

THE BUILDING OF A MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES O GALICIA: A NEVER-ENDING STORY

Pablo Pita¹, Sebastián Villasante¹

¹ University of Santiago de Compostela, Department of Applied Economics

First concerns about the impacts of worldwide marine recreational catches arose in the last years of the XX century. Thus, the inclusion of recreational data in ecosystem and fisheries management is still recent. In addition to a powerful commercial fleet and high fisheries dependence of coastal populations, Galicia (NW Spain) has a long-term tradition in recreational fisheries. In this paper, we studied changes in the management framework of recreational fisheries by analyzing past and current regulations, research initiatives and opinions of recreational fishers. We found that the management of recreational fisheries moved in the 90's of last century from an unregulated and de facto open access system under the rule of the national administration to a current overregulated fishery under the regional, national and European governments. Nevertheless, the lack of scientific data, the lack of professionals in the fisheries administration and in the scientific institutions, added to the lack of ecological knowledge among recreational fishers are relevant issues in Galicia that jeopardize the socioecological sustainability of this fishery in the long term.

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