

**Title of abstract: Fisheries diversity in the Mediterranean: the Italian monitoring programme for the assessment of productivity and ecological sustainability of inshore fisheries**

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The Common Fisheries Policy is aimed at contributing to increased environmental and economic sustainability of the fishery sector, including small-scale fisheries (SSF).

In the Mediterranean Sea, small scale fisheries are a major economic sector in terms of numbers of people employed, revenues and food supply. SSF are highly heterogeneous in terms of catch composition, fleet structure, gear employed and organisation of the sector.

In Italy, inshore fisheries represent 67% of the total number of fishing vessels, and 66% of the fishing activity in terms of total fishing days. SSF vessels spread along 8000 km of coastline, and operate in a vast number of landing points (estimated in around 800 units). Therefore, monitoring this fleet sector is a complex task, which is carried out by applying a robust statistical approach and an intensive sampling design, which implies the direct involvement of fishermen and vessels' owners.

The monitoring programme is based on an integrated sample survey aimed at covering all the aspects of the fisheries (economic, social, and ecological). The survey is based on a sample of around 700 vessels that represent about 10% of the total small scale fleet.

Assessments in terms of social (e.g. level of employment, average wages), economic (e.g. revenues, operative costs, investments, profitability) and ecological sustainability indicators (e.g. occurrence of discards, by catch, ratio between mean length of the catches and minimum conservation reference size) highlight the role of SSF at local and sub-regional level.

Keywords: Data collection, small scale fishery, Mediterranean sea, sustainability indicators

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