

## THE ADAPTATION OF FISHERIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW CAN IT BE PROMOTED BY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS? Sitges – 4/12/2018

### The Catalan model of participatory fisheries management

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Regarding the implementation of technical measures in fishery, the European Union started a serious action in the Mediterranean in January 2007 with the entry into force of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea. This Regulation imposes on the member countries of the Mediterranean the need to establish multi-annual management plans as tools to achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (RMS) in Fisheries.

The application of the Regulation meant that for some traditional fisheries very specific management plans had to be approved to allow the concession, by the European Commission (EC) and its Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for the Fisheries (CCTEP), of certain exceptions to its articles. These exceptions were generally related to the minimum size of the authorized nets of the specific fishing gear, or to the depths and the distance to the coast where these fisheries affected by the new regulation are practiced.

The first case of a Management Plan approved with the granting of exceptions was that of fishing with 'sonsera', a modality of fishing gear with a vessel dedicated to catch small fish species: Mediterranean sand eel and gobies (Transparent goby).

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The need to maintain the activity of up to 26 boats that based their fishing on the use of a very specific and not very selective gear, the 'sonera' and to convince the EC of the commitment in the application of a correct and sustainable management, led to the birth in Catalonia of a new model for monitoring fisheries called "co-management".

With the experience acquired with the application of the model of the 'sonera' and of other similar experiences such as the management plan of the prawn of Palamós or the self-management of the protected zones of the fishing grounds of Girona, the decree on the model of governance of professional fishing in Catalonia was born: "DECRET 118/2018, de 19 de juny, sobre el model de governança de la pesca professional a Catalunya".

The new governance model is based on the assignment by the administration of rights and responsibilities in favor of the other agents involved in fisheries management: the fisheries sector, the scientific community and environmental organizations. Together, within the framework of the Co-Management Committee, they have the task of approving the corresponding Management Plan, controlling its scientific monitoring (always associated with a Plan), drawing up a socio-economic program linked to the Plan, and in general, to make an adaptive management in real time that guarantees a sustainable fishing exploitation at all times and revalues the price of the product.

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