



European Maritime & Fisheries Fund

Workshop 6: Small Pelagic Fish Reproductive Resilience

Monitoring programme of the Canary small pelagic fish (Spain, NW Africa) in the Spanish Data Collection Framework

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The Canary Islands context





https://www.gob-iocag.ulpgc.es/post/eddies-in-the-canary-islands-a-gaia-perspective



productive marine system



The Canary artisanal fishery

- Artisanal fleet (>600 boats): multi-gear, multi-species, oportunistic and polyvalent.
- Three different métiers identified and monitored in the EU-DCF:
 - **LHP_LPF** Tuna pole and line fished with live-bait (68% Canary landings, monitoring launched in 2003)
 - MIS_DES Multigear directed to demersal species (14% Canary landings, monitoring launched in 2015)

- **PS_SPF** Traíñas (18% Canary landings, monitoring launched in 2013)





Atlantic chub Mackerel - *Scomber colias* (Gmelin,1789)



Round sardinella- *Sardinella aurita* (Valenciennes, 1847)



Blue jack mackerel- *Trachurus picturatus* (Bowdich, 1825)



Sardine - *Sardina pilchardus* (Walbaum, 1792)



FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off NW Africa (included since 2015)







Monitoring system (EU-DCF)



Biological sampling (IEO-COC laboratory)

Characterization of the fish populations:

- Biological data (LF, mean weight and age distribution of catches, sex-ratio, maturity) for the main SPF species targeted by the artisanal purse seiners in the Canary Islands: Somber colias, Trachurus spp, Sardina pilchardus, Sardinella aurita
- Data to assess the fisheries impact on marine ecosystems (i.e: discards, since 2017)
- Assessment of this stock status in the CECAF framework.



Length samplings (landing sites and on board)

Characterisation of the fishery:

- Technical characteristics of the artisanal fleet targeting SPF
- Main landing and selling sites
- Landings and fishing effort analysis based on official 'sale notes' (available since 2007).

Discards characterization (on board)

Fishery statistics (Official Sale Notes and census of boats)







Fishery behaviour and environmental effects

Life history traits





Population structure / species plasticity & Collaborative research

		Blue jack macker	rel
Atlantic chub mackerel		Fabric Reserved 218 (2039) 48-48	
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Data collation

Biological and fishery data from commercial fleet









sale-notes) -Landings

Fishery statistics

- -Fishing effort (non
- ficial specific)
 - -LPUE (not standardized)

- **Biological samplings:**
- total length (TL, 0.1 cm)
- total weight (TW, 0.1 g)
- gutted weight (0.1 g)
- sexual maturity (general 5-stages SMS)
- gonadal weight (0.1 g)
- stomach repletion (4 categories)
- visceral fat (4 categories)
- Sagitta otoliths extraction and preservation
- RIM and on-board observations: length frequencies

- Length frequencies
- LWRs

Life history traits

- Reproductive traits
- Growth parameters

- etc.

assessment <u> Wathematical</u>

Data-limited models

Length-based: LBB, LB-SPR, LCA/YR Surplus productionbased: Biodyn, SPiCT, CMSY, JABBA)





Current stock status assessment





- The exploratory multi-model approach to assess the small pelagic fish in the Canary Islands by using seven different data-limited methods proves that a quantitative assessment is not feasible yet.
- **X** It is not possible to provide scientific advice in terms of catch or effort limits.

Allowed Updated **Species** LFM reference catch size LFM 20 **18.90** 20 Scomber colias (Lorenzo and Pajuelo, 1996) 22 (Jurado-Ruzafa and Santamaría, Trachurus picturatus **19.00** 15 2013) 15 Sardina pilchardus 15.02 11

(Méndez-Villamil et al., 1997)

Presented in

V SIBECORP

(2021)



CENTRO OCEANOGRÁFICO DE CANARIAS Workshop 6: Small Pelagic Fish Reproductive Resilience



Reproductive potential is commonly based on spawning stock biomass (SSB) but, in many marine species, spatial components of the life cycle may be more important to reproductive success.

W6 final aim: To operationalize the use of the *reproductive resilience paradigm* to inform management.

W6 departure hypotheses:

- 1. The *reproductive resilience paradigm* takes an eco-evolutionary perspective to identify species-specific traits in spawner-recruit systems that drive reproductive success and consequently resilience to fishing pressure.
- 2. Reproductive success is tightly coupled with **adult abundance** and **fecundity** in many terrestrial animals and, in exploited marine fish, **where and when fish spawn**, and consequent **dispersal dynamics**, may have a greater impact.

W6-detected needs for the scientific side:

To move beyond the intrinsic population growth equation to understand drivers of transgenerational productivity requires <u>scientific dialogue</u> <u>across fields</u> including fisheries ecologists, geneticists, early life biologists and stock assessment scientists.





Our aim

To achieve the knowledge to be able to know the actual state of these stocks, in order to provide the best scientific advice to protect our environment and the marine resources.



The *reproductive resilience* of these species should be further understood

Pending work in reproductive characterization:

- Microscopic validation of the maturity stages assignments
- Estimation of fecundity and reproductive potential
- Egg and larval development
- Spawning locations
- Larval dispersal and connectivity
- Spatio-temporal analyses
- etc.



Needs:

- To obtain fishery independent abundance/biomass estimations
- To keep the monitoring system
- Improvements in the First sale-notes reporting
- Fishing effort stardardization to estimate reliable specific CPUEs
- To better understand the environmental drivers impacting these species
- Collaborative approaches including broader interdisciplinary and geographic perspectives

But also:

- Trained staff
- Funds and materials
- Time to analyse data

Comments and suggestions are more than welcome





