

## COUNTRY NOTE ON NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS -- SPAIN

### Box 1. Short overview to the fisheries sector

**2001 Production level:**

Landings	929 933 tonnes
Aquaculture	313 175 tonnes
Canned fish	260 280 tonnes

**2001 Production structure:**

Fishing vesels	Number of	15 385 (10 856 amateurs)
GT	527 595	
Kw	1 297 488	

**2001 Number of fishers** 52 834

**2001 Fishing Firms:**

Shipowners Firms	14 222
Joint Ventures Shipowners Firms	89
Aquaculture Fishing Firms	
Process Fishing Firms	776

**2001 Estimated contribution to GDP:**

Fishing activity and aquaculture	0.37%
Fishing, aquaculture, processing and trade	0.90%

1. Spain has a large number of fisheries with different technical, economic, biological, social and management characteristics. A description of the main fisheries, with information about fishing gears, geographical areas, main species, management instruments, enterprise typology and destination market is given below. Table 1 summarises this information.

### **Description of the main Spanish fisheries**

#### **1. *Tuna Freezer Purse Seiners***

2. Fleets operate in the Atlantic, Indian, East Pacific and West Pacific Oceans, mainly catching tropical tuna: Bigeye, Yellowfin Tuna and Skipjack. Activities are conducted under international Agreements (IATTC, IOTC...) regulating catches as well as conservation measures (TAC system). Involved in this fishery are large industrial vessels which have great autonomy, offering regular employment. Production is exported to internal market of EU (mainly to Spain, France and Italy for canning) or to Japan.

## **2. *Freezer Surface Longliners***

3. Fleets operate in the Atlantic, East Pacific and Indian Oceans, mainly catching swordfish and recently, shark species. The activity is conducted under international Agreements (ICCAT,...) regulating catches as well as conservation measures (TAC system). Medium industrial vessels with great autonomy, offering regular employment are utilised. Production is exported to internal market of EU (mainly to Spain) or to Japan

## **3. *Cod and Freezer Trawlers in the NAFO area***

4. Two different fleets operate in the NAFO regulatory area:

- Cod fleet, composed of pair trawlers, has dramatically reduced its activity because of the resource crisis. In recent years, only very few of them fish for Atlantic halibut.
- On the other hand, freezer trawlers fish Atlantic halibut, Blue mouth, redfish, shrimp and other non regulated species.

5. Activities are conducted under NAFO Convention, regulating catches as well as conservation measures (TAC system). Fleets are composed of large and medium industrial vessels with great autonomy, offering regular employment. Production is sold to the internal market of EU (mainly to Spain) or to Japan.

## **4. *Cod and Freezer Trawlers in Svalbard and Norway, North of 62° North.***

6. Cod trawlers fish for cod and the others for redfish and shrimp in the area of Svalbard Islands and Norway above 62° north. This activity is conducted under International Agreements (Paris Treaty, UE-Norway Bilateral Agreement), regulating catches as well as conservation measures (TAC system). Medium and large industrial vessels with great autonomy are utilised, offering regular employment. Production is sold to internal market of EU (mainly to Spain).

## **5. *High Sea Fleet in third countries' waters***

7. Heterogeneous segments of fleet including all vessels operating in third countries under bilateral EU agreements come under this category. Fishing gears include: pole and line, trawl, longline and minor gears.

8. Catches depending on fishing modality and fishing grounds include: tropical tuna (pole and line), cephalopods, crustaceans and demersal species (in particular hake for trawl), swordfish (longline) and hake and sardine (minor gears).

9. Activities are conducted under Bilateral Agreements establishing management systems (usually TAC system) and controlled by the EU or/and local authorities.

10. The management systems are constituted of industrial companies as well as of family owned companies. Depending on the agreement, some of them are bound to employ crew from third countries up to a certain percentage. Production is marketed on the internal market of EU (mainly to Spain)

## **6. *Freezer Trawlers in South Atlantic and Antarctic Oceans***

11. Vessels fishing for cephalopods and demersal species as hake or turbot, toothfish, etc. are in the South Atlantic Area and Antarctic international waters. Management is based on effort control, under RFO's auspices (CCAMLR, SEAFO). Large industrial vessels with great autonomy, offering regular

employment are utilised. Production is marketed on the internal market of EU (mainly to Spain) and the US.

#### **7. *The “300” Fleet***

12. This fleet is composed of trawlers and longliners working in ICES VI, VII y VIII a, b, d, e, areas outside Spanish waters. Target fish are: demersal species as hake, anglerfish, megrim, nephrops and Pollack.

13. The name of this fleet refers to the original number of vessels authorized to operate at same time. In the common European waters, the management system is based on TAC's, each State having the competence to distribute its quota. In Spain the distribution of fishing rights is made by historical criteria but allowing the transfer of fishing rights between companies in form of fishing days. This system has made it possible to reduce the fleet from 350 to less of 200 vessels over 100 GRT. Thus, fishing effort is limited but control is based in landings.

14. Industrial companies are the proprietors, sometimes owning several vessels. Production is marketed in Spain.

#### **8. *Pole and line under 50 GRT***

15. Segment of fleet composed by vessels under 50 GRT working in ICES area VIII, outside and inside Spanish territorial waters. Principal species are hake and other unregulated species. Management is based on fishing effort control. Companies use a familiar composition in its management. Production is marketed to Spanish internal market.

#### **9. *Trawlers in IX zone***

16. This fleet segment is composed of 16 medium capacity trawlers working in ICES IX area, in Portuguese waters. Principal species are hake, nephrops, megrim and anglerfish. Management mainly based in TAC and effort control. The fishing companies are family owned and production is for Spanish internal market.

#### **10. *Minor gear in Spanish/Portugal border***

17. A total of 94 vessels working in the border area between Spain and Portugal using artisanal gears as purse seine, trammel, mollusc/rake, etc. Most of them also work in the Spanish national waters (group n. 16). Main species are sardines and molluscs. This activity is conducted under a bilateral agreement between Spain and Portugal. The management system is based on effort control with temporary authorisations (two weeks).

18. Companies are family owned and are sometimes limited to self-employment. Production is for the Spanish internal market.

#### **11. *Trawlers in National waters***

19. Trawlers work in four different areas: Cantabric Sea (North Atlantic), Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Cadiz and Canary Islands. Multi-species fisheries target demersal and semipelagic species. Each area has its own census. The activity is restricted in many parts of the coastal area. Fishing is banned under 100 meters depth in the Cantabric Sea and under 50 meters in the Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Cadiz and Canary Islands. Pelagic trawl is not allowed. Vessels are included in a specific census, depending on the geographical area. Management is based on fishing effort control and fishing time limitation. The vessels

are run as family enterprises with around 5 crewmen on board. Production is marketed in Spanish internal market.

#### **12. *Seiners in National waters***

20. Vessels over 20 GRT operating in all Spanish coastal areas: Cantabric (North Atlantic), Mediterranean, Gulf of Cadiz and Canary Islands, catching short pelagic species as sardine, anchovy, etc. Each area has its own census. Management is based on fishing effort control and fishing time limitation, with temporal closures. Frequently, fishermen associations establish landing limits in order to control the prices. Family enterprises employ an important number of crew on board (from 10 to 15). Production marketed to Spanish internal market.

#### **13. *Bottom Set Longliners in National waters***

21. This fleet is composed of small vessels operating only in two Spanish coastal areas: Cantabric and Mediterranean, each one having its own census and different technical limitations (maximum number of hooks, minimum size, deep, etc.). Apart from technical specifications, the main system of management is fishing effort control and time restrictions. Fishing is by family enterprises. Production marketed in Spanish internal market.

#### **14. *Surface Longliners in National waters***

22. There is a census of surface longliners for all national waters and another specific one for the Mediterranean Sea. Regulated fisheries in the Atlantic area are Pompano, Swordfish and Shark, while in the Mediterranean different species of tuna. Apart from technical specifications, the main system of management is fishing effort control and time restrictions. These are family enterprises utilising small vessels. Production marketed to Spanish internal market.

#### **15. *Coastal albacore fishery in the North Atlantic Area***

23. This fishery is conducted in the North Atlantic area by vessels belonging to a different census that, after being authorized, change their gear temporarily. Mediterranean vessels do not participate in this fishery. Albacore is caught by trolling boats and live bait. This campaign supposes an important income to family enterprises, despite its reduced temporal dimension. Production is for Spanish internal market.

#### **16. *Minor Gears in National waters***

24. A very large number of minor fishing gear typologies are included in this group. The diversity depends on factors such as coastal resources, social traditions, market proximity, geographical configuration, etc. Drift nets and pelagic trawling are banned in Spain. Management is based on fishing effort control and technical measures. Each geographical area has its own census. Most of them are small vessels employing one or two people. Production is for Spanish internal market.

#### **17. *Shell gathering***

25. The Shell gathering (*marisqueo*) is a traditional activity developed by coastal population, that remains important in Galicia (NW of Spain), given the high productivity of the Sea. It is basically developed by women that not only gather the mollusks, but also plant the larvae in their assigned areas and preserve their growth. Recently, in order to prevent conflicts and ensure the sustainability, the Galician Regional Government has developed a regulation system based on licenses. This is a self-employment activity. Production sent to internal market of EU (mainly to Spain).

**18.      *Trap nets (Almadraba)***

26.      The “*Almadraba*” is a traditional fishery for tuna during their migrations. These fixed gears have a long tradition in the West Mediterranean area, since the Roman Empire times. At present, only 6 almadrabas remain in Spanish waters. Managed by administrative concession, they are subject to ICCAT TAC system.

**Table 1. Description of Main Fisheries**

Code and name	Gear	Fishing Grounds	Management instruments	Market	Species	Enterprises
1 Tuna Purse Seiners	Tuna Freezer Purse Seiner	East Pacific O., West Pacific O., Indic O. and Atlantic O.	International Agreement, TAC	UE, Japan	Tuna	Large Industrial Companies
2 Surface Longliners	Freezer Longliner	East Pacific O., Indic O. and Atlantic O.	International Agreement, TAC	Spain, Japan	Swordfish	Large Industrial Companies
3 Cod and Freezer Trawlers in NAFO	Freezer Trawl	NAFO	International Agreement, TAC	Spain, Japan	Atlantic halibut	Large Industrial Companies
4 Cod and Freezer Trawlers in North Atlantic waters	Freezer Trawl	Svalbard and Norway	International Agreement, TAC	Spain	Cod, redfish, Shrimp	Large Industrial Companies
5 Spanish Fleet in 3th Countries waters	High Sea Fleet in third country waters	Third countries	International Agreements, TAC	Spain		Industrial Companies
6 Freezer Trawlers in S. Atlantic & Antarctic	Freezer Trawl	Antartic and South Atlantic	International Agreement, TAC	Spain , US	Demersal fish	Industrial Companies
7 – “300” fleet	Trawl, longline	EZZ of EU	TAC and transferable fishing days	Spain	Demersal fish	Industrial Companies
8 Polers and liners in EU waters	Pole and line	VIII zone	Effort control	Spain	Hake	Family Enterprises
9 Trawlers in waters of Portugal	Trawl	IX zone (Portugal)	Effort control	Spain	Demersal fish	Family Enterprises
10 Minor gear in Pot-tugal–Spain border	Minor gear	Portugal/Spain Border	Effort control	Spain	Pelagic, Molluscs	Family Enterprises

Table 1. (cont.) Description of Main Fisheries

Code and name	Gear	Fishing Grounds	Management instruments	Market	Species	Enterprises
11 Trawlers in national waters	Trawl	Spain waters in Atlantic North, South and Mediterranean	Effort control	Spain	Demersal	Family Enterprises
12 Seiners in national waters	Purse Seiner	Spain waters in Atlantic North, South, Canarian and Mediterranean	Effort control	Spain	Pelagic	Family Enterprises
13 Bottom longliners in National waters	Bottom set longline	Spain waters in Atlantic North, South, Canary and Mediterranean	Effort control	Spain	Demersal fish	Family Enterprises
14 Surface longliners in national waters	Surface longline	Spain waters in Atlantic North, South, Canary and Mediterranean	Effort control	Spain	Tuna, Swordfish	Family Enterprises
15 Albacore fishery	Trolling boat and live bait	Spain waters in Atlantic North and South	Effort control, (temporal activity)	Spain	Bonito	Family Enterprises
16 Amateur fisheries	Minor gears	Spain waters in Atlantic North, South, Canary and Mediterranean	Effort control	Spain	All coast species	Personal activity
17 Shell gathering	Shell gathering gears	North Atlantic Spain Coast	Licences	Spain	Molluscs	Personal activity
18 Almadraba	Trap net	Mediterranean Coast	Concession	Spain, Japan	Tuna	Companies

