

Summary sheet on key factors for an efficient representation of the small-scale fishing sector by the industry organizations

Deliverable 5

BG SEA CONSULTING EIRL, *June 2017*



KEY FACTORS

The decision-making process

4. The organization has the capacity to carry out its members' interests towards the managers

The fishing organization

3. The various interests within the organization are properly represented

2. The different fishing *métiers* coexisting within the organization are identified

The Small-scale fleet

1. SSF fleet is represented through existing organisations

1. SSF fleet is represented through existing organisations

- **Is SSF belonging to any fishing organization ?**

- In France and Spain, it can be considered all fishing boats are being represented through existing organizations (either POs, *cofradias* or *comités*)
- However, in Portugal, it is considered that about 30 to 40% of the small-scale fleet does not belong to any organization (DGRM, com. Pers.)

- **Who is being represented by the fishing organization ?**

The issue of formal representation should also be underlined : **whereas Producers' Organizations do only represent ship-owners, *cofradias* in Spain or *comités* in France do also represent crewmembers.**

- **Is the fishing organization representing SSF only ?**

Considering SSF representation, we can distinguish organizations mostly representing SSF (where >96% of the members are SSF, see deliverable 2), and **“mixed” organizations representing various fleet segments.** **In this last case,** the following criteria could be checked: number of sits within the management board, committees designed for the small-scale fleets, advices and statements dealing with the small-scale fleet

2. The different fishing *métiers* coexisting within the organization are identified

- **Fishing *métiers* do constitute internal rather homogeneous subgroups within the fishing organization**

« *Métier* » as defined by scientists in Europe (STECF working groups) corresponds to the linkage between a fishing gear x target species x a fishing area.

Fishers usually see themselves as belonging to a “*métier*” or a fleet where vessels do share the same strategies (specific combination of “*métiers*” throughout the year). They do not identify themselves around the vessel’s size even if for a same *métier* the vessel’s size tend to be rather homogeneous.

Nota Bene : Such definition does not exactly fit with the current EU definition for small-scale being used in the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (under 12m vessels, only using passive gears).

- **Identifying the different fishing *métiers* pertaining to the fishing organization allows understanding the whole “puzzle”, internal balance, and potential conflicts of interests**

3. The various interests within the organization are properly represented

- **Working groups or committees** for each fishing *métier*.

Large scale fleets used to gather around common fishing practises (trawlers, purse-seiners, long-liners) and are usually much more homogeneous. Some organizations may have committees working specifically on coastal fisheries but such groups do gather widely large and small-scale vessels, and different fishing practises. Working on Identity and common features of small-scale would help.

- Facilitating meetings through **external facilitation** ensuring the participatory process attributes (from Johnson KA. et al., 2012)
 - open communication : “critical for honest discussions and frank engagement”
 - unrestrained thinking : “fosters creativity, encourage openness to new ideas, and fosters learning across knowledge type”
 - constructive conflict : “can foster new understanding among diverse participants”
 - extended engagement : “enables ongoing and iterative interactions to occur among participants and is also important for fostering social learning”

- **Stating each committee’s conclusion distinctly before any kind of compromise**

Even if the fishing organizations’ culture of compromise has most probably to be seen as an effort to allow cohabitation between vessels, such practise is contributing to maintaining the status quo situation with no space for radical changes or measures (see Mouffe, 1992 for the risks of inclusive governance)

4. The organization has the capacity to carry out its members' interests towards the managers

MAIN LEVERS OF INFLUENCE

Membership & unity

Size of the organization but also alliances within the fishing sector may help to reach a critical mass needed to be heard by managers.

Homogeneity of the fleet and social cohesion may also help to strengthen unity.

Economic weight

This dimension is rather in favour of the large-scale fleet, however small-scale may be recognized through marketing local seafood.

In addition social weight may also be relevant in different regions depending on fishing (Galicia, Azores)

Soft power : expertise, leadership and social capital

The role of leadership is key in the organization's success while leaders (or technical staff) are trained, have expertise, and do count on a wide network

Institutional set-up clarifying task and responsibilities of fishing organizations

Whereas POs do have clear recognized roles at European levels it is not the case for other fishing organizations (however in France, regional fisheries committees do also have delegated competencies on territorial waters)

Why is SSF less influent compared to LSF ?

Atomization and lack of unity

- Representation of SSF is usually scattered around various organizations (especially the case in Portugal)
- Usual polyvalence of SSF is an obstacle to cohesion

Mindset and recognition by managers

- SSF fishers used to be more more individualistic
- However there is also a cause in the management system which first emphasized its measures on larger-scale segments which incentivized them to gather

Economic weight

- SSF has clearly less economic weight (in volumes and values) that larger-scale segments.
- If SSF is not capable of differentiating its products it may also finds itself in direct competition with larger-scale fleet segments

Soft power (expertise, credibility and networking)

- In organization mostly representing SSF, there is hardly ever technical staff
- In many cases, representatives are not trained nor paid and this is playing against their capacity to efficiently represent the interests of their members

References

- Field interviews
- Workshops (Andalusia, Algarve, Azores, Galicia, Finistère)
- Scientific papers :
 - Pita C., Pierce GJ., Theodossiou I. Stakeholders' participation in the fisheries management decision-making process: Fishers' perceptions of participation. *Mar Pol* 2010; 34:1093-1102
 - Karadzic V., Grin J., Antunes P., Banovic M. Social learning in fish producers' organizations: How fishers perceive their membership experience and what they learn from it. *Mar Pol* 2014; 44: 427-437
 - Corral S., Romero Manrique de Lara D. Participatory artisanal fisheries management in islands: Application to the Canary Islands (Spain). *Mar Pol* 2017; 81: 45-52
 - Johnson K.A., G. Dana, NR. Jordan, KJ Draeger, A. Kapuscinski, LK. Schmitt and PB. Reich 2012. Using participatory scenarios to stimulate social learning for collaborative sustainable development. *Ecology and Society* 17(2):9
 - MOUFFE Chantal: "Democratic Citizenship and the Political Community", *Dimensions of Radical Democracy: pluralism, citizenship, community*, MOUFFE Chantal (ed.), Verso, Londres, 1992.