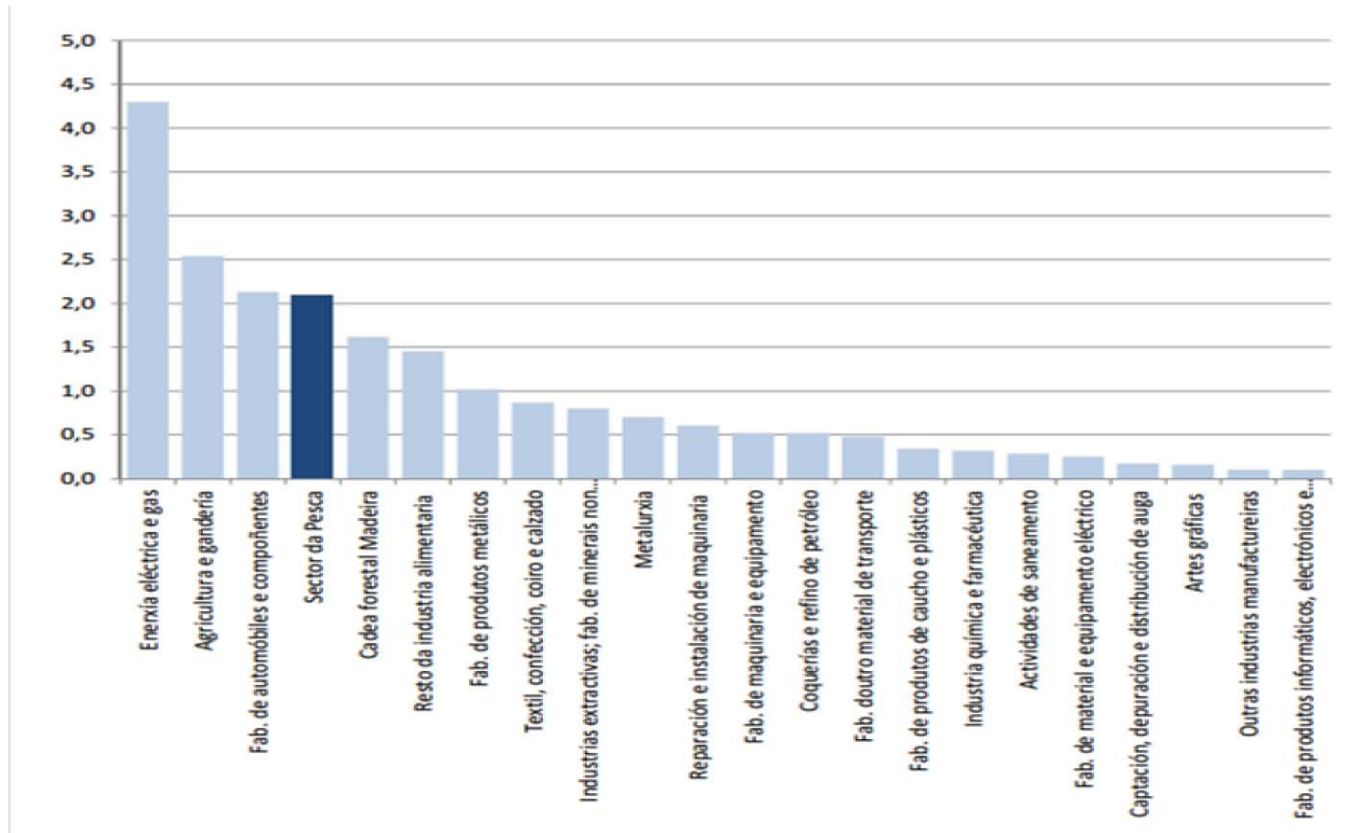
SOCIAL IMPACT

In accordance with the statistical data of the Report by the Working Group of the ICES 2014 on the fleets implicated in mackerel fisheries, the number of fishing units that depend on these fisheries is unparalleled in the whole of the EU.

According to the statistical data of the MAGRAMA, of the Autonomous Regions of the Cantabric and North-West, Galicia, Principality of Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Region, these fisheries generate more than 6,700 jobs in the extractive sector, and more than 30,000 indirect jobs in different sectors in the whole of the area of the zone where the PLAN is applied (INCLUDED HERETO AS ANNEX I IS DATABASE PREPARED BY THE FEDERACIÓN GALEGA DE CONFRARÍAS), fundamentally highlighting the most important Fisheries Region of the EU, Galicia,. Below we are showing a breakdown of the most important data at economic and social level in accordance with "ANÁLISE DO SECTOR DA PESCA", published by the IGE in 2015 which we are including as annex IV to this document:

GRAPH 1

Contributions to the Galicia GDP. Year 2012. Branches of the primary and secondary sector



Note: Annex 2 includes the CNAE codes which are included in our fields of activities

Source: prepared by the authors based on the IGE. Contas económicas de Galicia. Base 2008. Series 2000-2012

In accordance with this data, the FISHING SECTOR IN GALICIA RANKS AS THE FOURTH SECTOR WITH GREATEST PRESENCE IN THE GALICIAN ECONOMY

