

European Parliament Public Hearing

Committee on Fisheries

12 November 2019

“Facing the new challenges of the EU Fisheries Control system”

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SPAIN



PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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 European Parliament

FACING THE NEW CHALLENGES OF THE EU FISHERIES CONTROL SYSTEM



Chair: Chris DAVIES

Facing the new challenges of the EU Fisheries Control system

**European Parliament Public Hearing. Committee on Fisheries
12th November 2019**

- Spain as a major actor in the European fisheries industry
- An evolving framework for the Fishing sector
- Fisheries control and surveillance: a tool to respond to the evolving framework
- Final conclusions



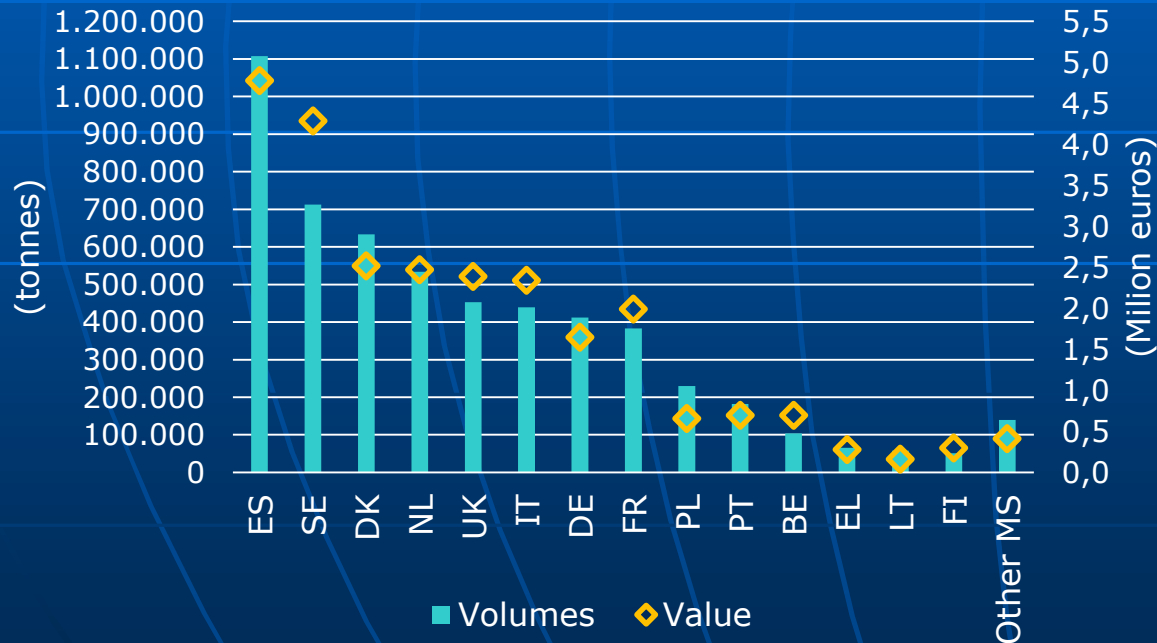
SPAIN: a major actor in the European fisheries industry

- **1st EU Member state in landings and catches**
 - Spain accounts for **19% of EU landings** and **17% of EU catches**
- Spanish fleet: 8.972 vessels represent **11% of total EU fleet**
- The Spanish fishing sector creates >20.000 direct jobs in coastal areas
+ 16.151 jobs in aquaculture and 20.140 in the canning & processing industry
+ (estimate) 100.000 indirect jobs in the value chain from ports up to consumers
- Contribution of the fish-food value chain to GDP (estimate): 8.965 million euros
 - thus, a very relevant sector within the BLUE ECONOMY
- Portugal & Spain show **top fish-consumption** rates in the EU (**x2 EU average**).
 - Strong consumer demand goes with growing concern on healthy diets and sustainable fishing

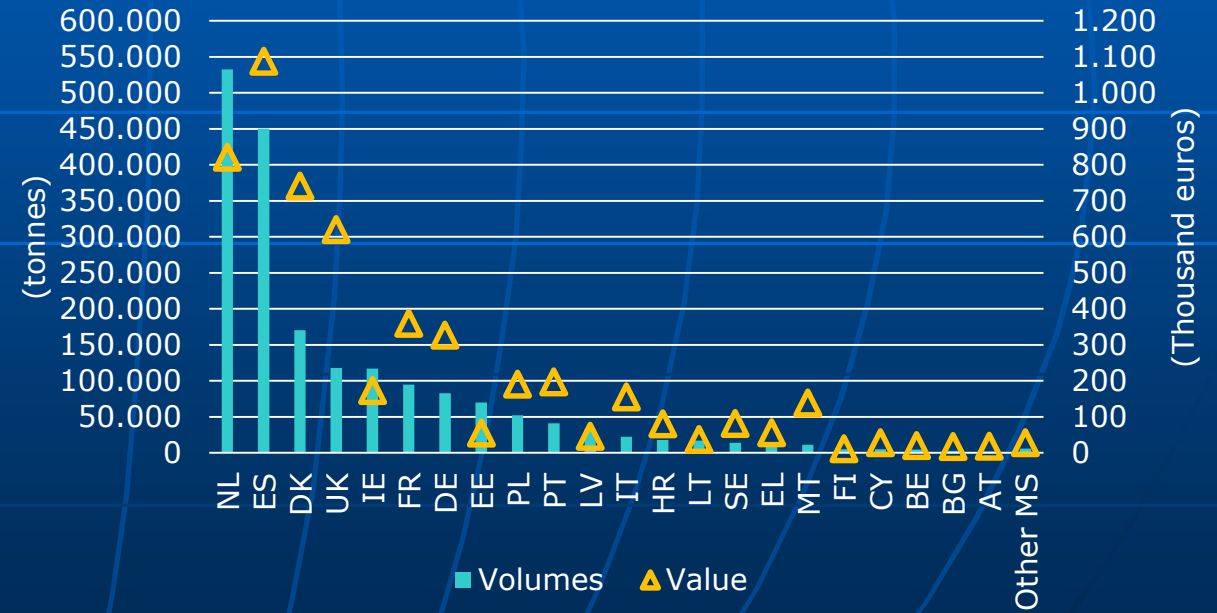
Spain plays a major role in international trade of fish & fish products

- Spain is top importer and exporter in extra-EU trade, and one of the most relevant MS regarding intra-EU flows
- Main countries of origin: China, Morocco, Ecuador, Argentina, Portugal...
- Main countries of destination: Italy, Portugal, France, Ecuador, Morocco...

Imports (extra-EU) 2018



Exports (extra-EU) 2018

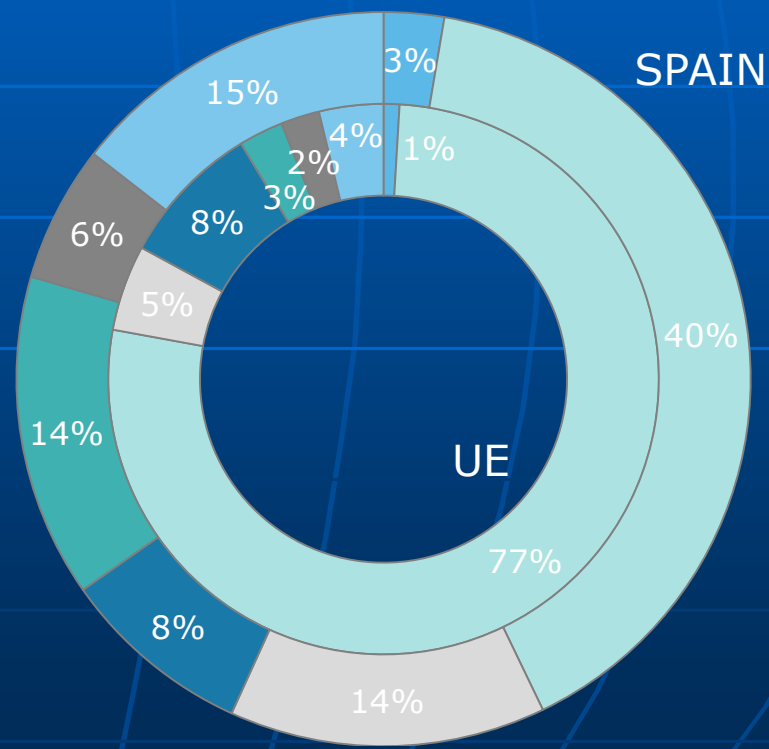


Spanish fisheries are highly diversified in species... And highly diversified in fishing areas:

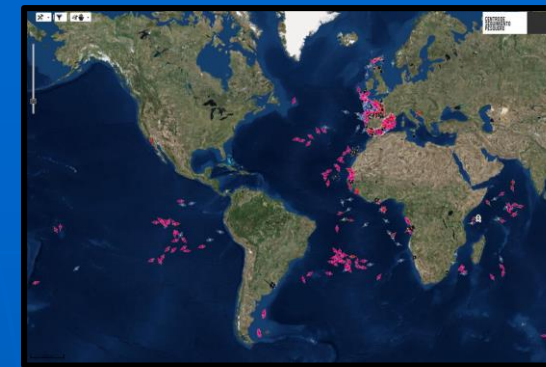
Top species caught (tonnes of live weight)

Species	Average 2014-2016	% Spain/UE
Skipjack tuna	124.514	74,7%
Yellowfin tuna	105.600	66,7%
Argentine hake	50.484	99,7%
European anchovy	46.332	39,8%
Blue shark	51.495	83,3%
European hake	36.716	31,1%
Atlantic chub mackerel	38.550	36,0%
Sardine	36.945	15,8%
Atlantic horse mackerel	22.175	12,3%
Atlantic mackerel	33.088	6,1%
Blue whiting	24.512	11,3%
Atlantic cod	18.462	13,0%

- Atlantic, Northwest
- Atlantic, Northeast
- Atlantic, Eastern Central
- Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Atlantic, Southwest
- Atlantic, Southeast
- Indian Ocean, Western



Source: EUROSTAT



The aforementioned importance of Fisheries in Spain has been, for decades, translated into a **strong Fisheries Control and Surveillance System** at all levels:

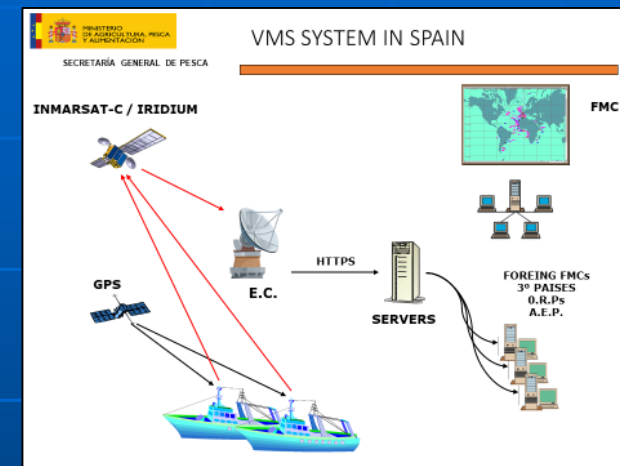
- **Vessels Monitoring Center:**

- 2000 vessels > 15m length. Worldwide distribution.
- 5 different equipments with global coverage.
- Data Exchange with 25 countries and RFMOs. (Irlanda, Francia, Portugal, Noruega, Seychelles, Madagascar, Cabo Verde, Marruecos, Mauritania...)
- 24/7 activity.

- **Leadership in fighting Illegal Unreported and Undocumented Fisheries:**

- New specific very serious infringements for IUU fishing
- Strengthening market control and inspection measures for IUU fishing
- New Measures to dissuade efficiently Spanish nationals of performing IUU fishing activities
- Strengthening enforcement system

Successful stories: Sparrow operations, cooperation with RFMOs, Latin American and Caribbean IUU fishing Network...





An evolving framework for the fishing sector (I)

A- GLOBAL CONTEXT

Globalization: Increasing worldwide presence of third countries fleets with a lesser focus on sustainability compared to EU standards.

International Ocean Governance:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
- The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). FAO
- Future agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. (BBNJ)
- The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
- Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- Blue Economy
-



Need for a coherent international legal framework

Fisheries must remain as a main player of the Oceans governance



B- EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT:

Common Fisheries Policy consistently focused on Sustainable Development:

1- Environmental Sustainability

Avoiding overexploitation of resources → **MSY**

Need of reliable **data availability** for scientific evaluation.

New data sources: i) Landing Obligation ii) Recreational Fisheries.

Increasing preoccupation for **Ocean pollution**: plastics, microplastics

2- Economic Sustainability

Avoiding unfair competition within the EU and with 3rd countries

Ensuring compliance along all steps of the commercial chain

3- Social Sustainability

Standardization of labor and security conditions. →

i.e. IMO **Conference** on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing in **Torremolinos**, Spain, 21-23 October 2019

FISHERIES CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE: A TOOL TO RESPOND TO THE EVOLVING FRAMEWORK

NEW INSTRUMENTS:

Better use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Reinforced role of the European Fisheries Control Agency

NEW TARGETS:

Coherence and coordination between Community policies:

- Regime of sanctions
- Import arrangements

Strengthening the monitoring, control and surveillance of recreational fisheries

Harmonization implies

Efficiency

Level the playing field



FISHERIES CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE: A TOOL TO RESPONSE TO THE EVOLVING FRAMEWORK (II)

Challenges:

1- Changes must be feasible and consistent with the reality of the fishing sector.

 Fisheries sector have to be present in all debates along all the process

2- Need for raising the global ambition in fighting IUU

Neither Spain nor the EU can handle fighting IUU alone



Need for international cooperation

3- Synergies with other EU Policies and instruments



i.e. **EEFM 2021-2027**

4- Balance between simplification and feasibility



Observing specifics of artisanal fleet

Final conclusions

Spain welcomes all efforts to make Fisheries Control more efficient and tailored to the new era.

Any change needs a proper transition period to ensure an easy assimilation for the fishing sector and national and regional administrations.

We need to avoid creating unnecessary administrative burdens

In a **nutshell**:

We need the European fishing sector to be increasingly sustainable and competitive, creating more wealth and employment, and with a future of growth and stability

Fishing must receive the attention it deserves in all the discussions on oceans and should be regarded as a relevant socio-economic activity

New control regulation needs to allow meeting those objectives.