

MARE CONFERENCE 2021

28th JUNE to 2nd JULY - ONLINE / VIRTUAL

2021 PEOPLE & THE SEA XI CONFERENCE : LIMITS TO BLUE GROWTH?

Involvement and participation of small-scale fishers' organizations in the Azorean Islands

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION & FISHERIES GOVERNANCE



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inscrita na Lista do Património
Mundial em 2013

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THE CFP & 'THE IVORY TOWER' EFFECT

Negative reputation:

- Stakeholder consultation
- Run by 'Brussels Bureaucrats' in an 'Ivory tower'
- Far removed from the 'reality' & 'real world' of fishers
- Design policies without any real dialogue with those affected

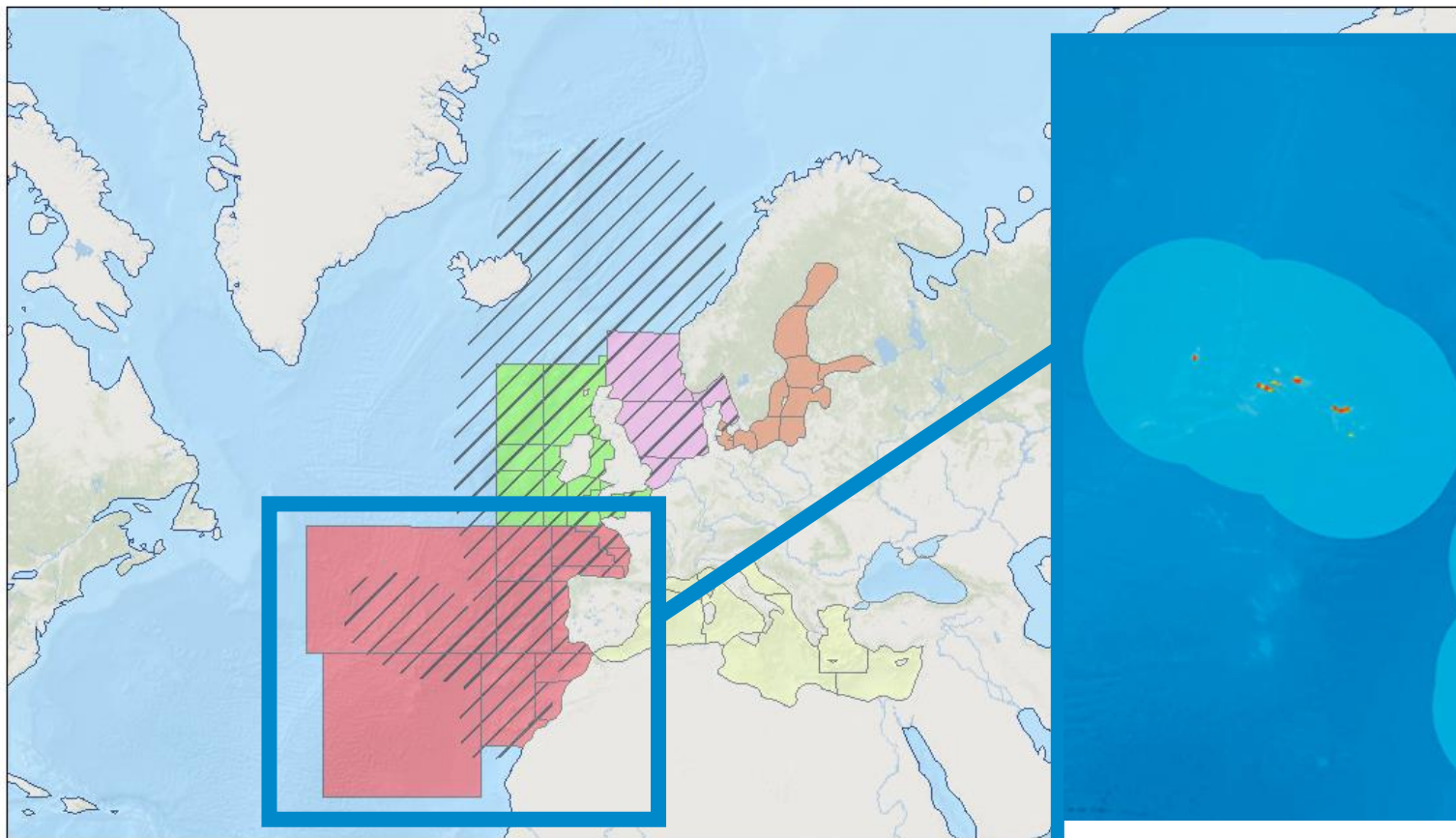
(Lado, 2016)

CONSULTATION: “AN IDEA AS OLD AS CFP ITSELF”

- **1983 – Birth of CFP**
- **1971 – 1st Advisory Committee on Fisheries** (Comissão Europeia, 1971, 1973)
45 members: fishing & processing industry, cooperatives, traders, workers & consumers
- **1999 – Advisory Committee for Fisheries & Aquaculture - ACFA** (Comissão Europeia, 1997, 1999)
4 WG: Fisheries, Aquaculture, Markets, Structures
ENGO's members for the 1st time
- **2004 – Regional Advisory Councils - RAC's** (European Council, 2004)
7 RAC's: North Sea, NWW, Baltic Sea, Long Distance/High seas, SWW, Mediterranean, Pelagic
Members: 2/3 fisheries + 1/3 other interests (ENGO's, consumers, recreational)
- **2013 – Advisory Councils - AC's** (European Commission, 2014; European Parliament and Council, 2013)
4 AC's: OR, Aquaculture, Markets, Black Sea
Members: 60% fisheries + 40% other interests

(Lado, 2016)

EUROPEAN ATLAS OF THE SEAS



South-western waters
Advisory Council

Advisory Councils

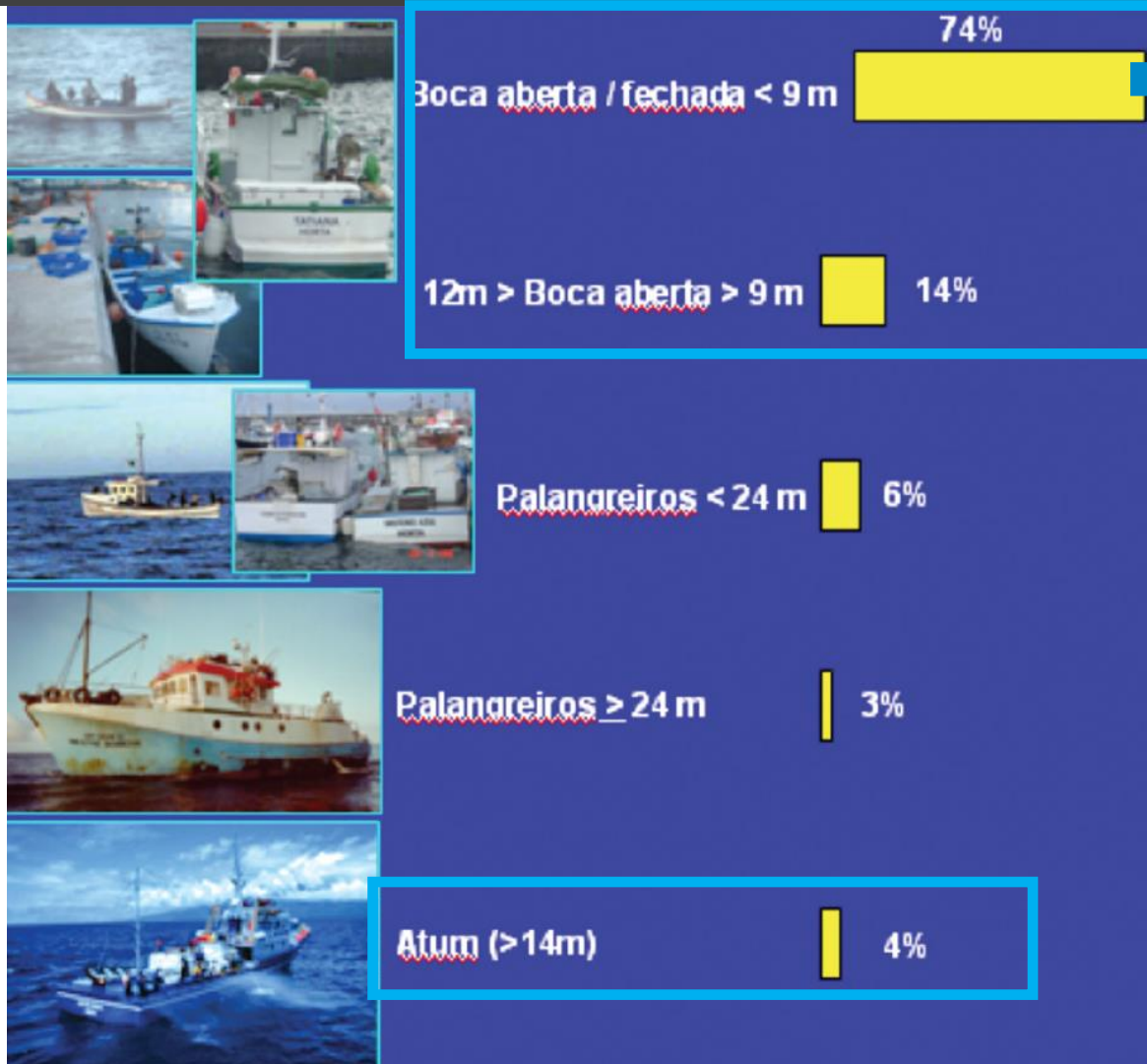
- Fishing zones limit
- North-western waters Advisory Council
- South-western waters Advisory Council
- North Sea Advisory Council
- Mediterranean Sea Advisory Council
- Baltic Sea Advisory Council
- Long Distance Advisory Council
- Pelagic Advisory Council (blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel, herring)



- ➔ Traditional fisheries (TRAD)
Demersal and benthic species VIII and IX
- ➔ Pelagic and ICCAT Species (PELA)
- ➔ Insular Subdivision (INSU)

SSF FISHERIES IN AZORES

540 boats



Azorean Fishing Fleet Structure (Pinho & Menezes, 2009, p. 92)

92% SSF

Trawling is forbidden in Az since the 1990's (Pitcher & Clark, 2010)

Gear categories	N	668
Bottom longline	76	
Gillnets	67	
Handline	379	61% SSF
Pole and line	29	
Polyvalent (multigear)	89	
Surface longline	5	
Surrounding nets	23	

Vessel size categories (length m)	N	668
1 (≤6)	234	92% SSF
2 (6-8)	191	
3 (8-12)	178	
4 (12-20)	38	
5 (20.1-30)	21	
6 (>30)	6	

Gear type and vessel size in Azores fisheries (Carvalho et al., 2011)

THE STUDY: UNDERSTAND THOSE PARTICIPATING

- **Epistemological approach**
Qualitative, inductive and comprehensive approach (Weberian tradition)
- **Research questions:**
How are SSF fishers' organizations involved in decision & policy making?
What role to they play?
What perspectives to they have on how fisheries have been managed and governed?
- **Methods:**
(Participant) Observation, semi-structured Interviews (face-to-face & virtual)
- **Sample criteria:**
Azorean SSF organizations participating in SWWAC (N=17)

WHO PARTICIPATES? WHO THEY REPRESENT?

(2005)



FISHERIES SECTOR

OTHER INTERESTS

UMBRELLA

REGIONAL

ISLAND

LOCAL

<p>(1985)</p>	<p>(2002)</p>	<p>(2008)</p>
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(1984)

(1992)(2008)

<p>(2002)</p>	<p>(2002)</p>	<p>(2005)</p>	<p>(2005)</p>	
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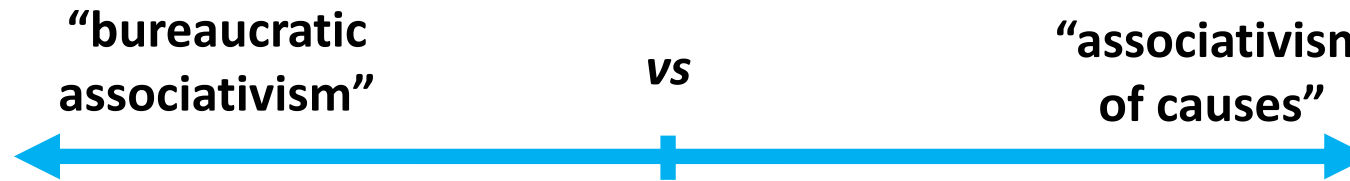
<p>(2004)</p>	<p>(2004)</p>
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<p>(1998)</p>	<p>(2011)</p>	<p>(2017)</p>
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(N=17)

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Dichotomy to embrace the full spectrum of AZ SSF organizations' role & involvement in policy making



MANAGEMENT

- Providing Red tape & paperwork service
- Hearing and learning more than participating in the discussion
- Collaborating in implementing measures
- Hands-on-approach skills & knowledge

GOVERNANCE

- Defending interests
- Being part of the discussion
- Confrontation & conflict
- Politized vision & oral skills

A balancing game not so easy to play

- Financial autonomy of Organizations can be put in question
- Risks silencing "real problems" from fishers
- Risks actors & dissent being "silenced"

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT... & DEBATE?

“What would be of the government without the associations?

We are in the frontline of the discontent!

We hear, everyday, the not so positive reactions of fishers to all the new restrictions being implemented.

We have all been “the good students” so far, but there is limit to what we can bear...

What will be of all the these fishers and their families in the future?”

(Gualberto Rita’s interview, President of the Azorean Fisheries Federation, 13/12/2019)

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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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