Co-management of the sand eel fishery of Catalonia
- Implications for Natura 2000 -

Workshop on fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean Sea
Zadar (Croatia), 10-12 October 2017

Joan Ylla Boix
joan.ylla@gencat.cat
Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Government of Catalonia
Case Study

- Fisheries Governance in Catalonia
  - Sand eel Co-management committee (case study)
- Co-management in Catalan Natura 2000 sites
  - Nature 2000 marine area site – pilot case study
- Red coral: a regional concern
- Conclusions
Natura 2000 network in Catalonia

Fisheries Governance in Catalonia – Case study

- Catalan sand-eel fishery: a bottom-up co-management approach

  - The Catalan Sandeel fishery is a traditional activity (1809) comprised of 26 artisanal vessels (<10 m) along the central and northern Catalan coast (~100 km) that use a particular type of boat seine for targeting sandeel in shallow waters (5-15 m) during most of the year.

- Fishery closed in 2012 because the absence of a management plan.

- Solution: Creation of a multi-stakeholder committee and elaboration of a Multiannual management plan.
Fisheries Governance in Catalonia – Case study

- **Catalan sand-eel fishery Multi Annual Plan (MAP)**

  Multi Annual Plan establishes **conservation objectives** and a **complete set of measures** to achieve them

- **Measures for controlling effort**
  - Annual TAC
  - Daily Quota/vessel
  - Closed census
  - Seasonal closure
  - Fishing schedule

- **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures**
  - Detailed logbooks
  - Monitoring on board
  - Authorized landing harbors and procedures

- **Quantifiable indicators, reference points and precautionary actions**
  - Indicator
  - Reference points
  - Precautionary actions
Fisheries Governance in Catalonia – Case study

- Catalan sand-eel fishery Comanagement Committee (CMC)

Fishery’s management falls under the responsibility of the Co-management Committee

- CMC composition and functions

- 22 members
- Meets one a year
- Nominates and supervises a Permanent Commission
- Decides on strategic approaches

- 10 representatives
- Meets every month
- Monitors the fishery
- Establishes management measures and penalties
- Discusses strategic approaches

CMC composition:
- 20% Catalan fisheries Adm.
- 20% Spanish fisheries Adm.
- 20% Fishing Sector
- 20% Scientists
- 20% Civil society - NGOs-
Fisheries Governance in Catalonia – Case study

- **Catalan sand-eel fishery – Main goals achieved**
  - To be flexible, respond in real time, be proactive and find shared solutions among managers and fishers.
  - To **adjust management measures to reality** and find innovative solutions.
  - Gain the essential knowledge to **ensure stock sustainability**.
  - Effective co-management allows for a true **adaptive fisheries management**.
  - Adaptive management has the potential to **increase profitability without increasing fishing effort**.
  - Increased sense of ownership among fishers translated in **high level of compliance and commitment** (illegal sale has been eradicated).
Fisheries Governance in Catalonia – Legislation

- Catalan Governance model for professional fisheries
  
  The **Catalan fisheries governance** will be based in two priority pillars: establishment of **management plans** and application of the **co-management model** as a decision-making instrument.

  - **Focus on management:** *Establishment of management plans as fishing activity regulation, monitoring and control.*
    - Precautionary criterion and ecosystem approach to Fisheries
    - Scientifically recommended biological reference point
    - Socioeconomic programme (optimize economic profits while diminishing fishing pressure)
    - Regulation: catch limits, catch size, fishing effort, census, fishing schedule, technical measures, conservation incentives, ...

  - **Focus on Governance:** *Full devolution of power to multi-stakeholder co-management committees on a management plan basis.*
    - CMC are integrated by representatives of all stakeholders (fisheries sector, administration, scientific institutions and civil society) and operate at two levels (Plenary and standing committee).
    - Charged of designing, implementing and performing adaptive adjustments of management plans
    - **CMC are “sovereign” decision-making bodies**
Co-management in Catalan Natura 2000 network

- **Illes formigues pilot case study**

  - After 4 years of negotiation, in 2010 a proposal for the creation of a marine reserve (*Illes formigues*) fails to be adopted.
  
  - 2016: social movements ask Catalan administration to take action.
  

Experience in fisheries **co-management** is being used in the **marine Natura 2000 site managing plan designing processes**
Co-management in Catalan Natura 2000 sites

Illes formigues pilot case study

1. Identification of possible actors (> 100)

2. Electronic questionnaires

3. Meeting and work tables
Co-management in Catalan Natura 2000 network

- **Illes formigues** pilot case study – First conclusions
  - Need a new management approach
  - Need to improve coexistence and attitude of actors (promote dialogue and increase mutual knowledge; achieve a balance between different interests and assume responsibility).
  - Create a legitim and transparent participation and decision-making process.
  - Need for a technical permanent working group to speed up the process.

- **Main challenges**
  - Lack of knowledge
  - Capacity
  - Complexity of the process
Red coral: a regional concern

- **Harvest management of a marine slow-growing species**

  - Traditional and regulated marine activity that in Catalonia is developed mostly in Nature 2000 sites:
    - Closed cense (10 licenses)
    - No take areas defined
    - Seasonal closure

  - In 2015 IUCN included red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) in its red list (risk of extinction)

  - In 2016 DGPAM commissioned a [scientific study](#) on the state of the red coral population in Catalonia:
    - 10% population well conserved (0-50 m)
    - 75% reduction of catches last 40 years
    - **Recovery only possible in the absence of extractive activity** (20 years moratoria)
Red coral: a regional concern

- **Concrete measures adopted**
  - Resolution 418/XI of Parliament of Catalonia on red coral in January 2017 adopted by consensus (assess the status and justify measures, strengthen the control IUU activities and act at educational level)
  - Legal text (Ordre ARP/59/2017, april 7th) establishes technical measures:
    - Reduce the number of licenses by **50 % in 2017** (closed census)
    - Establish a **10-year moratorium from 2018** to be revised based on the scientific monitoring of the populations
  - Increase **coordination** of control of IUU activities
Conclusions

- Experience in co-management proves...

  - The need of consensus in decision-making process makes it a **mid term process**.
  
  - **Participation of multiple actors** with different interests, although makes it a complex process its **proven to be successful**.
  
  - Effective **co-management** allows a true **adaptive management** and to respond at problems in real time with solutions **adjusted to reality**.
  
  - **Adaptive management** has the potential to **increase profitability** without increasing exploitation.
  
  - Real participation **increases sense of ownership** among actors and it translates in **high level of compliance and commitment**.
  
  - **Co-management** has the potential to **reduce the cost of conservation**.
Thank you!

Joan Ylla Boix
joan.ylla@gencat.cat
Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Government of Catalonia