- The fishing Gear and fishing methods that are allowable and that we use in the Azores are:
  - Line and hooks; targeting demersal and pelagic (Fig. 3):
  - Hand lines
  - Bottom longline
  - Surface longline
  - Craft fishery



Bibliografia Fernandes, L.M. R, 1984 Artes de Pesca Artesanal

## • Traps for:

- Crustaceans
- Red Mullet
- Shellfish



Bibliografia Fernandes, L.M. R, 1984 Artes de Pesca Artesanal

## Danish seine and drift nets for:

• Small coastal pelagic fish



Bibliografia Fernandes, L.M. R, 1984 Artes de Pesca Artesanal

 Taking all the things mentioned in consideration, we can conclude that Azorean fisheries are made in a sustainable way, passing true our suns, grandsons and further generations, the same legacy that our fathers, grandfathers left to us, because of that we use very selective fishing gear, mostly hand lines, providing a very "environment friendly" and sustainable fisheries.

 Mostly of the local fleet use fishing gear compose by line and hooks, being the crew constituted by 1 to 4 fishermen, each one of them operate a line with 5/6 hooks, in pelagic fishing each man uses a line only with one hook

• We have a very reduce number of boats license to use Danish seine (14), has also drift nets for small coastal fish. We also have boats authorized to use traps to catch crustacean and cephalopod. It is important to refer that as time goes by, more limited is the acquisition of fishing licenses and also more restrictions were implemented to operate near the shore in order to stablish an sustainable fishery, some of them due to local fisheries Associations work, for example:

- The longline is forbidden in less than 6 nautical miles from shore of each island.
- Boats with cabin practicing hand line can't operate inside 1 nautical mile from shore except if they are fishing pelagic fish.
- Boats until 14 meters can only operate with hand lines targeting demersal fish from more than 1 nautical mile from shore except if they are fishing pelagic fish.
- Boats above 14 meters length until 25 meters can only operate at more than 6 nautical miles from shore, except if they are fishing pelagic fish
- Vessels with more than 25 meters can only operate at more than 30 nautical miles from shore, except if they are fishing pelagic fish. (Figure 2)



• Figure 2. Spatial distribution of the fishing operation by the Azorean fleet. Source: Pinho et al, 2015 (ICES CM 2015/F:30)

• Coastal fleet are boats that use more crew (could reach the 18 fishermen, in case of the Tuna boats) practicing a one man one hook fishing, promoting the sustainability of the fisheries. Coastal longliners use in mean 10 to 15 fishermen in each crew.

## Our position is to defend:

• that each member state of the European Union should be sovereign managing their fishing resources when they are constituted by population units that aren't transnational. Regions on each state member should have autonomy to manage the regional fisheries resources as mentioned in the International Law of the Seas (Sea Convention, 1982).

- We are convinced that the fisheries on this Outermost Region has a future, if we continue to implement measures in the fisheries sector, like for example:
- Condor Bank was made a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) with already 8 years without fishing activity, minimum sizes, fishing methods using line and hooks, biological stops for reproduction compensating the fishermen with European funds



 Capitalize near the education and schools the passion of the youth by the seas, because any activity in this area without young people to renewal will not have any future

• A lot of the species caught need to be work on, in order not only to preserve them but also at the same time divulgate them so that their market value increase not losing the wish of people to consume them. Increasing sales by emphasising that the product outcomes from an artisanal, sustainable and "environment friendly" fisheries.



Foto-José Sousa

- Focus on problems, like:
  - Getting the fish caught to the main markets (high cost with transport).
  - Some species caught with low value, because of their transport costs and taxes lose competitiveness against other products with doubt full provenience outside Europe that invalidate Azorean fish sale on the market

- Lack of support to bring down some fishing boats, in order to reduce the fish effort.
- Shouldn't be apply (on motor substitution made in boats) a reducing of 20% of the motor power when we are talking about boats that practice a hand line fisheries and it is in question the safety of their crews.

- It makes no sense establish a o Total Allowable Catches (TAC o) for some species in this Regions when they practice an artisanal and sustainable fishery. Some species that aren 't caught begin to create an imbalance effect on the local ecosystem
- Being that species in the top of the food chain and without having any predators, they begin to be a problem for the stability of the ecosystem, some of this species have a significant high market value and could represent an valid alternative resource for the fishing fleet (examples like the deep sea sharks and kitefin shark), preventing the over-exploration of the species that really need a precautionary managing approach in the Region

 It doesn't make any sense, that the Commission applies TAC o in some species that exist in the Azores Archipelago, just because an intense fishing effort occurred with trawling and bottom sets of gillnets (long time forbidden in the Azores) targeting the stocks of the same species in Northern Seas of Europe, putting in risk their sustainability and consequently undermine their ecosystem. If the species in question aren't caught for decades in the Azores Region on which criteria is based the decision to applied a TAC o to that same species in the Azores Region?

- The Outermost Regions are composed by very fragile ecosystems (life paradises), inhabited with unique species, presenting us with high biodiversity rates but poor, very poor quantities mostly due to the reduce areas with "shallow waters".
- Due to the distance of the islands of the most important markets (more than 2000km) the local fisheries sector is faced with a lot and complex challenges: accessibility of costs in producing, the transport, the world scale globalization chain, the creation of appealing and new markets in order to provide a better outflow of the Region fisheries products and sub-products.

 I finalize saying that the Commission shouldn't apply for the Outermost Regions the same "path" than for other places with big continental shelf's, it is not fair that different realities/situations have similar approaches/decisions.





Federação das Pescas dos Açores Rua da Trincheira, n.º 1 9675-161 Ribeira Quente Tel.: 962361103 / Fax: 296 584 725 E-mail: federacaopescasacores@sapo.pt