

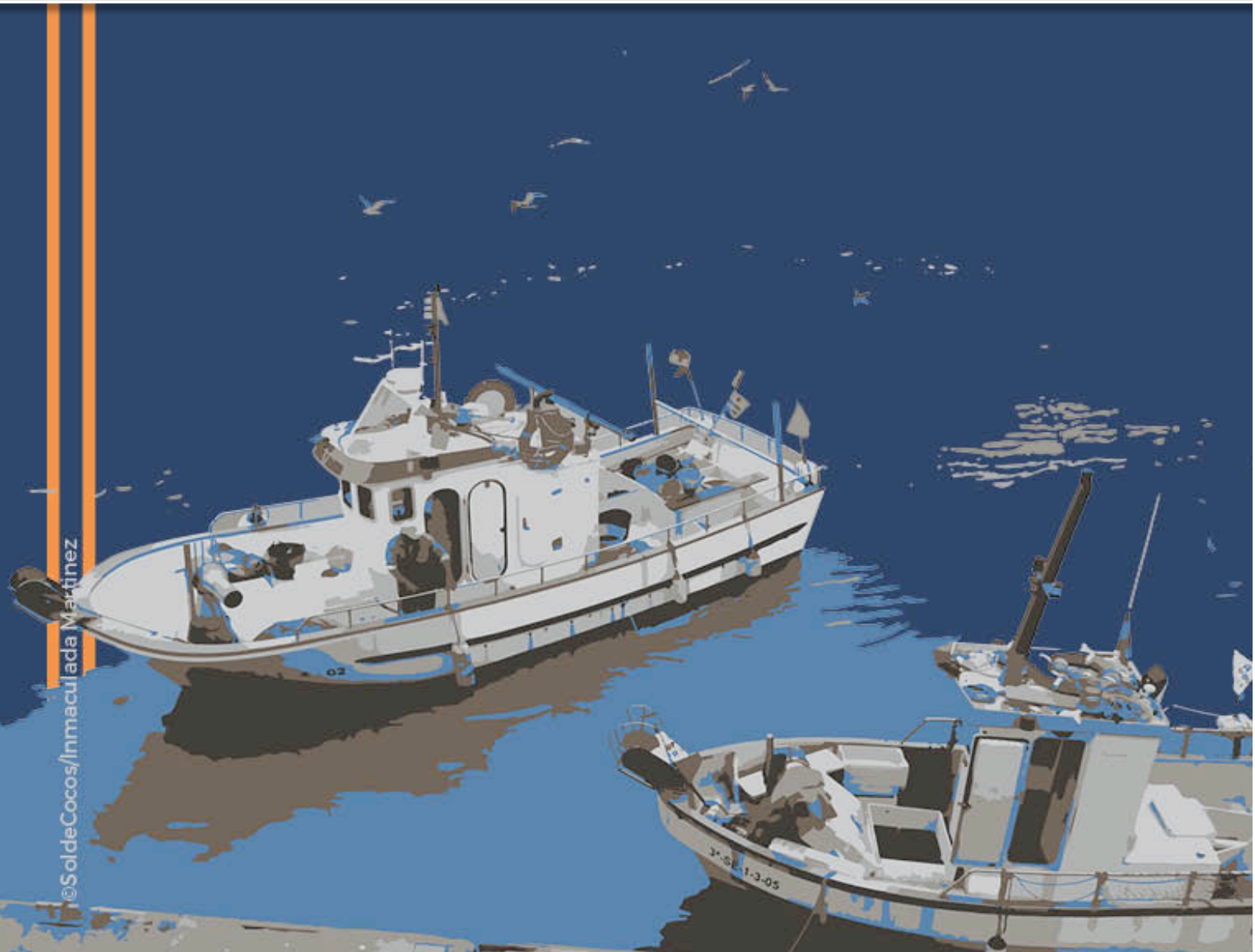


FUNDING  
**FISH**

## SSF 8 – Setting the scene to reinforce Small-scale fishing in SWWAC area

MARE/2014/04 – SI2.724092  
BG SEA CONSULTING EIRL

### FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT



Agreement number: <a href="#">MARE/2014/04 - SI2.724092</a>		Agreement period: <a href="#">01/01/2016 - 31/10/2017</a>
Year: <a href="#">2017</a>	Country: <a href="#">France</a>	Agreement duration: <a href="#">22 months</a>
Title: <a href="#">Grant agreement for an action</a>		
Partner: <a href="#">BG SEA CONSULTING EIRL</a>		
Partner's legal representative: <a href="#">Benoît Guerin</a>		
Period covered by the report	Technical Report From: <a href="#">01/01/2016 - 31/10/2017</a> Financial Statement: <a href="#">31/10/2017</a>	
Convention amendments	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

**DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY**

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the attached information is accurate and in accordance with the facts. In particular the financial data provided in this report corresponds to the expenditure actually incurred by the project partners for carrying out project activities. This information has been approved by the authorities representing the partners involved in the activities set out in this Report.

*(Original signature of the person legally authorised to act on behalf of the contracting organisation and who signed the agreement))*

Name of partner's legal representative: [Benoît Guerin](#)

Place & Date: [St Raphaël, November 2017 the 28<sup>th</sup>](#)

Report to be returned to the following address:

European Commission  
 Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
 Head of Unit F/1, Budget, Public procurement and Control  
 (Ref. MARE/2014/04)  
 Office J-99 05/15  
 B – 1049 Brussels

## ORGANISATION

Name of the organisation in EN, FR	BG SEA CONSULTING EURL
---------------------------------------	------------------------

### *Head Office*

Street - Number	2045 avenue du Grand Défends (Les Genévriers C9)
Post code - Town/city	83700 ST RAPHAEL
Country	France

### *Contact Person*

Name	Mr	Benoît GUERIN
Telephone	+33 632 02 68 15	
E-mail	bgseaconsulting@gmail.com	

# 1. OBJECTIVES

As defined in the proposal, objectives were :

## General objectives.

1. **To identify and document** the organizations representing small-scale fishers (SSF), their coverage and the **degree of representation of the SSF** segment within the fishing organizations, and **the degree of involvement and influence of these organizations** at various levels, with a special focus on their involvement within the **South Western Advisory Council**.
2. **To identify the grassroots factors** that contribute to an efficient representation in the different bodies (exploring the ways for active fishermen to fully contribute to the organization) in order to propose **concrete measures to improve the representativeness and efficiency of the organizations** representing small-scale fishing interests.

The proposal covers the SWWAC's area.

**Specific objectives**, have been split in 3 steps with specific milestones

1. **State of the art:** Identifying and mapping organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector and clarifying the degree of representation of this sector in the steering board of these organizations
  - 1.1 **Identifying and mapping** the organizations representing small-scale fleets
  - 1.2 Assessing the percentage of coverage of the SSF sector by the organizations identified and the **degree of representation of the SSF sector**
  - 1.3 **Assessing the participation** of these organizations in the **SWWAC**
2. **Analyzing the grassroots factors for efficient representation**
  - 2.1.1 Identifying the conditions for active participation of the fishermen from the small-scale fishing sector in organizations representing their interests
  - 2.1.2 Analyzing the capacity of the organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector to represent small scale fishery interests in different industry and management bodies from local to regional level

### **3. Strengthening the representation of the small-scale fishing sector and enhancing networks**

- 3.1 **Needs assessment** of fishermen and organizations: Blue print of trainings to be tested in 5 selected locations throughout SWWAC area (2 for each area)
- 3.2 Developing a **guide of concrete measures** to help strengthening these organizations and developing trainings to be included in national maritime programs
- 3.3 **Communicating the results and networking**

**The proposal therefore intended to more clearly define the exact situation of representation of the small-scale fishing sector at various levels, and propose recommendations to strengthen fishing organizations representing this segment of the fishing fleet.**

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project has been developed following the initial proposal, with a special focus on describing the current situation of SSF representation and **understanding the grassroots causes of its capacity to influence fisheries management**.

As these stakes imply **strong sociological input**, service suppliers with this background have supported the process in order to develop a science-based methodology and to end-up with well-founded conclusions.

The **12m thresholds** have been considered to identify SSF throughout the area and within fishing organizations. Even if SSF should be defined with more criteria, fitted to more local specificities, the over whole length's criterion has appeared as a good proxy allowing to reveal main issues at stake.

**Consultants with expert knowledge** and wide network in the different areas of the SWWAC have very positively contributed to the process and have been able to conduct in-depth and relevant qualitative interviews. They allow delivering a satisfactory coverage of the whole area **with 111 interviews covering more than 50%** of the fishing organizations in most regions.

**Workshops in 5 locations of the area** (Andalusia, Algarve, Azores, Galicia, Finistère) have been organized to perform a needs' assessment of fishing organizations representing the SSF sector. **Tools for participative meetings** have been used for these workshops and have revealed much relevance in a sector characterized by passion and emotions and often lacking rational approaches.

**All planned deliverables** have been performed with a special care for **clear presentation**, using maps, figures and few words. They are giving an up to date picture of SSF representation in SWWAC's area, and identify ways forward for its strengthening. **Two additional reports** have been delivered presenting the analysis of both the field interviews and interviews with managers **around the issue of influence within the decision-making process**.

**Guidelines to strengthen fishing organizations representing SSF** have been developed for each Member State considering its EMFF operational programme. Guidelines have proposed 11 initiatives, written in simple and concrete words in order to better reach the fishing sector. They have been **sent to more than 200 fishing organizations (out of 262)**.

**Networking has been constant** throughout the project's life span: with physical attendance or presentations made at each SWWAC's meeting, coordination with AZTI, close coordination with scientists specialized in this research field, presentation to different congress and seminars (General Assembly of the "Plateforme de la Pêche Artisanale Française in Paris, Too Big Too Ignore European seminar in Tenerife, European Association of Fisheries Economists in Dublin, seminar on artisanal fishing in Conil, seminar on the future of the EMFF in Tallinn).

## 3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### 3.1 PARTNERS INVOLVED

#### *Consultants*

**For sociological input**, a selection process has been carried and ended up with selecting two different profiles.

- **Annie Gouzien and Alain Menotti (from Rennes 2 and Nantes universities)** have been selected to deliver a typology of the SSF sector that have allowed to further select the field interviews. The typology was further questioned with the analysis of fishing organizations' membership data.
- **Cédric Polère (free lance consultant)** has accompanied the interview process through proposing interview guides for both fishers and fishing organizations. He proposed a first analysis based on a sample of fishing organizations' interviews. He performed complementary interviews at National and EU level to understand the SSF influence at such scales.

For field interviews and workshops, a selection process has been carried and ended up with selecting **5 consultants** with proven field knowledge.

- **SoldeCocos ([www.soldecocos.org](http://www.soldecocos.org)) - field interviews and workshop in Andalusia** - local NGO from Andalusia supporting coastal communities development, it is closely connected with fishing organisations from the Cadix's province (south of Andalusia) and its participation to the project has gone far beyond the planned service supply.
- **Mafalda Rangel and Rita Rainha (Center for Marine Sciences - CCMAR, University of Algarve) - field interviews in Portugal mainland, workshop in Algarve and questionnaire towards Portuguese mainland fishing organizations** - Thanks to their earlier involvement in a national participatory research project ("Tertulia do Polvo") on management of the octopus' fishery and other scientific projects, they have the skills and motivation to work on SSF.
- **Ricardo Lacerda (ex head of services of the regional direction for fisheries in the Azores region and ex secretary of the Azorean Federation of fishing organizations) - field interviews in Macaronesia (Canarias Islands, Madeira, Azores), workshop in the Azores** - He has in depth knowledge of the Azorean fishing organizations, which has hugely simplified the fieldwork.

- **Alberto Garazo (ex manager from Bueu fish auction, ex-consultant, MSC officer for Spanish and Portuguese companies) – field interviews in North Western Spain, workshops in Galicia in collaboration with WWF Spain –**  
He has in depth knowledge of the fishing sector in north-western Spain and huge personal network, which has hugely simplified the fieldwork and allowed to deliver in-depth interviews of fishing organization's functioning.

#### *Reviewers*

- **Miguel Gaspar (IPMA, Portugal).** He has worked since more than 20 years on SSF in Portugal on biological and management matters. He has helped to identify consultants and reflect on the specific situation of Portugal and the final guidelines.
- **Sergio Lopez (ex Galician federation of Codrarias).** He moved away from the federation during the project's lifespan to work for a Galician PO. He has given some insight in the situation of the Galician cofradias.
- **Serge Larzabal (CGT representative, SWWAC vice-chair).** He is involved since more than 20 years in the French fishing sector and has helped to reflect on the project's findings in the French situation.
- **Brian O'Riordan (deputy director of LIFE).** He was much interested by the projects' developments and findings and connected them with LIFE's and EU agenda.
- **Antonio Garcia Allut (Lonxanet).** *He initially agreed to participate to the review team but withdrew afterwards while considering that his own foundation (Lonxanet) was already partner of the AZTI's project.*



### *Fishing organizations*

Even if not formally involved in the project, it should however be quoted that some organizations did play instrumental role in the organization of the different field workshops such as the **artisanal Producers Organization of Conil** for the workshop help in Andalusia, the **Azorean federation of fishing organizations** for the workshops held in the Azores, the **Galician federation of cofradias** for the workshops held in Santiago, and **the “Comite Départemental des Pêches et Elevages Marins du Finistère”** for the workshops held in Brittany.

### *SWWAC*

The SWWAC, the South Western Waters Advisory Council ([www.cc-sud.eu](http://www.cc-sud.eu)) is a non-profit organization, which pursues aims of general European interest. The headquarters is in Lorient, France.

The SWWAC is made up of European and national organizations representing the fisheries sector (including the industrial fleet, small-scale fisheries, the processing sector and trade unions) and other interest groups (such as environmental organizations, consumer groups and sports/recreational fishery associations) which operate in the European Atlantic southwestern waters within the CFP Framework.

The **SWWAC is not a formal partner** of the project, as it rejected the initial proposal being already involved with AZTI. However, in coordination with AZTI, several presentations have been made (4 times in the project's lifespan), about the work carried on. Interactions were voluntarily limited as the project more relies on a field approach, the functioning of the AC being already well known. **A joint action was performed with AZTI on circulating an on-line questionnaire towards SWWAC's traditional fisheries working group's members.**

## 3.2 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN RELATION TO PROJECT COMPONENTS

The interim activity report already covers the period from 1/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 including:

- Methodological development (sociological input)
- Interviews' selection and consultants recruitment procedures
- Interview guides' development
- Field trips and reports from consultants
- Participation to TBTI seminar
- Typology of fishing organizations
- Preliminary analysis of field interviews
- Networking

During the next period – 01/01/2017 to 31/10/2017 – the following activities have been carried out in accordance with the project's planning referred to in the interim report:

### *ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION*

#### [Extensive thematic analysis of field interviews](#)

All interviews - 111 with fishing organizations, 56 with fishers that means around 1500 pages - have been read in the original language and analyzed through a thematic analysis. Answers were quoted around main themes (data on the organization, stakes, governance issues, social capital, fisheries management, influence) and stored in a unique spreadsheet. All interviews have been made available in Dropbox© to facilitate sharing them with consultants and sociologists working on the project.

#### [Multiple Correspondences Analysis of fishing organization's scores](#)

A spreadsheet was used to gather all information from interviews and – additionally to the qualitative interview – scores were given for each theme to every organization to undertake a multiple correspondence analysis. It clearly appears that influence is closely linked to the size of the organisation (membership), and the number of postgraduates working within the organization which back up conclusions from the thematic analysis on identifying the main levers for influence being membership, economic weight and soft power (expertise, networks).

[Writing of the report “Understanding grassroots factors that enable the small-scale fishing segment to influence fisheries management in the south western waters of the European Union” \(Annex 1\)](#)

From this analysis a report has been written because it has been considered necessary to re-assemble all the information collected from the field to further use it for the different deliverables. The report is structured around 7 main parts which follow a logical path from the field situation up to the decision-making levels:

1. Understanding what is at stake for the fishers
2. Understanding responsibilities and priorities of the fishing organisations
3. Identifying factors underpinning fishermen’s participation in the representative bodies
4. Exploring fishing organisations’ internal governance and functioning
5. Clarifying fishing organisations’ network (e.g relationships with other partners: managers, scientists, other organisations, NGOs)
6. Detailing management measures affecting the fishing sector and specifically the small-scale sector
7. Analysing the capacity of fishing organisations to influence the decision-making process

In parallel Alain Menotti has decided to produce his own analysis by comparing fishermen and fishing organizations’ point of view held along the French Bay of Biscay (**Annex 1bis**).

[Delivery of the complementary report on SSF influence at national and European levels \(“Rapport sur l’influence de la petite pêche aux échelles nationales et européenne”, Cédric Polère. Annex 2\)](#)

Complementary interviews have been conducted (see Annex 18 of the interim report), and analyzed by Cédric Polère through a report. The stake was to understand **how the different players at national and EU levels perceived SSF**: European Commission, European Parliament, Council, national administrations, eNGOs. Actually it appears important to get some insight on this matter as it directly impacts possible recommendations to strengthen the SSF sector and increase its influence.

*IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF THE SSF REPRESENTATION*

[Deliverable 1: Listing & mapping organisations representing the small-scale fishing fleet in the south western waters of the European Union \(Annex 3\)](#)

An **exhaustive census** has been led to register every fishing organization representing SSF along the SWWAC’s area. The fieldwork (extensive interviews’ process along the coast) also allowed collecting data about membership, nature of the fishing organization (POs Vs other representations) and the share between SSF and the other fleet segments. **Maps have been edited through QGIS© to present main data collected** (fishing organization average membership, split between under and above 12m fishing vessels, percentages of SSF fleet within the Producers’ Organizations).

Deliverable 2: Degree of representation of the small-scale fishing fleet based on participation of the fleet within the management boards of existing fishing organisations (Annex 4)

**Data on membership and management boards** of the fishing organizations have been collected for all interviewed organizations (111 out of 262 fishing organizations in the whole area) **considering the 12m thresholds**. For all these organizations a **qualitative interview** has been conducted. **Maps** have been edited through QGIS© to present main data collected (percentages of SSF within existing fishing organizations). **Statistical analysis** was performed to check the internal balance within existing fishing organizations between the SSF fleet segment and the rest of the fleet segment (see Annex 15 of the interim report).

Deliverable 3: Coverage of the small-scale fishing sector by the SWWAC (Annex 5)

**Based on the SWWAC's membership list and the data on membership collected** throughout the fieldwork it has been possible to compare the **percentage of the fleet being actually represented within the SWWAC through fishing organizations**. Participation to the SWWAC's 2015-2016 functioning year was also analyzed to check the most participatory fishing organizations and compared their characteristics with the main parameters that popped up from the field interviews' analysis. **Maps have been edited through QGIS© to present the percentages of the SSF fleet segment being actually represented within the SWWAC.**

*Nota Bene:*

*Considering the over whole representation of SSF at SWWAC's scale, it should be noted that data from the community fleet register may not be accurate with – from different expert comments – a part of the below 12m fleet being actually passive. In addition, for French fishing organizations – as they represent the entire sector by law – a complete coverage of the fleet has been considered.*

*It is also important to stress that membership does not reflect actual participation to the fishing organization as a very important percentage of skippers hardly ever participate to meetings.*

Workshops have been organized along with field consultants in **5 different locations of the area**. Preliminary planned locations were discussed with AZTI on a joint meeting held on October 2016 the 5<sup>th</sup> as to avoid duplications of efforts (see Annex 17 of the interim report). Thus, it was decided not to organize the French workshop in the Basque country but rather in Brittany.

Workshops aimed at **identifying needs of fishing organizations to adequately and efficiently represent the interests of the SSF segment in the fisheries management decision-making process**. Meeting methodology was discussed and **prepared with Beatriz Nieto Novoa** who used to be a freelance facilitator and is now part of **WWF Spain** marine team working on facilitation processes. Thus **guidance** for consultants was developed in order to share a common methodology between the locations (**Annex 6**). The workshops aimed to answer to the three following issues that clearly emerged from the field interviews' analysis:

1. **How to encourage participation from the fishers?**
2. Is the **fishing sector well connected** to other players of the system such as scientists, administrations, the wider society, ...?
3. How **can a fishing organization influence the fisheries management** decision-making process?

**Methodology and activities were adapted to each specific context**. It was also asked to circulate at the end of each workshop an **evaluation of the meeting to be filled in by the attendees**. Lastly it was advised to the consultants to **limit the participation to between 10 and 20 persons** in order to keep a reasonable size that facilitate dialog.

[Andalusia – Workshop on the SWWAC and participation to the Common Fisheries Policy, Conil, March 2017 the 2nd](#)

Through exchanges with the field consultant (SoldeCocos), **it appears that the objectives of the workshop have already been filled in at local scale through various projects and works**. SoldeCocos is already working with WWF Spain and methodology for participative meetings is already implemented since some years. It was used for various purposes such as, for example: a workshop to propose a marine reserve of fishing interest in Cabo Roche, or for a participative diagnosis of the fishing activity in the estuary of the Guadalquivir.

Therefore it has been decided that the consultant would only produce a **synthesis on the main questions** the workshop should answer (**Annex 7**). Considering the specific needs known from the fishing organizations in the neighbourhood (Cadiz Province), it was agreed to **rather organize a specific workshop on SWWAC**, its functioning and the participation to the CFP.

This workshop was organized on March 2017 the 2<sup>nd</sup> and relied on a wide participation of the fishing organizations, a scientist from the IEO, the general secretary of the SWWAC, facilitated by SoldeCocos at the invitation of the Federation of Cofradias of Cadiz and hosted by the Producer Organizations of Conil (OPP 72), this means **15 attendees**. The SWWAC's functioning was presented and clarify the main stakes for fisheries management at Bay of Cadi's scale (**Annex 8**).

The workshop has been considered positive, successful and well organized. It was considered relevant for fishing organizations to participate to the SWWAC even if its functioning and utility for the management of their fisheries remain unclear. It is important to mention that along with this organization **three fishing organizations have become members of the SWWAC whereas there were none from Andalusia in the past.**

[Algarve \(Portugal\) and Portugal mainland – workshop with fishers and organizations \(February 2017 the 13th\) and questionnaire towards fishing organizations representing SSF throughout Portugal mainland](#)

Following the guidance documents prepared with Beti Nieto (WWF Spain), a **first workshop** was organized in the university of Algarve (Faro) by the two consultants hired for the project (Rita Rainha and Mafalda Rangel). The workshop gathered national and regional administration representatives (DGRM, DRAP), the public agency managing auctions (DOCAPESCA), fishing organizations and fishing skippers (**Annex 9**), **this means 17 attendees.**

**Attendees have been satisfied** by the workshop, the issues dealt and the methodology. However while convening participants for the **second workshop**, it appears – few days before its organization – that the **attendance would be very low.** It was therefore decided to abandon this organization but to try to find a solution to back up the main issues rose during the first workshop.

**The solution found was to prepare a questionnaire towards fishing organization the consultants would circulate throughout the whole country** (excepting the archipelagos). The questionnaire was send to the 36 fishing organizations that have been interviewed in the first phase of the project that correspond almost to the total list of active fishing organizations in Portugal mainland. In addition, the consultants did call a lot of the organizations directly to fill in the questionnaire with them on phone, in order to maximize the number of answers to the questionnaire. **18 organizations did answer** the questionnaire and the analysis of the answers give some **clear signals about what the Portuguese fishing organizations identify as the way forward to strengthen the SSF sector (Annex 10).**

[Azores \(São Miguel & Graciosa\) - first and second workshop with fishers and fishing organizations in two different islands \(São Miguel, February 2017 the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Graciosa, April 2017 the 10<sup>th</sup>\).](#)

The two workshops were organized in collaboration with the **Azorean federation of fishing organizations.** Following the guidance documents prepared with Beti Nieto (WWF Spain), a **first workshop** was organized in a meeting room of an hotel of Ponta Delgada (São Migel) by the consultant hired for Macaronesia (Ricardo Lacerda) and counted on the participation of various fishing organizations and fishing skippers (**11 attendees**).

The consultant decided on its own not to use the participative methodology because he knows fishers do not write and it could have been an obstacle for participation. However he grasped the opportunity of one fisher accusing a representative to launch and facilitate the debate. Main issues have been summarized in a **workshop report (Annex 11)**, however the evaluation was not performed for the first workshop.

The **second workshop** was organized in an **other island (Graciosa)** as the consultant, along with the Azorean federation, decided more interesting to duplicate the workshop in an other location rather than organizing a second workshop with same attendees which would have led to lesser participation and interest.

Indeed the second workshop overcame its expectations as **about 30 persons attended** (fishing skippers, fishing organizations, national maritime authority, some one from the touristic sector). As a consequence of this success, it appeared **difficult to chair** it and channelled the participants' contributions towards the issues at stake, however it still backed up main issues rose previously in the first workshop (**Annex 12**). The participants have been in the **vast majority satisfied or very satisfied** by the content, working methodology and organization of this workshop.

[Galicia \(Santiago\) – first and second workshop with fishing organizations \(March 2017 the 10<sup>th</sup> and April 2017 the 3<sup>rd</sup>\)](#)

The two workshops have been organized and prepared **by the consultant (Alberto Garazo) in close collaboration with Beti Nieto (WWF Spain)**, and jointly organized with the **Galician federation of cofradias**. They took place in a special moment in the short history of the federation as the **general secretary (Sergio Lopez**, also reviewer of the project and chair of the SWWAC's working group on traditional fisheries) just left his position. It appears that the federation is **going through a time of weakness** and this situation most probably impacted the participation and workshops.

However participation has been almost constant between the two workshops (12 and 11 participants) and **participants considered to be very satisfied** of the content, working methodology and organization of these workshops (**Annexes 13 and 14**). Main conclusions also **confirm needs assessed through the field interviews' analysis** with a **special difficulty in Galicia** where the SSF fishing sector is massive and represented through numerous organizations. **Situational and cultural parameters** also appear to impact the **capacity of this sector to get unified** and the situation of the federation is, in that sense, quite symptomatic.

[Brittany \(Finistère\) – first and second workshop with small-scale fishers \(May the 15<sup>th</sup> and September the 20<sup>th</sup>\)](#)

The two workshops have been organized **by the project leader along with the free participation of Alain Menotti** (service supplier for the initial typology of fishing organization) who is currently doing a PhD in sociology about SSF and has past **extensive experience of facilitation as human resources' head in various private companies**. They were organized in close collaboration with the general secretary of the "Comité Départemental des Pêches et Elevages Marins du Finistère" (CDPMEM29) in Brittany. The organization is formally representing more than 600 fishing vessels including more than 400 under 12m boats. For the 2 workshops it was decided to **draft mind maps as a tool to foster participation and create a level playing field**.

It was decided to **limit the participation to fishers** as it was considered that in such case, the fishing organization is quite strong, with well-educated permanent staff, a wide network and relatively good influence on the decision-making process. However the issue at stake – in accordance with the general secretary of the organization – was how the SSF fishers were represented internally and succeed to influence the organization's position.

The **first planned workshop** has been cancelled because of low participation anticipated (fishers planned to be at sea because of good weather) and finally re-scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of May where 18 persons participated including 12 fishers, 2 staff from the CDPMEM29, the coordinator from the local new-born FLAG, a journalist. Participants considered **being satisfied** by the content, working methodology and organization of the workshop (**Annex 15**). Participants do ask at the end of the workshop to have a second workshop to present **main conclusions of the first workshop to a wider audience** including scientists, other fleet segments, politicians, ...

**The second workshop** initially planned in June has to be **re-scheduled** because it was in the middle of the fishing season and it was agreed to plan it in September. Another obstacle appeared as the general secretary has to abandon the initiative for personal reasons. It was then decided to have the second workshop in September after the CDPMEM29 committee on coastal fishing, which gather other fleet segments. The workshop was thus organized at the end of the day and counted on **13 participants**, including fishers from other fleet segments, and scientists from IFREMER. **Different reasons played against the success** of the workshop: only few fishers from the first workshop did attend (contrarily to their commitment), fishers from the other fleet segments were very critical about the main issues rose in the first workshop, participants were tired by the long day of meeting and quitted earlier than planned. Thus it has not been possible to ask them to evaluate this workshop and the planned process of the workshop stopped before (Mind maps of the 2 workshops to be found in **Annex 15**).



[Deliverable 4: Summary sheet recapitulating conditions for active involvement of the fishermen from the small-scale fishing sector in organizations \(Annex 16\)](#)

Specific questions were being asked during the **field interviews**, both with representatives and with fishers. Additionally the issue was thrown into relief in each **workshop**. Some targeted **scientific literature** finally helped to clarify main incentives and brakes for fisher's participation.

[Deliverable 5: Summary sheet on key factors for an efficient representation of the small-scale fishing sector by the industry organizations \(Annex 17\)](#)

Specific questions were being asked during the **field interviews**, both with representatives and with fishers. Through the thematic analysis of the interviews, Fishing organizations' influence was scored and linked with other factors. Additionally the **complementary interviews and a specific report on influence of the small-scale sector** at national and European level (see **Annex 2**) help to better understand how influence works. Some targeted **scientific literature** also backed up main issues arising from the project. Last, the issue was thrown into relief in each **workshop**.

[Deliverable 6: Needs assessment for increasing the SSF sector influence and possibilities to address them \(Annex 18\)](#)

The deliverable was produced from the two previous deliverables and considering common issues and stakes arising from the **different workshops**. As the same issues have appeared in the different locations, it was considered adequate to deliver **common recommendations for the whole area**, even if some recommendation could be more valid for one area rather than the other. For example the recommendation on strengthening federations (umbrella organization of fishing organizations at regional or even national level) does not make sense at all in France where these organizations have already been reinforced with a clear mandate from the state. **These differences were further considered in preparing deliverable 7** (guides), which has been adapted for each Member State's situation.

### [Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector \(Annexes 19-20-21-22\)](#)

From the list of recommendations produced in deliverable 6, **the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund regulation was analyzed to check which articles could help to fund such initiatives**. Advice was asked from Dominique Levieil (DG MARE-D3) regarding funding opportunities within the EMFF regulation, and from Farnet coordinator, Gilles Van de Walle, to check in what extent the FLAG could fund the appointed initiatives. **National operational programs from Portugal, Spain and France** were also analyzed to check if the different relevant articles are open and offer funding opportunities for the appointed initiatives.

It has been **thought and prepared for small-scale fishing organizations' representatives and staff** in order to signal them clearly the public help they may find to strengthen their voices. These guidelines have been prepared as practical actions the organization may implement in order to strengthen the influence of the SSF sector.

**Graphic Design** has been requested to facilitate communication and dissemination of the brochure. It has been sent for SWWAC's traditional fisheries working group, which has been organized in Santiago do Compostela (on October 2017 the 24<sup>th</sup>) and directly **to more than 200 organizations by post**.

### [Deliverable 8: Fisheries management's stakes and how to be heard within the European Common Fisheries Policy - Training template for fishermen \(Annex 23\)](#)

**The project focuses on the fishing organizations and thus the needs assessment** dealt with the fishing organizations. Workshops have been organized to sharpen the first analysis that arose from the field interviews. It appeared that **specific trainings for the fishing organizations' chairs was only one possible action** to strengthen the fishing organizations but – by far – not the only one. Thus it would have been too patchy to focus on this action before a more global approach developed through the workshops.

In addition, after discussion with the deputy director of the “**Centre Européen de Formation Continue Maritime**” ([www.cefcm.com](http://www.cefcm.com)) the issue of lifelong learning for fishers would need to go through an in-depth **needs' assessment of fishers** (not of the organizations). Such process would most probably need to be undertaken at local level as situations very much vary throughout the area and in each member state. For example the number and availability of scientists, administrations, fisheries technologists... is much higher in Brittany or Galicia than in Asturias or Poitou-Charentes. As experience clearly shows **that fishers only request and participate to trainings if they have already identified the problems** they may encounter, the most relevant way forward would be to **give them information about the supports and contact persons which may help them to solve their concerns**. A similar process as the one done for fishing organizations may be envisaged.

A template for fishers has however been delivered. It proposes a structure for a lesson following a global approach that considers fisheries' management as a system one can describe through its main elements.

It quotes main sources of information at international, EU or national level for the different items being dealt. Taking into account the wide area concerned and the specific fisheries existing at local level it is suggested to adapt it to the local situation through case examples.

Actually the most efficient training would be to organize *in situ* visits for fishers, as they much more easily understand from direct exchanges. **Some *in situ* visits in the European institutions for instance would help a lot to demystify a system they mostly perceive as obscure and abstract.**

#### NETWORKING AND PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

Close coordination with consultants represents very fruitful round trips between the necessary reflection at regional level (SWWAC's area) and the field situation. **Some consultants (SoldeCocos, Mafalda Rangel from the university of Algarve) will keep working on SSF** after the project and the information produced will be useful for them. Collaboration with SoldeCocos also triggered a **collective reflection on an action plan to strengthen SSF participation to Bay of Cadiz fisheries' management.**

Exchanges with the **review team** have facilitated mutual learning and results of the project will be used in Portugal by Miguel Gaspar (IPMA) or by the LIFE platform through Brian O'Riordan involvement in the project.

Exchanges with the scientific community from the TBTI European seminar in Tenerife (July 2016) were continuous and some researchers contribute to the delivery of the field interviews' analysis. The scientific network may use the results of the project in the frame of an analysis of SSF in Europe. **A scientific paper about the issue of SSF representation is under preparation by Miguel Gaspar.** In addition interim or final results have been presented in the following occasions (**Annex 26** for presentations not already annexed in the interim report):

- Tenerife, July 2016: seminar on SSF in Europe organized by **Too Big To Ignore network**
- Tenerife, October 2016: **SWWAC's working group** on traditional fisheries, ad hoc working group presenting on going work delivered by the 2 SSF projects in the area, and **review meeting**
- Brussels, February 2017: presentation of the field interviews' analysis report to **DG MARE**
- Dublin, April 2017: presentation to the **European Associations of Fisheries Economists**
- Porto, May 2017 : **SWWAC's working group** on traditional fisheries and ad hoc working group presenting on going work delivered by the 2 SSF projects in the area, and **review meeting**
- Conil, October 2017: presentation to the **international congress on SSF organized by the cofradia fro Conil** and which gathered about 200 participants ([http://soldecocos.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=38:i-congreso-internacional-de-pesca-artesanal&catid=2&Itemid=101](http://soldecocos.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38:i-congreso-internacional-de-pesca-artesanal&catid=2&Itemid=101))
- Tallinn, October 2017: round table on SSF within the framework of the European seminar on the future of the EMFF
- By Skype, October the 27<sup>th</sup>: **last review meeting**

It is also interesting to put into relief the **on-line questionnaire**, which has been circulated towards SWWAC traditional fisheries working group's members. The project leader following the debate held on May 2017 the 11th in Porto has suggested the questionnaire. Through **close collaboration with AZTI** a questionnaire has been developed and circulated. Number of respondents has remained limited (18) but the analysis already reveals **basic considerations regarding the participation of the SSF and the responsibility of the SWWAC to facilitate it (Annex 27)**.

### 3.3 DELIVERABLES

All planned deliverables and two additional ones have been performed – **see Annexes**

- *Understanding grassroots' factors that enable the small-scale fishing segment to influence fisheries' management in the south western waters of the European Union, analysis of field interviews (Annex 1)*
- *Rapport sur l'influence de la petite pêches aux échelles nationales et européenne, Cédric Polère (Annex 2)*
- Deliverable 1: Listing & mapping organisations representing the small-scale fishing fleet in the south western waters of the European Union (**Annex 3**)
- Deliverable 2: Degree of representation of the small-scale fishing fleet based on participation of the fleet within the management boards of existing fishing organisations (Annex 4)
- Deliverable 3: Coverage of the small-scale fishing sector by the SWWAC (**Annex 5**)
- Deliverable 4: Summary sheet recapitulating conditions for active involvement of the fishermen from the small-scale fishing sector in organizations (**Annex 16**)
- Deliverable 5: Summary sheet on key factors for an efficient representation of the small-scale fishing sector by the industry organizations (**Annex 17**)
- Deliverable 6: Needs assessment for increasing the SSF sector influence and possibilities to address them (**Annex 18**)
- Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen the organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector (**Annexes 19-20-21-22**)
- Deliverable 8: Fisheries management's stakes and how to be heard within the European Common Fisheries Policy. Training template for fishermen (**Annex 23**)
- Deliverable 9: List of human resources dealing with the small-scale fishing sector in the European Union South Western Waters (**Annex 24**)
- Deliverable 10: Main results of the Pilot Project "Setting the scene to reinforce Small-Scale fishing in SWWAC area" (**Annex 28**)

### 3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

	Semester 1 (2016)					Semester 2 (2016)					Semester 3 (2017)					Semester 4				
<b>PREPARATION</b> Work plan, hiring processes, typology of fishing organizations, selection of interviews	■	■	■																	
<b>FIELD INTERVIEWS</b>				■	■	■	■													
<b>COMPLEMENTARY INTERVIEWS</b>										■	■									
<b>ANALYSIS</b>											■	■	■							
<b>IDENTIFICATION &amp; MAPPING</b>	■										■	■	■	■						
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>												■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
<b>ANALYSIS OF GRASSROOTS FACTORS</b>															■	■				
<b>NEEDS ASSESSMENT &amp; GUIDES</b>																		■	■	
<b>NETWORKING</b> Review meetings, presentation to SWWAC, presentation to seminars	■			■		■			■			■	■	■					■	

## 4. EVALUATION

### 4.1 DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

[Exhaustive description of SSF representation through the existing fishing organization and through the SWWAC \(Annexes 1, 3, 4 5\)](#)

SSF representation throughout the whole area has been extensively **described at local level** (NUTS-3), both from a quantitative point of view - **considering share of SSF within the membership** - and from a qualitative point of view, considering the **capacity of the SSF sector to express and carry out its interests within the fishing organizations and at higher levels**. Analysis at **SWWAC's level** has been performed and delivers clear description of SSF participation within the AC throughout the area, with **demonstrated lacks for some areas**.

[Typology of fishing organizations along % of SSF membership \(Annex 3bis\)](#)

A typology of fishing organizations considering the share of SSF within the membership has been proposed and used to represent the SSF representation throughout the SWWAC's area. **Categories have been considered based on the percentage of SSF within the membership**. Considering a fair distribution of interviewed fishing organizations, 4 categories have been proposed: SSF representing less than 59% of the membership, SSF representing between 60 and 80% of the membership, SSF representing between 80 and 96% of the membership, SSF representing more than 96% of the membership.

[Clear split within the whole area considering the fishing fleet representation \(Annexes 4 and 5\)](#)

The analysis shows a clear **split in the fishing sector's representation between the northern part and the southern part of the area**:

- **Galicia southward (Galicia included):**
  - average members within organization is low and fishing organizations are weaker (few staff, weak economic dimension, ...), SSF is mostly out of Producers' Organizations
  - much more organizations over whole with about 40% of these organizations almost exclusively representing the small-scale fleet (>96% of the members are SSF)

- **Galicia northwards (Galicia excluded):**

- average members within organization is higher and fishing organizations are stronger (technical staff, stronger economic dimension, ...), SSF is mostly inside the Producers' Organizations
- much less organizations with a "mixed" representation of the fleets (e.g. membership is made of various fleet segments)

Differences between the member states' institutional set-up have also been considered. While fishing organizations are established in the law in Spain and France, it is not the case in **Portugal with an important share of SSF not being represented at all (30 to 40%, DGRM source)**. While **French organizations have been delegated clear public service mission by the state it is not the case in Spain or Portugal**.

[Analysis of fishing organization internal governance and difficulties for SSF interests to emerge in "mixed" organizations \(Annexes 1, 1bis, 2 and 5\)](#)

In depth semi-guided interviews throughout the whole area have put into relief **the internal functioning of fishing organization**. It appears that the **SSF segment may have difficulties to express its interest within "mixed" organizations**, as the organizations tend to look for consensus sometimes neglecting the usual competition at sea which is an intrinsic characteristic of fishing.

[Proved factors of participation of fishers in fishing organization's meeting \(Annex 16\)](#)

Deliverable 4 – based on field interviews and workshops' reports – clarify incentives for fishers' participation.

[Proved factors of influence for a fishing organization \(Annex 17\)](#)

Deliverable 5 – based on field interviews, complementary interviews and workshops' reports – clarify factors of influence of the fishing organizations.

[Proved limited influence of SSF at national and European level \(Annex 1\)](#)

Considering **the 4 main levers for influence** that popped up from the field interviews' analysis, it clearly appears – and it is unanimously recognized by the interviewees – that **the SSF sector is having less influence at national and European levels**, mainly because of its huge diversity and heterogeneity (leading to a lack of unity) its lack of unity, small economic weight, lack of expertise...

[Overall view about lack of adequate management of SSF at European level \(Annex 1\)](#)

The field interviews' analysis reveals that **SSF appears to be poorly managed at European level and strong assumptions tend to think that the Common Fisheries Policy has been mostly developed to manage larger-scale fleet segments**.



[Provoking initial reflection within SWWAC to further represent the SSF throughout its area \(Annex 26\)](#)

Various presentations and recent presentation of the answers to the on-line questionnaire have triggered some internal reflection within the SWWAC as to **how to better involve SSF and whether to deliver advices on small-scale fisheries or not.**

[Needs assessment of fishing organizations representing SSF taking into account differences between areas \(Annexes 18\)](#)

The needs assessment process has been conducted through field interviews, complementary interviews - and especially interviewing larger-scale fleet segments' organizations as a gap analysis of the current functioning of SSF fishing organizations – and the various field workshops. **Though regional differences strongly appeared** (considering the split of the fishing sectors' representation throughout the area), **some very common needs appear.**

[Guides to strengthen organizations representing the SSF fleet \(Annexes 19 to 22\)](#)

Prepared while **taking into account specific situations in each member state, user-friendly guides have been developed and disseminated throughout the entire area** (including archipelagos) **to more than 200 fishing organizations.**

## 4.2 SUCESS FACTORS

### [Preparatory phase \(multi-disciplinary approach\)](#)

A cautious preparatory phase enabled to well defining objectives and ambitions of the project. **Various skills** have contributed to this phase: service suppliers with expertise in **sociology and political sciences, field consultants with expertise in biology and knowledge of the field reality. Preparatory interviews** have been conducted with both fishers and fishing organizations throughout the area in France, Spain and Portugal and allowed to fine-tuned the interviews' guide.

### [New approach: focus on the field stakeholders' reality and perceptions](#)

As a starting point it was considered necessary **to start from the ground** in a somehow "bottom-up" approach. The project leader does have extensive knowledge about the SWWAC's functioning because of his experience but knew about the stake of better understanding the up-stream process that leads representatives to participate to the SWWAC's meetings. Indeed there are **many steps from the fishers' reality down to the AC's work** and it has been key for the overwhole analysis of the current situation to start from it.

### [Multi-scale interviews](#)

Interviews have covered all the scales of the issue, **down from the fisher's reality up to the manager's one**. Interviews have been conducted with fishers, fishing organizations, managers (and other players) in order to describe the whole ladder. Such methodology allows providing a **global perspective** of the issue taking into account, at the same time, **constraints and stakes of each rung of the ladder**.

### [Personal network and field knowledge](#)

Past experience of the project leader have hugely facilitated preparatory interviews, access to fishing organizations, contacts for complementary interviews, and knowledge of the different forms of representing the fishing sector throughout the area and between member states.

### [Hiring of consultants with demonstrated skills, knowledge and well connected to the field](#)

The selected consultants have revealed themselves as very **strong allies** of the project and for some of them their involvement have gone far beyond the strict limits of the service supply contract. Their skills, knowledge and connections with the fishing sector hugely facilitated the process of interviews and workshops' organization.

### [Review team with various approaches and geographical origins](#)

The review team was made of persons from different horizons and living in different realities. They also ensure a **full geographic coverage of the area**. Trust relationships have emerged within this small group that allows mutual learning and straightforward reflections, leaving aside postures (see **Annex 27** for minutes of the review meeting held in 2017).

**Miguel Gaspar (IPMAR)** has more than 20 years of experience on SSF in Portugal and has been involved in numerous projects. He is fully committed in the issue and his involvement in co-management schemes and Farnet's network gives him a very telling approach of the issue.

**Sergio Lopez (ex- federation of the Galician cofradias)** was starting with the federation and assuming the chair of SWWAC's working group on traditional fisheries. His rational and very open-minded approach helps a lot to consider the Galician and more widely northwestern Spain situation.

**Serge Larzabal (CGT, chair of a FLAG, chair of fisheries committee, vice-chair of the SWWAC)** has more than 20 years experience in the fishing sector's representation and a past 10 years' experience as fisherman. He has in-depth expert knowledge about the French representation system and has always remained very open-minded.

**Brian O'Riordan (LIFE deputy director)** has long experience of SSF abroad through its work for ICSF and more recently with LIFE. He has in-depth knowledge of European institutions and players. His open-minded and attentive participation was much appreciated by all.

### [Workshops](#)

Workshops have proven to be a very good way for a **participative diagnosis** of the situation and allow deepening the analysis popping up from the field interviews and adapting it to the various local situations. **Participative tools and the experience of the facilitators** were clear success factors. It also appears that such meetings need the participation of **2 facilitators (or 1 facilitator and 1 rapporteur)**.

### [User-friendly practical guides that link the regulatory texts and existing funding opportunities to the fishing organizations' needs](#)

First feedback from the guides confirms that they are user-friendly and written in clear words, **easy understandable by practitioners and fishing sectors' representatives. They are backed up by authorized persons:** DG MARE's official (Dominique Levieil-D3) and Farnet's coordinator (Gilles Van de Walle).

## 4.3 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

### [Geographic extent of the area](#)

The geographic extent of the SWWAC's area was a **stake** and major challenge for the development of the project. Differences in national laws, institutional set-up and local specificities make harder to precisely analyze the issue of influence of SSF and **go forward with joint recommendations**.

### [Availability of fishers for interviews and workshops](#)

The issue of availability of fishers is always problematic as they obviously do not earn their living from attending meetings or answering interviews, and they will **always prioritize going at sea if weather allows** it.

### [Differences in fishing fleet representation between areas within the SWWAC's area](#)

A split between the northern part and the southern one regarding fishing fleet representation has been well noticed considering different parameters (see 4.1, demonstrated results). Therefore the problematic was quite different in these two cases. **While in the south the issue is about lack of capacity of the fishing organizations to deliver adequate advices in a timely manner, the issue in the north is rather about how SSF succeed to carry out its messages and interests within the existing organizations.**

### [Sensitive issue of considering the share of SSF inside the existing "mixed" fishing organizations](#)

The importance of SSF within existing "mixed" fishing organization is a very touchy issue with a **lot of distrust from the representatives**. They almost all consider it is an issue that has been raised by eNGOs at European level and which does not make sense as they are actually representing the different fleet segments. It is **quite hard to shed light on the internal power balances** because it is somehow considered as internal stuff and they feel to be called into questions. However, in the case of **France especially where fishing organizations have been delegated by the state public service mission, the question is fair and fishing organizations should be held accountable for delivering balanced advices**, taking every fleet segments' interests into account. Even more, the **issue of neutrality** and wider public interest should find a way to be represented.

## Measuring influence

Measuring influence is difficult as it is **not a quantitative** issue and may **be the subject to subjective interpretation**, both from the interviewee's side and from the interviewer's side.

## Differences in the institutional set-up between the 3 member states

There are huge differences between the three member states between missions delegated to fishing organizations.

**In France**, both forms of fishing organizations (Producers Organizations and Comités des Pêches) **have been delegated public service mission**. While POs are managing their own quotas, Comités can deliver bylaws to manage fishing effort. However the issue is in this case more about **how fishing organizations' advices are being built internally and the fair balance between the different fishing fleet's segments**.

**In Spain**, POs and Cofradías have **much more limited responsibilities**. As for the fleet segments subject to quota allocations by the state it **is up to them to decide to pool their quotas into the PO and take decision about marketing, price and the fishing campaigns**. Cofradías have had historically a social role (and in many cases they still have it) and they also have a role in terms of **marketing**. Considering **internal waters** they may be **quite influential vis-a-vis their autonomous administrations**, but they cannot produce bylaws as Comités in France.

**In Portugal**, despite recent evolutions **through some experiences of co-management for some specific fisheries**, POs and association do have **even more limited responsibilities**. Some POs are yet having increased influence but the recent decision of the state to re-allocate the sardine quota based on fleet characteristics and not on POs' historical catches show that the state still has an important role in fisheries management. However **POs are hardly representing SSF**. **The role of associations is somehow anecdotic** dealing with day to day fishers' life but **not capable yet of dealing with more strategic issues such as fisheries' management** and in particular the issue of fishing effort within the coastal area.

## Differences in importance of SSF in the three member states

Figures from the community fleet register clearly show that the SSF sector – and even more the smaller part of it being under 10m boats – is **much more important in numbers and share of the whole fleet in Portugal and Spain than in France** (see figures at the end of **Annex 3**). It appears that **the SSF sector in France has been restructured in the past 10 years with a stable fleet segment of 10-12m fishing vessels with important fishing capacity**. As a consequence the 12m threshold does not appear relevant as such vessels are not different – in terms of power, crewmembers, capitalization – than some longer vessels. Both the fleet structure and the restructuring of fishing organizations have led to a **current situation where the SSF issue does not appear any longer as relevant to the French administration whereas it appears that it still has some weight for Spain, and even more for Portugal** (from complementary interviews held).

### Participation in the 2nd workshop

Participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop have turned into a problematic issue and a second workshop with same participants (which was the original methodology chosen) has only been possible in Galicia. For other locations, **a different choice has been made:** questionnaire in Portugal mainland, workshop in other location in Azores, workshop with other participants in Finistère with scare participation from the first attendees.

## 5. LESSONS LEARNT

### 5.1 BEST PRACTISES IDENTIFIED

#### [Networking](#)

Networking with **consultants and scientists** has been identified as very positive as they also have their agenda on working on SSF. However **some specific agenda on SSF** at a practitioner (fishing organizations) or management level appear to be **still missing**.

#### [Use of modern communication tools and social media to communicate towards and between fishers](#)

It has been noticed in several occasions that the use of modern communication (in particular WhatsApp© or Facebook©) is more and more being used by fishers. It also appears that whereas **young fishers are more and more reluctant to participate to usual form of meetings they are much more connected and quite happy to participate to projects**. Key factors to encourage fishers' participation have been identified in deliverable 4 (**Annex 16**).

#### [Facilitation process](#)

Facilitation methodology brought through the workshops is an innovative answer to difficulties **to make fishers speak together and with the other players of the system as administrations or scientists**. It is also a way to **collect everyone's opinions** whereas usual meetings only leave the more charismatic (or the more yelling ones) take the floor. It appears as a relevant tool to **balance the various fleets' interests inside the fishing organizations**. Other needs from fishing organizations representing SSF have been identified in deliverables 6 and 7 (**Annexes 18 to 22**).

#### [Ad hoc committees within fishing organizations at all scales](#)

It is considered that encouraging the establishment of ad hoc committees on SSF in fishing organizations would most probably help **the interests of the SSF sector to be further structured**. Such committees could be strengthened through the **involvement of a locally known and legitimate facilitator**.

## 5.2 SOLUTIONS TO BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

### Geographic extent of the area

The **experience and field knowledge of consultants** have allowed covering the whole area and getting from the interviewees the necessary confidence.

### Availability of fishers for interviews and workshops

Once again knowledge and personal relationships of the **consultants** help to facilitate their participation. **Second workshops have been adapted in different locations** as to deliver useful work rather than planning workshops where fishers' presence was anticipated to be low (specific workshop on SWWAC in Andalusia, questionnaire in Portugal mainland, second workshop in other island in Azores, second workshop with different participants in Finiistère).

### Access to data

After some initial difficulties official data have been obtained from both Portugal and Spain through some networking. In France, POs have accepted to communicate their own data as to balance the issue of representation of the SSF.

### Sensitive issue of considering the share of SSF inside the existing fishing organizations

The issue of internal power balances and the place of SSF within the fishing organizations have been considered though the **membership of fishing organizations and the number of sits for SSF within the management board of these organizations**. It is a proxy of the power balances but has led to conclusions, which appeared to be consistent with information collected from the field interviews. The **same issue could well be addressed at SWWAC's level** where it appears that an important part of the traditional fisheries working group's members are not from the SSF sector.

### Measuring influence

As to answer this difficulty different solutions have been imagined. **First consistency between interviews** through a common guide and check list to consultants has helped to streamline the contents. **Second** it was asked to consider influence at **various decision-making levels** (local, national, European), which has helped interviewee to further think about at what scale and what decision they have been capable of influencing. **Third, the study focuses on fisheries' management** in order to narrow the scope of analysis.



## 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.3.1 AT SHORT TERM

#### [Assistance to fishing organizations representing SSF through FLAG](#)

Fisheries local action groups are **very well located** to bring assistance to SSF organizations (technical assistance, marketing plans, diversification, trainings, facilitation processes ...) even if the initial necessary strategy of each group may lock some opportunities or the funding of new ideas. Additionally these groups **should carefully look into the issue of representation of the fishing sector** as the local influence of some fleet segments or some persons may hinder a fair expression of the different interests at stake.

**Exchanges of experiences** between fishers from different fishing communities is extremely positive as it helps fishers to look at other situations, other ideas, and refresh their ideas about their own situation. Fishers learn by doing or seeing and **concrete *in situ* visits** to – for example – national administrations or European institutions would most probably help them to demystify the complexity of the EU fisheries management system. **It could be imagined as permanent program with EU fisheries' meetings.**

#### [Requesting SWWAC opinions and advices on SSF management](#)

Specific consultations from the European Commission to the SWWAC on SSF matters will trigger internal reflections and debates, and indirectly encourage SSF participation into the SWWAC.

#### [Facilitating networking through specific events at EU/regional levels](#)

Specific events organized at EU or regional levels on SSF matters will also help the SSF sector to further organize itself, network, reflect and make proposals.

### 5.3.2 AT MEDIUM TERM

#### Assistance to fishing organizations representing SSF to benefit from the EMFF

Even if the FLAG may incidentally bring some assistance to this purpose, a more **dedicated support should be found so that the SSF fishing sector could fully benefit of the EMFF** and the increased funding ratios that been fixed by the legislators. It could take the form of **a specific team in each member state or an additional task given to Farnet support unit.**

#### Developing a specific agenda and ad hoc expertise on SSF

As shown in the project it appears that SSF sector suffers from different drawbacks and, no the least, **insufficient information** on its activity is being provided to managers. **A specific STECF working group on SSF and a DCF** that would further contemplate the specificities of SSF will certainly help to reinforce the case of SSF in the Common Fisheries Policy. The management of the fishing effort, and in particular the **regional developments of the technical conservation measures' regulation**, could also make a case of SSF.

#### Bring neutrality in the fishing sector consultation through the support of field experts

As shown in the project, **the fishing organizations' advices often lack neutrality and sometimes filters concrete issues rising from the ground.** It is also difficult for EU institutions or committees (including STECF) to get a clear view on what is really going on, on the field. How fishers are fishing? Which area? What is the exact amount of fishing effort they are exerting at sea? Etc. **The use of modern electronic monitoring system for SSF** could bring part of the solution but the contribution of **external field experts tasked to report on specific fisheries** will also bring some key information. The examples of the huge excess of fishing effort exerted through octopus' pots in Portugal, or through nets in the Bay of Biscay are good examples where **some insight from a field expert would allow to clearly pointing the problems. Such experts could report directly to the European Commission but also feed the SWWAC's work to start from raw information coming from the ground.**

#### Funding a SSF network at European and regional levels

It would be valuable to envisage funding a network for SSF at European and regional levels. Indeed the **recent experience of LIFE** (Low Impact Fishers' of Europe) clearly shows that there is a space for SSF representation and that a gap previously existed in fishing interests' representation. **Similar networks, with clear conditions on entering the organization or network, will probably allow structuring the SSF interests and strategic issues at European level.**

### 5.3.3 AT LONG TERM

#### Developing a baseline for SSF fisheries management at European level

In different locations, it appears that SSF is not well managed and only **incidentally concerned by the TACs and quota system**. Considering the highly diversity and polyvalence of the SSF fleet, **tools focusing on fishing effort management** should be further implemented. The world experiences of Territorial Use Rights for Fishing (**TURFs**) may offer some ways forward. **A global review and a common baseline for Europe would need to be envisaged.**

#### Shift in CFP focus towards coastal fisheries' management towards developing guidelines for Members States' management of their territorial waters

As stated in different occasions throughout the project, the **CFP has historically more focused on larger scale fleet segments and wider areas**. Such scale does not fit at all with the range of operation of the SSF fleet and thus the **EU regulation only incidentally concerned the SSF fleet**. Focusing on coastal fisheries management will indirectly put SSF into relief and help to solve the many issues of ill management of the coastal fisheries. The crucial issue of space dependency will automatically help to reconsider SSF as they are the most dependent to the territorial waters.

Whereas **Member States** have increased responsibility within their territorial waters, it would be useful that they are **held accountable for the management of theirs coastal fisheries monitored through various criteria's** taking into account environmental, social and economic dimension. Something **similar to Article 17** of CFP basic regulation for quotas allocation could be imagined.

**Such focus may also be made through a more integrated management of the EU coastal waters.**

## 6. LIST OF ANNEXES

- ANNEX 1:** *Understanding grassroots factors that enable the small-scale fishing segment to influence fisheries management in the south western waters of the European Union.*
- ANNEX 1bis:** *Renforcement de la petite pêche dans le golfe de Gascogne. Analyse des entretiens menés avec des pêcheurs et avec leurs représentants*
- ANNEX 2:** *Rapport sur l'influence de la petite pêche aux échelles nationales et européenne*
- ANNEX 3:** Deliverable 1: Listing & mapping organisations representing the small-scale fishing fleet in the south western waters of the European Union
- ANNEX 3bis :** *Analyse graphique des données en vue de l'élaboration d'une typologie de la petite pêche*
- ANNEX 4:** Deliverable 2: Degree of representation of the small-scale fishing fleet based on participation of the fleet within the management boards of existing fishing organisations
- ANNEX 5:** Deliverable 3: Coverage of the small-scale fishing sector by the SWWAC
- ANNEX 6:** Guidance for workshops' organization
- ANNEX 7:** *Andalusia - Apuntes sobre participación en el arco atlántico andaluz*
- ANNEX 8:** *Andalusia - Taller – Consejo Consultivo de las Aguas del Sur y participación en la PPC*
- ANNEX 9:** Portugal - First Workshop in Algarve (Faro, Portugal)
- ANNEX 10:** Portugal - Recommendations of the Portuguese fishing organizations to the European Commission
- ANNEX 11:** Azores – first workshop with fishing skippers and fishing organizations
- ANNEX 12:** Azores – second workshop with fishing skippers and fishing organizations
- ANNEX 13:** Galicia – Presentation and report from the 1st Workshop
- ANNEX 14:** Galicia - Presentation and report from the 2nd Workshop
- ANNEX 15:** France – mind mapping of the debates held in the 2 workshops

- ANNEX 16:** Deliverable 4: Summary sheet recapitulating conditions for active involvement of the fishermen from the small-scale fishing sector in organizations
- ANNEX 17:** Deliverable 5: Summary sheet on key factors for an efficient representation of the small-scale fishing sector by the industry organizations
- ANNEX 18:** Deliverable 6: Needs assessment for increasing the SSF sector influence and possibilities to address them
- ANNEX 19:** Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector (Portuguese version)
- ANNEX 20:** Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector (Spanish version)
- ANNEX 21:** Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector (French version)
- ANNEX 22:** Deliverable 7: Guidelines to strengthen organizations representing the small-scale fishing sector (English version)
- ANNEX 23:** Deliverable 8: Fisheries management's stakes and how to be heard within the European Common Fisheries Policy - *Training template for fishermen*
- ANNEX 24:** Deliverable 9: List of human resources dealing with the small-scale fishing sector in the European Union South Western Waters
- ANNEX 25:** Presentations made during the second part of the project (1/01/2017 to 31/10/2017)
- ANNEX 26:** Presentation of the answers to the on-line questionnaire to SWWAC's working group on traditional fisheries (Santiago, October 2017 the 24<sup>th</sup>)
- ANNEX 27:** Minutes of the review meeting held in 2017
- ANNEX 28:** Deliverable 10: Main results of the Pilot Project "Setting the scene to reinforce Small-Scale fishing in SWWAC area"



**Writing :** Benoît Guerin

**Graphic design :** Pauline Marseglia - pauline.marseglia@gmail.com

**Photo credits:** ©SoldeCocos/Inmaculada Martinez, ©Benoît Guerin

**Publication :** October 2017