



MINOUW

Working together to fish the right fish

Minimizing discards in the Mediterranean: Case studies in Greece, Italy and Spain

Presentation on the Project: *“Science, Technology, and Society Initiative to Minimize Unwanted Catches in European Fisheries”* (MINOUW, ID 634495)

MedAC meeting on the landing obligation
Athens, 8 October 2015

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What is MINOUW?

- A big international and multi-disciplinary project, to improve how do we fish in Europe and achieve cleaner fishing operations (i.e. free from unwanted catches)
- The project will last 4 years (March 2015- February 2019)





Who we are?

The consortium is integrated by 19 institutions from 10 countries, and includes technologists, scientists, civil society and administrations



advisor to the project





What shall we do?

- An analysis of the real reasons of having discards and unwanted catches
- Develop innovative techniques and alternative interventions to improve the way of fishing of the different fishing gears, and test them in the field
- Advise on the implementation of the landing obligation adapted to specific fisheries
- Promote practical and feasible solutions and replicate them around the Med



How will objectives be achieved?

3 key words: participatory, bottom-up and field

- A unique feature of the project is its reliance on the fisheries sector through real multi-stakeholder processes involving at least fishers, scientists and managers. These processes are tailored to real local fisheries, and all stakeholders participate on an equal footing basis.
- A total 17 specific case studies, including fisheries based on trawl gears, purse seines, dredges, traps, pots, nets and loglines in 7 countries.

- A specific methodology has been developed to guide the participatory case study processes
- The guidance is a flexible tool, allowing for ample adaptation to local conditions: rigid one-size-fits-all does not work - **every fishery is a world!**

General guidance on multi-stakeholder participatory work (crosscutting issue, particularly relevant to WP2 and WP6)

Introduction:

Promoting positive change “in the water” is the main goal of MINOUW project. For this change to be meaningful, long-lasting and self-sustaining in the long run the project envisages placing stakeholders at the core of the action: multi-stakeholder engagement and participative design and implementation of actions are raised at the level of a central “social” methodology. In a way, multi-stakeholder participative work becomes the delivery mechanism to bring positive change –i.e. increased selectivity- to European fisheries. This is in agreement with the strengthened focus on stakeholder participation in the new EU CFP.

The “social work” considered in MINOUW has elements in common with *participatory research* but also with broader *fisheries co-management*. The former appears in the initial phases of the field work, when researchers and fishers work together on the available data (which include traditional environmental knowledge –TEK) and agree on solutions to test in the field. It further develops in the implementation phase through monitoring (based on community-based data collection) and adaptive management (through fine tuning of interventions). It is often considered that participatory research can pave the way to true co-management, thought to be a natural way to rationalize fisheries management (“co-management is a way to avoid problems”: F. Donatella, EC DGMARE).

The project currently envisages field actions in a total 17 case studies, mostly related to fisheries based on trawl gears, purse seines and static nets. WWF has a role as coordinator of the social solutions in WP2 and is coordinator of WP6, as well as responsible for several milestones and deliverables in WPs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. In particular, we are responsible to provide overall guidance on multi-stakeholder participatory work to the teams involved in the case studies.

Notwithstanding the high heterogeneity among fishing realities in the European seas and the logical need to avoid a “one size fits all” approach, as well as the need to anchor any field work on an adaptive management approach, this document aims at providing an overview of the “ideal” common methodological approach surrounding work with stakeholders. The different steps detailed below are, of course, open to adaptations/modifications to effectively tailor the methodology to the specific conditions of each case study.

The WWF team will be happy to work on these adaptations with every concerned team.

Description of the social interventions:

Where field work with stakeholders has been planned, the work will be structured in 3 phases along the 4 years of the project (1. joint characterisation of the problem and identification of field actions, 2. implementation in the field and 3. critical performance assessment of field interventions). The main procedural steps are detailed below.

The day-to-day participatory field work

1. Joint characterization of the problem (unwanted catches and discards) and identification of possible solutions
(Year 1)
 - Based on regular workshops (structured discussions bringing together fishers, scientists, conservationists, administration)
 - Central role of fisher's traditional knowledge
 - Shared diagnosis on the problems and joint design of potential solutions
 - Some technologies offered by the project but retained solutions based on consensus from proposals from both fishers and scientists

The day-to-day participatory field work

2. Field implementation (Years 2 & 3)

- Testing of agreed solutions (e.g. closed areas, technical improvements, etc.)
- Real-time data collection based on fishers (testing new technologies i.e. smartphone Apps)
- Fishermen exchanges involving different countries (on trammel nets, bottom trawls and purse seines)

First exchange conducted in Viareggio in July 2015,
on trammel net “selvedge” technique



Case studies

A total 17 fisheries – 10 in the Mediterranean

WWF directly responsible for 5 of them:

- Blanes (Catalonia): Bottom trawl fishery
- Sant Carles de la Ràpita (Catalonia): Trammel net fishery
- Sicily: Bottom trawl fishery
- Adriatic: Italian pelagic trawl fishery
- Kavala (Macedonia): Purse seine fishery



Blanes – bottom trawl fishery

- Virtually all the trawling fleet participates in the project (representatives from a total 15 vessels). Strong support from FNCCP, the local fisher's association and the Catalan Government.
- One introductory meeting and 2 workshops already conducted. Parallel experimental work developed by scientists.
- Characterization of selectivity issues almost finalized. Potential solutions and field work to be discussed and agreed at next workshop (November)





La Ràpita – trammel net fishery

- A good representation of the local trammel net fleet participates in the project. Also, strong support from FNCCP, the local fisher's association and the Catalan Government.
- One introductory meeting and 2 workshops already conducted.
- Characterization of selectivity issues finalized. Potential solutions and field work to be discussed and agreed at next workshop (November).

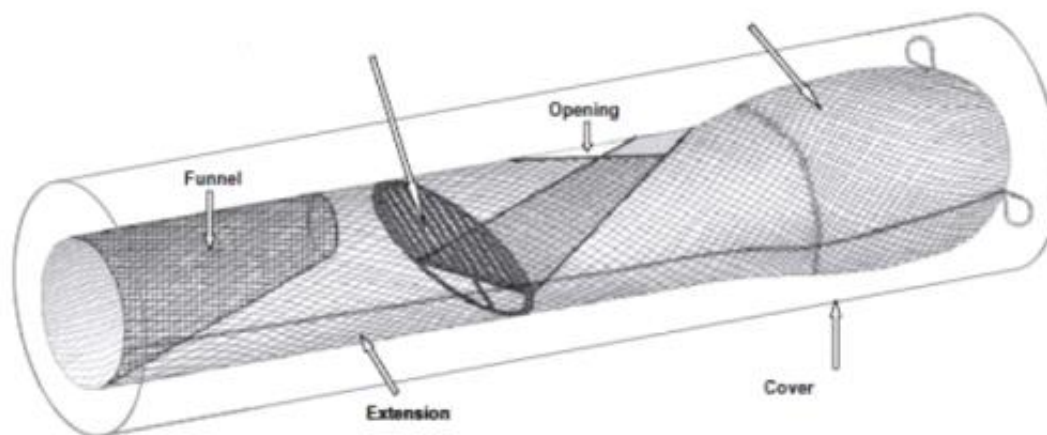




Mazara – Trawl crustacean Fishery (Sicily)

- Fleet is composed by 400 vessels targeting deep water rose and red shrimps. High production of discards, potentially composed by commercial and non-commercial species
- Institutional support from Italian DG (MIPAAF) and fishery associations (AGCI, Lega Pesca, Federcoopesca). Stakeholders analysis and power mapping performed.
- In agreement with CNR, introductory meeting planned after trawl grid testing (mid November 2015). Trawl grids experimental results will be used as entry points to characterize selectivity solutions

Mazara – Trawl crustacean Fishery (Sicily)





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Adriatic – Small Pelagic fishery (Marche)

- Fleet is composed by pelagic trawlers targeting anchovy and sardine within the framework of the national management plan adopted (in GSA17) and of the management plan adopted by the GFCM in 2013 (amended in 2014 and 2015). Discards is composed by potentially commercial (juveniles) and not commercial species
- Institutional support from Italian DG (MIPAAF) and fishery associations (AGCI, Lega Pesca, Federcoopescas). Stakeholders analysis and power mapping performed.
- Introductory meeting planned at the end of October in Ancona in collaboration with FEDEROP (fishery associations)



Kavala – small pelagics purse seine fishery

- Fleet is part of the Kavala Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) with objective to bring fleet to the level of MSC certification.
- Partnership between WWF Greece, super market “AB” (member of the Delhaize Group), local purse seiners and the national Fisheries Research Institute.
- MINOUW presented to Kavala Small Pelagics Management Advisory Committee established.
- One introductory meeting already conducted. Potential solutions to be discussed and agreed at next workshop.



Kavala – small pelagics purse seine fishery

