



The need for effective protection of shellfish waters

Ensuring space and quality of space

EU shellfish farming point of view - 12/07/2022



EP Intergroup Climate Change,
Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

What facts?

You dreamed it; shellfish made it... Some assets...



Nature

Carbon neutral at production level
Nitrogen sink
100% natural
0% feed
0% medicine



Nutrition

One of the lowest caloric food
High level of P, Cu, Ca, Zn, Se, Fe
High level of vitamin B



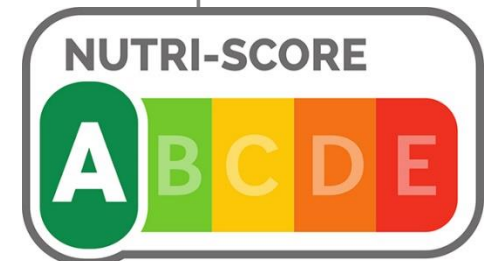
Health

High level of omega-3
Poor in cholesterol
Poor in salt



Raw Shellfish

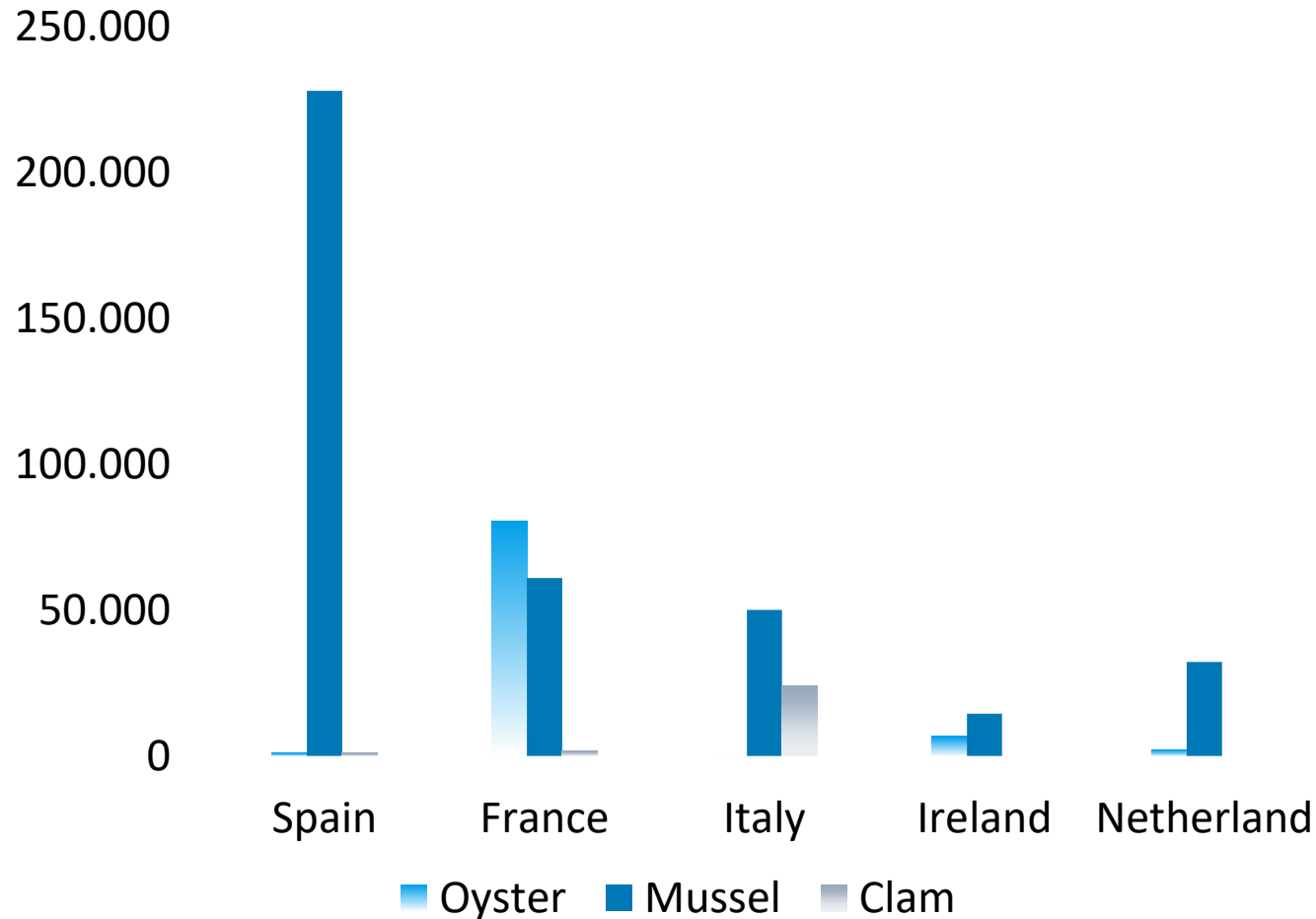
Taste, sane and affordable
scallops, oysters, mussels,
clams, cockles, abalones,
razor shells... for your



Cooked raw mussels

What production?

Main species and producers...



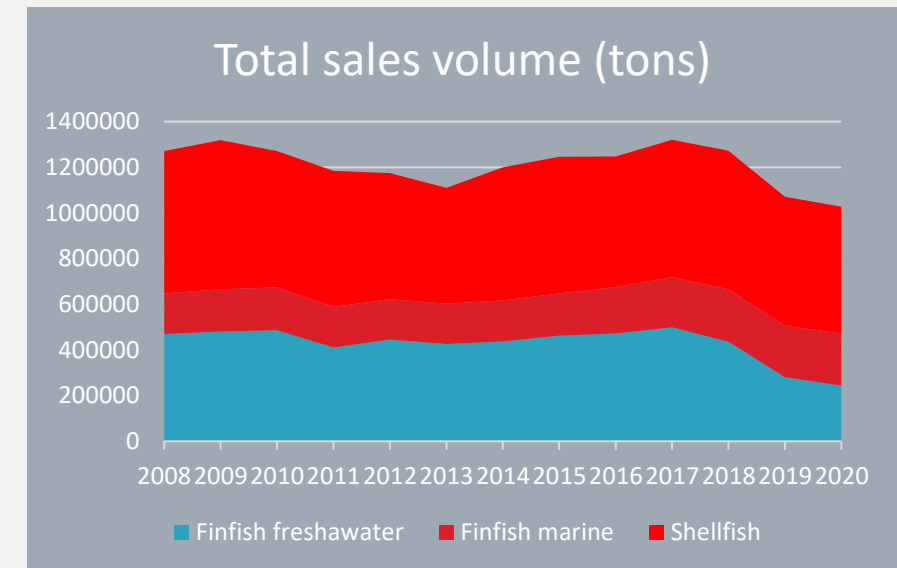
554 780 T

Total production 2020

Aquaculture EU: 1 027 570 T

Shellfish farming : **54%**

Fish farming : 46%



Socioeconomics data?

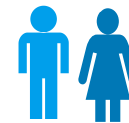
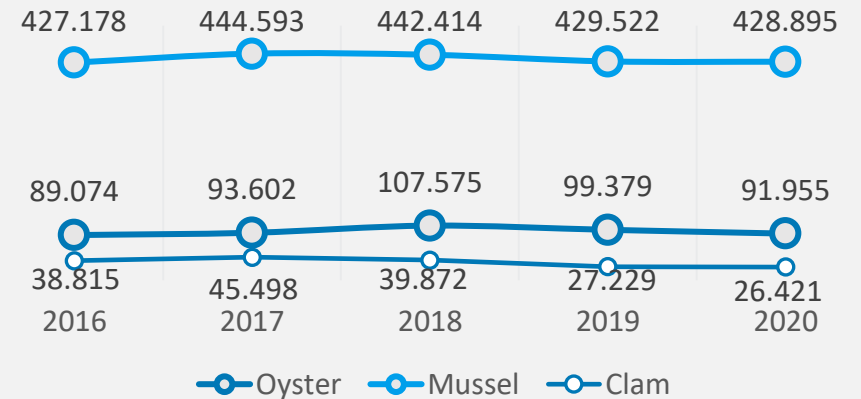
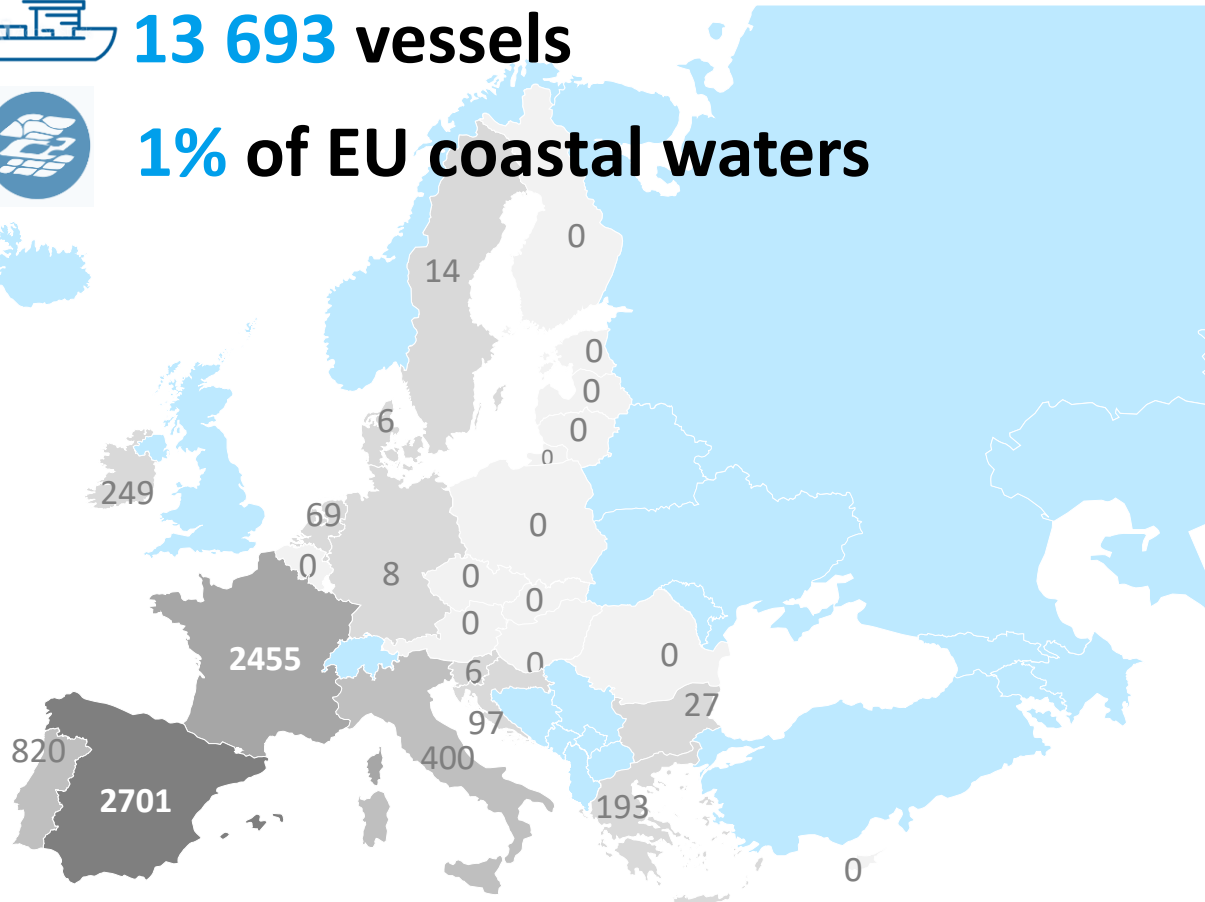
Production methods...



13 693 vessels



1% of EU coastal waters



37 010

people

FTE 16 668



7 045

enterprises

Average 2,4 FTE/ent.



9 993

women

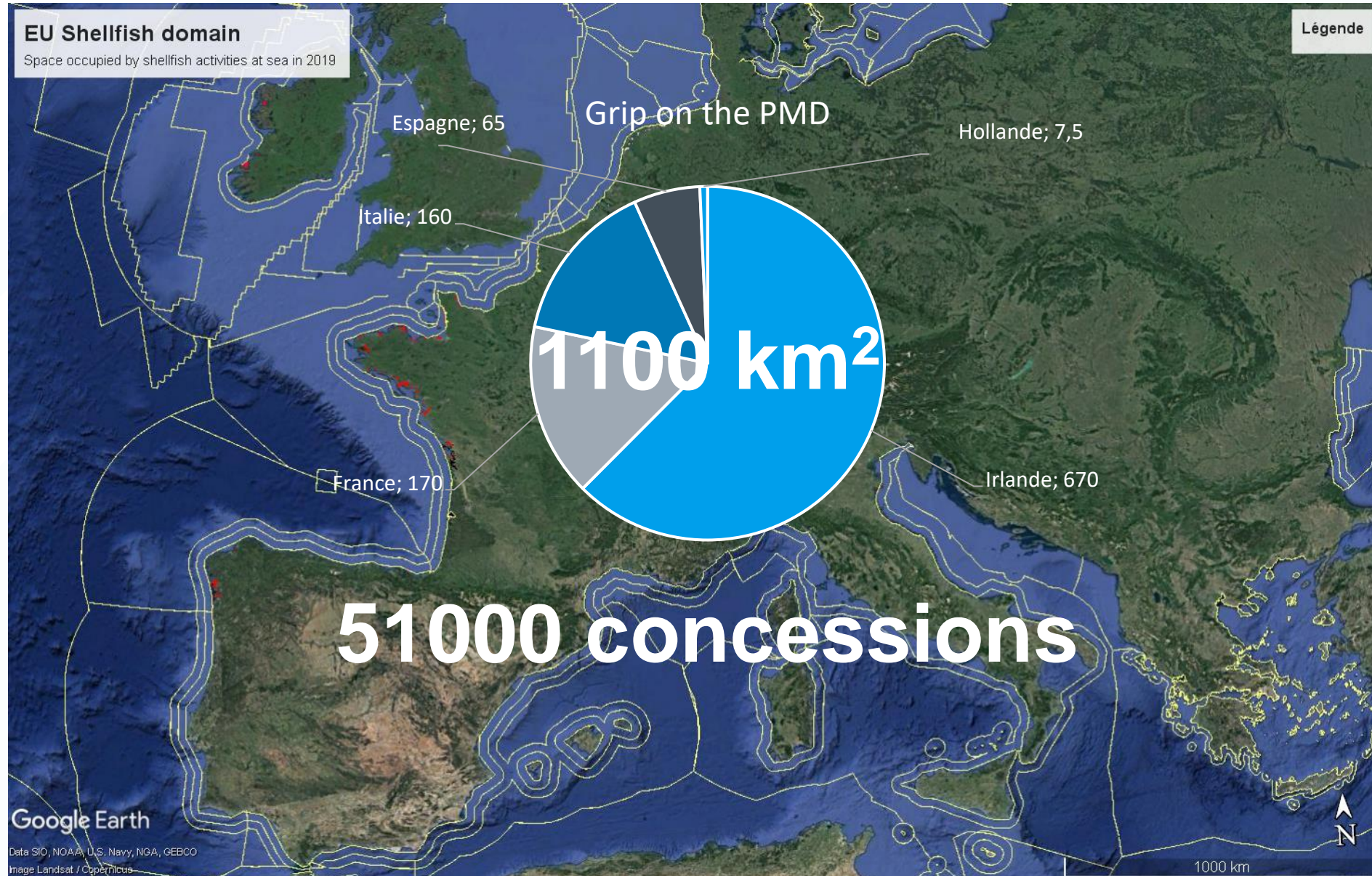
Gender equality 27%

Socioeconomics data?

Economic indicators for the EU shellfish farming...



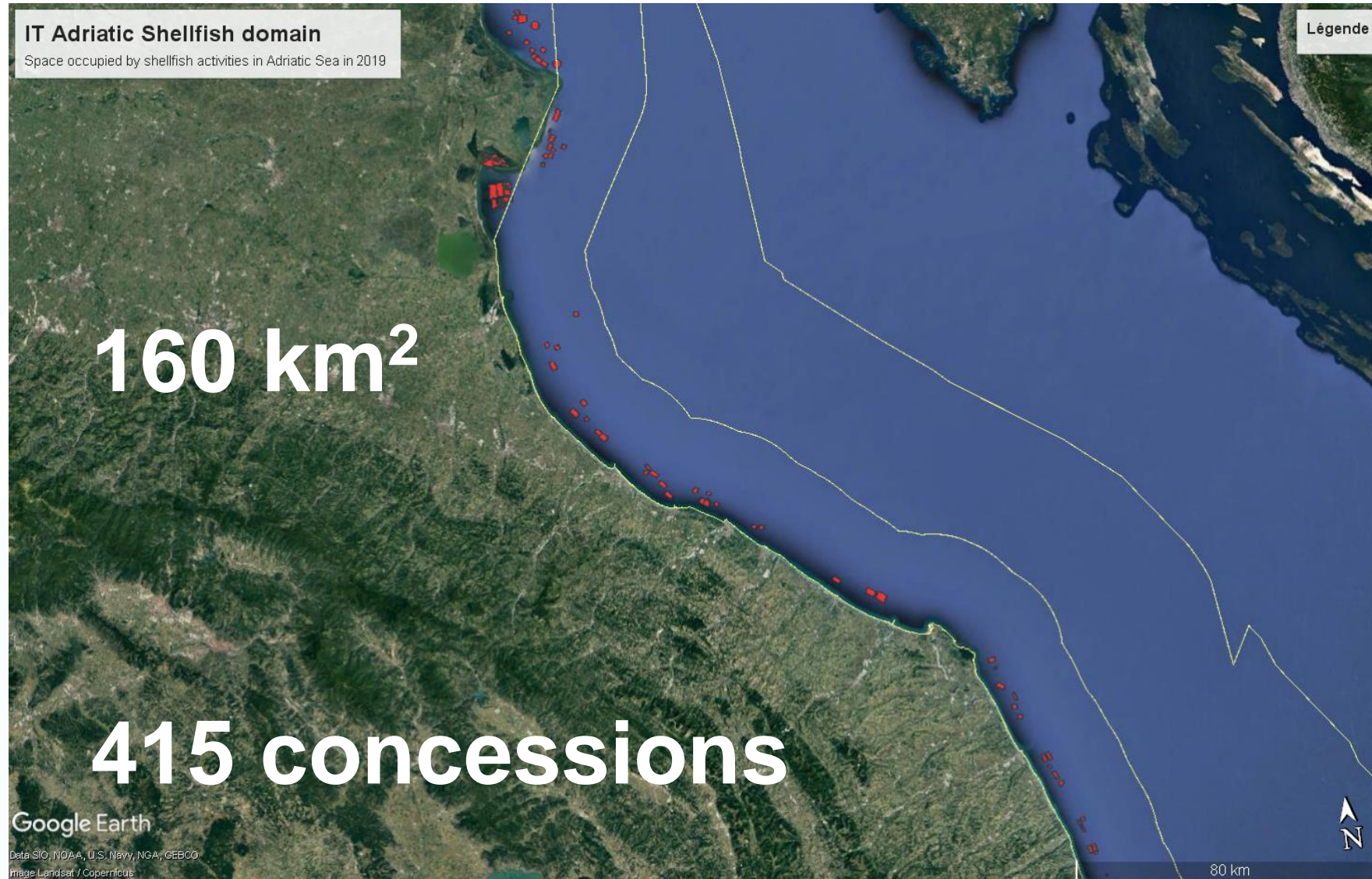
EU shellfish Domain 2019



IR shellfish Domain 2019



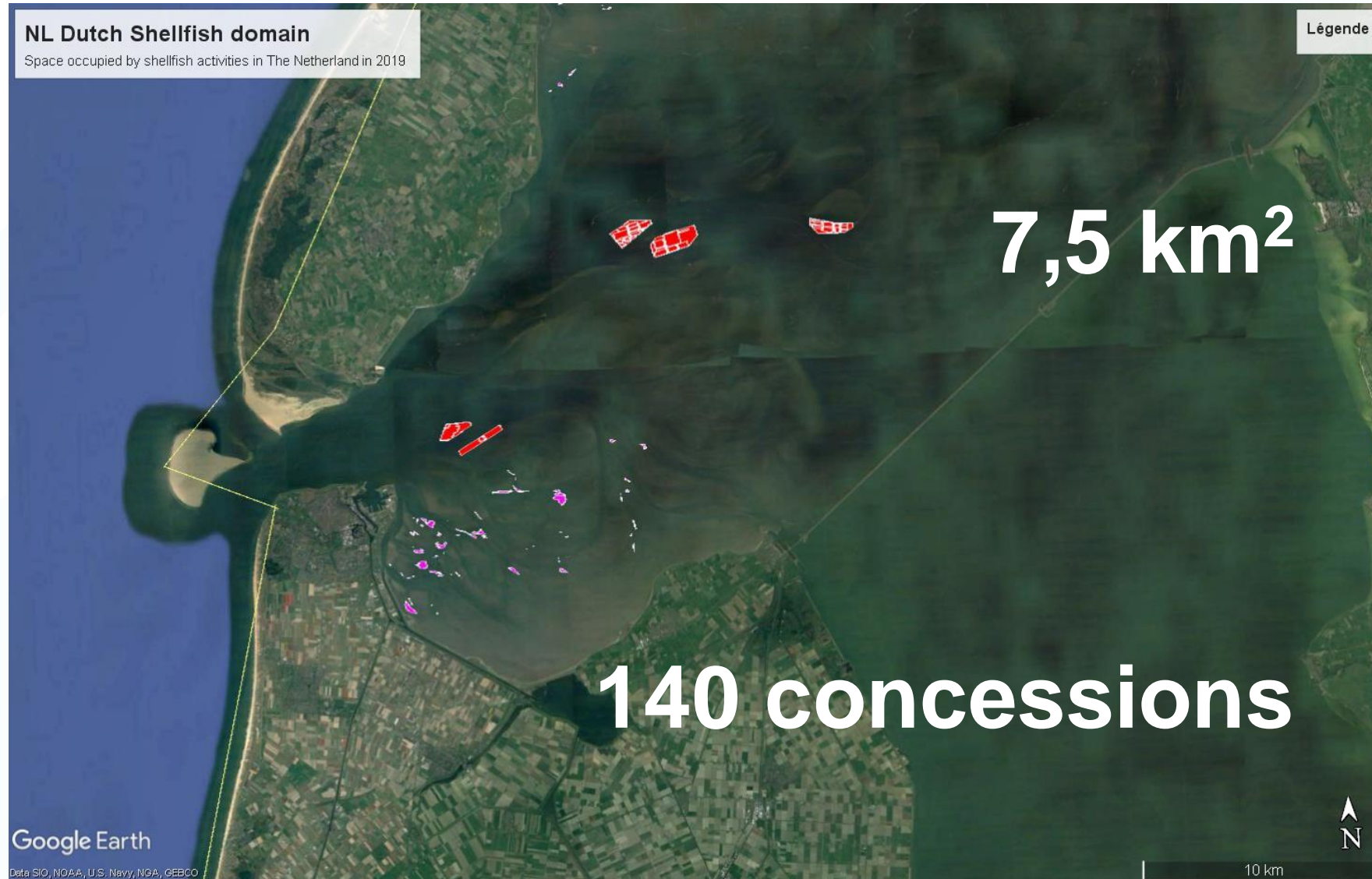
IT shellfish Domain 2019



ES shellfish Domain 2019



NL shellfish Domain 2019



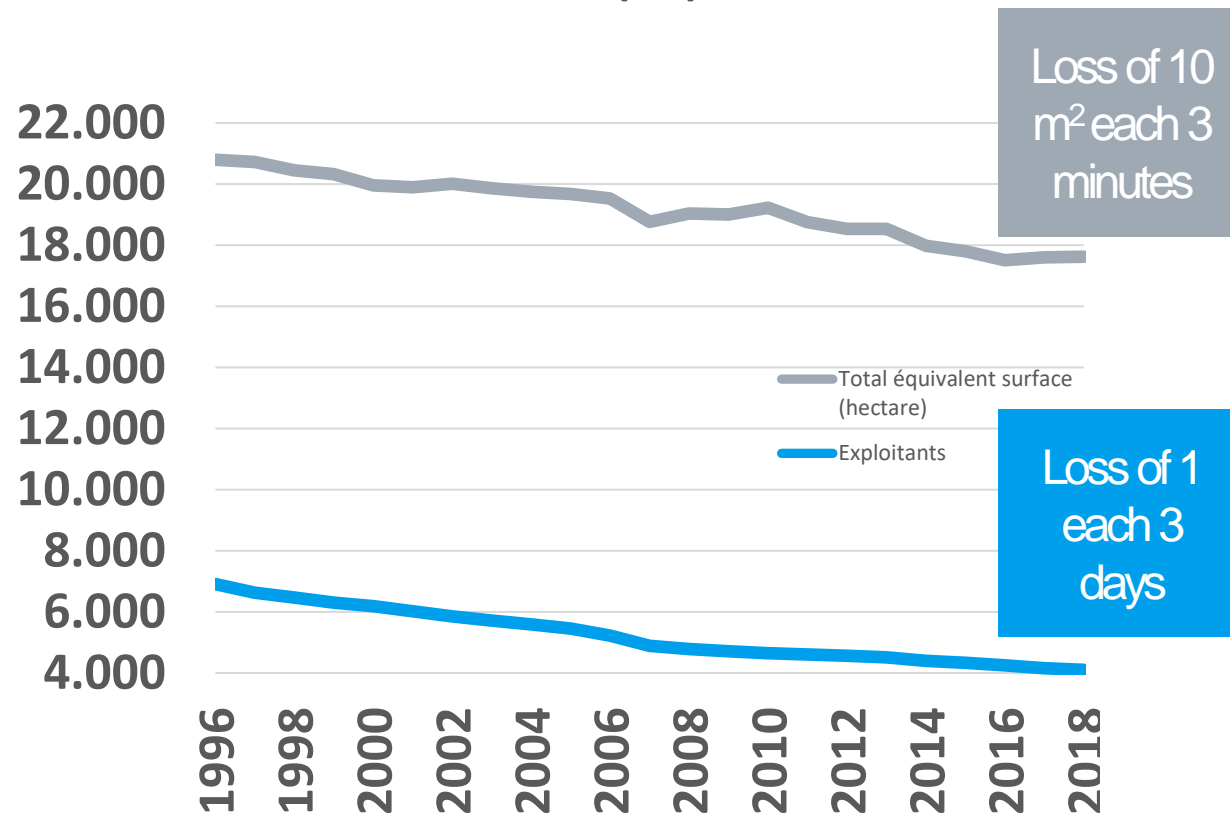
FR shellfish Domain 2019



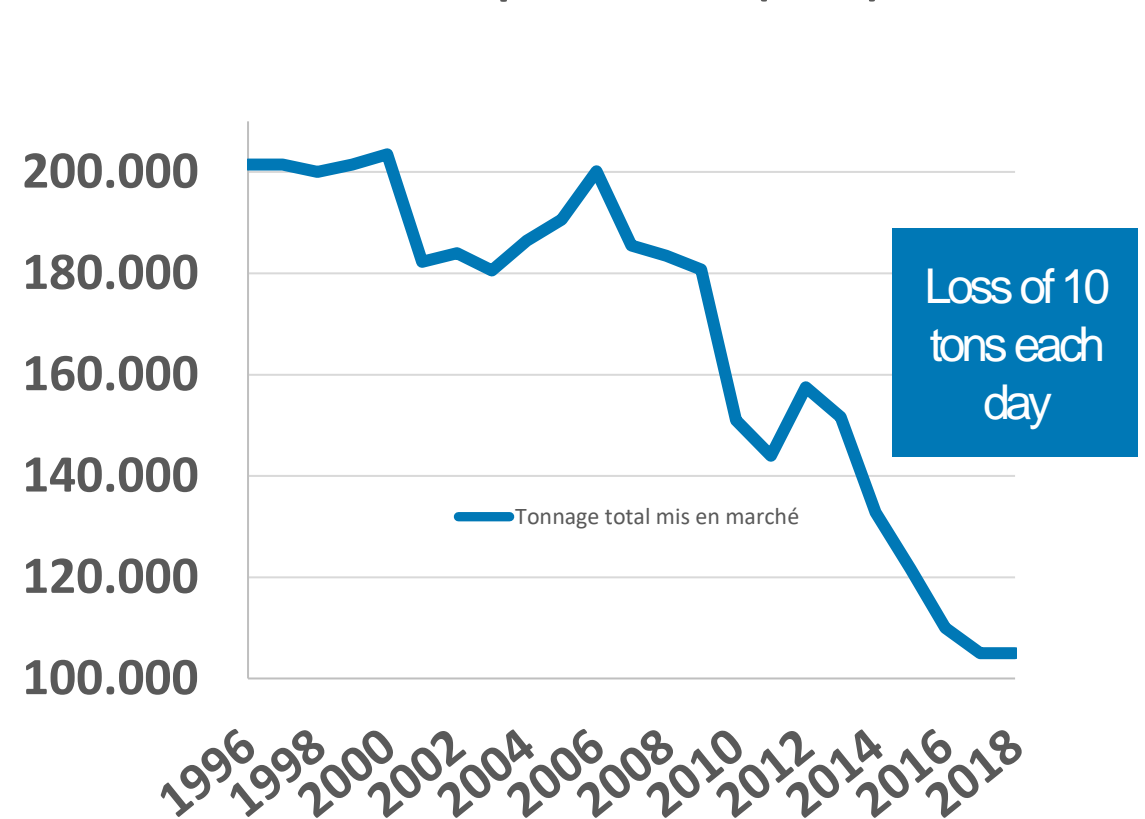
10 years downward Trend 1996-2018

Despite previous too little-known assets, and notwithstanding the political protests of France and Europe, here are other facts...

Evolution of surface (ha) and farmers

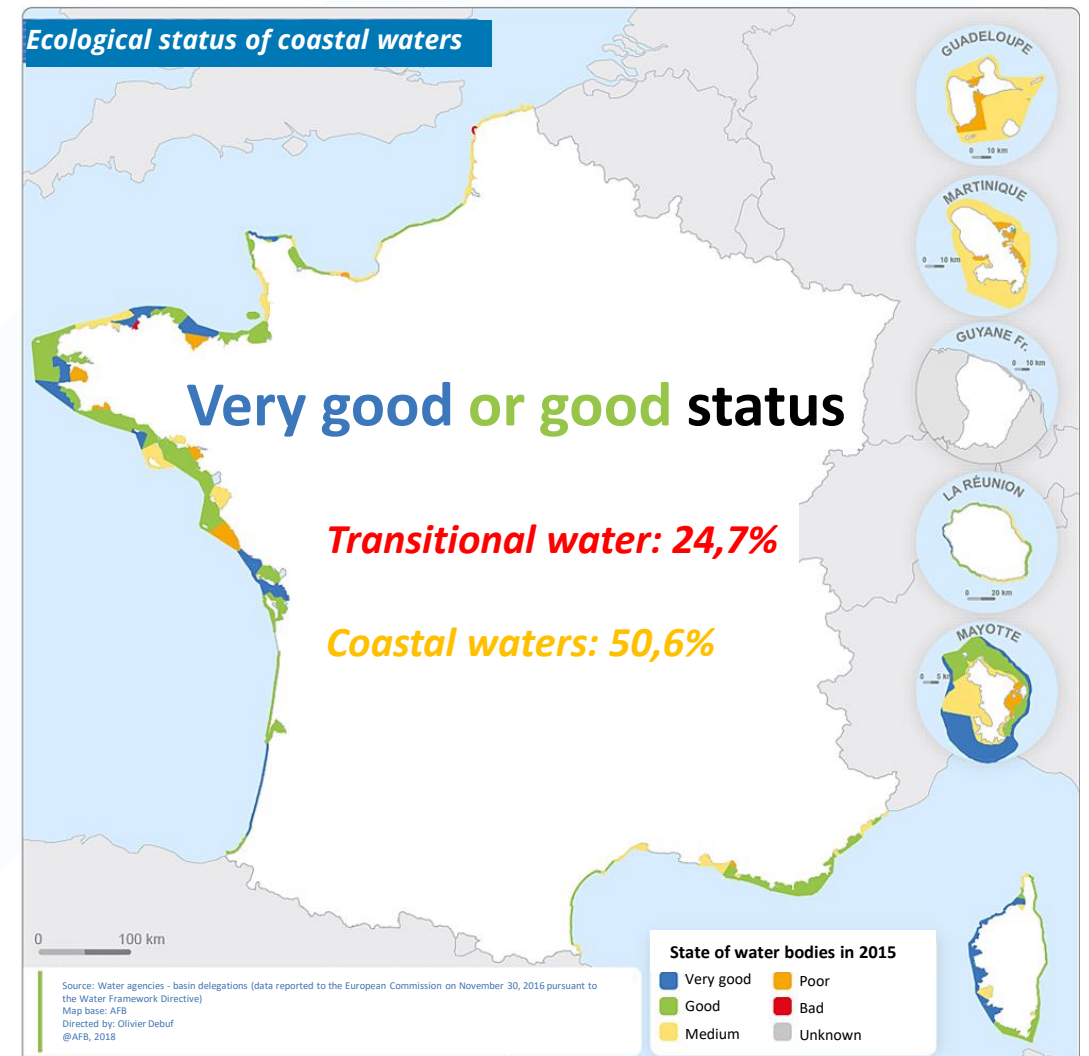
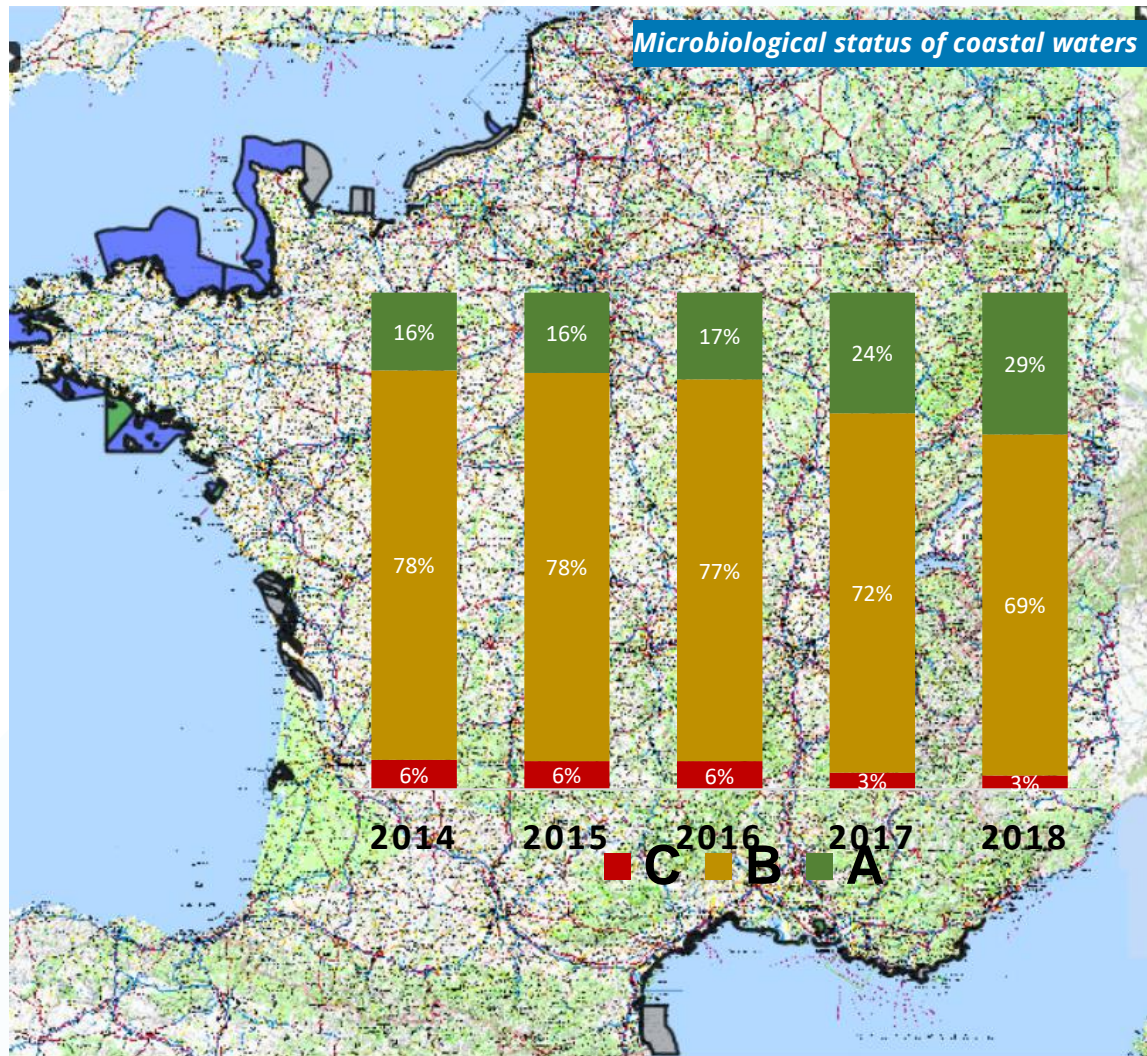


Evolution of production (tons)



Why?




Insufficient microbiological and environmental status...



Effective protection

It's time to reverse the paradigm and to effectively and correctly protect shellfish waters and shellfish beds


AAC recommendation of October 2019 (specific protection of shellfish waters) proposed to EC 3 options

- 1) The establishment of new  guidelines or the revision of the existing one;
- 2) The  WFD review with the creation of a specific annex for shellfish waters or the rewording of the existing one;
- 3) The  setup of a Daughter Directive under WFD specific to the protection of shellfish waters.

Agreed, EC said

WFD fitness check concluded : no modification needed

Too heavy/complicated, EC said

AAC recommendation of June 2020 (Strategic guidelines for sustainable development of aquaculture – specific to shellfish) proposed to EC to integrate option 1 in the guidance 

*95% of the recommendation accepted, **but not this proposal***

Bathing water quality – review of EU rules Commission adoption planned for 1st quarter 2023

- 4) To extend its scope to shellfish waters and shellfish beds



Up to legislators to amend the Commission's proposal

Marine protected area

- 5) European Parliament resolution suggesting that Member States consider shellfish waters as marine protected areas with strong protection



Up to MEPs to consider this option



Thanks for your attention



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Source: EU Member States DCF data submission 2021
STECF report: [EU aquaculture economics 2020](#)