Overview of SSF in Catalonia - NW Mediterranean Sea

MEDAC February 2026
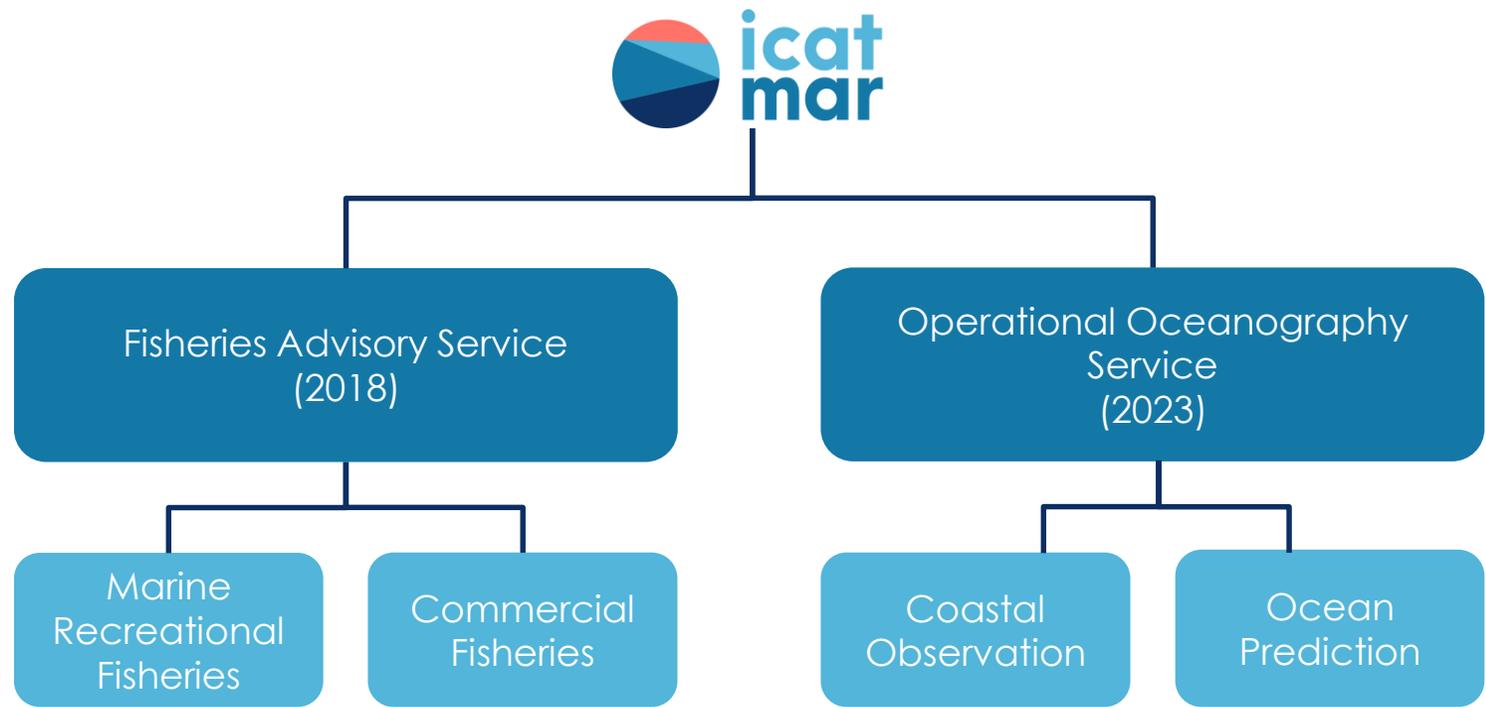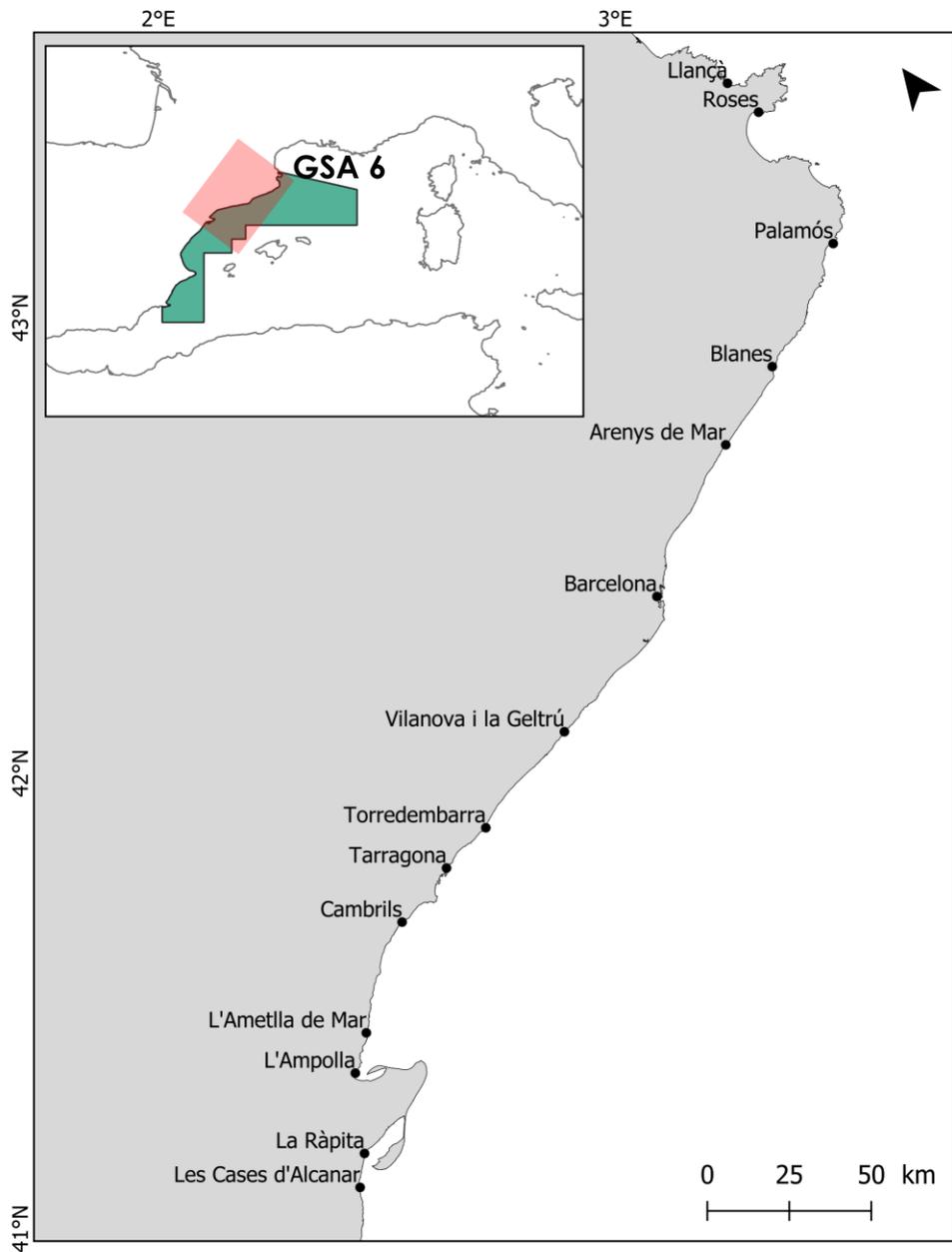
GSA 6

Fisheries Advisory Service (2018)
- Marine Recreational Fisheries
- Commercial Fisheries

Operational Oceanography Service (2023)
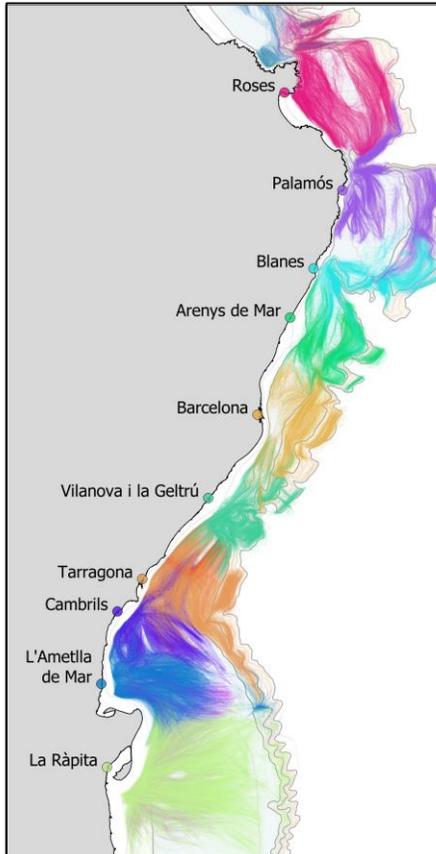- Coastal Observation
- Ocean Prediction

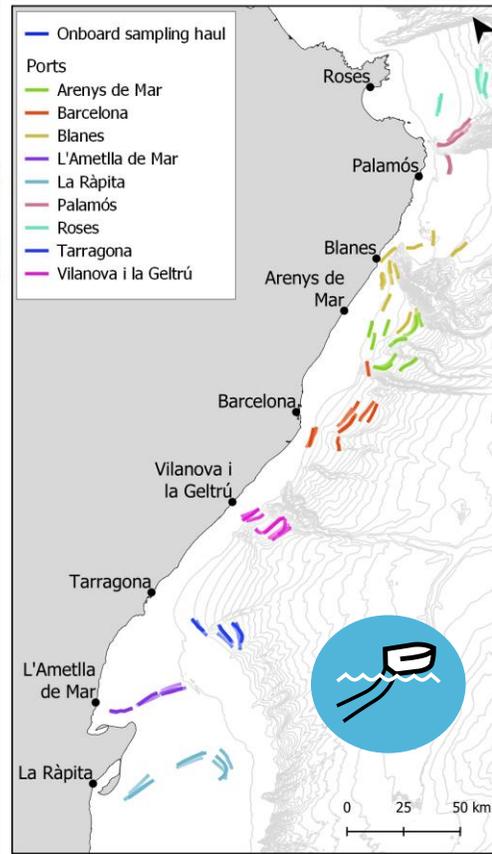**Fisheries governance based on scientific data**
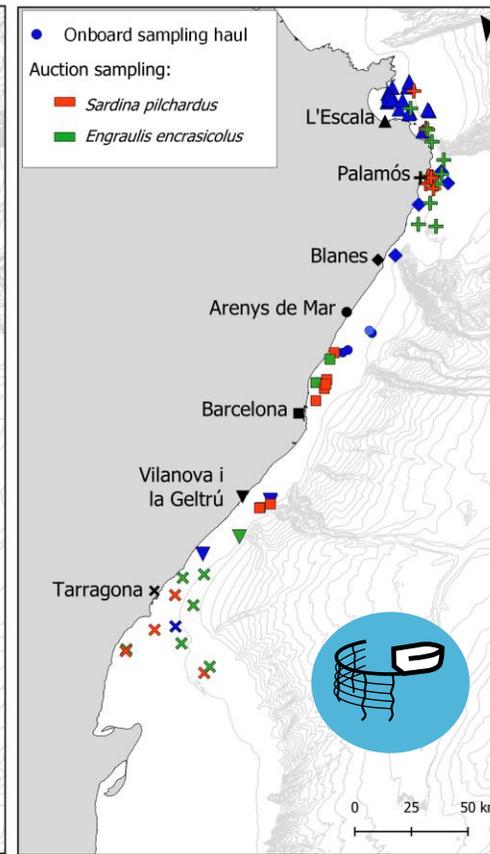
Commercial fishing

Comanagement

Locally-based fishery
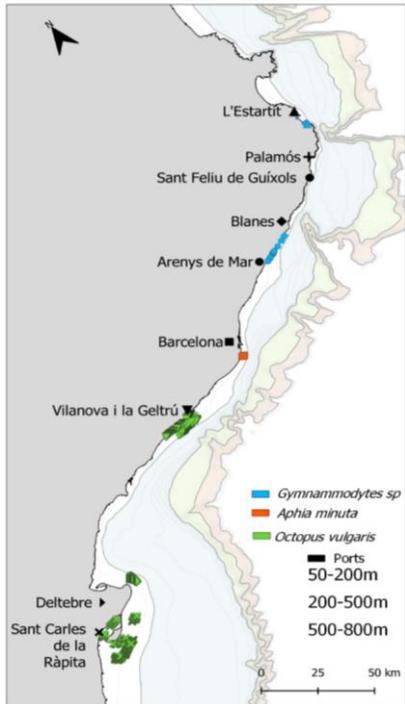
Bottom trawl

Purse seine

Small-scale fisheries

Small-Scale Fisheries

Species with co-magament plans

Sampling on board and fish market

NEW

Sandeel fishery
Mediterranean sandeel, smooth sandeel & transparent goby

Common octopus
Catalunya Central & Terres de l'Ebre

Blue crab
Delta de l'Ebre

European eel observatory
Girona and Terres de l'Ebre

- On-site monitoring (October-February)
- Effort
- Samples from fish market

Cuttlefish
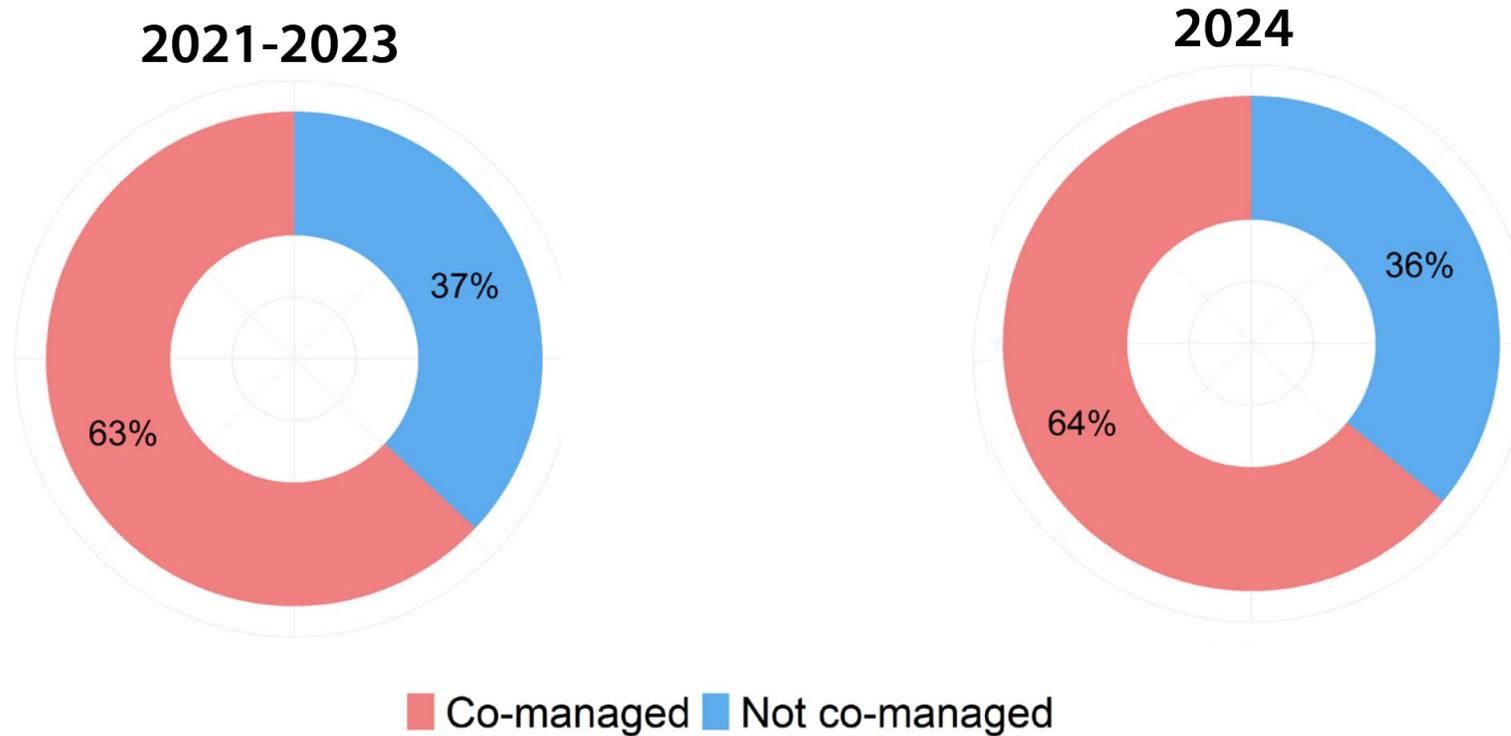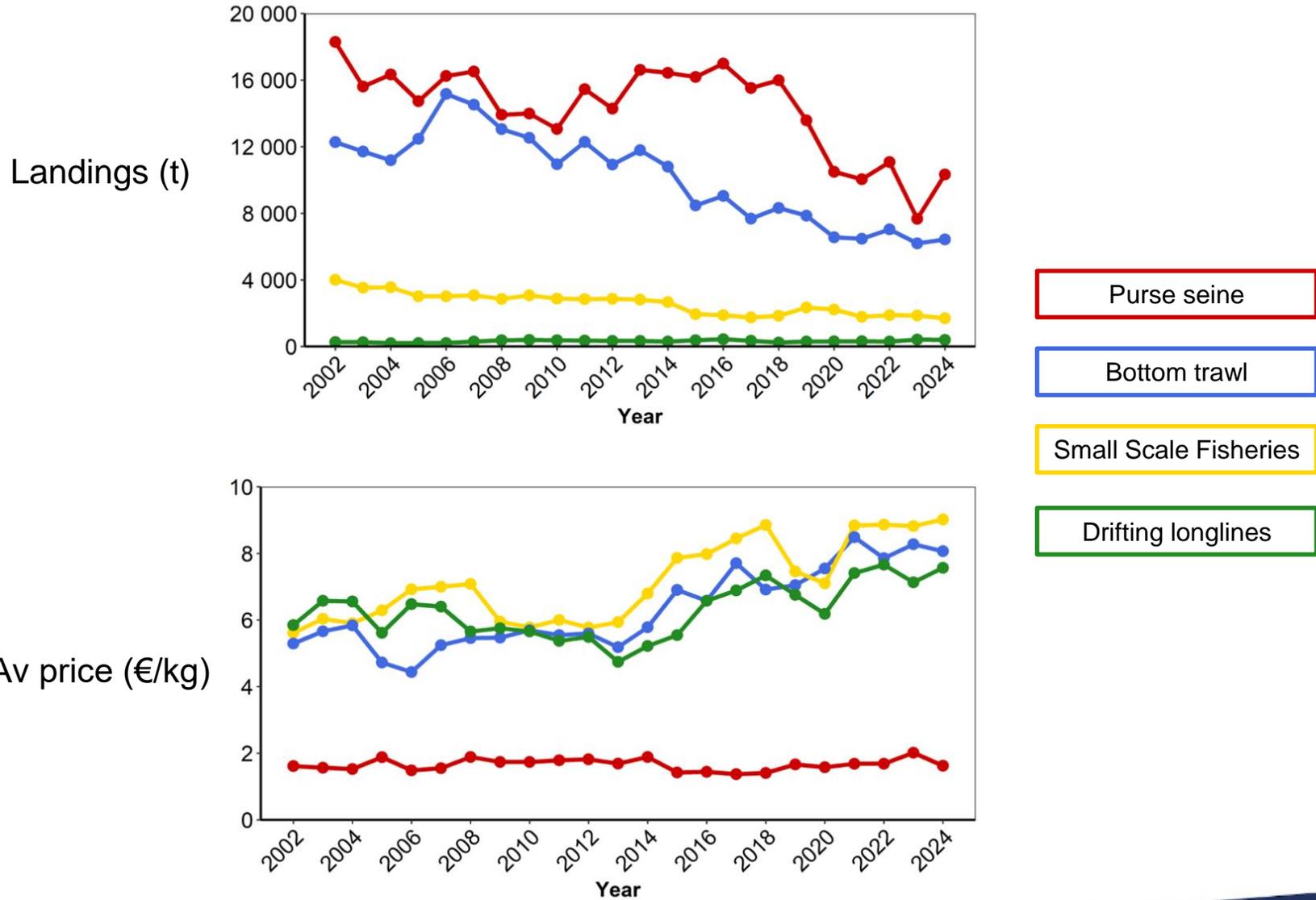Badia de Pals i Roses

- On-board sampling and fish market
- Sampling during fishing ban to track juveniles
- Ports: Roses, l'Estartit and l'Escala

Proportion of SSF fleet with co-management plans

2021-2023 | 2024
37% | 36%
63% | 64%

Co-managed Not co-managed

The importance of SSF

Landings (t)

Av price (€/kg)

Purse seine

Bottom trawl

Small Scale Fisheries

Drifting longlines

The importance of SSF

Summary by modality year 2024

Legend:
- Purse seine
- Bottom trawl
- Small Scale Fisheries
- Drifting longlines
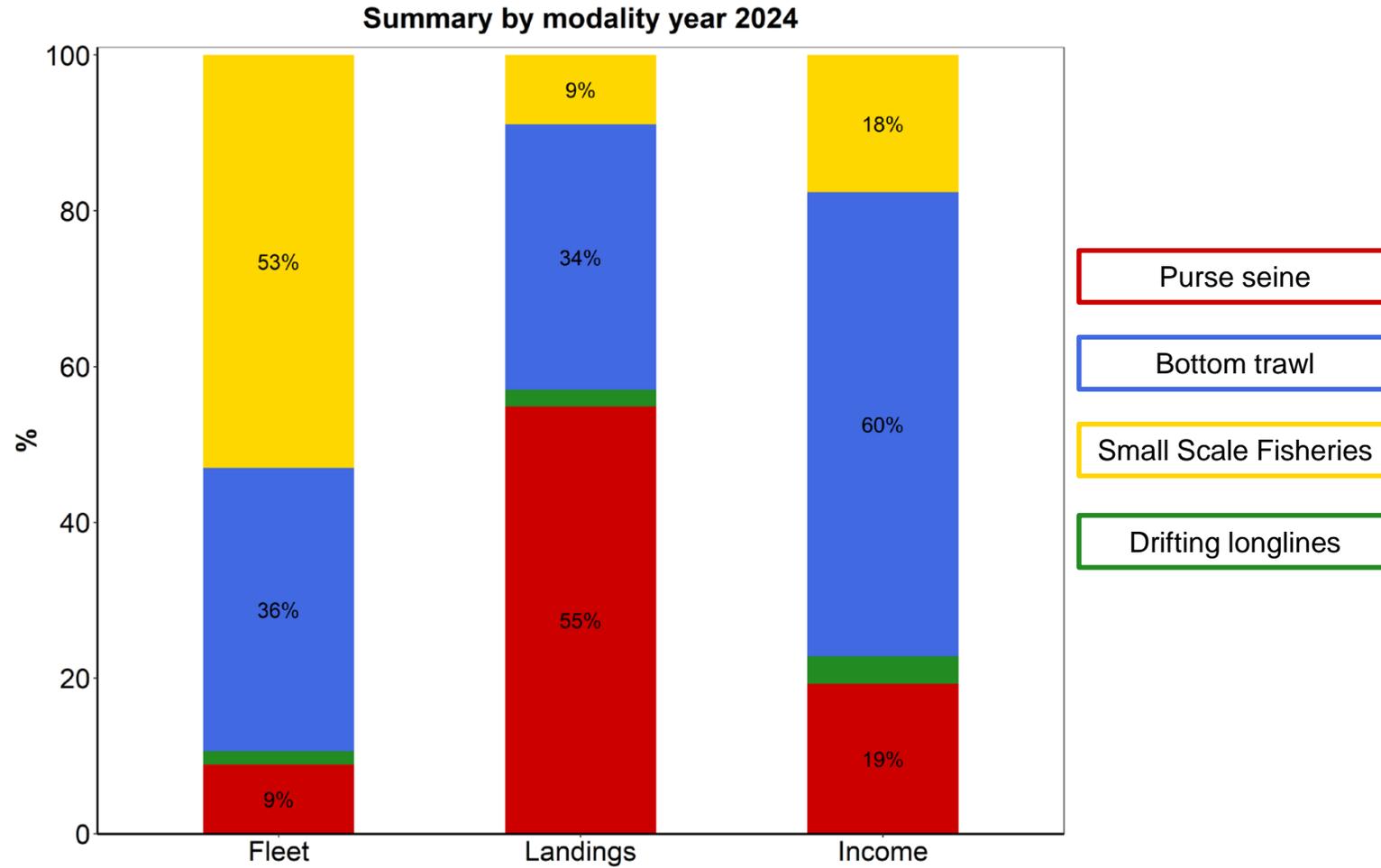
SSF data (2024):
- 280 vessels
- 30819 total fishing days
- Total revenue15334 €

NEW

SSF sampling design overview

| Daily landings | + | Legislation and licenses | + | Geolocation |

- Métiers analysis
- Fishing gear classification
- Fishing effort distribution
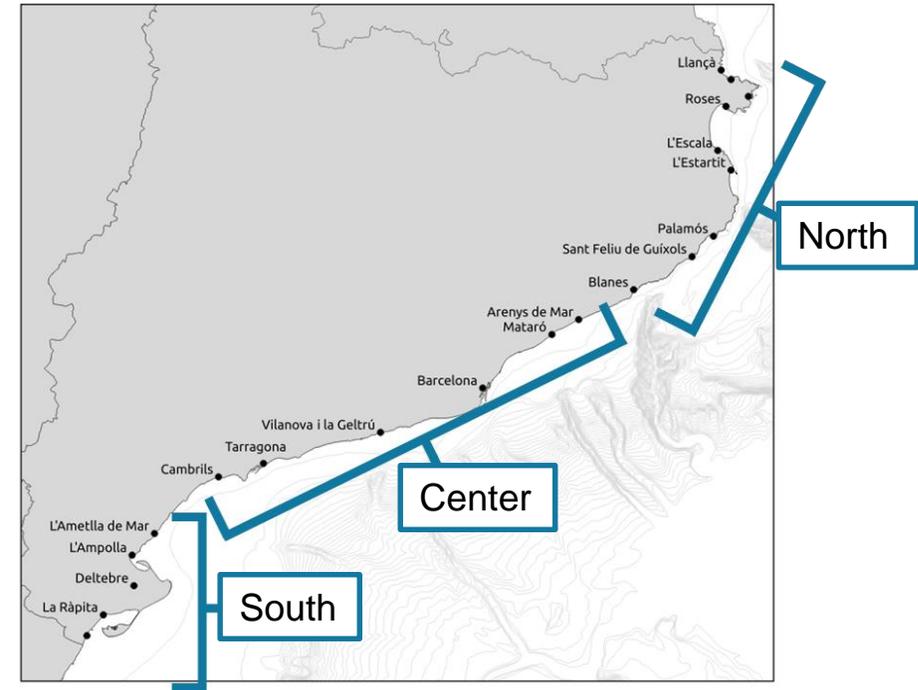- Biological sampling design
- **Spatial distribution of the catch**

North

Center

South
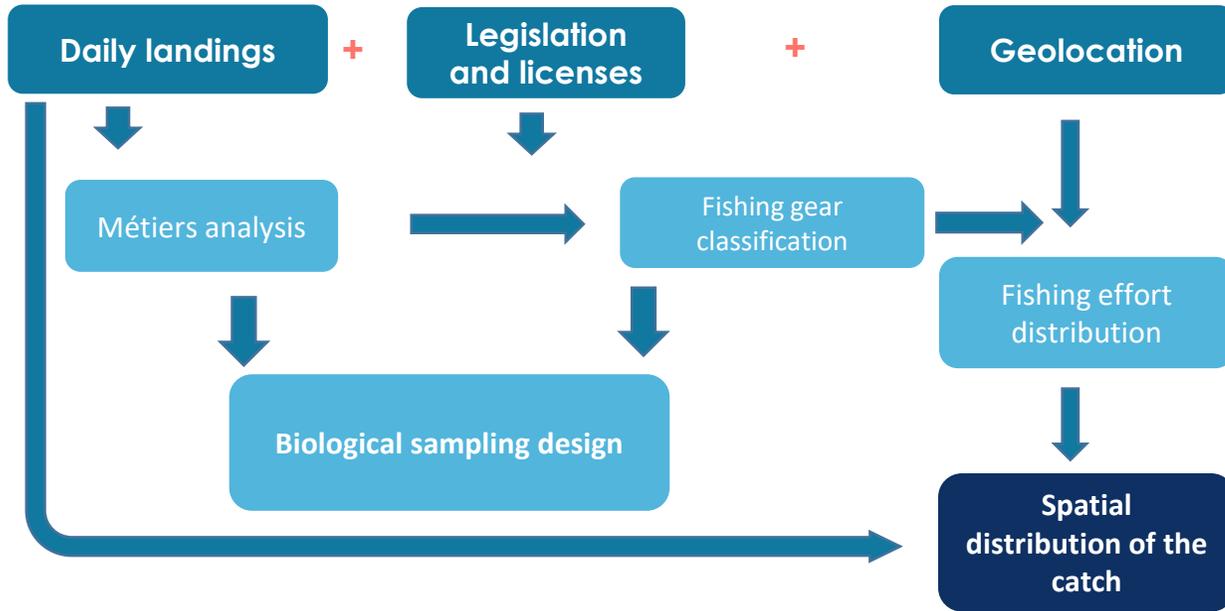
GOAL

- ❖ **Characterize the catch by zone, fishing gear and season**
- ❖ **Obtain biological data from the main commercial species**
- ❖ **Improve SSF fishing management in the Catalan coast**

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Vessel geolocation:
Geoblau

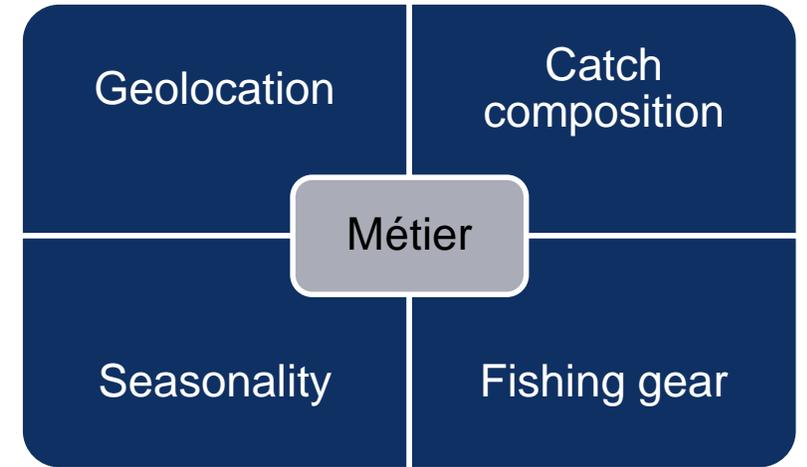1. Geopositioning system

2. Allows to track fishing strategies

Center

- Sand eel
- Squid
- Tunas

South

- Striped venus clam/Caramote prawn
- Caramote prawn/cuttlefish
- Caramote prawn/spottail mantis shrimp

Geolocation	Catch composition
Métier	
Seasonality	Fishing gear
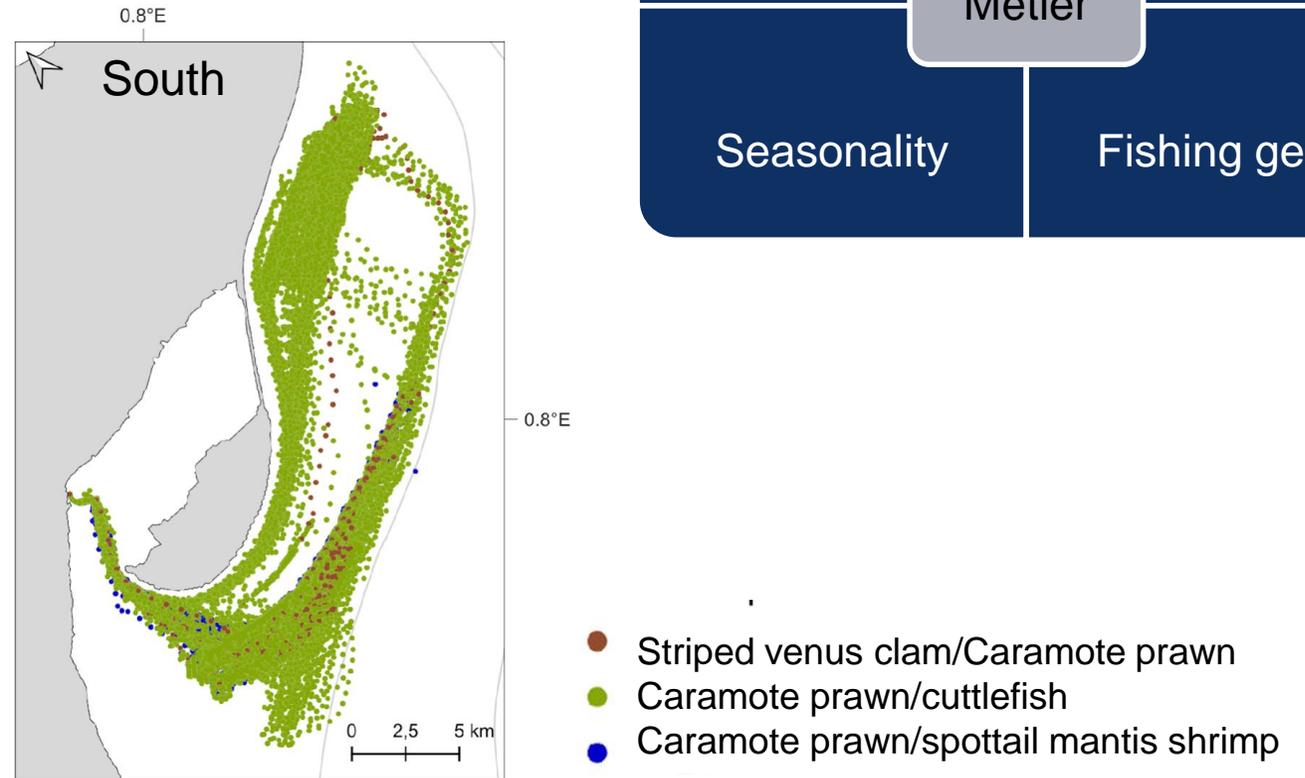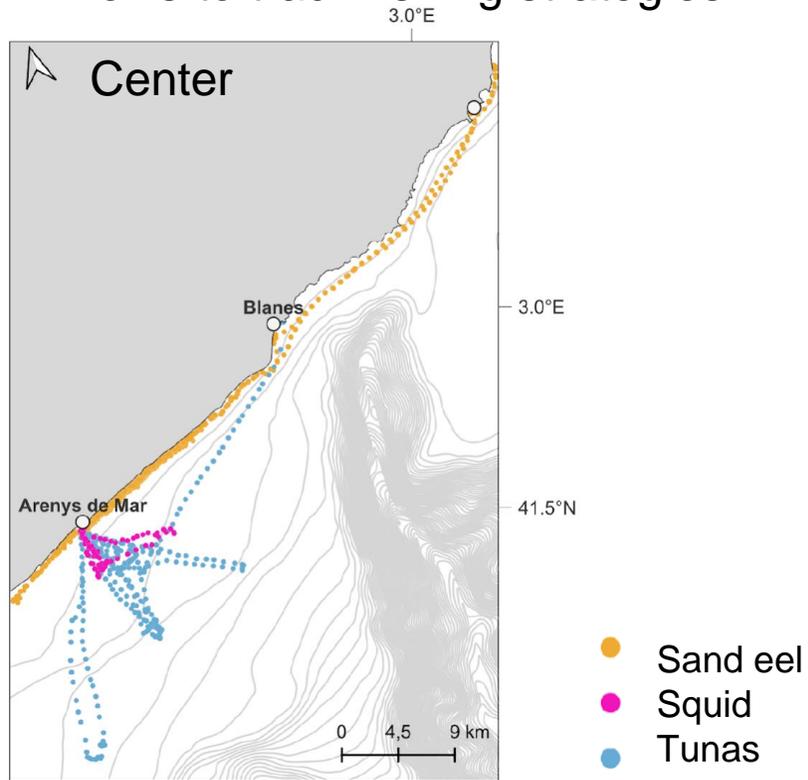
Métiers definition and methods

Daily landings

| Vessel | Date | Sp | Kg | € |

| Trip | Sp1 | Sp2 | Sp3 | ... |
| Vessel_Day | | % Kg | | |

172.000 dies

Filter by zone (subzone). year

PCA - HCA

SSF_cat_2023_dendo
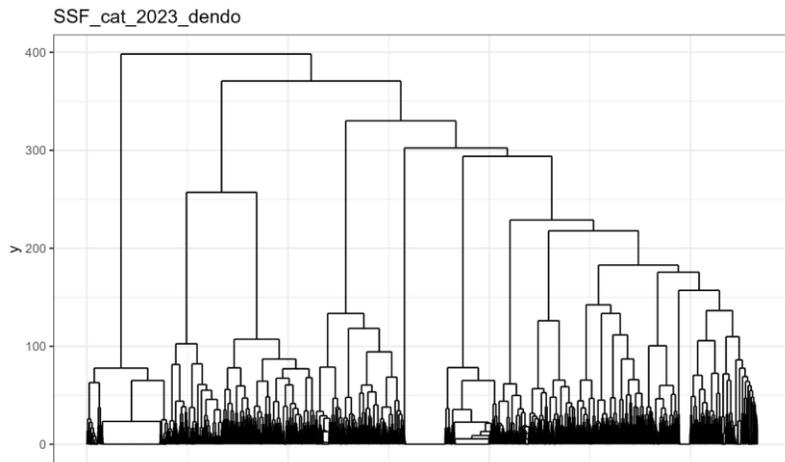
Number of groups
7-15
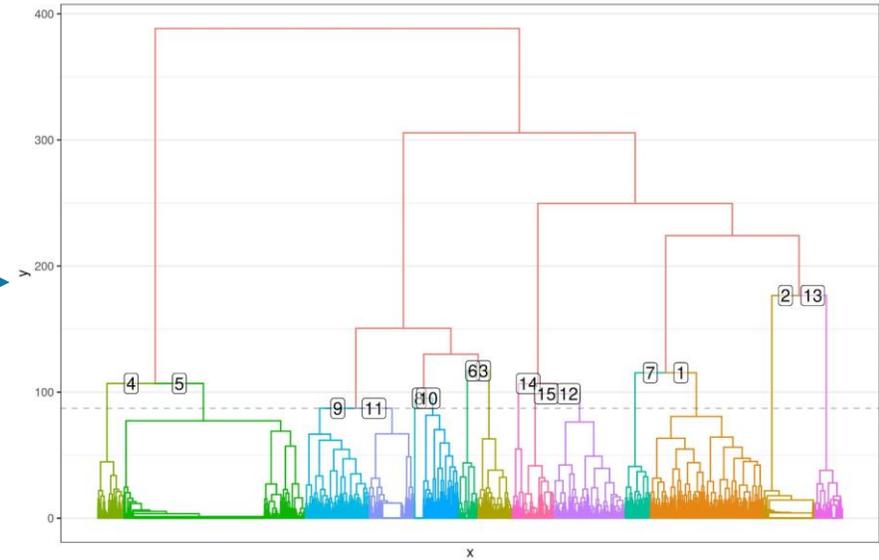
Landings analysis by groups

1485 analyzed groups

No ¿

Coherence:
- **interannual**
- **Seasonal**
- **biological**

? Yes → **Métier**

Metiers definition and methods
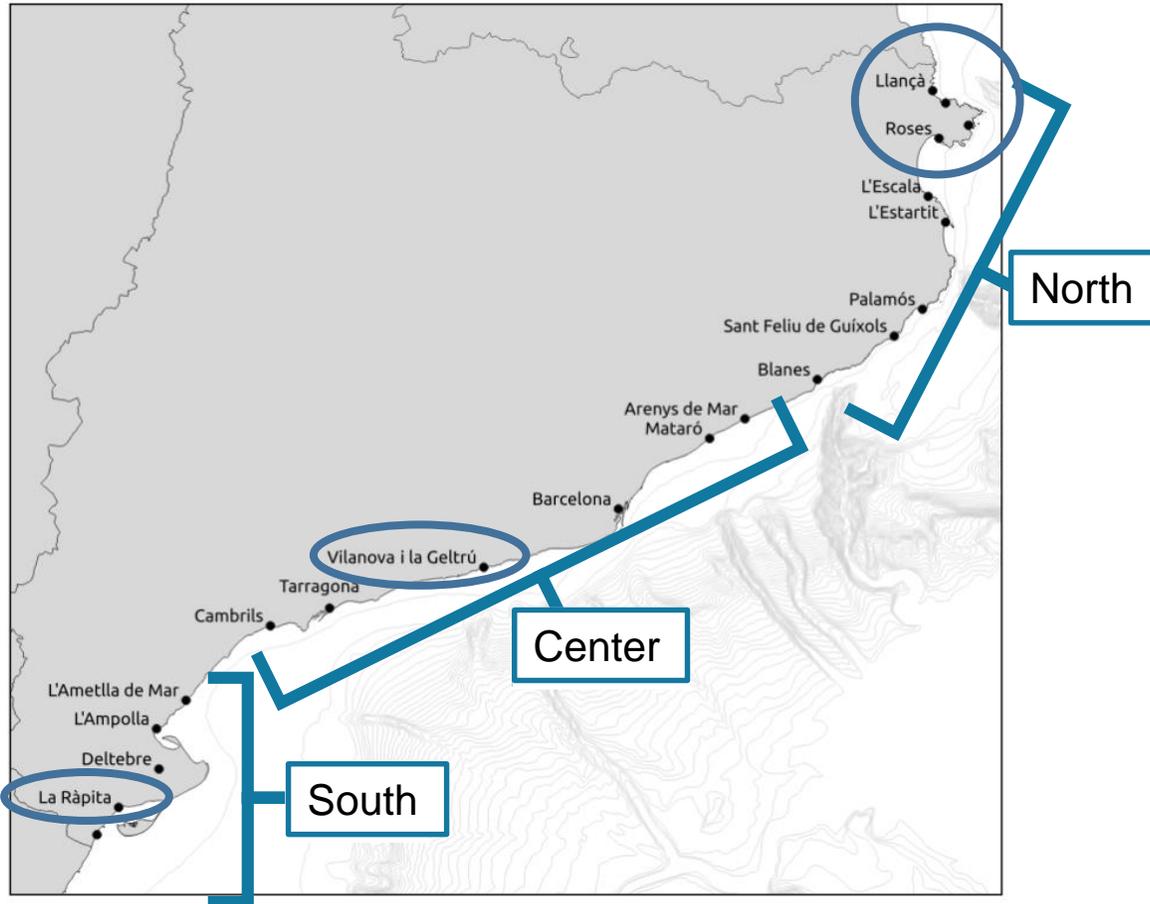
1. Métiers by zones
   - 15 groups each zone
   - Naming of the métiers

2. Subdivision of zones

3. Comparisons between zones
   - Standardize the names
   - Statistical anlysis in-groups and between-groups

32 métiers

Results of the métiers analysis

Importance by weight

	Nom del métier	tones	%	% acumulat
1	Callinectes	299.07	15.63	15.63
2	SparusMix	214.55	11.21	26.85
3	Sepia	203.46	10.63	37.48
4	Gymnammodytes	136.85	7.15	44.64
5	Octopus	133.83	6.99	51.63
6	Mullus	107.99	5.64	57.28
7	Merluccius	99.39	5.19	62.47
8	Thunnus	75.64	3.95	66.43
9	SepiaPenaeus	72.49	3.78	70.22
10	Soleidae	65.05	3.40	73.62
11	Seriola	63.18	3.30	76.92
12	PeixMix	54.41	2.84	79.76
13	CallinectesPeix	53.61	2.80	82.57
14	Sparus	46.31	2.42	84.99
15	SardaMix	45.35	2.37	87.36
16	EuthynnusMix	38.37	2.01	89.36

Economic importance

	Nom del métier	€	%	% acumulat
1	Gymnammodytes	1888799.65	11.65	11.65
2	Sepia	1754204.05	10.82	22.47
3	SparusMix	1507081.44	9.30	31.77
4	Callinectes	1206713.55	7.44	39.21
5	Octopus	1169177.16	7.21	46.43
6	Mullus	880716.94	5.43	51.86
7	SepiaPenaeus	847589.06	5.23	57.09
8	Merluccius	733932.38	4.53	61.62
9	Thunnus	717108.75	4.42	66.04
10	Soleidae	665176.54	4.10	70.14
11	Sparus	572668.89	3.53	73.68
12	Seriola	514743.35	3.18	76.85
13	PeixMix	514245.41	3.17	80.02
14	Penaeus	497702.28	3.07	83.10
15	Lophius	491439.23	3.03	86.13
16	LophiusPalinurus	375059.84	2.31	88.44

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Defining the sampling

Which métier

Where

i) 12 main métiers:

- >76% Kg and €
- WMMAP species
- Co-management plans

ii) Drifting longlines

	Nom del métier
1	Gymnammodytes
2	Sepia
3	SparusMix
4	Callinectes
5	Octopus
6	Mullus
7	SepiaPenaeus
8	Merluccius
9	Thunnus
10	Soleidae
11	Sparus
12	Seriola

Tones per métier

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13

As an example: métier *Mullus*

kg/month   Target spp
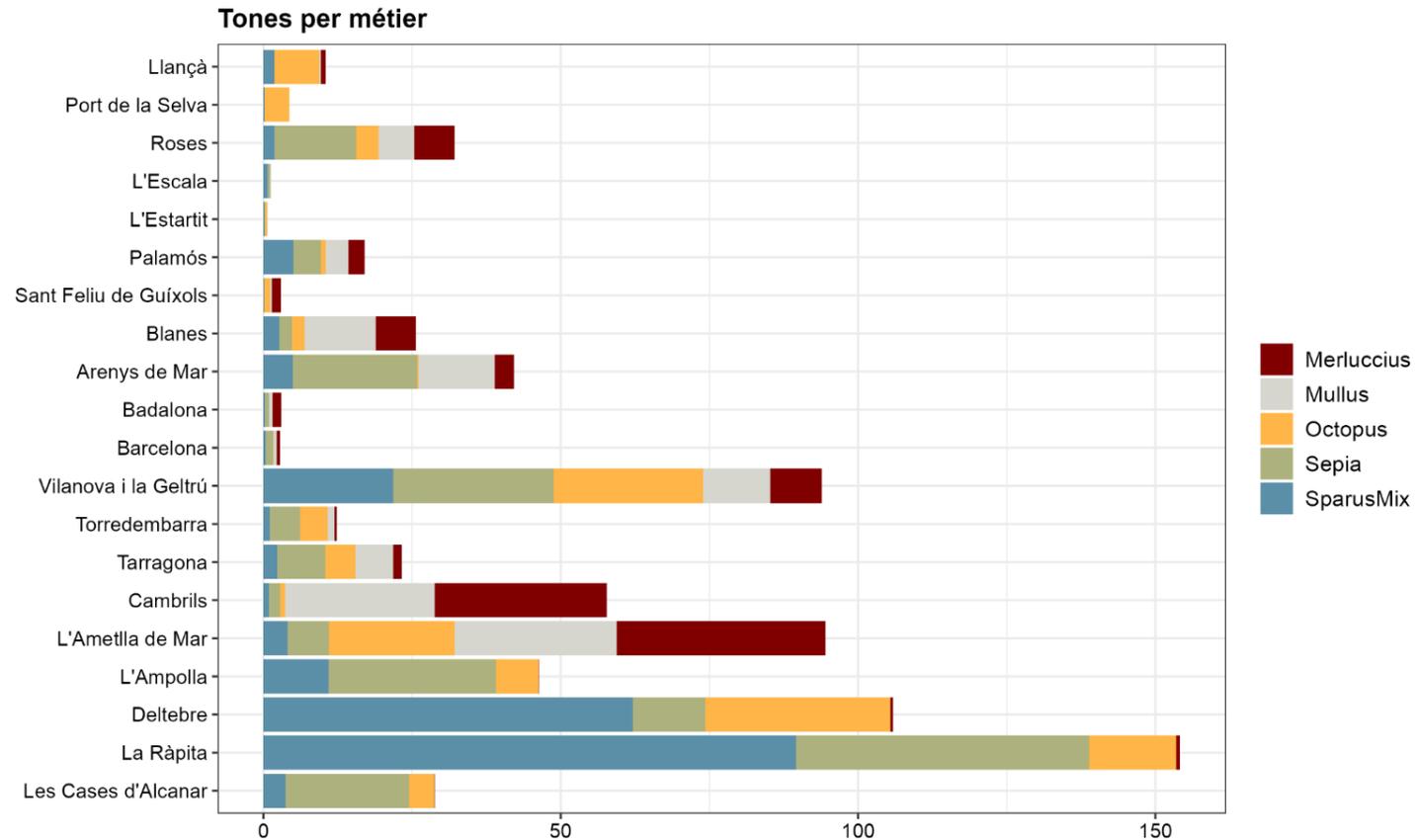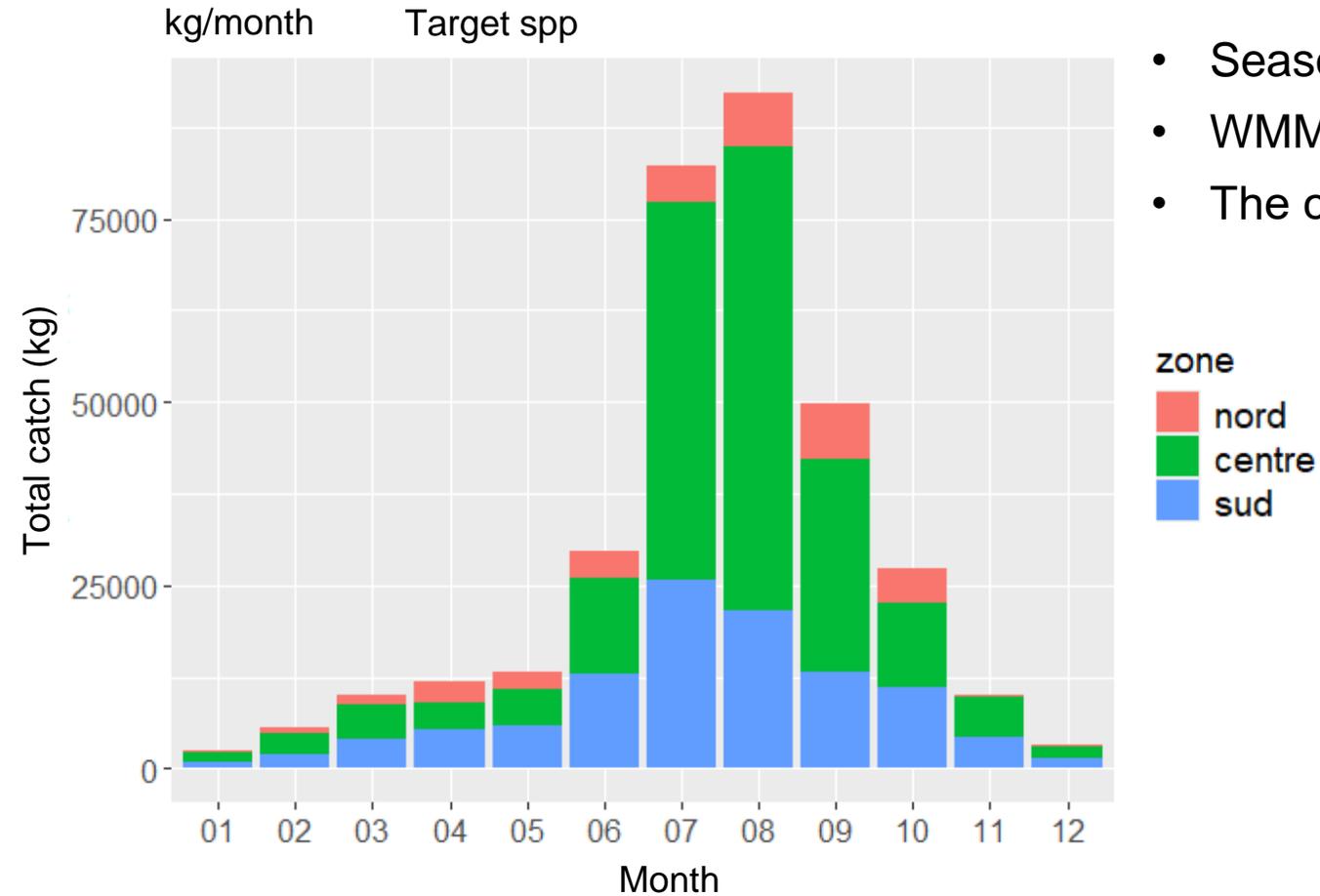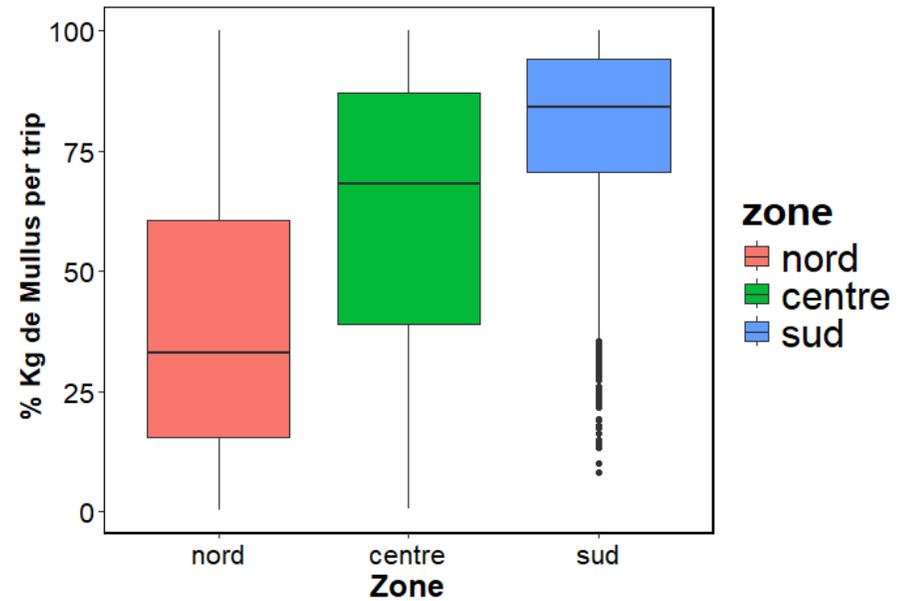

- Seasonality of the target spp between June and October
- WMMAP spp
- The center zone has more catches but …

Target spp vs métier catch   … south is more selective

As an example: metier *Mullus*

Parameters to estimate fishing effort: Net size, fishing time, number of fishing lines, ...

Catch composition: Identify all the species of the catch; Size/length relationships

Biological sampling: For *Mullus* and species from other metiers

In summary

- SSF métiers have been defined in the Catalan coast

- Monitoring is starting in 2026 beyond co-management plans

- Information will be used for governance processes
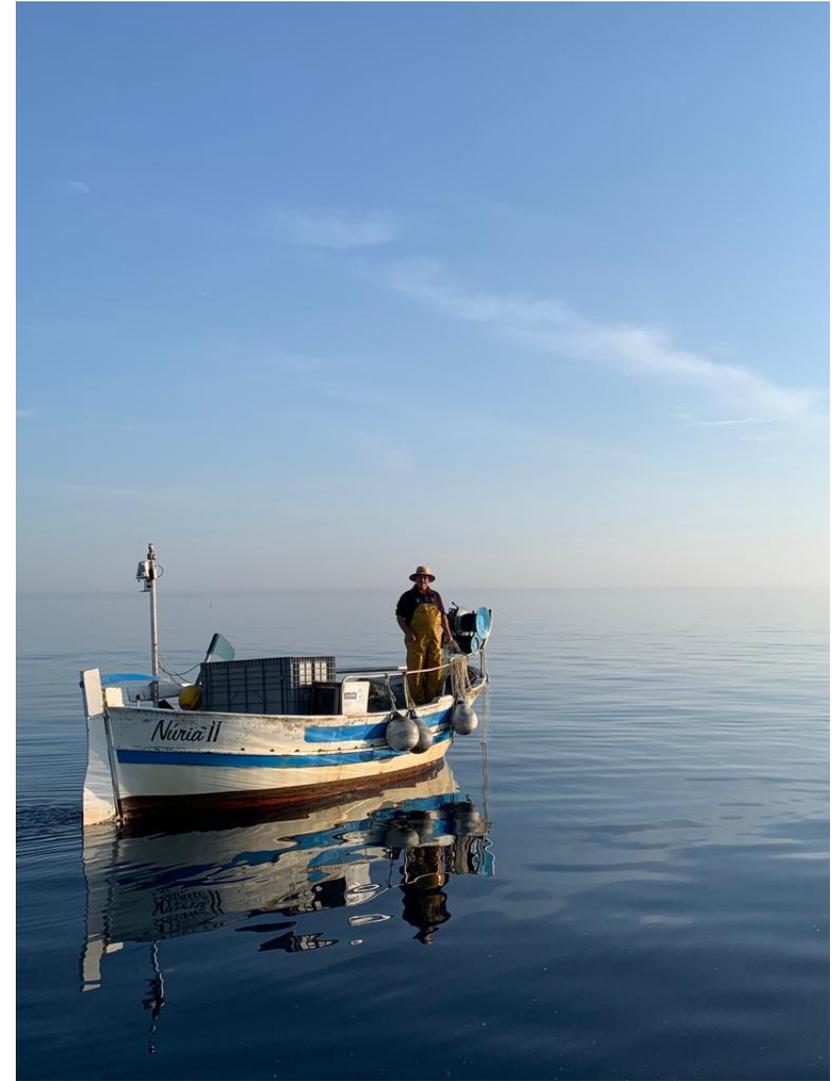
Thank you
Gràcies

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