



Civil Society Perspective on SSF Buy-in to Digital Tools

WWF Adria

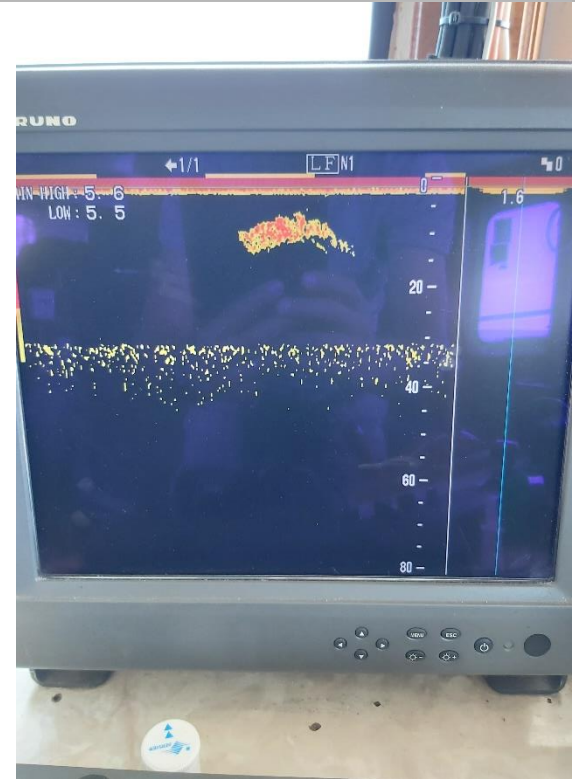
Hrvoje Čepnja

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Perspective on SSF

Small scale fisheries (SSF)

- employing **62 650 fishers** (accounting for **75%** of active fishing vessels and 48% of the crew)
- account for **7,5% of gross tonnage** and around **5,4% of landings**.



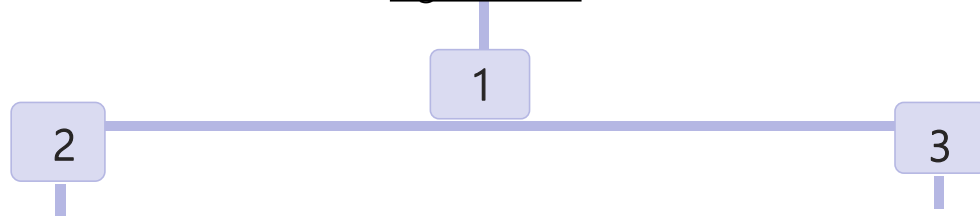
*https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0291_EN.html -REPORT on the small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives

Perspective on SSF



Current situation

- 45.000 SSF vessels in E U waters
- weak obligation to report catch/bycatch
- weak landing obligation
- weak digitalization



Challenges

2

1

3

Opportunities

- fear of new area closures, restrictions and penalties
- concerns about privacy and security
- reluctance for additional administration work;
- lack of technical skills of fishers;
- age structure of fishers;
- initial high costs to purchase equipment;
- **SSF vs. LSF vs. recreational fishers**

- new opportunities to access to markets,
- certification,
- finance and insurance
- identification of „paper fishers“;
- better safety of fishers;
- brings likeminded people and communities together
- marine spatial planning

Requirements for effective SSF digitalization



Inclusivity and Participation

- fishers should have a voice in shaping the tools to meet their specific needs and challenges
- meaningful involvement of SSF communities in the development and implementation of digital tools

User friendly

- reduce burden and provide simplicity of digital technology
- allow fishers to focus on their primary activity – fishing

Capacity Building

- capacity building and training to ensure proficiency in using digital tools
- take control and make informed choices
- ecosystem-based approach considering the broader marine environment

Affordability

- provide financial mechanisms, such as loans and subsidies

Access

- expanding digital infrastructure and ensuring its accessibility for SSF



Relevance of Civil Society in SSF buy-in to digital tools



Advocacy

advocate for the rights and interests

raise awareness of the importance of digitalization within SSF sector

promote policy changes to support easier transition towards digital fishery sector

Capacity building

provide technical assistance and training to SSF actors

improve their organizational skills to move to digitalization

Enhancing SSF knowledge

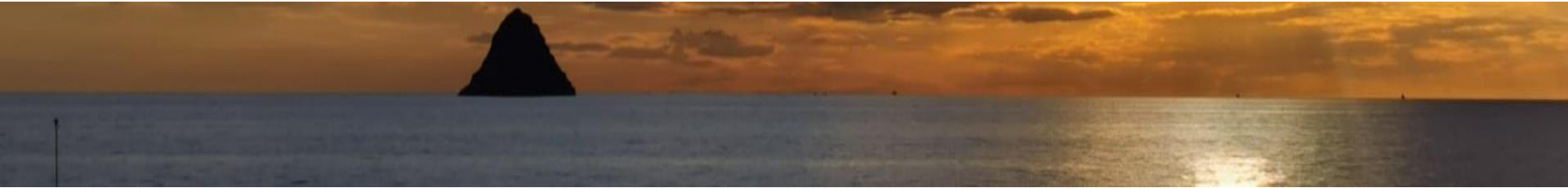
conduct research and monitor SSF activities to generate knowledge and evidence for policy-decisions

help to fill the data gaps that often hinder development and buy in to digital tools

SSF- CSO Partnership

engaging in participatory processes and building trust with fishing communities

multi-stakeholder dialogue is essential for the sustainable uptake of digital tools in SSF



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Hrvoje Čepmja

hcepnja@wwfadria.org

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WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111
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