

Recreational Marine fishing in Spain: a survey plan for a global approach.

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Abstract

The acquired knowledge on Marine recreational fishing in Europe is mostly based on partial studies, either because their geographical limitation or because the fishing modality under study. This can be attributed to the lack of national monitoring programs forcing the scientific community to gather all the scatter information and extrapolate results between them despite their methodological and regional differences. Here we present a novel project which main goal is to provide a global view of Marine recreational fishing in Spain, from fishers social profile to fishing performing, harvesting and economic value. The identification of singularities and differences between fishing modalities (boat, shore, underwater) and geographic areas would provide a working frame for further studies. A large amount of information is needed to achieve our goal, unrealistic to reach by traditional direct sampling surveys and therefore replaced by on line surveys addressed to recreational fishers. Although, this approach doesn't guarantee large participation it is feasible when fundamental conditions are met. It is first necessary to reach fishers population and then motivate their participation. The project plan, "to reach and convince", use today's communications media and incorporates as active actors different recreational fishing stakeholders (Federations, Clubs, Associations, Shops, dealers and trademarks). The active participation of these actors strengthens and enlarges dissemination mechanisms and provides incentives to boost the participation of fishers. The overall project, called PECES, address additional objectives and here we present the communication plan of the project, structure and growth since it was launched in February 2016.

Key words: Spain, Recreational fishing, Survey, Stakeholders.