



EastMedfishers Project

Small Scale Fisheries and the
MEDAC – representativeness and
participation



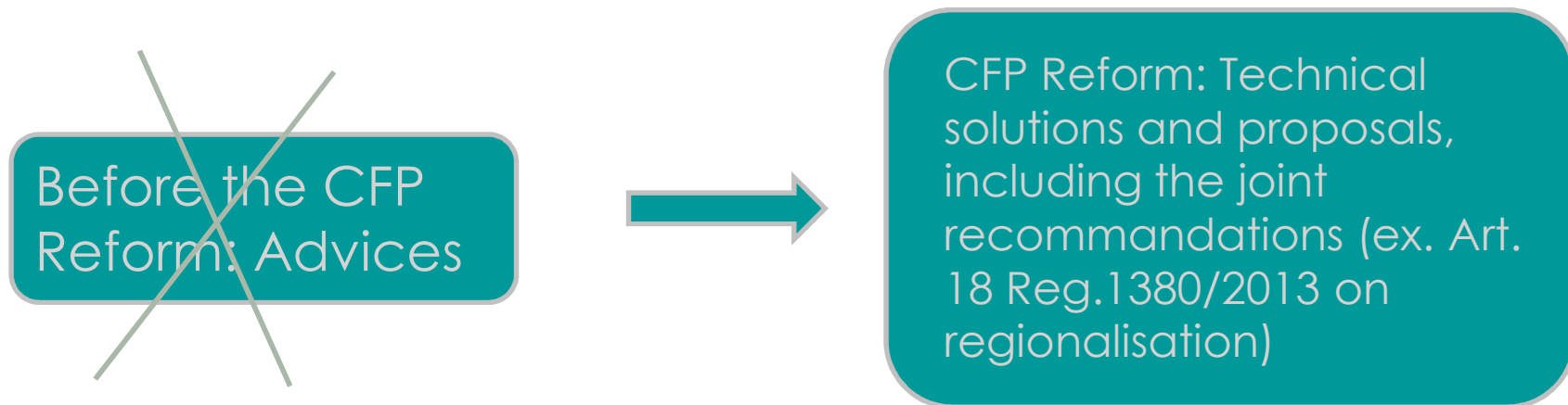
What are the Advisory Councils?

- Originally created by Council Decision EC/2004/585 and later amended by Council Decision EC/2007/409 as **regional** stakeholders organizations pursuing an aim of general European interest
- Completely repealed by **EC Regulation 1380/2013 on CFP Reform**, creating 11 Advisory Councils not limited at the regional level anymore.
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What is MEDAC?

- ❖ The MEDAC is a stakeholder-led organization and its role is to enable the European Commission to benefit from the knowledge and experience of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of fisheries management measures.



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The Advisory Councils (Set up by the EC Council Decision 2004/585)

- Baltic Sea AC
- Black Sea AC (still not working)
- Mediterranean Sea AC
- North Sea AC
- North Western Waters AC
- South Western Waters AC
- Outermost Regions AC (still not working)
- Pelagic Stocks AC
- High seas/long distance fleet AC
- Aquaculture AC (still not working)
- Markets AC (still not working)

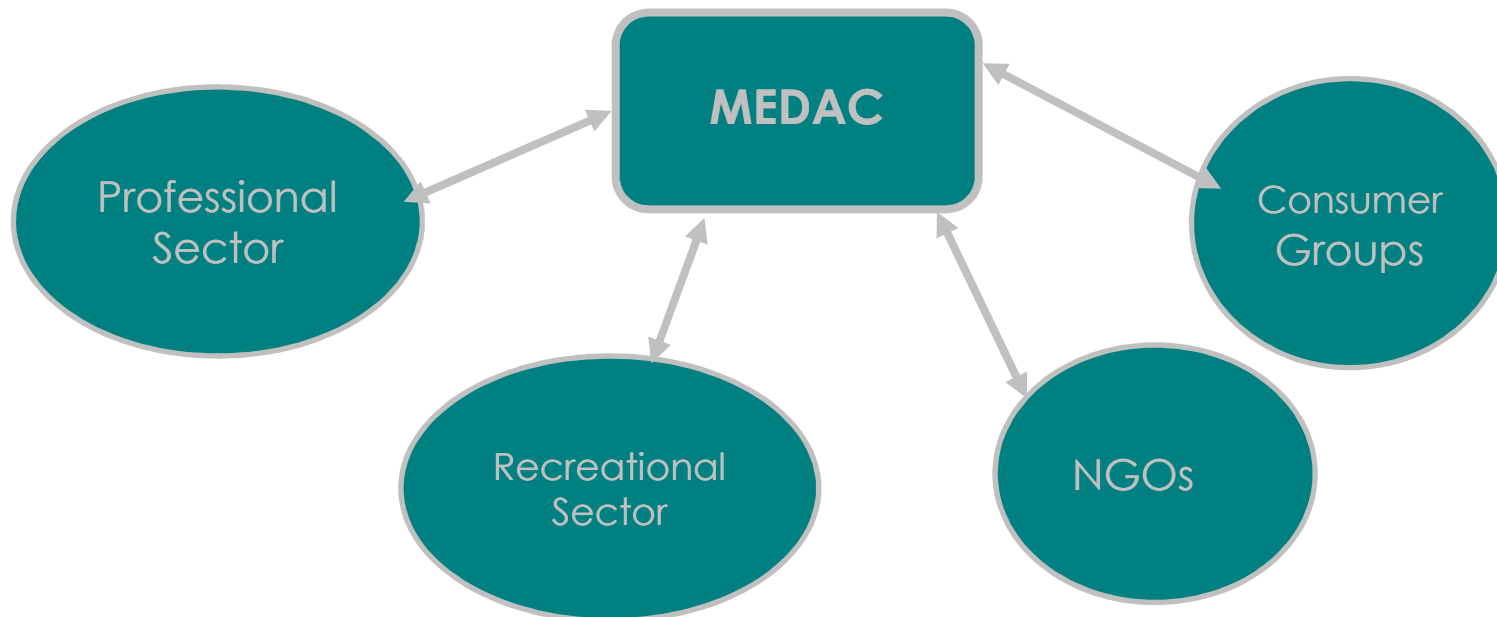
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MEDAC'S Structure

MEDAC's diverse composition (60% professional sector and 40% other interest groups) and members' different interests represents a big challenge because sometimes dissenting opinions has to be mediated in order to reach a general consensus to reflect the various points of view on several subjects



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Who are the members of the MEDAC?

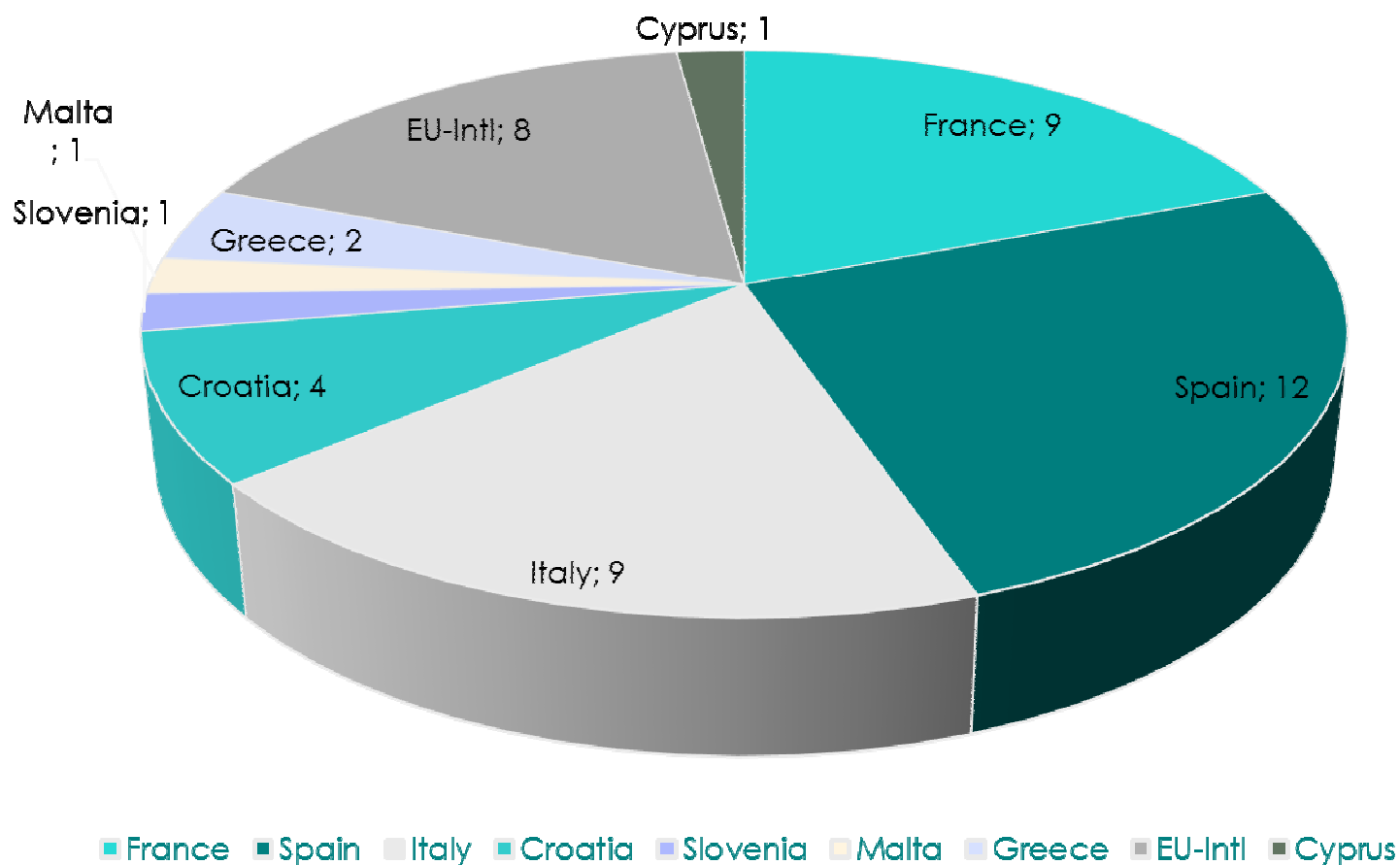
- Associations and organizations of the 8 European Mediterranean Member States
- **The General Assembly (insofar as is possible) and the Executive Committee** are composed by:
 - **60%** of the seats by the representatives of professional fishermen, and representatives of the processing, marketing sectors and trade unions.
 - **40 %** to representatives of the other interest groups affected by the Common Fisheries Policy, for example environmental organisations, recreational and consumer groups

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MEDAC members divided by nationalities



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Importance of Small-scale Fisheries* in the Mediterranean

- High social and cultural value
- Lower environmental impact compared to other fishing sector
- Wide variety of capture gears and target species
- Greater selectivity of the fishing gear
- Lower level of fishing efforts
- Seasonal nature
- Expression of local knowledge and traditions
- Close connection with the existence of coastal communities



Absolute predominance of small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean

* European definition: 12 m LOA with the exception of towed gears

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Importance of small-scale fishing in the MEDAC – A documentation analysis

The analysis of the MEDAC documentation was carried out by:

- reading 101 Opinions and Letters and 202 documents, including reports and annexes;
- setting up a database to collect and find easily the meetings where and why the SSF topic was mentioned or discussed.



ArtFISHMed Project – Case Studies Events



Importance of small-scale fishing in the MEDAC – A documentation analysis

Since 2010 the SSF topic



It was mentioned in
the 16% of the
opinions and letters



It was discussed and/or
mentioned in the 36% of
the MEDAC meetings

All the documents have been classified by subject
(creation of a focus group in SSF, what can be useful for SSF, MEDAC
– SSF cooperation, data collections etc.)

In the web-site will be
available the search engine
to allow easily the search of
the reports, annexes, opinions and
letters by topic

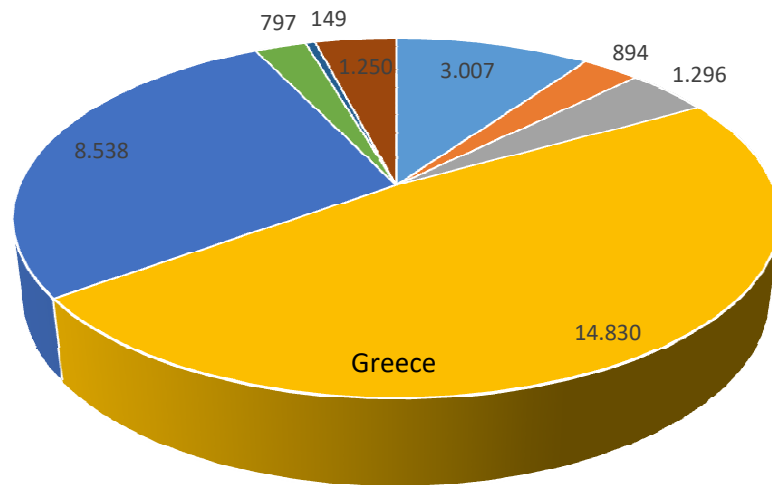


ArtFISHMed Project – Case Studies Events

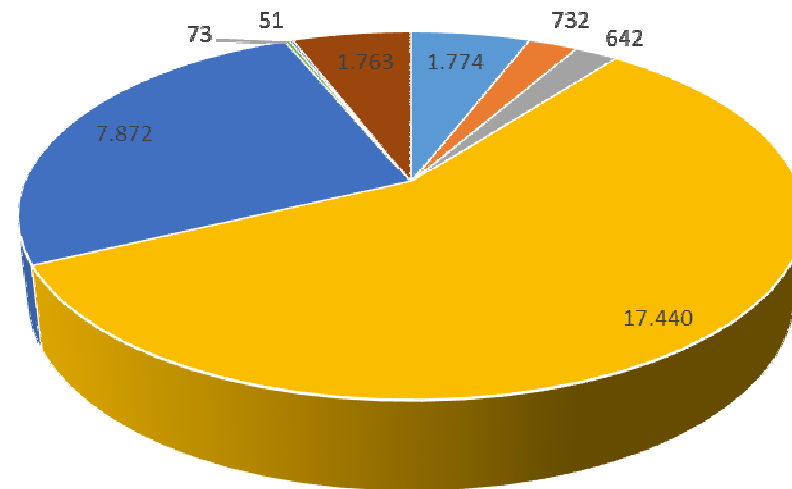
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Importance of small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean – Statistics

- Total number of SSF Vessels in 2013



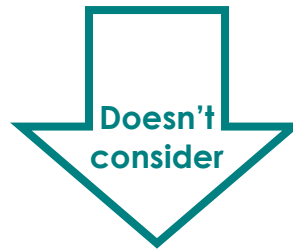
- Total number of employed in the SSF sector (FTE) 2013



■ Croatia
 ■ Cyprus
 ■ France
 ■ Greece
 ■ Italy
 ■ Malta
 ■ Slovenia
 ■ Spain
 ■ Croatia
 ■ Cyprus
 ■ France
 ■ Greece
 ■ Italy
 ■ Malta
 ■ Slovenia
 ■ Spain

The definition of Small-scale fisheries

- European definition: 12 m LOA with the exception of towed gears



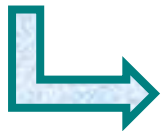
- Vessel type: value/investment, ownership, organization (cooperative or individual enterprise) type of contract and division of income;
- Type of fishing activity (gear): seasonality, operating expenses, number of fishers on board, time spent at sea per fishing trip, distance from the port;
- Target species: quantities landed/value, market price



There is no only one «small-scale fishery», but many individual small scale fisheries. The status of the fishing activity varies according to the vessel, the type of fishery, the season, the fishing area and the company structure.

The Economics of small-scale fisheries: common features/situations

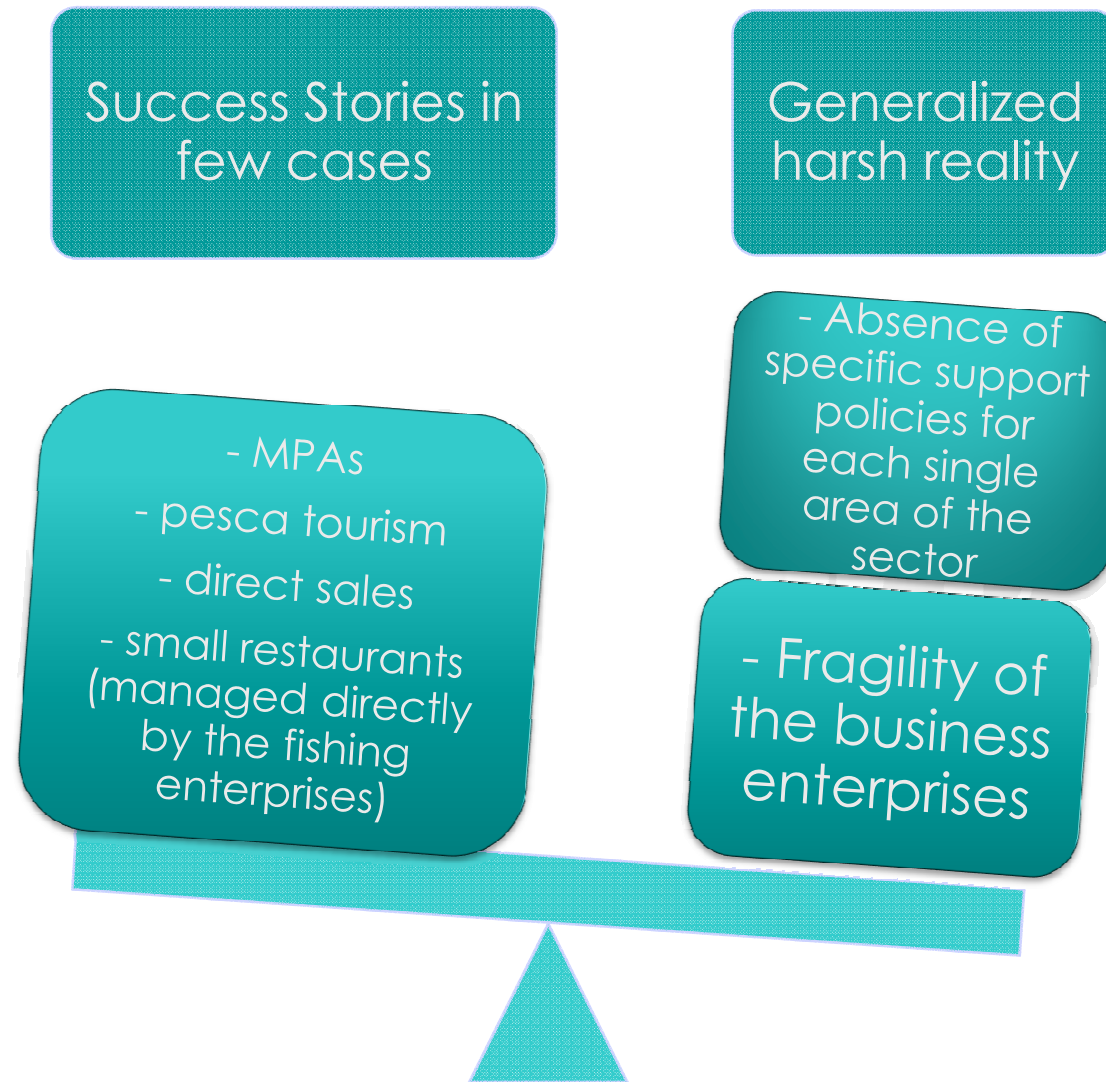
- A low level of capitalization;
- Extreme difficulty in borrowing;
- Lack of capacity for investment and innovation;
- Obsolete vessels (on average over 30 years old);
- Low bargaining power on the market (except for direct sales in port or restaurants)
- Difficulty in enhancing the value of the product on board or once landed, due to lack of adequate port infrastructure;
- Frequent conflicts between the different *métiers* (especially with trawl fisheries);
- Competition with recreational fisheries;
- Lack of compliance with on board safety regulations;
- Lack of generational change
- Need for data reporting from SFF to improve management



Micro-enterprises with high costs linked to bureaucracy and very volatile values of profitability of the enterprises

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Profitability of small-scale fisheries



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Critical issues to be addressed -1



The EMFF doesn't foresee measures for initiatives related to safety on board. It would be useful to envisage rapid tracing systems and a direct, automatic link to emergency services



**FISHING PORT
AND DOCKS**

There are constant difficulties for small-scale vessels where moorings are concerned, either due to port structure and with regards to availability of fully serviced docking areas



**RECREATIONAL
FISHERIES**

The lack of recreational and sport fishing specific permissions can, in some areas, penalize the professional activities of the small-scale fisheries sector, as well as the use of typical gears of the professional Sector (longlines and pots), still allowed (in some Member States) for recreational and sport fishing. Recreational fisheries and small scale fisheries often target the same fish species. The lack of catch data on some species makes it difficult to evaluate the catch ratio of professional and recreational fisheries and the impact on fishing resources.

Critical issues to be addressed - 2



THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

The reduction to 50 euro/consumer (Control Reg.) of the amount that it is possible to sell in the port on landing; the introduction of expensive new signal devices for the fishing gear; compilation of fishing logbooks and landing declarations for vessels >10mt; extra work to prepare the catch, separate the species and dividing them into different cases.



PESCA TOURISM

The development of pesca tourism should be favored by the provisions of art. 30 of the EMFF (diversification and new forms of income) that envisages economic support for 50% of the initiative foreseen in the business plan, up to a maximum of 75 000€. For activities that could be amplified in coastal areas and could relocate workers no longer employed in the fisheries sector the EU has not shown particular interest.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN COASTAL AREAS

Small-scale fisheries are the first ones affected by deteriorating conditions in coastal areas due to industrial activities both on land and at sea (eg: drilling/mining, leaks and spillages, etc.), as well as by changes to coastal sediments. The EMFF includes intervention in the context of "environmental" problems with the activation of a fund (with a loss-sharing mechanism) addressing affected aquaculture producers (art. 57) and fishers (art. 35).



Thanks for your
attention!

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