



Generalitat de Catalunya Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació

Direcció General de Pesca i Afers Marítims

Co-management at the core of the new governance model for commercial fisheries in Catalonia

EP public hearing "Co-management of EU fisheries at local level"

January 2021

2030 Maritime Strategy of Catalonia

govern.cat

2'

The first Maritime Strategy of Catalonia was adopted in May 2018



emc



El govern aprova la primera

Estratègia Marítima de la seva història

d'una gestió integrada de les activitats que impacten sobre l'espai marítim català

L'objectiu és desenvolupar l'economia blava de manera sostenible i harmònica a través



Juny 2018

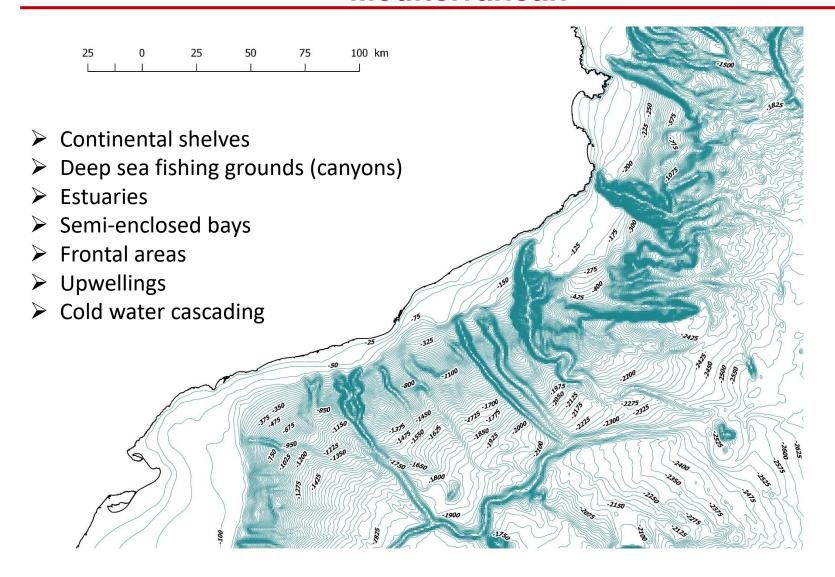
XII legislatura

Creating a comprehensive regulatory, legal framework for fisheries co-management: a first for Europe

- ✓ Decree on the governance model for professional fishing in Catalonia issued in June 2018
- ✓ First time in the EU that fisheries co-management is formally regulated and becomes the central policy of an administration



Catalonia: a miniature model of the global sea in the NW Mediterranean



High diversity in gears and spp. targeted









Some relevant features

- Over 700 coastal professional fishing vessels
- + 200 fish spp. marketed
- Fishing grounds usually very close to the fishing ports
- Fishing trips typically shorter than 12 hours
- Daily landings

Some assets:

- > Strong attachment of fishing fleets to their traditional fishing grounds
- Long history of involvement of confraries in aspects of fisheries management



Strong feeling of "ownership"/stewardship from fishers

(but ... increasing alienation from decision-making processes since centralized management strengthened in modern times)

The start of the "co-management revolution"

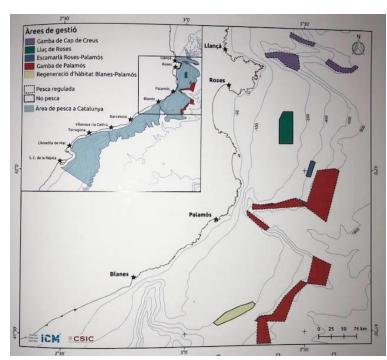
■ Increasing awareness among fishers on the need to take action to overcome the fisheries crisis: *status quo* no longer an option

 Some ad hoc pilot experiences on multi-stakeholder participatory management taking place starting around 2012, triggered by fishers and

NGOs

Some exemples:

- Co-management committee of the sand-eel fishery
- Management Plan of blue-and-rose shrimp in Palamós canyon
- ➤ Time/area closures in Girona (> 500 sq km), including fully no-fishing zones



First results from early experiences

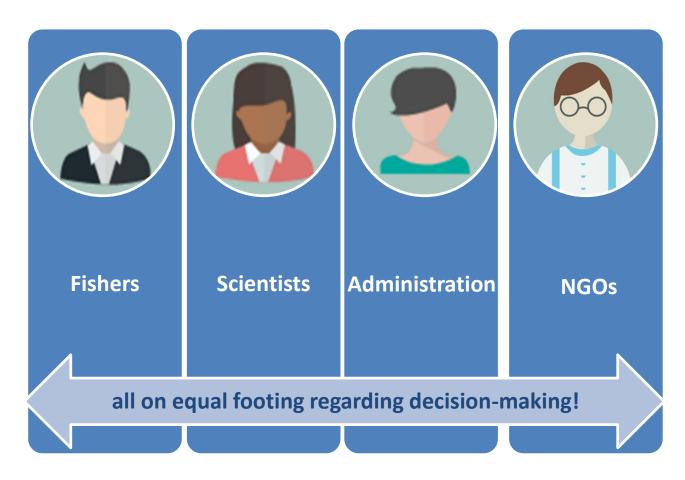
Devolution of management powers to stakeholders under a regime of comanagement ...

- ✓ makes management process more efficient
- ✓ increases co-responsibility & trust which leads to increased compliance
- ✓ allows for adaptive management
- ✓ triggers a more intelligent bioeconomic management of the fishery (brings management closer to marketing and social issues)
- ✓ two-way dialogue scientists-fishers ideal to ensure integration of TEK into scientific research on local stocks, supporting an EAF
- ✓ Increases overall credibility of the management system

Participatory management empowering a variety of stakeholders results in better fisheries management

True fisheries co-management in action:

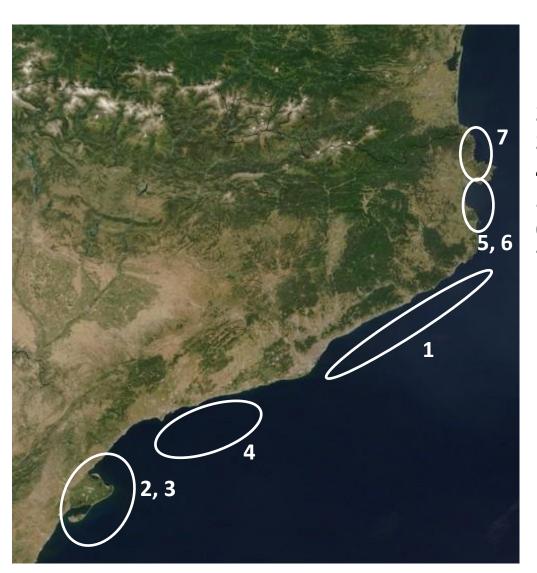
co-management committees with the right stakeholder mix and operating at the scale that matters for the fishery



Main elements of the Catalan fisheries model

- ✓ Based on co-management committees (CCs) operating at fishery level and at the geographical scale that matters (though high flexibility in scope)
- ✓ CCs operating at two levels: plenum and technical committee
- ✓ Stakeholders structured around 5 areas, with same voting power each (but focus on consensus)
- ✓ Technical committee mandated to develop management plan within 18 months (and accompanying socioeconomic programme), to be validated by plenum then legally issued as an order
- ✓ Technical committee to make adaptive adjustments of the plan, which are legally binding as such
- ✓ Focus on effort management
- ✓ Conservation incentives

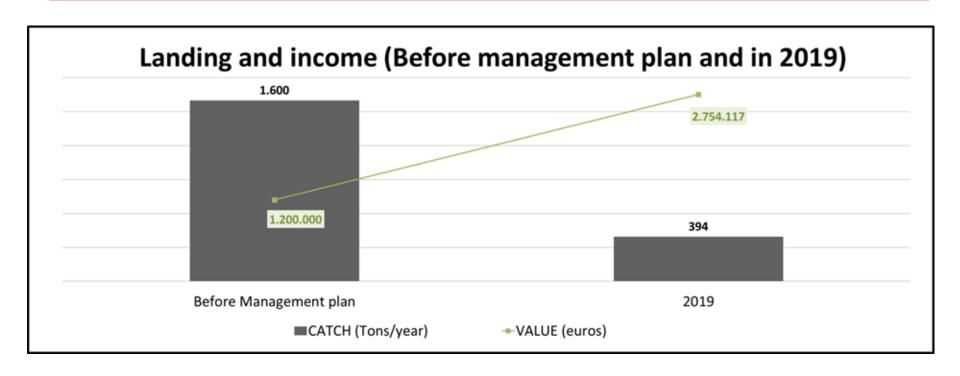
Current and prospective CCs – work in progress

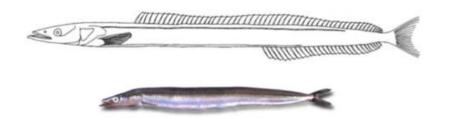


- 1. Sand-eel fishery, boat seines
- 2. Octopus fishery, Terres de l'Ebre
- 3. Blue crab fishery, Terres de l'Ebre
- 4. Octopus fishery, central coast
- 5. Cuttlefish SSF, Gulf of Roses and Pals
- 6. Purse seine fishery, Gulf of Roses
- 7. Artisanal fisheries, Cap de Creus
 Natural Park

> 10% of fish landings in Catalonia originate in co-managed fisheries

Good governance pays off





The sand-eel fishery: a sustainability success

Challenges and opportunities

- ✓ Gradual transition towards the new model to wisely manage limited resources and capacity
- ✓ Mismatch in scope and scale of local and supra-local co-managed plans with respect to EU's Data Collection Framework: need for more specific, tailor-made data collection schemes. New "Data Collection Programme in Support of Fisheries Management" just established in Catalonia to inform fisheries co-management
- ✓ Specific label "fish from locally co-managed fisheries" stepping stone approach towards consumers' recognition of sustainability
- ✓ Potential role of community-led local development schemes (through FLAGs) to support CC's socioeconomic programmes (such as commercialization actions)
- ✓ Important that formal CCs are eligible as recipients of EMFF funding to cover operational costs

Supporting consumer choices to reward good practices





A model internationally recognised

A NEW GOVERNANCE PARADIGM

FAO – GFCM
High Level Conference on sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Malta, Septembre 2018

FAO recognizes the Catalan model of participatory fisheries management (co-management) with an award



Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (DARP) Teresa Jordà, the president of the Catalan National Federation of fishermen's associations, Antoni Abad, and the Director General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DGPAM), Sergi Tudela, with the award

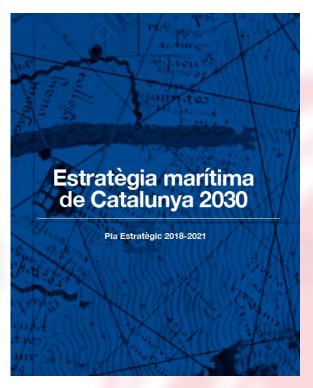
In the end it's all about .. common sense and consensus!







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