



Support fishermen to reduce the impact of elasmobranch fishing



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Coordinating beneficiary



Stazione Zoologica
Anton Dohrn
Istituto Nazionale
di Biologia, Ecologia
e Biotecnologie Marine

Associated beneficiaries



Synopsis of the action: what and how

The objective of this action is to encourage fishermen to adopt more selective fishing systems, aimed at reducing the bycatch of elasmobranch.

To achieve this goal, 10 permanent information desks were established: 9 in Italy, 1 in Cyprus. Trained staff at these desks supported fishermen in accessing EU and national funds to convert their traditional fishing gear into low-impact alternatives.

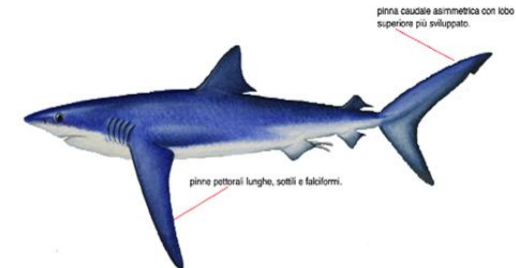
In addition, a virtual desk was created on the project's website, allowing fishermen who are not based in the ports involved to benefit from the service.

Information desks

The Elife project has opened permanent information desks where fishermen are informed about the opportunities to access funds for replacing their traditional fishing gear with low-impact alternatives:

1. Cattolica (Emilia Romagna)
2. Monopoli (Puglia)
3. Porto Cesareo (Puglia)
4. Cirò Marina (Calabria)
5. Vibo Valentia Marina (Calabria)
6. Catania (Sicilia)
7. Savona (Liguria)
8. Roma (Lazio)
9. Porto Torres (Sardegna)
10. Cyprus
11. Virtual desk (on-line)

Prionace glauca Verdesca

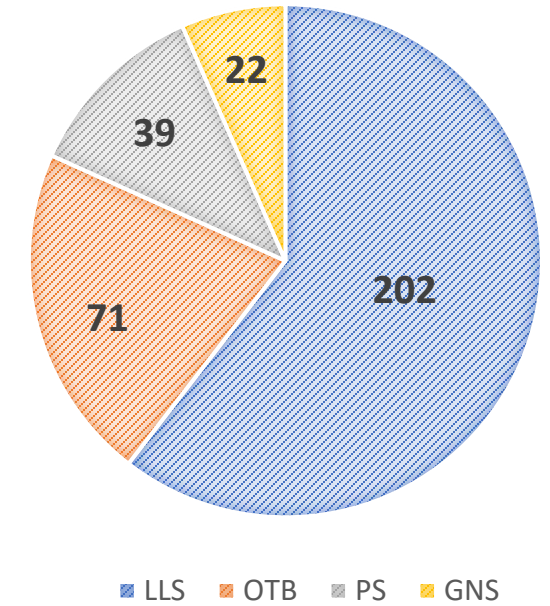


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ALL DESKS/ALL GEARS 334 VASSELS INFORMED



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Information of fishermen

For each fisherman (boat) contacted, a specific survey form was filled and a manual on EU fisheries fund distributed. At present, more than 300 fishermen have been informed.

Furthermore, 135 questionnaires were collected among fishermen to better understand their willingness to safeguard the endangered elasmobranch species (in areas other than those with information desks).

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Problems with changing gear

The critical issues affecting the actual use of fisheries funds by fishermen to replace fishing gear are essentially linked to two factors:

- the absence of specific calls, both at EU and national level, which prevents the effective use of these funds.
- the concern that new gear could lead to a significant reduction in target catches.

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Fishermen and elasmobranch

The questionnaires show that fishermen are aware of the ecological role of elasmobranchs and agree that endangered species should be protected and that fishermen should participate in this.

- Regarding awareness of the existence of by-catch mitigation systems, one-third of respondents reported being aware of the existence of such systems. However, all respondents stated that they would not use these gear if they can deal to a reduction in commercial catches.
- As regards handling techniques to reduce damage and injuries to animals, only a quarter of the interviewees declared to know them and very few declared to use them during fishing activities.

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Thanks for your attention

Consorzio Mediterraneo

segreteria@mediterraneo.coop

