

Regional Fisheries Management

Experience from local EU level

Brussels 29/09/09

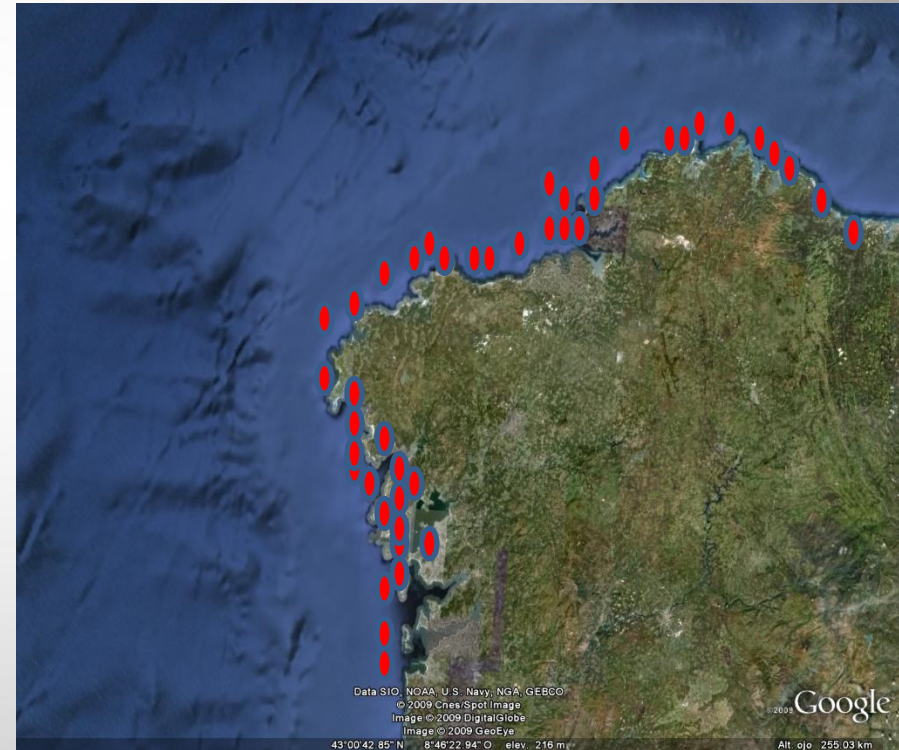
**From Centralised
Management to
Adaptative Co-
management: the
experience of Lira (Galicia-
Spain):**

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Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible

www.fundacionlonxanet.org

FISHING IN GALICIA: a strategic social and economic sector



Traditional fishing and its contribution to a fairer and more sustainable world

SOCIAL

25,000 fishermen,
4,100 seafood gatherers
4,549 boats

over 80
towns and villages

ETHICS

More balanced redistribution
of fishing resources: more
people benefit from resources
than in any other productive
system

ECOLOGICAL

Low production scale
Less environmental and
mechanical impact
Lower energy cost per Kg of
fish produced

ECONOMIC

Traditional fishing in Galicia
accounts for:

- 70% of fresh fish in the
whole country
- 2% of Galicia's GDP

CULTURAL

Fishermen's local/traditional
knowledge is essential for
fishing management

Constraints to efficient and sustainable management

1. The Institutional Framework: Fishermen's associations and the Public Authorities

- atomisation of associations
- leadership often based on personal interests
- perverse effect of subsidies
- resource management centralised with Authorities
- fishermen do not take part in resource management (except RE)

2. The Productive System:

- too many intermediaries
- ever-rising production costs
- high competitiveness
- poaching
- over-used fishing grounds

3. Socio-demographic and cultural profile:

- high average age
- low cultural level
- localisms
- resistant to change

Lonxanet Foundation: a systemic focus creating new inertias for new scenarios

Marketing: Lonxanet Directo

Six associations with a stake

www.lonxanet.com

Enhancement of fishing culture:

Mardelira project

www.mardelira.net

Mission

To dignify the profession of the traditional fisherman

To reinforce a culture of responsibility for marine spaces

To value traditional fishing as a productive system

To empower traditional fishing from the bottom up process

Transfer of good practices:

RECOPADES

www.recopades.org

Sustainable management and governance:

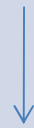
Creation of IP Marine Reserves

Lira

Ría de Cedeira

Marine reserves of interest for fishing: the Lonxanet Foundation's proposal

Current problems in reserves in the world:



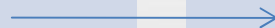
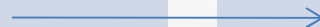
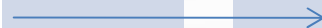
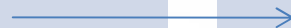
Many Marine Reserves are impositions from the government with the support of and at the proposal of conservationist NGO's

Users are not consulted

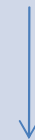
Users do not take part in design

The most dependent users of the ecosystem do not take part in management and when they do, it is not under equal conditions

The social, cultural and economic context of users is not taken into account



Lonxanet Foundation's proposal



Initiative comes from the fishermen

Participative processes

Design based on local ecological knowledge

Co-management

Socio-economic and cultural study of the community as a previous step

LIRA (Galicia-Spain)

**1,056 inhabitants,
35% of the active
population work in
traditional fishing**

Boats: 26

Fishermen: 60

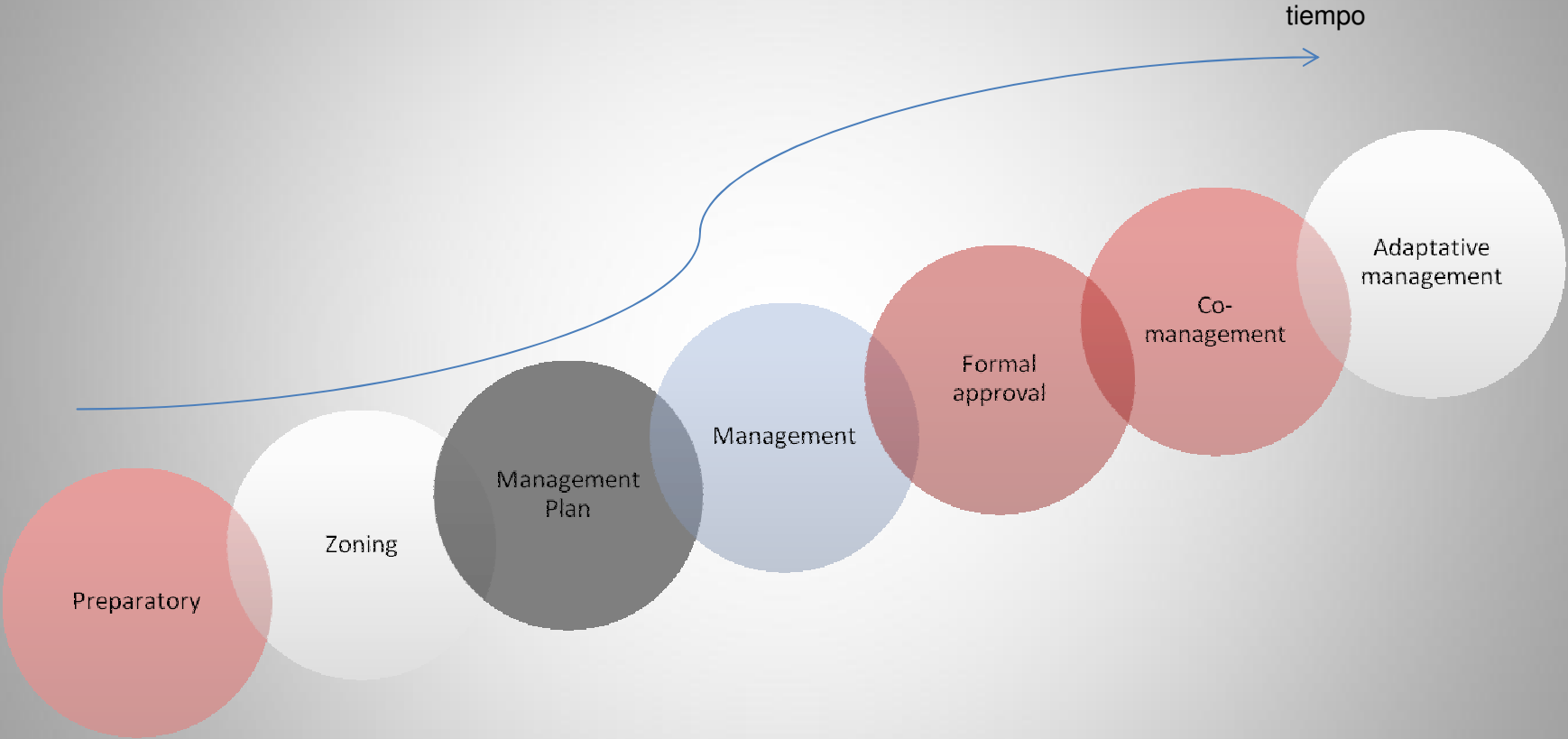
Seafood gatherers: 19

- RESERVA INTEGRAL NORTE (78,8 Ha)
- RESERVA INTEGRAL SUR (61,3 Ha)
- AREA MARÍTIMA PROTEXIDA (2074,2 Ha)



“Os Miñarzos”, Lira

PHASES FOR THE DESIGN AND CREATION OF THE Rmip in Os Miñarzos, Lira



Preparatory

- External diagnosis
- **Participative diagnosis** (DAFO)
- Processes involving **legitimation** in decisions
- Creation of **communication channels** among users
- Set up a **Work Committee** (representatives chosen from fishing subsectors affected):
 - Design of the reserve
 - **Mediation in conflicts**
- The whole process is recorded
- Work plan is presented
-

Zoning

- **Location, size and form**
- Uses and users
- **Conflict map:** identification of tension between users/spaces
- Identification of Habitats
- Annual fishing cycle
- ...

Management plan

- **Identification of spaces/species to protect**
- Degree of protection for most relevant spaces
- Users and uses within the Reserve
- **Harmonise biological, environmental and social criteria**

Management

- **Type of fishing permitted**
- Size
- Quota
- Closed seasons
- **Catch control points** (market, port)
- **Vigilance** (co-ordinated by Association)
- ...
- Other matters: formulas for future self-financing of the Reserve
- ...

Formal approval

v

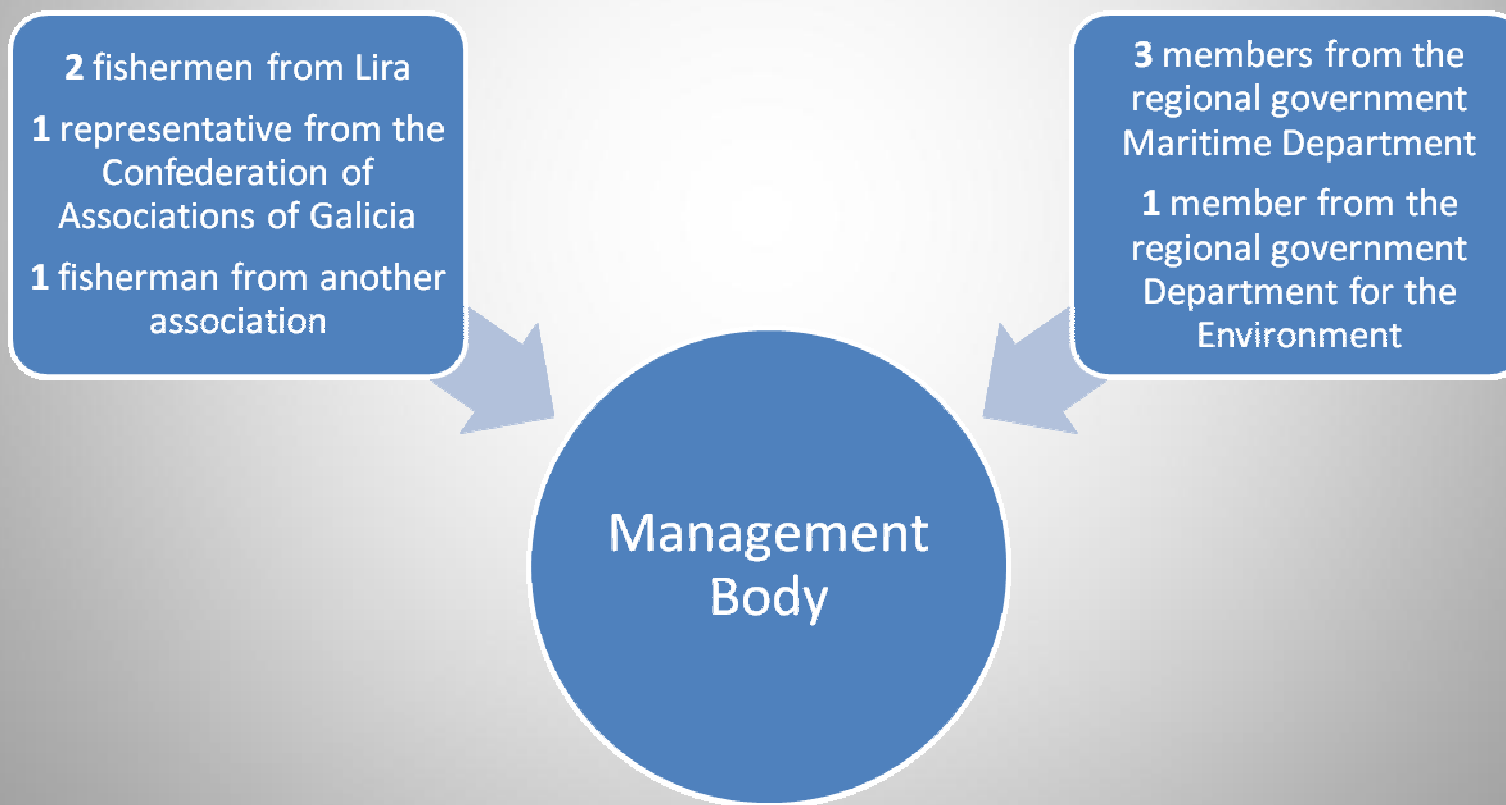
Formal approval

- **Participation in drawing up the Decree** (sector, authorities) to regulate the reserve: open census of boats, rules etc.
- Decree published by regional government of Galicia in April 2007

Co-
management
VI

Co-Management

- **Equal Management Body:** composed of the same number of representatives from the fishing sector and the public authorities



Dynamism and Feedback from the MB and the Fishing Sector

- **New mechanisms set up for:**
 - **Management: the MB** as a tool for participation, representation and co-management
 - **Evaluation:** biological and social monitoring
 - **Communication: between fishermen and the MB**

Reactive-Adaptative management: an example

- Fisher traps decide to increase the octopus quota as they perceive a positive status of the resource
- They inform representatives of the MB in the fishing sector
- The sector can consult with the Association's Technical Assistance (a biologist) who collaborates with the orientation of the proposal

The MB representative draws up the proposal with good arguments

The Management Body discusses and approves (?) the proposal

- The proposal is taken to the MB
- The MB is notified and a date fixed for a meeting

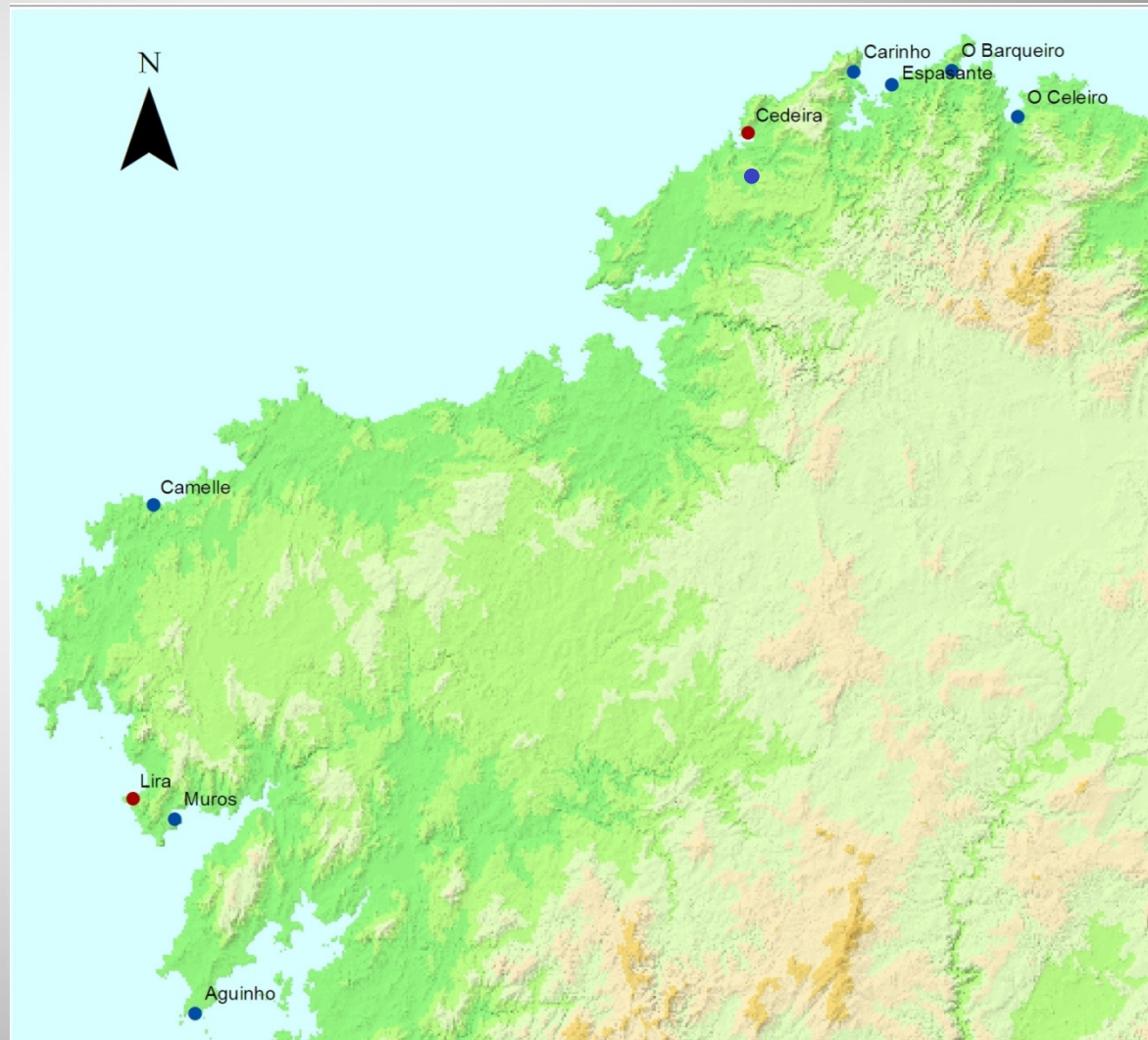
- The proposal is formalised and implemented on a given date
- Results are evaluated over a given time (e.g. 6 months). If the results expected are not forthcoming:
- The sector evaluates the proposal again and reduces the octopus quota to a lower level

The proposal is taken to the sector representative on the MB etc.

A more open and participative sector

- **New opportunities are created:** inclusive businesses
- **Improved image of traditional fishing** in society
- **New alliances created with other players: *Community of Interests around Traditional Fishing***

MULTIPLYING EFFECT: MARINE RESERVES of FISHING INTEREST in GALICIA



- established
- being set up

Demonstration and Multiplying Effect

An **interconnected Marine Reserve network** becomes feasible to increase biomass by reserve effect

- RECOPADES as a response tool
- **In Latin America:**
PuertoMadryn (Argentina): 2009-?
- Some conservationist NGO's are interested in transferring the model to other fishing communities

RECOPADES



Towards a new scenario in Fishing Resource Management: **CONCLUSIONS**

- **Adaptative co-management** improves fishing **management efficiency: it is more flexible** and adaptable to the local sector's needs and resources
- Better orientation the management decisions
- **Improves the fulfilment and acceptance of regulations**
- **Promotes a new relationship culture between:**
 - **Fishermen**
 - **Fishermen and marine ecosystems**
 - **Fishermen and public authorities** (more symmetrical and closer)