



Supporting evidence on a high survivability of blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) captured by bottom hook and line in Central North Atlantic Waters (ICES sub-area X)

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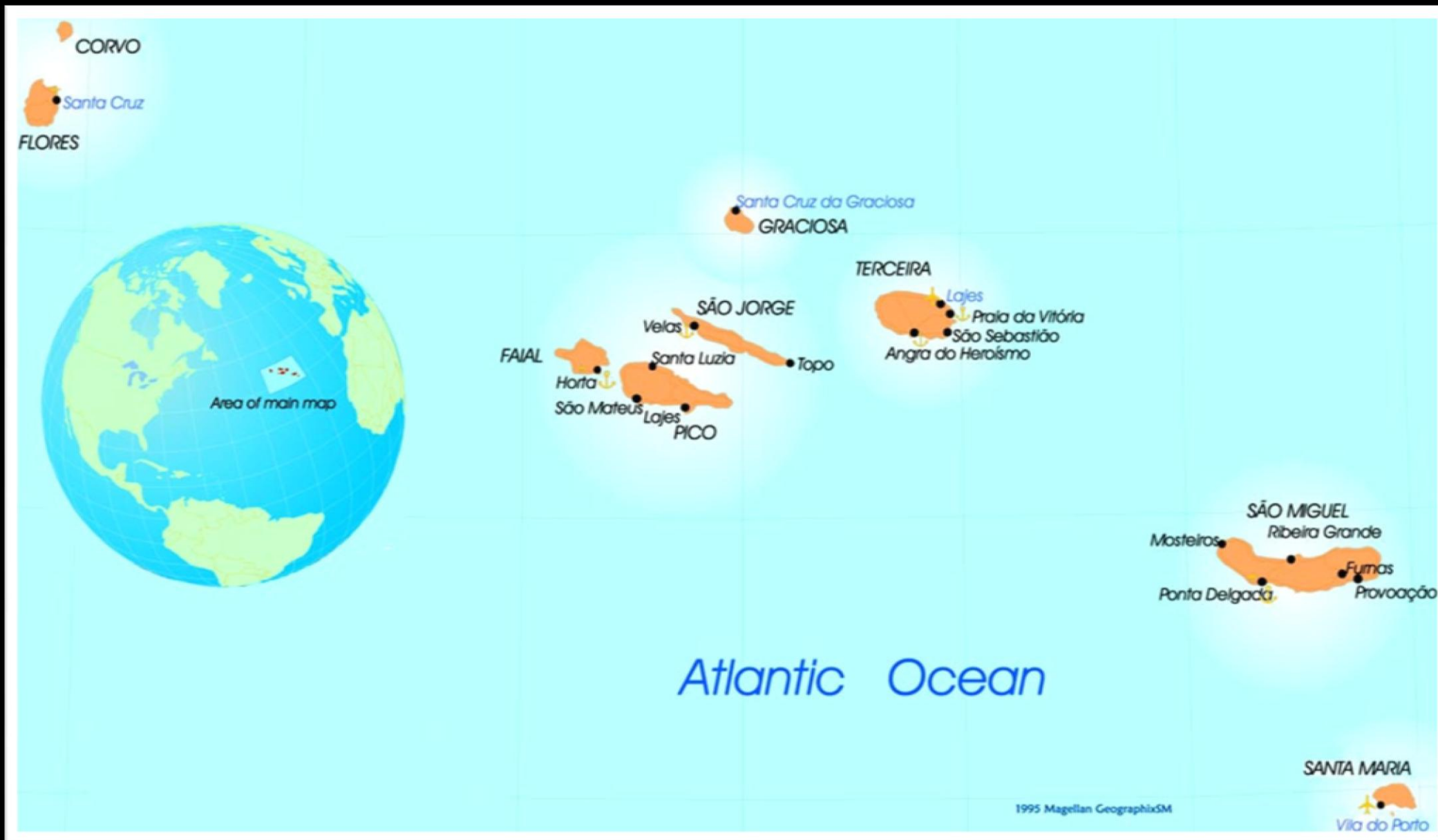
Regional Director for Fisheries, Government of the Azores  
Portugal

Brussels

26 June 2018



# The Azores

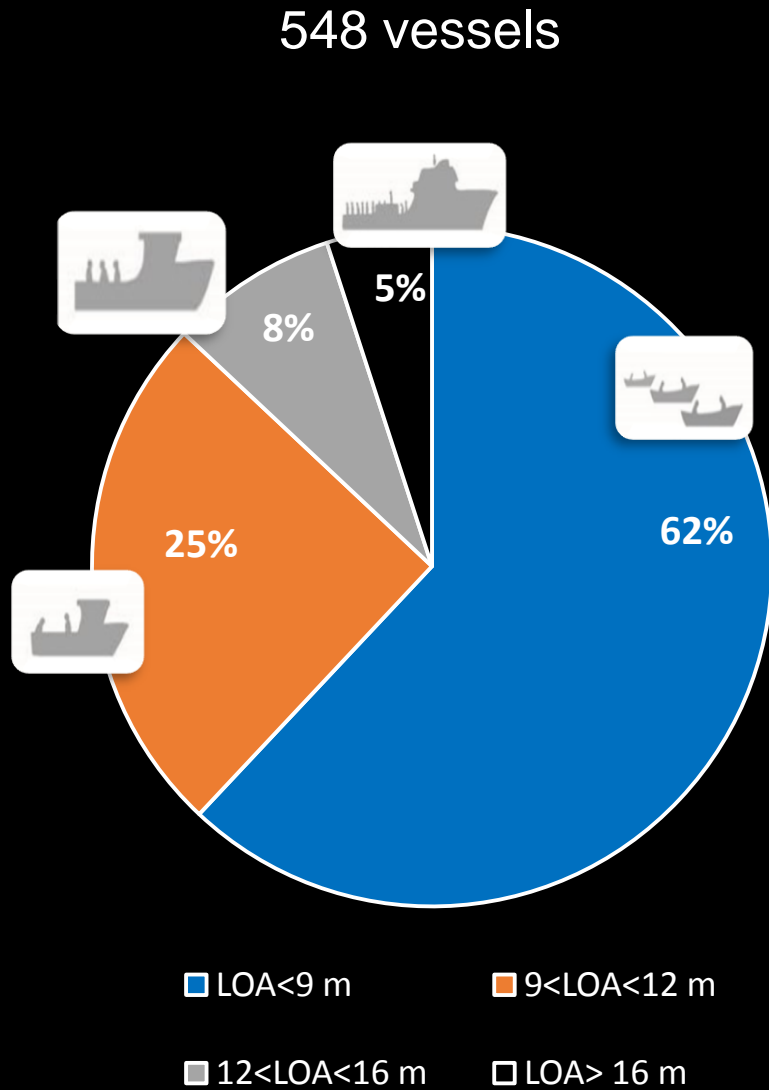


Arguments for exemption request:

- I. **Small-scale fishing fleet with selective fishing gear**
  - II. **Low by-catch and discard rates**
  - III. **Survivability of blackspot seabream**

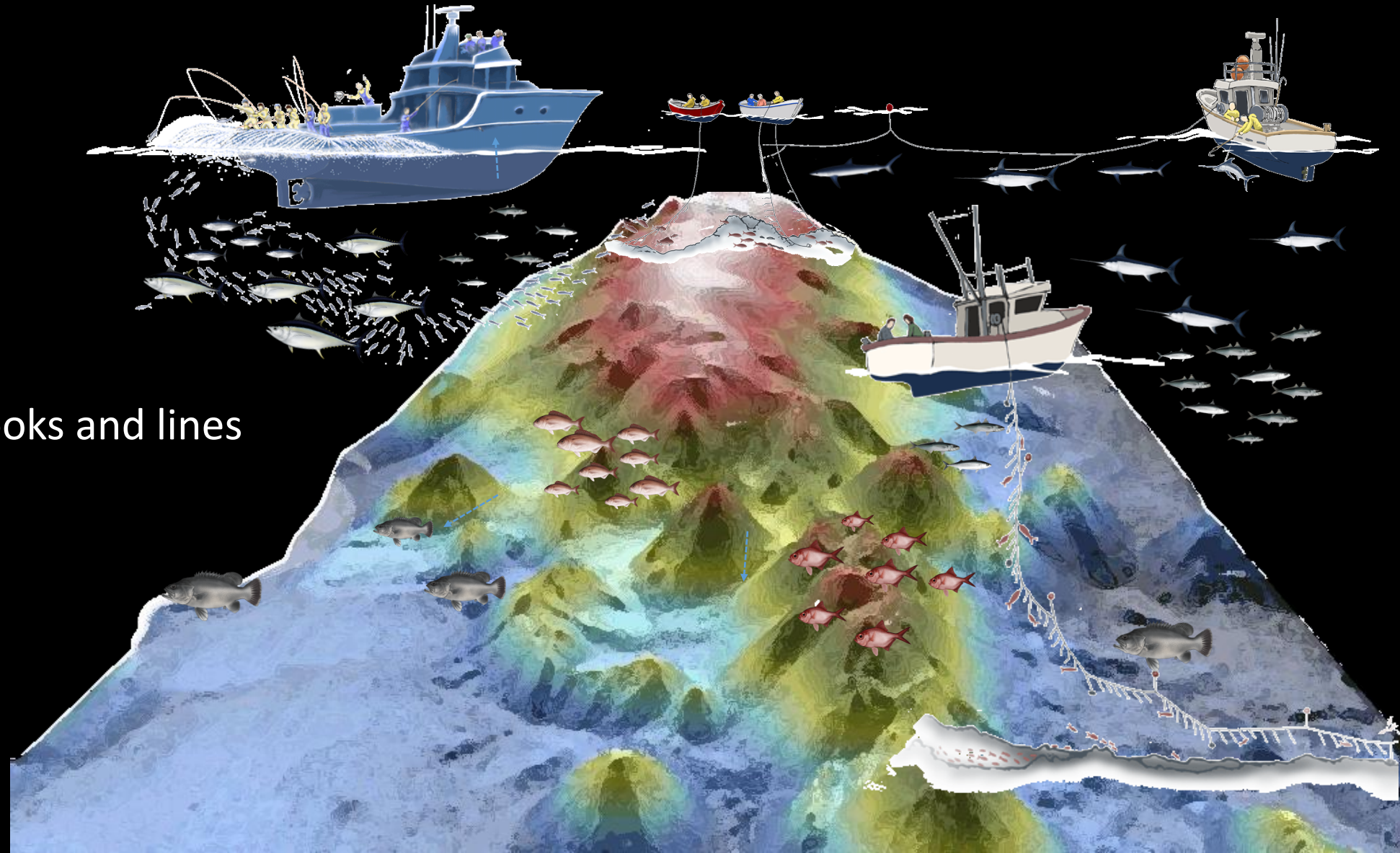
# **I. Small-scale fishing fleet with selective fishing gear**

# Azorean Fleet





# Azorean Fisheries



- 85% of the fleet: hooks and lines
- Close to the shore
- Daily trips

# Fisheries management strategies in Azores

- ✓ minimum landing sizes,
- ✓ limitation of licenses for some specific gears (e.g. trammel nets and bottom longline) favouring handlines,
- ✓ areas and temporal closures,
- ✓ bans on the use of specific gear, such as the deep-sea trawling,
- ✓ downsizing of the fleet;
- ✓ quota management by quarter.

## **II. Low by-catch and discard rates**

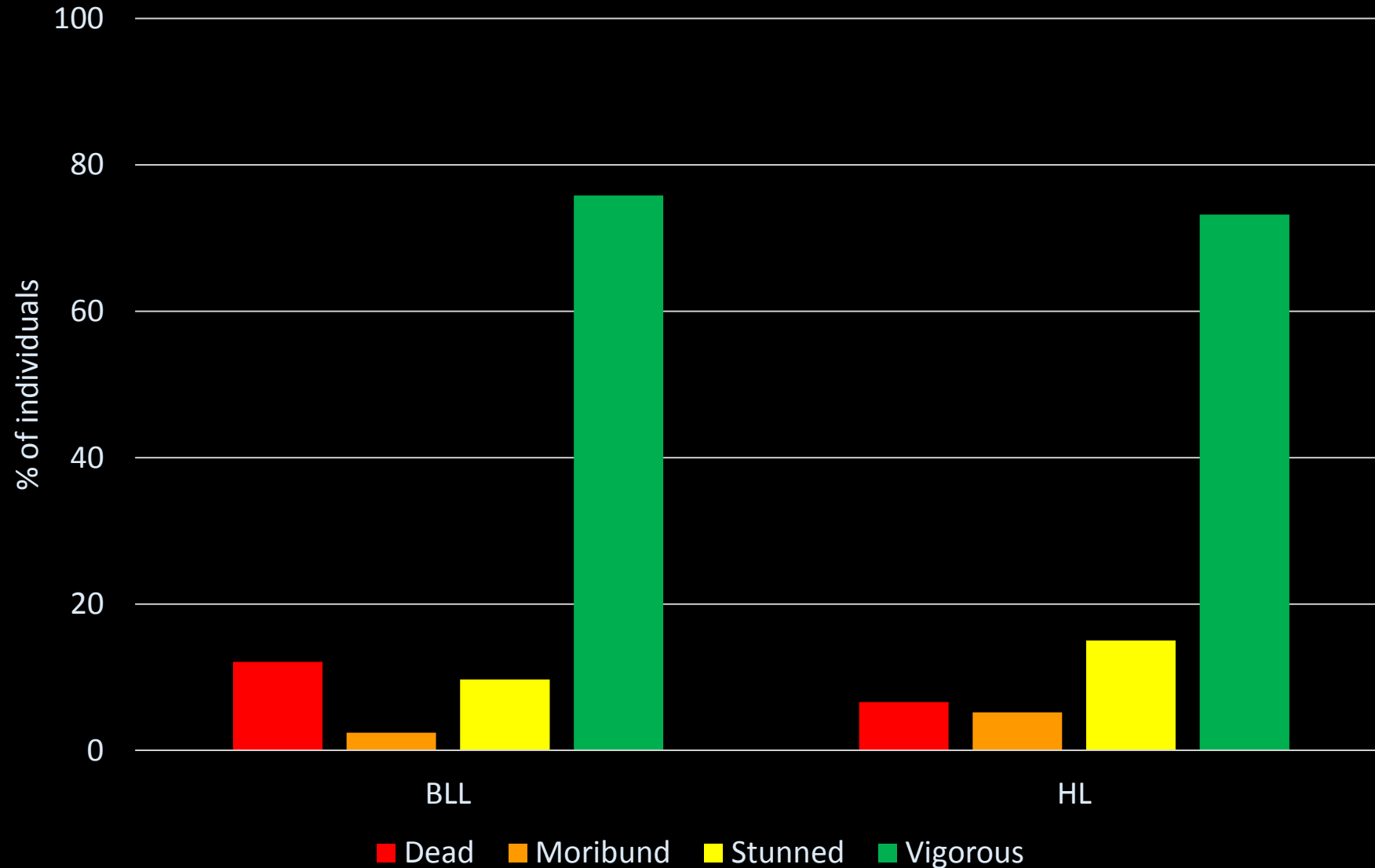


Species	Common name	% of total catch weight	Discard weight (t) per year	CI Discard weight (t) per year	Discarded fraction (%)
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	Blackspot seabream	22.64	21.27	[13.83 - 28.69]	2.17
<i>Conger conger</i>	European conger	12.00	68.94	[50.92 - 87.98]	13.25
<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	Wreckfish	7.16	0.81	[0.17 - 1.45]	0.26
<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	Blackbelly rosefish	6.92	32.65	[19.71 - 45.45]	10.88
<i>Phycis phycis</i>	Forkbeard	5.78	13.68	[7.72 - 19.8]	5.45
<i>Beryx splendens</i>	Splendid alfonsino	4.81	22.01	[16.86 - 26.83]	10.55
<i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback ray	2.53	24.59	[7.76 - 41.83]	22.44
<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>	Common seabream	2.10	1.12	[0.65 - 1.6]	1.23
<i>Mora moro</i>	Common mora	1.72	3.53	[0.73 - 6.32]	4.72
<i>Serranus atricauda</i>	Blacktail comber	1.67	0.12	[0.04 - 0.19]	0.17
<i>Pontinus kuhlii</i>	Offshore rockfish	1.41	2.09	[1.07 - 3.1]	3.42
<i>Muraena helena</i>	Mediterranean moray	1.21	7.63	[2.66 - 12.65]	14.57
<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	Black scabbardfish	1.04	4.32	[2.17 - 11.37]	9.56

Source: Discardless, MERCES and Sponges projects

### **III. Survivability of blackspot seabream**

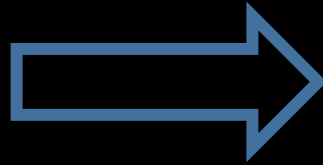
# Onboard observer data



# Captivity - in tank data



174 individuals  
7 – 15 cm FL



10% developed some health problems  
90% survived

## Mark-recapture data - Indirect survival estimation

Species	Scientific name	Tagged	Recapture		Avg Time at liberty		Max time at liberty	
		n	n	%	days	years	days	years
Blackspot seabream	Pagellus bogaraveo	12104	338	3	466	1,3	4034	11,1

Source: Annual demersal survey cruises

## Telemetry data - Direct survival estimation

Species	Scientific name	Tagged	Recapture (min. 8 days)	
		n	n	%
Blackspot seabream	Pagellus bogaraveo	155	105	67

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**