

An ecosystem-based approach to define small scale fisheries management plans in the Bay of Biscay

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Understanding the spatial pressure of the small scale fishing to define management plans (specifically temporal yearly-based bans) at the Bay of Biscay (BOB) represents the main goal of this paper. The spatial distribution of the SSF pressure at the BOB together with other human pressures (such as recreational activity) is integrating to define and assess a specific management plan for each of the different SSF métiers (pots and traps, gillnets, hand and pole lines, longlines). This study characterizes the existing spatial SSF activity developed by 80 vessels pertained to 11 Basque ports along the 150 km of the coast. Spatial characterization in relation to the fishing effort (number of trips), revenues, added value, species caught, among other multidimensional variables is done by using geo-localization data from non-official activity reports filled by fishermen since 2010. In addition, for the last two years 2015 and 2016 data from AIS devices is also introduced in the analysis. This approach represents the first attempt to define and improve management plans for SSF by following an ecosystem-based approach in the Basque Country. In addition, the definition and assessment of this management plan will be done following a participatory process in which different métiers, local administration and researcher work together to develop the best biological and socio-economic management objectives of this plan.

Keywords: Ecosystem Approach, Small Scale fishing, Management plan

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