

# Review of the French marine capture fisheries management in the Mediterranean Sea

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Extracted from the Review of the state of world marine capture fisheries management: Mediterranean Sea (In press) by Cassandra De Young, FAO.



# Features of French marine capture fisheries in Mediterranean

- Salt fisheries in Mediterranean contribute poorly to the GDP. But Mediterranean fisheries still maintain a high commercial value.
- In fact, Mediterranean fisheries represent only around 8% of national total catch but reach 14% at the national value.
- Mediterranean fisheries play an important economic and social role within the littoral regions.
- Mediterranean fisheries are characterized by an important diversification and by small scale fisheries.

# French Mediterranean fleet

- 1645 fishing vessels with about 2 440 fishermen working aboard (2005).
- The fleet is aging and mostly composed of vessels of less than 12 m and with an average age of 26 years.
- Different kinds of fishing activities:
  1. Industrial fisheries: Trawlers practising deep trawling and small pelagic trawling, Tuna boat-purse seiner and fire fishing (lampo).
  2. Artisanal fisheries: more than 115 different kinds. Three sub categories: eel fishing, *petits metiers en mer* and shellfish fishing.

# Policy framework

- The management of French fisheries is organized around three axis: international, national and regional.
- French fisheries policy is conditioned by the Common Fisheries Policy: Regulation (EC) of 21 December 2006.
- Main national fisheries laws:
  1. Decree of 9 January 1852 on the practice of marine fisheries.
  2. Law of 18 November 1997 on marine fisheries.
- French fisheries policy is based on a local and ancestral co-management of the resources, shared between the professional organizations and Maritime Affairs.
- France has adopted various strategic plans to modernize and develop the French fisheries sector.

# Legal framework

- Multiple authority step in the definition and the application of fisheries management measures:
  1. At the national level: The Direction of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Maritime Affairs.
  2. At the regional level: The Regional Fisheries Committee, the Regional Direction of Maritime Affairs and the CROSS (Regional Centre of Monitoring and Rescue).
  3. At the local level: Local Fisheries Committee, Prud'homies and the Departmental Direction of Maritime Affaires.
- Regarding control, France has tried to strength monitoring measures to be in conformity with EU regulation.

# Status of fisheries

- Quantities of landing are quite stable throughout the years.
- Fishing trawlers captures represent 80% of landing and 75% of the total sales.
- Main species targeted: Sardine, anchovy, hake, octopus and calamari, sea bass, sea bream, sole, monk fish and bluefin tuna.
- Difficulty to evaluate the stocks: No catch declaration, issues linked to artisanal fisheries and no quotas (TAC).
- Limited stocks evaluation: species and areas.
- Intensive exploitation for clams, hake and others juveniles of noble species.

# Management activities

- Management is localized and varies according to years, localities, activities, species but also necessities.
- Prud'homies regulation: fishing period and gears.
- Minimal size are conditioned by the UE regulation.
- Recent adoption of management plans for tackles and species: trawler , purse seiner and eel.
- Licence system: Licence of exploitation + Special licence or professional licence.
- No quotas in the Mediterranean Sea except for bluefin tuna.
- Creation of MPA that have an impact on fishing regulation.

# Use of Fishery Management Tools in Mediterranean within the two largest fisheries in France

Fisheries	Gears restrictions	Spatial restrictions	Temporal restrictions	Size restrictions	Licence/limited entry	Catch restrictions
<b>Industrial</b>						
Trawler	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Tuna boat-seiner	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Lamparo</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
<b>Artisanal</b>						
Eel fishing	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
<i>Petits metiers en mer</i>	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Shellfish fishing	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no

# Costs and revenues of fisheries management

- Difficulties to obtain information on the costs.
- Financing of fisheries are triple:
  1. State budget.
  2. European funds.
  3. Fiscal fee assigned to the OFIMER and collected by the sector.
- Low financing for the local and regional management.

# Conclusion

- Mediterranean fisheries are threaten by:
  1. Increase of fuel price.
  2. Issues of vessels security.
  3. Homogenisation imposed by the EU
  4. Recent suspension of quota for bluefin tuna.
- The following recommendations can be formulated :
  1. Adapt management measures to the Mediterranean fisheries specificity.
  2. Support local and regional initiatives.
  3. Increase fishing evaluation.
  4. Reinforce fishing control.