

PESCARDATA – RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN MAINLAND PORTUGAL

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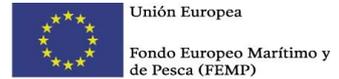
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Abstract: Recreational fishing is an important socioeconomic activity that needs systematic studies and data monitoring programs. The Pescardata project, coordinated by the Centre for Marine Sciences of the University of Algarve has two goals: (1) fill the gaps with regard the systematic collection of data on the recreational catches of the species included in the Data Collection Framework of the European Union; and (2) analyze different dimensions of the recreational fishing activity that takes place in the mainland Portugal coastal area. The project aims at: characterizing several aspects of this activity, describing socioeconomically the recreational fishery population, analysing different characteristics of the fishing trips, typifying fishing areas, quantifying and qualifying catches, identifying fate of caught individuals, and estimating the proportion of recreational catches when compared to commercial catches. To attain these objectives, a comprehensive sampling strategy was defined for 2018, by dividing the continental coastline in 5 km sections within NUTS II areas (Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes): North, Center, Metropolitan Area of Lisbon - AML, Alentejo and Algarve. Data is obtained by: face-to-face questionnaire surveys (digital format in an Android system), fishing logbooks, historical sport fishing activity data from anglers' federations and associations, and fishing tournaments. Onboard observers are used for boat angling, while face-to-face questionnaires are conducted via roving creel surveys for shore angling and spearfishing, and access point surveys used for onboard angling and spearfishing. Here we describe and discuss the sampling methodology. Also, we present an outline of the main outcomes observed during winter (the season sampled and analyzed so far), where the number of fishing events observed, and consequent caught individuals, were below the anticipated, even though 79 face-to-face questionnaire campaigns were carried out, covering 9103 km of visited coastline. The atypically harsh atmospheric and sea conditions observed during this season may account for these observations.

Key words: Recreational fisheries, shore angling, boat angling, spearfishing, fisheries management, mainland Portugal.



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