

# Desarrollo sostenible de las pesquerías artesanales en el Arco Atlántico

Analysis and socioeconomic characterization of the artisanal asturian fleet.

May 2011





# Analysis and socioeconomic characterization of the artisanal asturian fleet.

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#### Recommended citation:

González Álvarez, J., García de la Fuente, L., 2011. Analysis and socioeconomic characterization of asturian artisanal fleet. *CEP Report of project PRESPO*, pp. 48.

#### 1. Introduction

Artisanal fisheries provide food and income to millions of people. Actually, the FAO (2005) has estimated that approximately 35 millions of fishermen around the world (90% of the total) can be considered as artisanal fishermen<sup>1</sup>. However, despite the importance of these fisheries, the concept of artisanal fisheries is still dependent on the geographical context and there is not a universally accepted definition. Normally, terms as "artisanal", "small-scale" or "traditional" are used indistinctly in opposition to the industrial or semi-industrial fisheries. The Spanish members participating within the PRESPO Project have accorded, at least until a definitive segmentation criteria is achieved, to consider as artisanal those boats listed as "artes menores" in the Census of the Operating Fishing Fleet (CFPO)<sup>2</sup>. The main characteristics of this fleet, described below, match up perfectly with the general concept of artisanal fisheries:

- "Artes menores" fleet is composed by small sized boats (normally under 12 m) that operate in shallow waters close to the coastline. These vessels capture mostly benthic resources within the continental shelf, although they can also capture some pelagic resources with artisanal fishing gears;
- Their fishing strategies differ from those applied by industrial or semi-industrial fisheries: the "artes menores" fleet is characterized by its flexibility, with a differentiate exploitation pattern depending on the objective species or the fishing gear utilized. The vessels are conceived to be multi-gear, changing frequently between different fishing gears along a single fishing season;
- From a technological point of view, "artes menores" vessels normally use low technological equipment and a low level of capitalization;
- The activity normally presents a traditional structure, where it is common the existence of family ties between the crewmembers and the know-how has been transmitted from fathers to sons for generations;
- Finally, one of the main characteristics of this fleet segment is its heterogeneity in terms of fishing gears, fishing grounds, technical characteristics, etc. This fact, common to all artisanal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Moreover, over a 100 million people are employed within artisanal fisheries' dependent sectors.

<sup>2</sup> This census category has no direct translation or equivalency into the European existent categories for the fleet classification, and vessels belonging to the "artes menores" census category are usually included in the wide group called "Miscellaneous". Nevertheless, the authors consider the expression "Minor gears" as the most suitable term to translate the local category known as "artes menores" (in Spanish), because this group is not exactly equivalent to ""Miscellaneous" (as it may also include other gears or "métiers" different from the minor gears previously referred).

fisheries, explains why it is so difficult to establish a common and uniform criterion to define the artisanal fleet at an international, European or even national level.

Speaking about the asturian region, the richness of the Cantabrian fishing grounds has motivated the development of an important fishing fleet, which currently is made up of 327<sup>3</sup> vessels distributed along 20 fishing harbors and organized around 19 fishermen organizations. These fishermen organizations, named "Cofradías", are public law corporations that act as a consulting and collaboration bodies with the administration in the promotion of the fishing sector, at the same time that defend the economic and corporative interests of the fishing sector. In terms of the fleet's technical characteristics, these 327 vessels accounts for a total engine power of 31 265 kw, 8 624 GT of fishing capacity and an average length of 11.49 m (Table 1). The "artes menores" vessels represent a 71% of the total regional fleet:

Table 1. Asturian fleet characteristics by Census category. 2010\*.

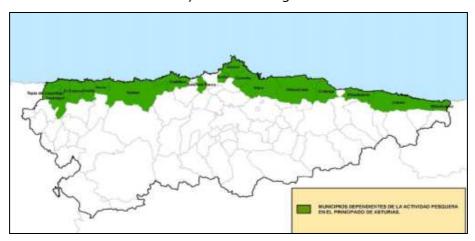
Census	Vessels	Length	Gross T	ons (GT)	_	e power w)
		(m)	Total	Mean	Total	Mean
Arrastre de fondo en Cantábrico NW ( <i>bottom trawls</i> )	11	28.12	2 400	218.16	4 120	374-55
Artes fijas en zonas CIEM VB, VI, VII y VIII abde. (passive arts in international waters).	8	30.07	2 101	262.62	3 824	478.00
Artes menores en Cantábrico NW (minor gears)	233	8.79	1060	4.55	11 854	50.88
Cerco en Cantábrico NW (purse seine)	8	20.98	539	67.46	2 088	261.00
Palangre de fondo en Cantábrico NW (longlines)	40	12.14	523	13.09	3 337	83.43
Palangre de fondo menores 100 TRB en VIII abde. (long-lines in international waters)	10	24.27	1 430	143.04	3 454	345.40
Rasco en Cantábrico NW (set gillnets)	6	14.05	107	17.89	777	129.50
Volanta en Cantábrico NW (set gillnets)	11	16.25	462	42.00	1 811	164.64
TOTAL	327	11.49	8624	26.37	31 265	95.61

<sup>\*</sup> Date of reference: June 2010.

The important fishing activity developed in Asturias and its spatial distribution along the whole coastline have contributed in the employment creation on the coastal zones and, as a consequence, to stabilize the population level in coastal communities (Figure 1). Currently, the fishing fleet sums up

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Data from the Census of the operating Fishing Fleet of june 2010.

1 185<sup>4</sup> crewmembers<sup>5</sup>, or 1 634 if the whole workers that develop their activity in the fishing sector are taken into consideration. In macroeconomic terms, the fishing sector contributed in a 0.27% to the Gross Value Added generated by the regional economy in 2007. Although such percentage does not look very high on regional terms, it is important to note that it is generated just on coastal communities, where its impact is quite significant. Finally, beyond its importance in the generation of employment and income in coastal communities, the artisanal fisheries in Asturias constitute a fundamental cultural and traditional identity factor at a regional level.



Source: Strategic National Plan for the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013. (Original title: "Plan Estratégico Nacional del Fondo Europeo de Pesca").

Figure 1. General municipality classification according to their dependence level on the fishing sector.

However, and despite the importance of this fleet for the socioeconomic and cultural development of the coastal communities, there is little information available in terms of its activity, employment level, profitability, etc. As a consequence, with the main objective of completing and improving currently available information on artisanal fisheries, an in-depth socioeconomic survey has been designed and implemented.

#### 2. Materials and methodology

#### 2.1 Survey design

One of the main objectives of Activity 2 - "Knowledge and information management" - of PRESPO project is to gather, complete and improve available information about artisanal fisheries from the Atlantic Arc with the objective of facilitating an effective and sustainable management. Moreover, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Data from the Maritime Social Institute (ISM) and the *Artisanal Fisheries Socioeconomic Survey* (INDUROT, 2009-2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> There is only available data for 300 vessels, which sums up 1 072 crewmembers. The crew of the remaining 27 boats has been estimated according to the average crewmembers per census category.

new management strategies must integrate into the decision system new socioeconomic considerations to complement the biological and technical data. In accordance with this objective, an in-depth socioeconomic survey to the artisanal fishing sector has been designed. The sampling method has been face-to-face interviews with artisanal ship-owners, as they are the only ones that have access to the confidential economic information gathered. Complementary to these, some other interviews were carried out with several presidents of "Cofradías", due to the valuable information that they provide as result of years managing this kind of fishermen organizations. The questionnaires applied are shown in the final Appendix (in Spanish). The information gathered through the interviewing process can categorized and resumed in three main sections:

- Fishing effort: information regarding days at sea, fishing grounds and métiers utilized by artisanal fisheries in Asturias;
- Socioeconomic information: aimed to gather information about incomes and costs' structure
  of artisanal vessels, as well as characteristic management models and social aspects of the
  artisanal fishing sector;
- Currents difficulties and potential responses: it has been considered necessary to collect the
  perceptions of the fishermen sector regarding the main difficulties or constraints faced
  currently by the artisanal sector in Asturias and which would be the most appropriate
  management responses to such issues.

In order to facilitate the exploitation and analysis of the data, at the end of the survey a quality control section was incorporated where the interviewer could assess the reliability of the responses. The objective of such section was to allow the rejection of no-representative or poor quality data. On the other hand, the information collected through the survey was completed with statistical and administrative data from official sources.

#### 2.2 Sampling process

It was established as the objective population the whole artisanal fleet from Asturias, considering as artisanal either those boats listed under "artes menores" in the Census of the Operating Fishing Fleet (CFPO) or those boats listed in other census but that fish under a license for "artes menores". It was considered as sufficiently representative a sample of two thirds of such fleet according the 2010 census (154 vessels). A stratified sampling method has been used based on the distribution of boats by

fishing port, aiming at avoiding any infra or supra representation of any fishing port. In total, 149 interviews were carried out (64% of the artisanal fishing vessels) along the 18 fishing ports of Asturias. The final relation of interviews is presented in Table 2:

Table 2. Socioeconomic surveys carried out.

	Surveys carried out by National census						
Fishing harbour	Sample objective <sup>(1)</sup>	"Artes menores"	Long-	Gillnets (Rasco)	Bottom trawls	Others <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
Avilés	6	2	1	0	1	0	4
Bañugues	4	0	0	О	0	0	0
Bustio	3	2	0	1	0	0	3
Candás	5	4	0	0	0	0	4
Cudillero	26	21	9	О	0	0	30
Figueras	3	3	0	О	0	0	3
Gijón	10	10	1	0	0	0	11
Lastres	7	6	0	0	0	0	6
Llanes	5	7	0	0	0	0	7
Luanco	13	13	1	О	0	0	14
Luarca	22	21	1	О	0	0	22
Ortiguera	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
Oviñana	6	3	0	1	0	0	4
Puerto de Vega	10	10	1	О	0	0	11
Ribadesella	5	5	0	0	0	0	5
S. J. de la Arena	11	5	0	0	0	0	5
T. de Casariego	5	5	0	0	0	0	5
Tazones	7	8	0	0	0	0	8
Viavélez	5	4	0	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	154	130	14	2	1	2	149

<sup>(1)</sup> Set up as 66% of the vessels registered as "Artes Menores" in the national census.

It is important to highlight that the response rate has not been uniform along the different questions or sections of the survey. As a consequence, depending on the issue analyzed there will be a different sample size on which such analyses are based<sup>6</sup>.

#### 3. Results

#### 3.1 General aspects

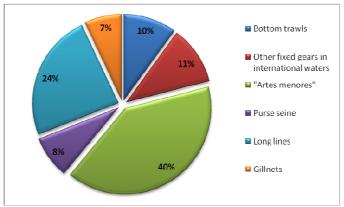
The artisanal fishing fleet contributes considerably to the socioeconomic and cultural development of the coastal areas of Asturias. Although the artisanal fleet generates a small percentage of the Gross Value Added of Asturias, it has an essential multiplicative effect over other dependent economic

<sup>(2)</sup> Surveys carried out to presidents of fisherman organizations although they did not have currently any fishing boat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The simple size will be shown for each of the analysis, tables or graphs presented along this document.

sectors such as the tourism industry, equipment production and reparation, etc. Moreover, the artisanal fleet constitutes an important factor of cultural identity at a regional level, attached to the knowledge and ways of life of the traditional fishing communities. Thus, this segment preserves a rich human capital and a traditional knowledge based on the experience and the generational learning.

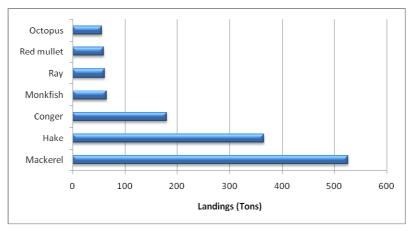
On the other hand, and as it has been stated above, despite the lack of a common definition of artisanal fleet, the segment of "artes menores" is the fleet that best fits with the concept of artisanal fisheries. This fleet represents the 71% of the total regional fleet (233 vessels with a mean length of 8.79 m) and accounts for 40% of the fishermen from Asturias (477 crewmembers, 2.05 people per boat) (Figure 2). Moreover, artisanal fisheries promote indirect employment, and it is estimated that for each artisanal fisherman another three jobs are generated in other activities related with the artisanal fishing sector.



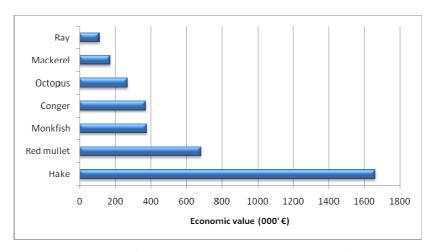
Source: Own elaboration according to data from the Maritime Social Institute and the information gathered through the socioeconomic survey to the artisanal fisheries in Asturias (2009-2010).

Figure 2. Percentage of crewmembers per fishing census in Asturias.

Although the landings from "artes menores" in kilograms only represents the 11% of the captures (1719 950.69 kg), they sum up the 29% of the total economic value generated from such landings (see Figure 3 and Figure 4). This difference is explained by the higher first sale price of the captures from the artisanal fleet compared with those from other fleet segments: an average of 4.25 €/kg vs. 1.68 €/kg in 2009. These landings are distributed between a high diversity of species, confirming the multigear and multi-specific character of the artisanal fleet. In contrast, there are seven species of special relevance in terms of captures and economic value for this segment of the fleet: mackerel (*Scomber scumbrus*), hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), conger (*Conger conger*), monkfish (*Lophius piscatorius*), ray (*Raja radula*), red mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*) and octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*).



Source: Own elaboration from the data provided by the regional fishing authorities. Figure 3. Main landings from the "artes menores" fleet in Asturias. 2009.



Source: Own elaboration from the data provided by the regional fishing authorities.

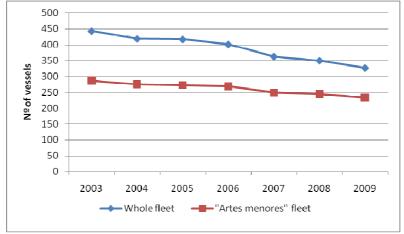
Figure 4. Total economic value of the captures of the "artes menores" fleet in Asturias. 2009.

However, despite its importance in terms of number of vessels, employment generation and social impact, there is little information available regarding the fishing activities and characteristics of the artisanal fleet. Actually, there is a lack of information that would be necessary for an efficient and sustainable management of this fleet segment. This circumstance limits an adequate estimation of important parameters such as the biological evolution of the exploited species, the economic efficiency or the real capacity of the fleet and, as a consequence, it constraints the design of adequate and efficient management actions and regulations. Because of that reason, it is essential to complete and improve currently available information in order to put in place management strategies, lines and actions to promote a sustainable management of the artisanal fisheries in Asturias. The design and implementation of a socioeconomic survey to two thirds of the artisanal fleet from Asturias carried out within the activities of Working Group 2 of PRESPO project have been really useful to characterize

and to advance in the knowledge of the artisanal fishing activities. The main results and conclusions obtained are resumed below:

## 3.2 Evolution of the fishing power and of other technical and socioeconomic characteristics

Although the artisanal fleet is the segment with a greater number of vessels in Asturias, its importance in terms of fishing power is much lower: the "artes menores" fleet only accounts for the 12% of the total gross tons and 38% of the total engine power of the regional fleet. Both the number of artisanal vessels and the number of crewmembers have been reduced considerably between 2003-2009 (a 19% and a 27% respectively). If this tendency is not reverted it may jeopardize the long-term sustainability of artisanal fisheries in Asturias. On the other hand, it is also important to point out that such reduction has been less intense that the one experimented by other fleet segments (Figure 5):



Source: Own elaboration from data of the Census of the Operating Fishing Fleet (CFPO). Figure 5. Evolution of the no of vessels for the whole and artisanal fleet. 2003-2009.

Three structural problems may explain this decreasing tendency:

- The low profitability of the fishing activities;
- The lack of generational replacement and the difficulties to create of maintain job positions;
- The finalization of European subsidies for the construction of fishing vessels after the 2002 CFP
   reform and the establishment of new incentives to scrap fishing boats.

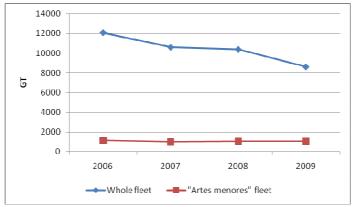
These problems, in conjunction with other factors such as the exhaustion of the maritime resources and the organizational complexity of the artisanal fishing sector, set up hurdles to the maintenance of the artisanal activities in the mid/long-term.

Table 3. Evolution of the main technical characteristics of the asturian fleet in the period 2006-2009.

Characteristics	Fleet segment	2006	2007	2008	2009
Gross tons (GT)	Whole fleet	30.10	29.20	29.67	26.37
Gloss tolls (G1)	"Artes menores"	4.20	4.05	4.27	4.55
Engine power (kW)	Whole fleet	101.27	98.41	99.96	95.61
Liigilie powei (kw)	"Artes menores"	47.51	47.44	49.33	50.88
Average lenght (m)	Whole fleet	11.63	11.52	11.63	11.49
Average length (III)	"Artes menores"	8.40	8.47	8.61	8.79
Average crew	Whole fleet	s/d	3.94	3.71	3.57
Average crew	"Artes menores"	s/d	2.64	2.42	2.05

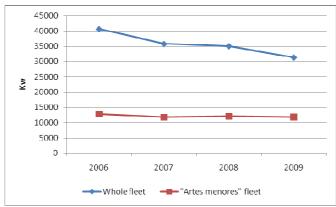
Source: Own elaboration from data of the CFPO.

Analyzing the evolution of the main technical characteristics (Table 3) it can be observed that despite the reduction of vessels and crewmembers, the total engine power and gross tons of the artisanal fleet has kept more or less constant during the last years (Figure 6 and Figure 7). This can be explained by the fact that this fleet segment has taken advantage of the maintenance of the European subsidies for the modernization and improvement in the security measures of the European fleets.



Source: Own elaboration from data of the CFPO.

Figure 6. Evolution of the total gross tons (GT) for the whole and artisanal fleet. 2003-2009.

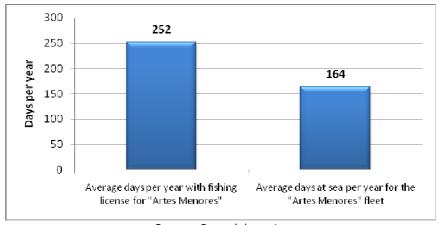


Source: Own elaboration from data of the CFPO.

Figure 7. Evolution of the total engine power (kW) for the whole and artisanal fleet. 2003-2009.

#### 3.3 Days at sea and fishing grounds

Previously to this socioeconomic survey there was no exact information regarding the days of activity of the artisanal boats in Asturias. The only available information was the number of days for which each vessel had a fishing license. The data gathered through the interviewing process shows that the average number of days per boat with fishing license overestimated the real number of days that each boat went out fishing, as it can be observed in Figure 8:



Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 8. Average "real" fishing days vs. average days with fishing license per year.

Other potential source of information regarding days at sea are the daily sell notes in the fishing port, but currently it is impossible to access to this type of information given the way in which it is organized at an administrative level. Consequently, it is essential that the fishing administration increases its efforts in terms of monitoring and collection of information of days of activity, as well as to adequately integrate the correspondent data bases allowing the statistical exploitation of the readily available information. Another significant aspect was the corroboration of the relation between days of fishing and the length of the vessels (Table 4). The smallest boats depend much more on climatic conditions, making more difficult the achievement of a stable income flow and, thus, generating problems of long-term economic sustainability and workforce stability.

Table 4. Average fishing days per length category.

Lenght category (m)	Number of vessels	Average fishing days	Standard deviation
<10 meters	83	159	36
≥10 - <12 meters	40	171	26
≥12 - <18 meters	23	178	27
≥18 meters	1	200	-

Source: Own elaboration.

In terms of fishing grounds, the survey has allowed the collection of data about the areas where artisanal vessels normally operate. The data analysis showed that the vessels from the same fishing harbour usually fish in the same areas, only varying depending on the fishing gear used:

Table 5. Frequency of responses regarding distance from the coast where the artisanal vessels develop their activity in relation with the national census and the fishing gears.

National census	Fishing gears	≤ 3 miles	≤ 12 miles	> 12 miles	Responses
"Artes menores"	Nets, Pots and Traps Young eel	122	9	0	131
Artesmenores	Hooks	10	19	3	32
	Nets, Pots and Traps Young eel	2	2	0	4
Long-lines	Hooks	0	1	2	3
	Set Long-lines	0	7	5	12
Set Gillnet (Rasco)	"Rasco"	0	2	0	2
Bottom trawls	Bottom trawls	0	1	0	1
	TOTAL	134	41	10	185

Source: Own elaboration

The integration of such spatial information into a GIS environment (see Table 5) has allowed visualizing the fishing pressure exerted by the "artes menores" vessels along the limit of three miles in front of the coast of Asturias. As it can be observed (Figure 9), fishing grounds in the west coast (between Gijón and Viavélez) experiment the highest influence of close fishing ports. Concretely, the coast strip between Cabo Peñas and Cabo Vidio is the area with a highest artisanal fishing pressure; both in terms of number of vessels operating in such area and in terms of accumulated gross tons and engine power.

#### 3.4 "Metiers" analysis"

One of the most important contributions of the socioeconomic survey has been the identification, classification and characterization of the "metiers" utilized by the artisanal fleet. A "metier" is defined as: a group of fishing operations targeting a similar (assemblage of) species, using similar gear, during the same period of the year and/or the same area and which are characterised by a similar exploitation pattern. Therefore, the concept of "metier" is closely linked to the fishing activities, traditions and gears employed by the artisanal fishermen.

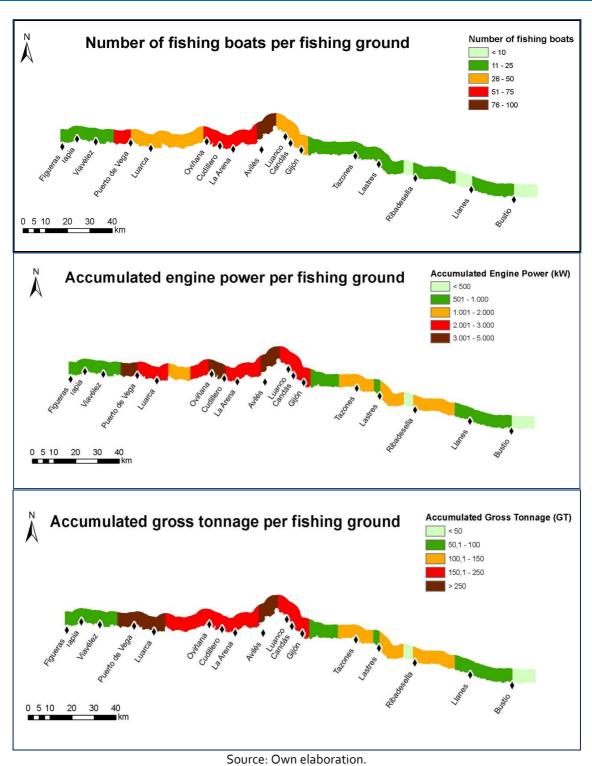


Figure 9. Number of boats, accumulated engine power (kW) and gross tons (GT) of the artisanal fleet by fishing area.

Firstly, it is important to point out that the information gathered through the survey has allowed the confirmation of the high variety and richness of "metiers" employed by the artisanal fleet in Asturias. The "metiers" classification has been carried out in accordance with both the categories set up by the EU and the established by the regional fishing authorities. In total 21 "metiers" have been identified

(Table 6), 15 of which are still exercised nowadays and other 7 that are in disuse or are barely employed. Another important goal has been the establishment of a higher level of "metiers" desegregation than the one implicit by the regional administrative fishing license modalities. In this sense, three new "metiers" no differentiated currently have been identified: lobster's trap, crayfish's trammel net and conger's small long-line.

Table 6. "Metiers" employed by the artisanal fleet in Asturias, correspondent regional fishing licenses and main objective species.

Fishing license	Metiers	Objective specie(s)
Octopus Trap	Octopus Trap	Octopus/Shrimp
Shellfish Trap	Shellfish Trap	Shellfish
эпешізіі ттар	Lobster Trap	Lobster
"Butrón"	"Butrón"	Eel
Set gillnet ("Miño")	"Miño"	Various (fish and shellfish)
Red-mullet Set gillnet ("Beta salmonetera")	Red-mullet Set gillnet ("Beta salmonetera")	Red mullet
Hake Set gillnet ("Beta")	Hake Set gillnet ("Beta")	Hake / Red mullet
Trammel net	Trammel net	Red mullet
Hammernet	Crayfish Trammel net(1)	Crayfish
Horse mackerel Purse seine	Horse mackerel Purse seine	Horse mackerel
Shellfish gillnet ("Volanta")	Shellfish gillnet ("Volanta")	Shellfish
"Abareque"	"Abareque"	Sardine
Cmall langling	Hake small longline	Hake/Various
Small longline	Conger small longline	Conger
Sea bass small longline	Sea bass small longline	Sea bass
Rod-Hook	Rod-Hook	Hake
Mackerel Hand line	Mackerel Hand line	Mackerel
Squid	Squid	Squid
Sea weed	Sea weed recollection	Ocle
Young eel	Young eel	Young eel
Mirror	Mirror	Shellfish
-	Trolling lines	Tuna

(1) "Metier" identified through the surveys but with a residual utilization Source: Own elaboration

#### Colours' legend

Metiers which are in disuse or that are barely employed Other identified "metiers" that do not correspond with any regional fishing license

Source: Own elaboration

On the other hand, it is also necessary to take into account the goose barnacle recollection as an important complementary fishing activity for artisanal fishermen in the mid and west coast of Asturias, especially during winter time when other fishing possibilities are scarce. Even though the goose barnacle recollection cannot be considered a "metier" as it is not carried out from a boat, normally all the crewmembers have the correspondent personal license and during its recollection all crewmembers participate distributing among them the correspondent incomes.

Analyzing the "metiers" utilization rate (Figure 10) it can be concluded that net gears are the gears most frequently employed by the artisanal fleet, followed by hooks and traps. These results are in line with those obtained in the economic analysis that shows that the net gears are the most profitable fishing gear for the artisanal fleet.

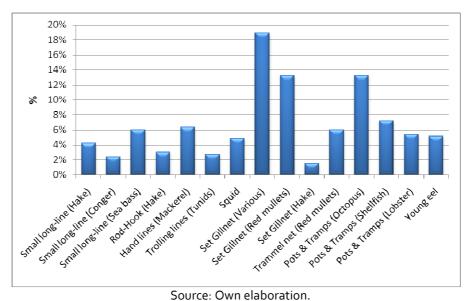


Figure 10. Percentage of "metiers" utilization by the artisanal fleet surveyed.

Another interesting result observed is the high degree of alternation of artisanal vessels between different "metiers" during a fishing season (Table 7), confirming the multi-specific and multi-gear character of the artisanal fleet from Asturias.

Finally, the relation between the different "metiers" and associated technical and workforce demands has been analyzed (Figure 11 and Figure 12). As a consequence, the average number of crewmembers per "metier" and the intervals of length, engine power and gross tones associated to each of the "metiers" identified have been determined.

Table 7. Degree of "metiers" alternation during one fishing season.

During a fishing season alternates:	% of fishing boats
2 different metiers	25%
3 different metiers	33.6%
4 different metiers	10.7%
5 ó 6 different metiers	10.7%
One metier through the whole year	20%
Alternates fishing gears from the same category	49%
Alternates fishing gears from 2 different categories	34%
Alternates fishing gears from 3 different categories	11%

Source: Own elaboration

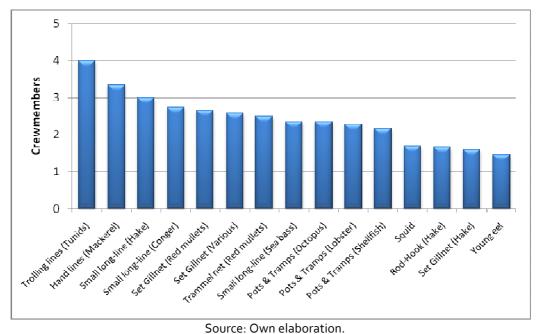
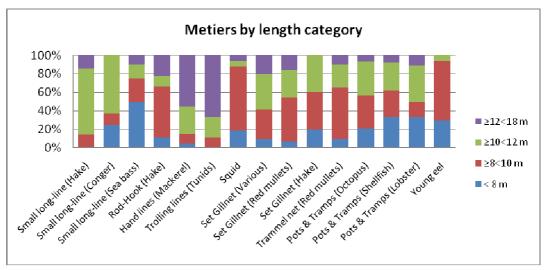
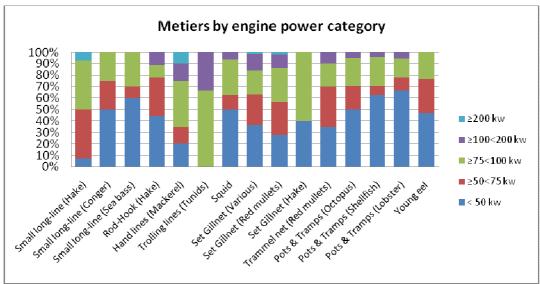


Figure 11. Average crewmembers per "metier".

#### 3.5 Captures, incomes and profitability of the artisanal fleet

The analysis of the artisanal fleet incomes' evolution during the last years shows that both captures and consequent incomes from the "artes menores" fleet have increased, especially in 2008 and 2009. However, the number of operative vessels has decreased in a 9.6%, indicating that the artisanal boats have increased their average production and turnover over the last years (Figure 13). This production raise could be due to a stock increase of relevant species (hake, for example) or an enhancement of the efficiency levels motivated by the reduction of fishing overcapacity.





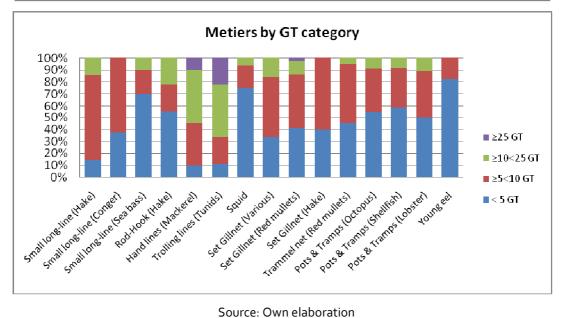
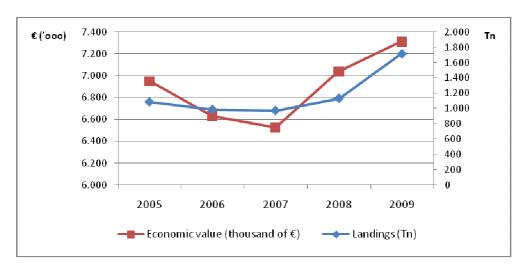


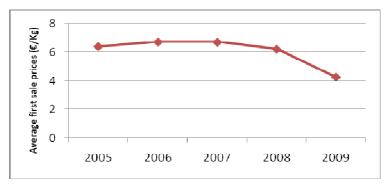
Figure 12. "Metier" distribution by length, engine power and gross tonnage categories.



Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 13. Landings and economic value of captures from artisanal fisheries in Asturias (2005-2009).

On the other hand, it is essential to point out that the weight of the landings has augmented more than their correspondent economic value (48.5% vs. 5.2%). Actually, the average first sale price have decreased in a 34% from 204 to 2009, going from 6.41 €/kg in 2005 to 4.25 €/kg in 2009 (Figure 14). This situation, in conjunction with the limited capability of the artisanal fleet to fix prices, could have pushed artisanal vessels to augment their fishing effort in order to compensate the decrease in incomes and the increase of associated exploitation costs.



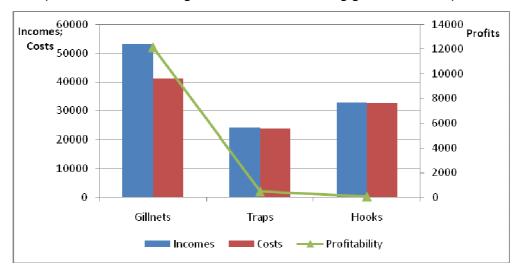
Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 14. Average first sale price of captures from artisanal fisheries in Asturias (2005-2009).

On the other hand, in terms of costs the data gathered shows that the artisanal fleet in Asturias has a highly adjusted costs' structure and, thus, policies aimed at reducing exploitation costs may have a limited effect on vessels profitability. In contrast, the main difficulties of the artisanal fleet are centered on the low income levels motivated by the decreasing first sale prices. This is what really induces a low profitability, which in turn acts as an entry barrier for the maintenance and renewal of the artisanal fleet as few economic agents would be willing to invest larger amounts of money in a

business with no return. As a consequence, from a management point of view, it is imperative to promote strategies and policies aiming to increase the incomes through either commercialization and first sale prices improvements or new diversification strategies. These policies not only are more effective in improving the profitability, they also encourage economic sustainability minimizing the dependency upon direct subsidies policies.

Once both incomes and costs have been analysed, the following step was to assess the profitability of the artisanal fleet. At this point it is important to highlight that during the interviewing process information regarding not-declared incomes was collected. This allowed analysing the "apparent" (taking into account just declared incomes) and "real" (taking into account both declared and not-declared incomes) profitability (see Figure 15 and Figure 16 respectively). The profitability analysis has been carried out by the three main categories of artisanal fishing gears (nets, traps and hooks):



Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 15. Incomes, costs and estimated "apparent" profitability of the artisanal fleet in relation to three main categories of fishing gears (2008).

As it can be observed, profitability from those vessels that use gillnets gears during the fishing season is higher than those that use traps or hooks. In fact, the incomes generated by traps and hooks fisheries is not enough to pay for the financial and depreciation costs derived from the economic activity. However, if the analysis is carried out taking into account not-declared incomes ("real" profitability) the results change considerably. On average, and based on the available information, it has been estimated that the not-declared incomes represent the 45% of the total incomes generated by the artisanal fleet in Asturias. Actually, and despite of the caution with which these results have to be examined, only taking in consideration no declared incomes it is possible to achieve coherent and

realistic results from the economic analyses carried out. In terms of "real" profitability by category of fishing gear (Figure 16), the differences observed in Figure 15 are reduced dramatically. Gillnets are still the most profitable gears, followed by traps and, finally, hooks. It is important to note that estimated not-declared incomes for vessels fishing with traps represent more than 50% of their annual total incomes.

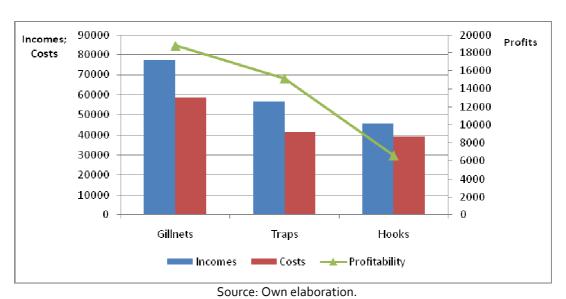


Figure 16. Incomes, costs and estimated "real" profitability of the artisanal fleet in relation to three main categories of fishing gears (2008).

Nonetheless, even when the profitability estimation takes into consideration the no-declared incomes, the expected turnover from an artisanal vessel is still clearly lower than that from other economic sectors with a similar capital investment. In terms of average fishermen wages, the calculations vary considerable depending on whether the estimation takes into account no declared incomes or not (Table 8). In fact, only in the case of including such incomes in the analysis the estimation seems coherent and realistic: around 13 000 € per worker and year (still lower than the average yearly incomes of a worker from the construction or services sectors in Asturias in 2008).

#### 3.6 Social dimension and fishermen perceptions

The information regarding the social dimension and the business structure of the artisanal fleet was the first to be exploited and analysed and, as a consequence, were presented during the first semester of 2010. The main conclusion was that the information gathered confirmed the traditional and family character of the artisanal fleet from Asturias. A resume of those results is presented below:

Table 8. Average yearly incomes per fishermen and fishing gear category.

3 , ,		, ,	<u>, ,                                    </u>
	Nets	Traps	Hooks
Total crew members	83	17	38
Mean crew members	3	1.89	1.81
Average yearly incomes per worker (€)	7 207	5 065	7 323
Total crewmembers (vessels that facilitated information regarding no declared incomes)	29	8	11
Mean crewmembers (vessels that facilitated information regarding no declared incomes)	2.63	2	1.57
Average yearly incomes per worker (including no declared incomes) (€)	13 524	13 602	12 584

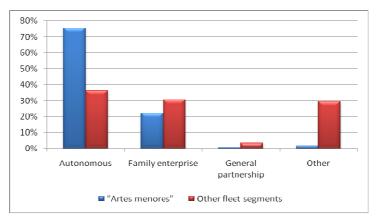
Source: Own elaboration

- A vast majority of ship-owners (95%) work on the vessels. Therefore, they have responsibilities
  as managers, workers, trader, etc. without being entirely aware of it;
- 95% of the crewmembers in the "artes menores" fleet come from coastal areas close to the fishing harbour. This facilitates the existence of strong bonds between the artisanal fleet and coastal communities where it develops its activities;
- In 40% of the vessels interviewed there were family ties between the crewmembers (Figure 17).

Moreover, the differentiating characteristics of the artisanal fleet respect industrial fisheries are reflected in the types of business entities and salaries distribution. Most of the "artes menores" fleet is conformed of autonomous workers (75%) or little family enterprises (22%); while a 100% of the vessels surveyed developed an income distribution salaries policy. In contrast, social aspects such as the high average age of the ship-owners and the lack of generational replacement perspectives set hurdles to the sustainability of the fleet in the mid/long term. Currently, over 40% of the ship-owners are on the 46 to 55 years interval, with another 9% with more than 56 years (Figure 18). Taking into account the early average of retirement within the fisheries' sector, the low expectations of generational replacement (just 16% of the interviewees, Figure 19) and the scarce profitability of artisanal fisheries, it is clear that there is a decreasing tendency in terms of the number of artisanal vessels in Asturias.

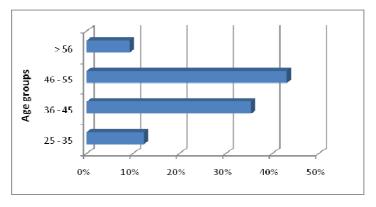
Finally, it is important to note that the perceptions of the interviewees regarding the current situation and future perspectives of the artisanal fishing sector in Asturias match up with the results and conclusions obtained throughout the previous analyses. For example, the sector also perceives that the low level of prices is the main problem currently faced by the artisanal fleet and it jeopardises the economic viability of the activity (Figure 20). They also highlighted the lack of generational

replacement perspectives as one of the main problems to achieve the desired long-term sustainability of the fleet. However, according to the sector's opinion, this problem is aggravated by the excessive formative exigencies and administrative constraints to recruit new and young fishermen.



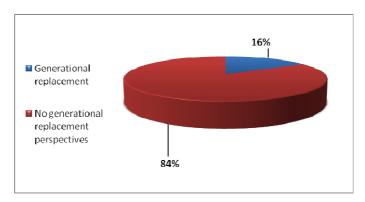
Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 17. Type of business entities of the "artes menores" fleet and its comparison with other fleet segments.



Source: Own elaboration.

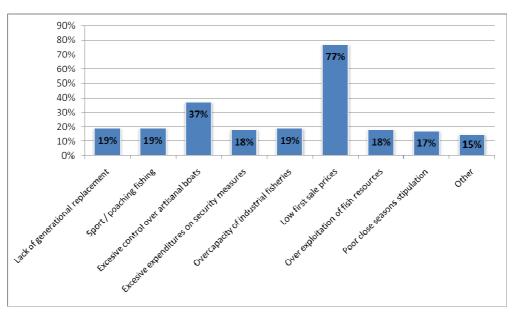
Figure 18. Distribution of the ship-owners by age intervals (%).



Source: Own elaboration.

Figure 19. Generational replacement perspectives within the artisanal fleet from Asturias (%).

In terms of the solutions suggested by the interviewees (Figure 21), it is significant that over 50% of the responses highlighted the necessity of adopting policies and measures aimed to increase first sale prices and to help in the economic diversification of the artisanal fisheries. Although the own sector has put in place some measures aimed to respond to these demands, the interviews with the presidents of the fishermen associations revealed that the sector lacks the knowledge, know-how and resources necessaries to develop such initiatives. As a result, in order to facilitate the development of such initiatives it is important that the fishing authorities help in promotion and support of this type of measures.



Source: Own elaboration. Figure 20. Frequency of responses to the identified problems.

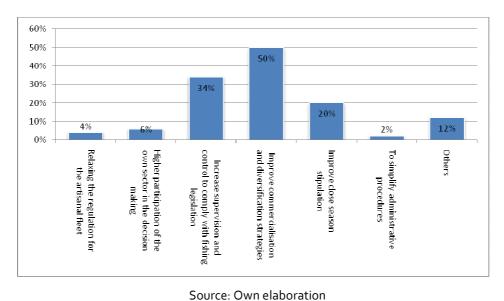


Figure 21. Frequency of potential measures proposed by the interviewees.

## 4. Final recommendations for a better knowledge and management of artisanal fisheries in Asturias

The information gathered through the surveying process and the analysis and results presented above allow the development of a number of final recommendations aimed to advance towards a more efficient and sustainable management of artisanal fisheries in Asturias. Such recommendations could be bring together into the following central themes:

- The improvement of the information and knowledge about artisanal fisheries with the objective of progressing in the design and implementation of specific policies focused on artisanal fisheries;
- 2. The search of new proceedings aimed at increasing the incomes or the artisanal fleet at the same time that enhancing fishing resources conservation;
- 3. To facilitate the participation of the fishing sector in the decision-making process in a way where the own sector is co-responsible for the conservation and sustainability of fishing resources;
- 4. To direct institutional and administrative support towards policies aimed at improving the diversification and commercial optimization of the artisanal fisheries.

#### Particularly, it would be recommendable to:

- Carry on with the initiatives and projects aimed at completing and improving available information about artisanal fisheries. Concretely, it is essential to improve information collection regarding:
  - Days of activity of artisanal vessels. This would allow having the means to estimate real fishing effort and other relevant indicators for an efficient fisheries management (CPUE, etc);
  - o Artisanal fisheries' fishing grounds. This information, in conjunction with data about fishing effort, would facilitate an analysis of fishing effort per fishing area, contributing to the management of highly sensitive or overexploited areas.
- To agree at a European level the group of indicators that would allow a coherent and consistent segmentation of the artisanal fleet, facilitating the development and application of specific measures directed towards artisanal fisheries;

- To exert a greater control over the labeling and traceability procedures, enhancing the valorization of fishing resources;
- To help, support and collaborate with fishermen organizations in those initiatives aimed at improving commercialization strategies;
- Take advantage of the European policies and strategies in relation with sustainability,
  maritime policy and integrated coastal zone management in order to promote the economic
  diversification of the artisanal fishing. It is essential to highlight that the artisanal fishermen is
  the most suitable collective to contribute to such diversification given its proximity to the
  coast, its strong bonds with the coastal communities and the artisanal and sustainable
  character of its activities.

On the other hand, through the analyses carried out throughout this document a number of strengths and opportunities for the artisanal sector in Asturias have been identified. The following table shows potential measures and actions that may be put in place in order to tale fully advantage of such strengths and opportunities:

Table 9. Measures aimed at taking advantage of artisanal sector's strengths and opportunities.

### Strengths and opportunities for the artisanal fleet from Asturias

The high quality of the exploited resources and their high market value

The low level of capitalization and its flexibility to adapt to new fishing strategies

An adaptable costs structure which allows mitigating the impact of increases on exploitation costs (fuel).

Its potential to take advantage of the new diversification opportunities derived from current European strategies and policies in relation with maritime policy and coastal zone management.

Its rich human capital and traditional knowledge about fishing resources in Asturias

## Recommendations to fully exploit the correspondent strengths and opportunities

- New commercialization strategies.
- Campaigns and promotions aimed at differentiating artisanal products.
- Development of pilot initiatives experimenting with more selective gears.
- Implementation of new collaboration strategies between the fishing sector, research institutes and fishing authorities.
- Development of exploitation experimental programs and illustrative projects based on good practices and co-responsibility.
- To facilitate professional training for the development and implementation of fishing complementary activities.
- To encourage and support new entrepreneurs in diversification activities.
- Development of pilot co-management initiatives of fishing resources at a local level.
- To encourage and support the incorporation of Young people to the fishing sector.

Source: Own elaboration

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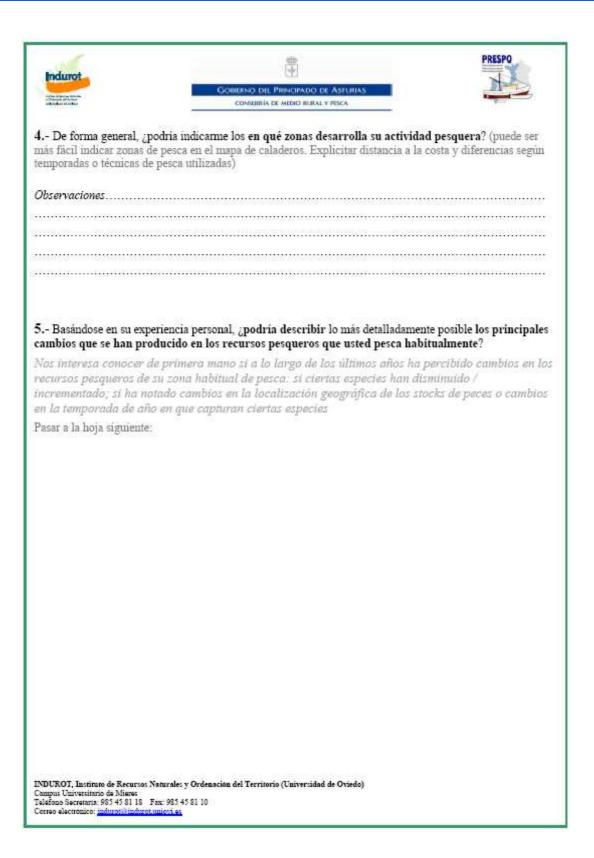
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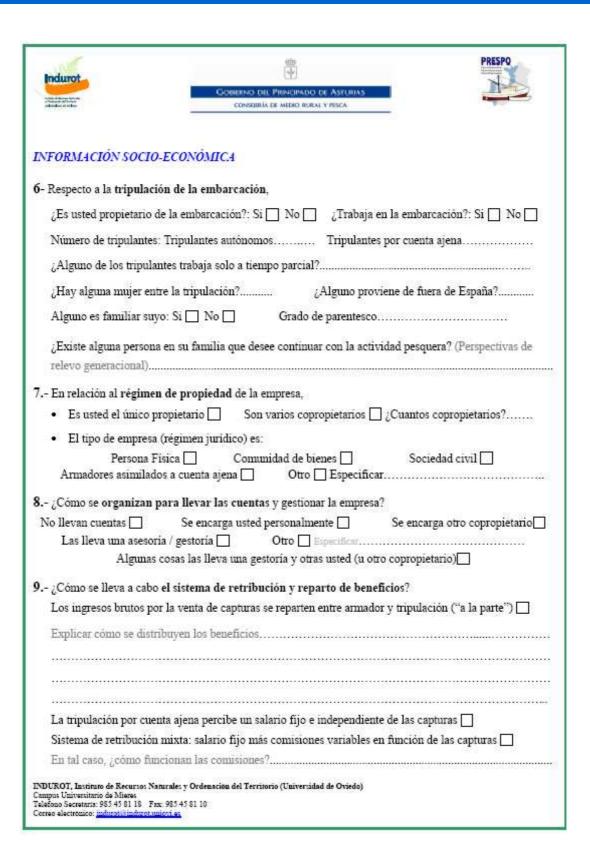
#### Appendix. Questionnaires used during the face-to-face-interviews

#### Questionnaire for artisanal ship-owners





Cambios en stock (reducindo sen la (reducindo sen la stock o pero medio de gregarática de los stocks) (altimos de los stocks)		GOBIERNO DA	GOBBENO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS CONSERIÓ DE MEDIO RURAL Y PISCA.		PRESPO
	Cambios en stock (reduccion/ incremento stock o peso medio de las capturas)	Cambios en la localización (situación geográfica de los stocks)	Cambios temporales (ciertas especies aparecen antes, más tarde, etc.)	¿Desde cuándo se percibe dichos cambios? (últimos 5 años, últimos 10, etc.)	¿Cuáles cree que han sido las causas que han motivado estos cambios?









#### 10.- ¿Podría indicar que ingresos aproximados obtuvo por la venta de pescado durante el 2008?

Indicar de forma aproximada los ingresos medios anuales provenientes de ventas de pescado no declaradas / fuera de lonja.

¿ESTA INFORMACIÓN ES CONFIDENCIAL Y NO VA SER DIFUNDIDA A NINGÚN ORGANISMO! Tan solo queremos hacernos una idea de las ventas reales de pescado

Importe de ventas de pescado facturadas en	Importe medio aproximado de las
louja (€) en el 2008	ventas no declaradas

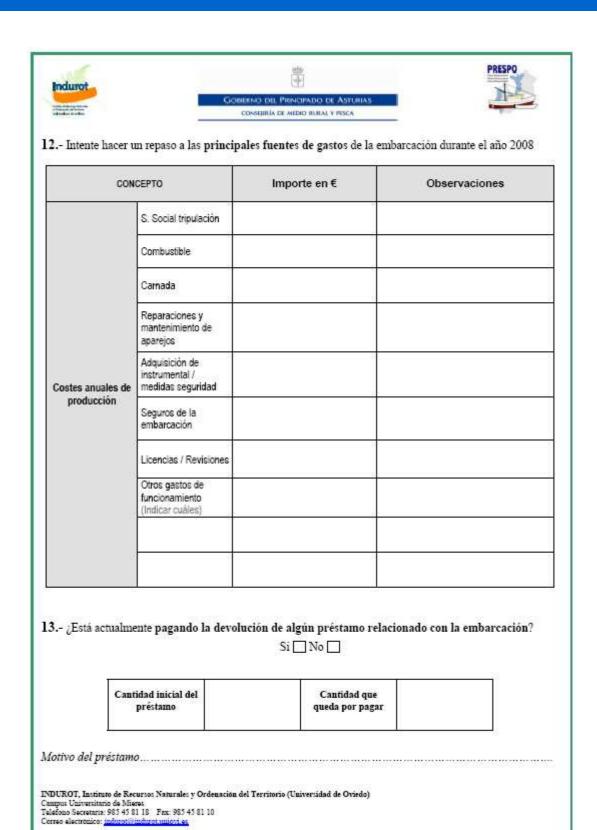
11.- ¿Ha recibido algún tipo de subvención de organismos públicos para la adquisición o modernización de la embarcación?

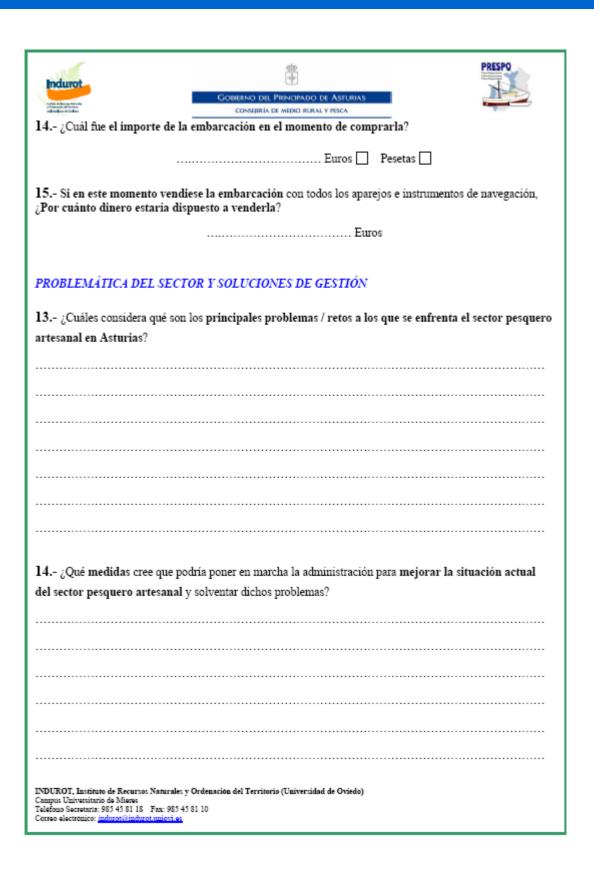
Año	Cuantía	Concepto	% Subvencionado sobre el coste total	Organismo Responsable

INDUROT, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Ordenación del Territorio (Universidad de Oviedo) Campus Universitario de Mieros Telefono Secretaria: 985 45 81 18 - Fax: 985 45 81 10

Correo electrómico: indurotis

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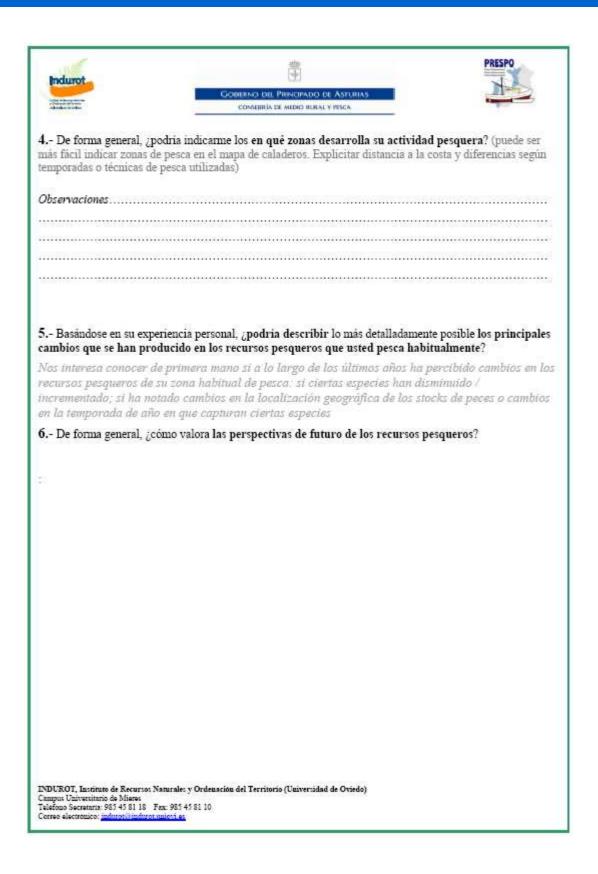




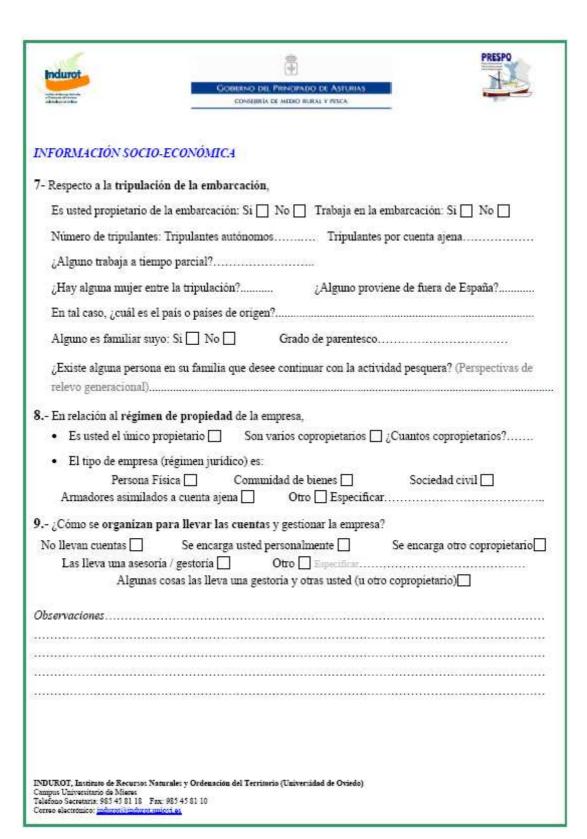
## Questionnaire for presidents of "Cofradías"



Producot 3 Por favor, in las principales es	3 Por favor, indique de forma breve qué técnicas, aparejos las principales especies objetivo captuadas con cada una de ellas:	Gouerno cui Penscrado de Astuaras  S Por favor, indique de forma breve qué técnicas, aparejos o artes de pesca utiliza a lo largo del año, así como la época aproximada del año y las principales especies objetivo captuadas con cada una de ellas:	PR asi como la época aproximad	PRESPO
Técnica o aparejo de pesca	Temporada en que se utiliza (de forma general, por ejemplo: entre noviembre y diciembre)	Principales especies objetivo	¿Qué porcentaje del total desembarcado se captura con dicho aparejo?	¿El aparejo se levanta diariamente? En caso contrario indicar tiempo en el mar.
INDUXOT, latituto de Recursos Naturales Campas Univentanto de Máseros Telébos Secretaria: 963 45 8118 - Fac. 965 4 Corree electrónico: inducot/Gridantot anisori es	INDUXOT, Instituto de Recurso: Naturales y Ordenación del Territorio (Universidad de Oviedo) Campo: Universitato de Maers Teléchos Secretaria: 965 45 81 18 - Fac: 965 45 81 10 Cornes electrónico: inclusofóndutos masori es	itorio (Liriversidad de Oviedo)		



Indunot		COBIENO D	GOSHENO DEL PRINCINDO DE ASTURIAS CONSEIRÍA DE MEDIO RURAL Y PSICA		Odstad	
Espeoie	Cambies en stook (reducción/incremento stock o peso medio de las capturas)	Cambios en la localización (situación geográfica de los stocks)	Cambios temporales (ciertas especies aparecen antes, más tarde, etc.)	¿Desde cuándo se percibe dichos cambios? (últimos 5 años, últimos 10, etc.)	¿Cuáles cree que han sido las causas que han motivado estos cambios?	
INDUROT, Instituto de Recursos Naturales Campas Universidanto de Menes Teléfono Secretaria: 985 45 81 18 Fax: 985 4 Correo electrónico: <u>induret/induret univerte</u>	INDUROT, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Ordenación o Gampas Universitàno de Mienes Talefono Secretaria: 985 45 81 18 Fax: 985 45 81 10 Corseo electrónico: <u>inducet/induret.uniórs se</u>	INDUROI, Institute de Recursos Naturales y Ordenación del Territorio (Universidad de Oviedo) Campra Universitano de Misers. Teléfono Secreturia: 985 45 81 18 Fax: 985 45 81 10 Correo electrónico: <u>inducefinidates, universe</u> .	(0)			



Induret	GOGRENO DE PRINCIPADO	DU ASPURIAS	PRESPO
10 C/	CONSUIRIA DE MEDIO RUR		9.0
	lleva a cabo el sistema de retribución y re os brutos por la venta de capturas se reparter		la manta"\ □
STATE OF STREET	Bankalali gallanga alikulih sa 12 lahingan sanggaran.	아이들이 있다고 않아요 않아요 살아 이 아름다면 하다 이 아니라 아니다.	CONTRACTOR SERVICE
Explicar co	mo se distribuyen los beneficios		
***************************************			
La tripulaci	ón por cuenta ajena percibe un salario fijo e	independiente de las capturas	1
55	retribución mixta: salario fijo más comision	17 177 D	
	¿como funcionan las comisiones?		AA1004014111111111111111111111111111111
11 - Padria in	idicar que ingresos aproximados obtuvo p	sor la venta de necesdo durante	al 20092
Experience of the second	na aproximada los ingresos medios anuales p	enconnective distributions are the efficiency at the side	
;ESTA INFO	DRMACIÓN ES CONFIDENCIAL Y NO VA Tan solo queremos hacemos una idea o		ORGANISMO!
	Importe de ventas de pescado facturadas en lonja (€) en el 2008	Importe medio aproximado de las ventas no declaradas	
Observaciones			
• Ha ver	ndido parte de las capturas en una lonja dife	rente a la del puerto base de la	embarcación?
	na lonja <b>fuera de Asturia</b> s? (Indicar en que		
subastado e	en cada una)		
2-2-3993910010			
Campus Universitario e Telefono Secretaria: 98	de Recursos Naturales y Ordenación del Territorio (Universido Misora: de Misora: 85.45 81 18 - Fax: 985.45 81 10 https://dimbutot.unicoi.es	lad de Orsedo)	





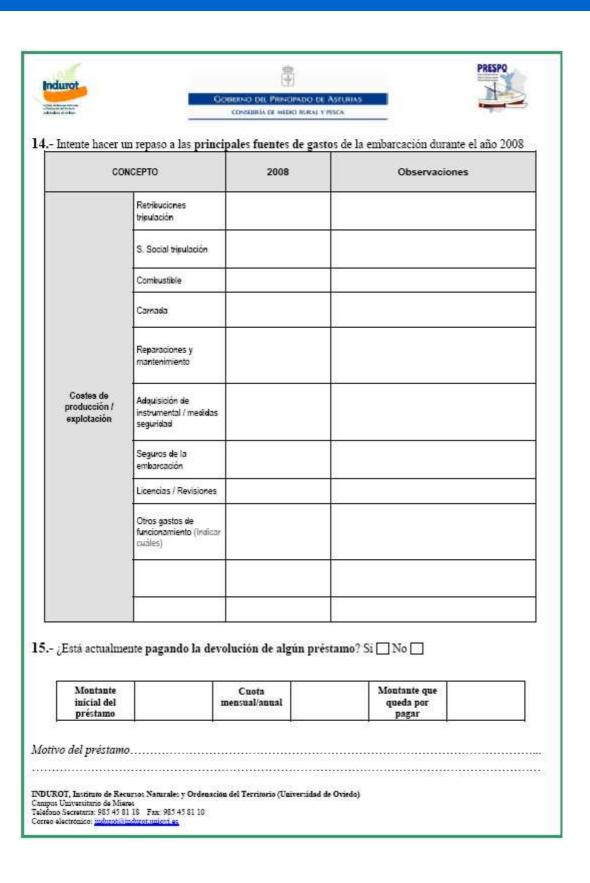


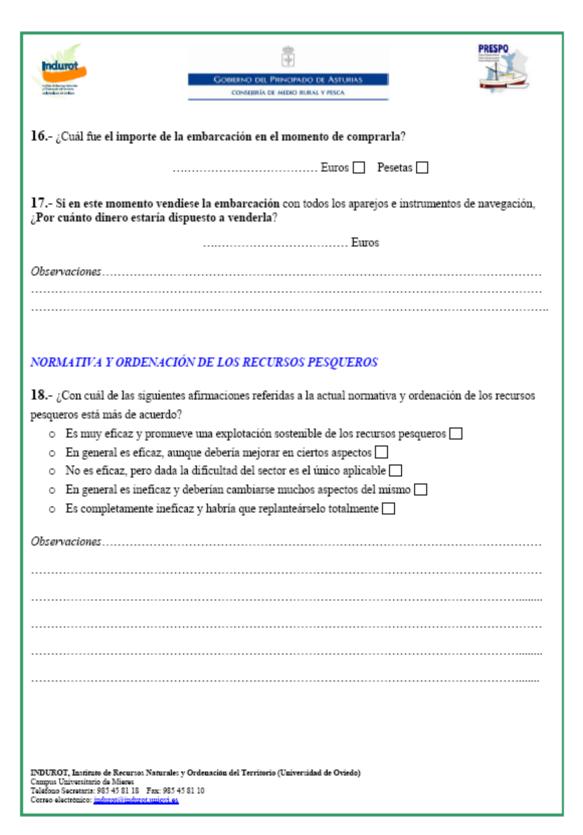
12.- ¿Ha recibido algún tipo de subvención de organismos públicos para la adquisición o modernización de la embarcación?

Año	Cuantia	Concepto	% Subvencionado sobre el coste total	Organismo Responsable
,				

13 ¿Dispone de alguna otra fuente de ingresos? ¿Desarrolla algún tipo de actividad económica complementaria? Especificar cual qué % de sus ingresos representa
• ¿Sabe si algún miembro de su tripulación desarrolla alguna actividad económica complementaria?

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of Selection of Selection	CONSEJIRÍA DE MEDIO RURAL Y PESCA	-
	e son los principales aspectos positivos y los	aspectos a mejorar de la
actual normativa u ordenación de l	los recursos pesqueros?	
Positivos:		
Negativos:		
• ¿Qué cree que se debería h	acer para mejorar los aspectos negativos?	
20.- ¿Cree que actualmente la adn	ninistración tiene difícultades para aplicar y	hacer cumplir la normativa
existente? En tal caso, ¿cuáles son	estas dificultades?	
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## PROBLEMÁTICA DEL SECTOR Y SOLUCIONES DE GESTIÓN

17 ¿Cuáles considera qué son los principales problemas / retos a los que se enfrenta el sector pesquero artesanal en Asturias?
18 ¿Qué medidas cree que se podrían poner en marcha para mejorar la situación actual del sector pesquero artesanal y solventar dichos problemas?
19 ¿Cree que sería necesario mejorar la comercialización y potenciar la diversificación del sector con vistas a mejorar la rentabilidad? (Ejemplo: Creación de etiquetado que reconozca la calidad, frescura y sostenibilidad ambiental del arte empleado, otras alternativas de diversificación como pesca turismo, etc.)
sostemonidad amoreniai dei arte empleado, otras antennativas de diversineación como pesca turismo, etc.)
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