



METADATA (*)

TOPIC 7 – Training Unit 2: Fishing impacts and possible solutions towards the sustainability

Source Partners: WWF-CIMB The training unit is developed for the EcoeFISHent project (www.ecoefishent.eu)
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Abstract Fishing is one of the most significant drivers of declines in ocean wildlife populations. Catching fish is not inherently bad for the ocean, except for when vessels catch fish faster than stocks can replenish, something called overfishing. Overfishing is closely tied to bycatch—the capture of unwanted sea life while fishing for a different species. This, too, is a serious marine threat that can cause the needless loss of billions of fish, along with hundreds of thousands of sea turtles and cetaceans. Technical solutions exist to improve the selectivity of the fishing gears allowing more sustainable fisheries. Sustainable fisheries aim to balance fishing practices, ensuring fish stocks remain healthy for future generations.
The training unit is structured in four lessons: • Overfishing This lesson gives an overview of the overfishing issue with a focus on its causes and impacts on the marine biodiversity. • Selectivity and bycatch issue. This lesson contained a description of the problems related to the unwanted catch of the commercial fisheries (by catch and discards), according to the gears used and the implications at ecosystem and resource exploitation level. The main research and monitoring activities were indicated, including those foreseen by Ecoefishent. • Fishing tools improvement. Trawling is considered a low selective fishing activity, producing high fraction of by catch and discard. This lesson contained a description of technical solutions (e.g. shape and size of the net meshes, selective grids) aimed at increasing the selectivity of this fishing technique. • Sustainable fisheries This lesson is focused on how to achieve more sustainability in fisheries and on the work done by WWF with the small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean sea.



Learning Outcomes <i>After this Training Unit, the trainees will be able to:</i> - <i>be aware of the global environmental problem of the overfishing and its impact on the marine biodiversity</i> - <i>be aware of the issue of bycatch and discarding</i> - <i>be aware of what can be done to improve the selectivity and reduce the bycatch in particular in the bottom trawl</i> - <i>understand the differences between the different types of fishing gears</i> - <i>be aware of the different steps and possibilities to achieve more sustainable fisheries</i> - <i>be aware of the work done by WWF with the small-scale fisheries</i>
Intended Audience: EcoeFISHent partnership, EcoeFISHent stakeholders interested in fishing impacts and possible solutions towards the sustainability.
Pre-requisites: None
Language: English
Format: Presentations, web lecture. The module is a self-learning module
Expected workload: 40 mins

(*) The structure of the Metadata for the Training Units derives from the training Metadata model developed within the Leonardo da Vinci project LINKVIT (2013-15, GA N. 2013-IT1-LEO05-04046)