

Interdisciplinary fisheries seminar

The details matter: the case of Small-Scale Fisheries in Galicia

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Aula Seminario 06, School of Economics

Abstract

Small-scale fisheries (SSFs) play a major role in worldwide fish catches and food supplies and security. They, globally, provide employment to the largest number of fishers, as compared to industrial fisheries, and contribute to the development, growth and wellbeing of local economies, societies and cultures. However, despite its importance, SSFs have been traditionally under-attended and marginalized in national and international policies including the European Union (EU). Within the EU, Galicia (NW Spain) has one of the largest artisanal sectors characterised for being a complex multi-specific and multi-gear small-scale fishery of enormous socio-economic. Though, despite this recognised role for the local communities and cultures, there is a lack of basic scientific research regarding multiple fishery and ecological aspects that would help to gain deep knowledge on the resources dynamics. The Technical Unit of Artisanal Fisheries (UTPB) runs a monitoring fishery-dependent program since 1999 that serves the autonomous government (Xunta de Galicia) to develop and implement simple exploitation plans in conjunction with the several fishers' associations ('cofradías') distributed along the Galician coast. Briefly, data are recorded by UTPB observers onboard fishing vessels randomly selected from within the artisanal fleet (~4000 boats) and assumed to be representative for the numerous set of species and gears and with a sufficient spatial and temporal coverage and resolution. The present project aims at taking advantage of these data to specifically perform numerous analysis from basic standardization indices of abundance to develop reliable fishery indicators or perform community ecology analyses.

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