

Social and ecological attributes of marine recreational fisheries in the Euroregion Galicia-Northern Portugal

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There are growing concerns about the impact of Marine Recreational Fishing (MRF) on ecosystems and its combined effects with other human activities, such as commercial fishing, especially in the higher trophic levels. On the other hand, recreational fishers make a considerable economic contribution by their expenses in materials, boats, licenses and travel costs and accommodation. However, little research has been conducted on MRF in Europe, particularly in the South. In the Euroregion Galicia-Northern Portugal extensive research in basic features of MRF is still needed to support management decisions and to reduce growing conflicts between recreational and commercial fishers and other stakeholders. In this work we have analysed the social, economic and ecological impact of the MRF in this Euroregion by characterizing the types of users, estimating their costs and their catches by species. In particular, we have performed on-site and on-line interviews with fishers of the different *métiers* to gather economic information (costs, disbursements and profitability), social (education, occupation, age, residence, sex, generation of direct and indirect jobs and complementarity with commercial fishing and tourism) and ecological (trends and factors influencing abundances, gears used, species targeted and seasonal and daily effort and catches). Management recommendations have been given to improve socio-ecological sustainability of MRF.

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