

Using fishers' knowledge to understand the use of alternative gears to static gillnets in the ASCOBANS Region

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Progress report

- Reviewed fisheries data to determine best harbours to approach fishers for interviews
- Designed questionnaire – standard format with minor adaptations for the different regions
- Translated questionnaire into German and Spanish
- 60 interviews in Galicia, NW Spain
- 43 so far in SE England
- Interviews are due to start in Germany in October

Progress report

- Seas at Risk offered funding to add a 4th country
 - Approached France, Denmark and Sweden
 - No luck so far....



Main observations to date – SE England

- Majority of fishers interviewed are polyvalent
- Bycatch was rarely reported although seal depredation was an issue for all gear
- Seabass caught with hooks have a higher market price, but hooks can only be used during summer months
- Morale is very low
 - Fuel prices
 - Brexit
 - Increased and constantly changing regulations
 - No recruitment of young fishers into the industry

Main observations to date – Galicia

- Majority of fishers interviewed are polyvalent
- Bycatch was rarely reported although bottlenose dolphin depredate causing catch and gear damage in setnets
- Morale is very low, especially for small scale fishers
 - Less profitable industry than previously
 - Regulations
 - No opportunity for older fishers to change jobs
 - No recruitment of young fishers into the industry

Next steps

- Conduct more interviews in SE England (Nov 22)
- Conduct interviews in German Baltic
- Add all data to common database (Oct-Dec 22)
- Data analysis (Dec 22–Jan 23)
- Produce report (Jan-Feb 23)
- Submit final report (end of March 23)
- (Produce a peer-review publication)