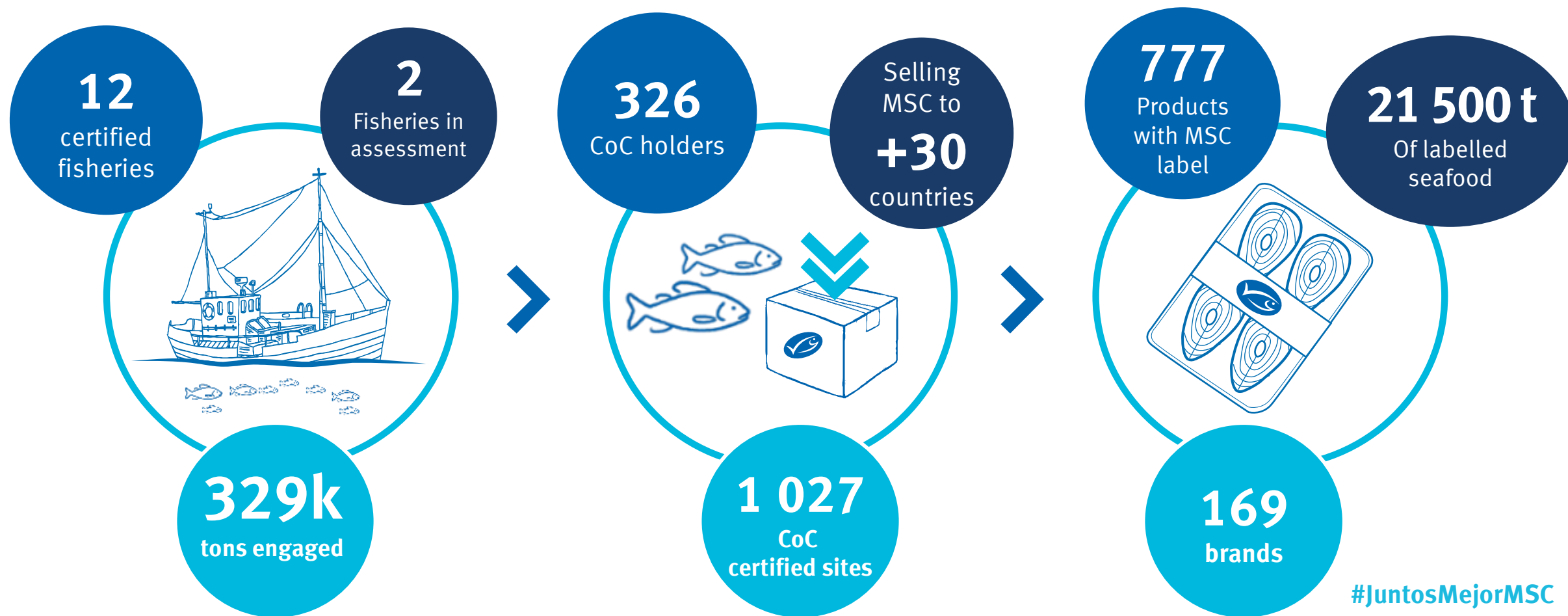


A photograph of a fishing boat named "EAMW" docked at a pier. Several fishermen are visible on the boat and on the pier, handling large black fishing nets. The background shows a harbor with other boats and mountains under a clear sky.

MSC Program in Spain: Improvements achieved by Spanish fisheries

Laura Rodriguez, Program Director Spain and Portugal

MSC IN SPAIN: OVERVIEW



#JuntosMejorMSC



AGARBA COD (certified 2013)
2 industrial vessels | Barent Sea
Bottom trawling - 7 612 t

- Pioneer bottom trawling fishery adopting V2 of MSC standard.
- Exhaustive mapping of sea floor to identify and avoid VME.
- Recertified with no conditions.



CANTABRIAN ANCHOVY (certified 2015)

139 Coastal vessels | País Vasco, Cantabria, Asturias, Galicia

Purse seine – 23 430 t

- Depleted stock, closure of fishing ground in 2005-2010. Now fully recovered and biomass at maximum.
- Recertified with no conditions.

ALBACORE TUNA (certified 2016)

182 coastal vessels | País Vasco, Cantabria & Asturias
Pole & Line and troll and line – 12 920 t

Main improvements:

- **Key contribution to adoption of HCR at ICCAT.**
- **Observer program and strengthen of monitoring.**
- **Recertified with no conditions.**



ASTURIAN OCTOPUS (certified 2016)

34 artesanal vessels | Cofradías Asturias Occ.

Traps – 103 t

- **Development of new stock assessment method to assess the octopus population.**
- **Creation of producers association (ARPESOS) to better manage the certificate and better commercialise the product.**
- **Excellent collaboration with regional government and scientific institutions.**
- **International reference for octopus Fisheries in Australia, Italy, Mexico and Spain.**

SKIIPACK ECHEBASTAR (certified 2018)

6 vessels | Indian Ocean

Purse seiners -38 270 t

- **First MSC certification of FAD operations.**
- **Implementation of non entangling FADs and biodegradable FADs.**
- **100% observers coverage and rapid release mechanism of silky shark bycatch**
- **Scientific Project to assess survival of silky shark after release.**

YELLOWFIN TUNA ANABAC (certified 2021)

7 vessels | Atlantic Ocean

Purse Seine - 4 068 t

- **Certified for free school catches.**
- **Now under scope extension for FADs and Skipjack.**

Acto de entrega del certificado de pesca sostenible a “la Asociación de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (AGAC)”



TUNA ASSOCIATION AGAC (certified 2021)
60 vessels | Eastern Pacific (YFT) Western Pacific (YFT, SKJ, BET) Atlantic (YFT) Indian Ocean (ISKJ)
Purse seiners FAD and free schools | 188 000 t

- Implementation of non entangling and biodegradable FADs.
- FADwatch Project to prevent impact on vulnerable ecosystems.

A photograph of a fishing boat's deck. Two fishermen are visible. One fisherman in the foreground is wearing a grey t-shirt and a yellow life vest, looking towards the camera. Another fisherman in the background is wearing a yellow life vest and red gloves, using a long wooden pole to handle a large, dark, spiny object, likely a tuna. The boat's white cabin and various fishing equipment are visible in the background.

JC MACKINTOSH BLUEFIN (certified 2022)

**3 artesanal vessels | Bluefin tuna in Gibraltar Strait
Greenstick, handline and fishing rod -56 t**

- **Bluefin tuna in Atlantic/Mediterranean Waters great example of recovery of population and strong management at ICCAT:**
- **State of the art management - Harvest Strategy**

Medfish Fisheries in Spain



Fisheries
moving
towards
sustainability



1. Palamos blue and red shrimp trawl
2. Motril striped soldier shrimp traps
3. Caleta de Velez anchovy purse seine
4. Castellon anchovy and sardine purse seine
5. Majorca dolphinfish seine
6. Central coast of Catalonia traps and pots





FAD Management in the Tuna Industry

What are Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)?



Natural FAD, Anchored FAD (aFAD) and drifting FAD (dFAD)

Importance of FADs



In 2021, **about 5 million tonnes** global catch of major commercial tunas (FAO)



About 66% of global tuna catch by purse seiners => **37% of that using FADs**

Advantages of FADs



- Much easier to locate tuna in the open waters; enables fishers to directly head for an accumulation of fish
- Increased success rate of each fishing trip; no „idle“ shipping in search for tuna, more reliable catch rates
- Increased efficiency of resources employed (fuel, time, crew)



But: Potential Impacts of FAD Fishing



Ghost Fishing



Bycatch



Habitat damage & Marine Pollution



Challenges to be addressed in purse seine fishing



Ghost gear / Ghost fishing



Fully non-entangling FADs

Habitat / Marine pollution



[Biodegradable FADs
FAD marking
Best practices to avoid FAD loss & abandonment

Bycatch / ETP



ETP species release devices

+ Human observers & Electronic monitoring

In addition to above:

FAD limits based on scientific advice



SILKY SHEEN TACKLING PROJECT



Thanks!



MSCPescaSostenible



mscpescasostenible



MSCenEspana



Marine Stewardship Council