

FISHERY DATA OF THE CANARY ISLANDS: THE ROLE OF THE SPANISH INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY

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THE CANARY ISLANDS ARTISANAL FISHERIES

The Canary Islands Artisanal Fisheries are composed by around 750 units (source: Gobierno de Canarias) with a mean age of 42 years old. The fleet is also of small size in general terms (80% of vessels are smaller than 10 m in length), and targets more than one hundred different species with fishery interest.



There are multiple landing sites (including small harbors and stranding beaches), and most of the fleet lacks a vessel monitoring system. These circumstances make the monitoring of fishery data very complicated, being a data-limited artisanal fishery.



FISHERY DATA

First Sale Spots (FSS) of The Canary Islands government were fully established in 2006 and is the only official fishery information about landings. From that date on, the **Report and Sampling Web (RSW)** implemented and coordinated by the IEO provides length sampling data of the most landed species in the important landing sites and at-market, under EU-Data Collection Framework since 2013.

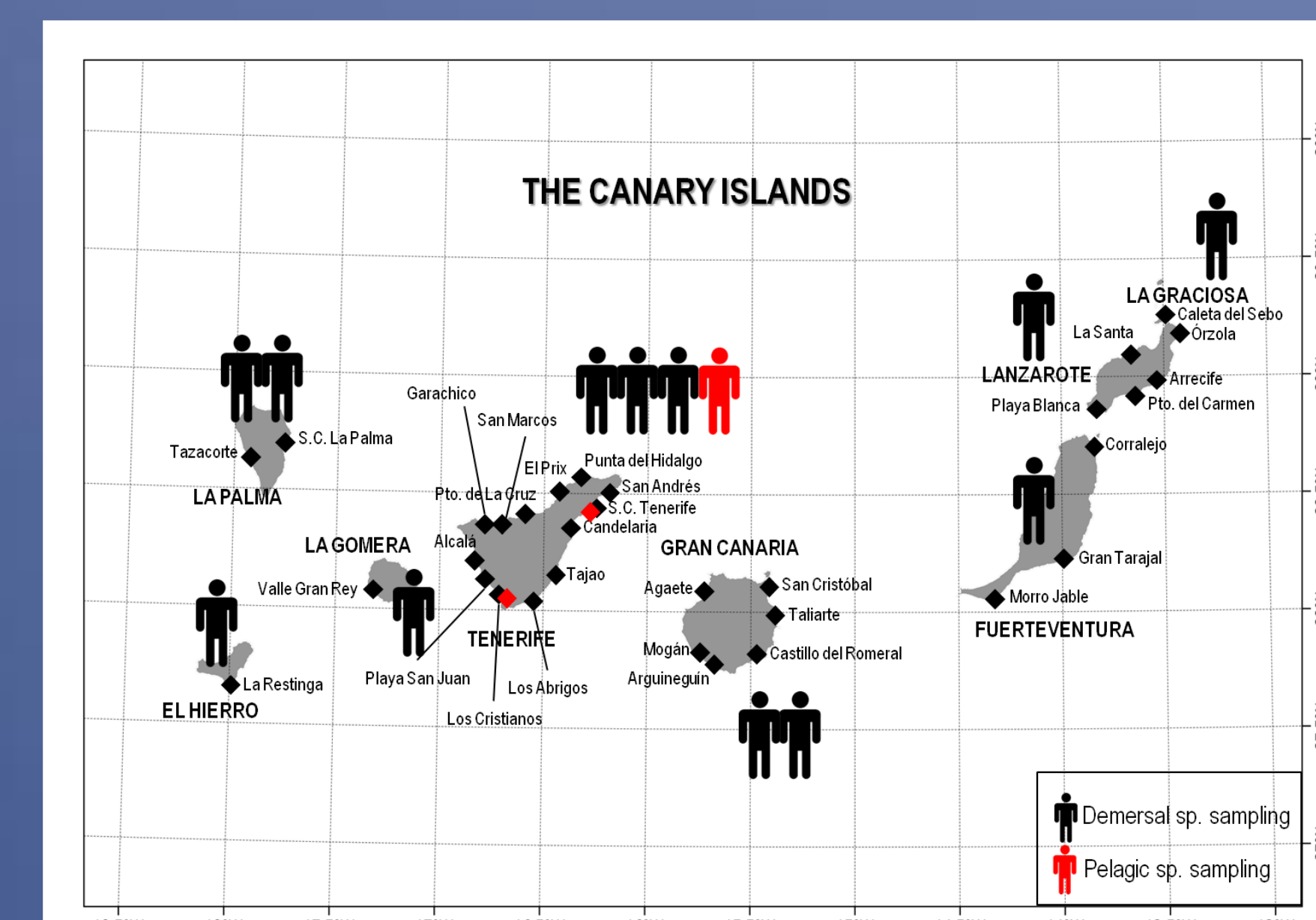


Figure 1. IEO's RSW implemented in The Canary Islands



Figure 2. Illustration of sampling moments at the harbors

The RSW for small pelagic and demersal species is made up of 12 people monitoring the FSS and a great part of other landing sites (Figure 1). Each reporter makes a minimum of 6 monthly visits to sample demersal species. Additionally, 6 monthly samplings on small pelagic species are made at Tenerife island. As a result of the analysis of this information, temporal trends of mean sizes and length classes of the species with more fishery interest are provided.

DATA COLLATION

Landing biomass information from the FSS system is also checked with expert judgement looking for possible errors dealing with species, fishing gears and/or vessels. This information, after being checked, is uploaded to the IEO database "Integrated Monitoring of Ocean Natural Resources" (SIRENO, from its name in Spanish, Seguimiento Integrado de los REcursos Naturales Oceánicos).

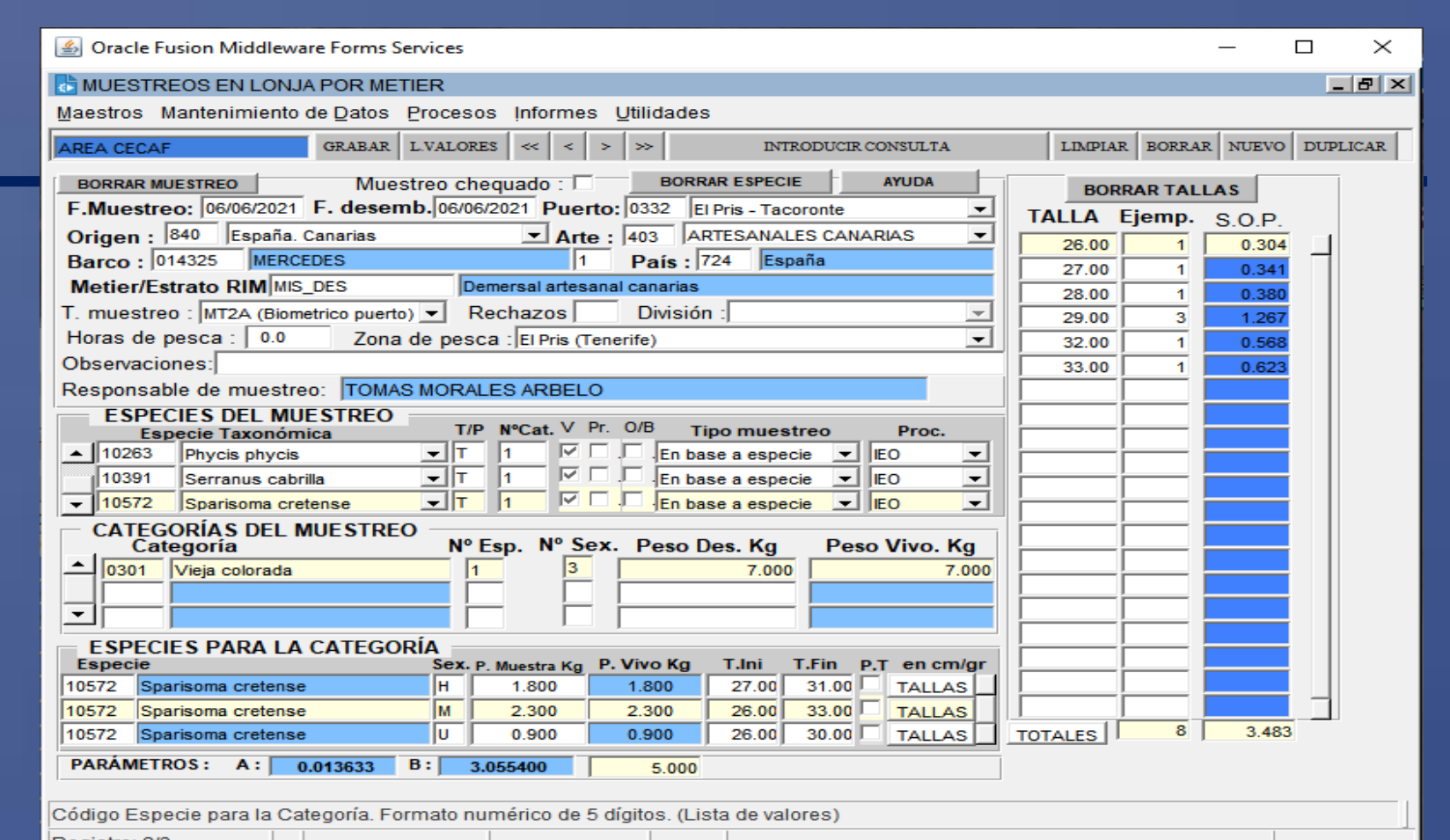


Figure 3. SIRENO database

The analysis of this information brings about landings time series and length composition of the main species from a fishery perspective. These results are useful for the IEO staff advising tasks to the fishery administration in order to manage these fisheries. Figure 4 shows the length distributions of the parrotfish *Sparisoma cretense*, which is the most landed species by the fleet targeting demersal species in The Canary Islands.

RESULTS

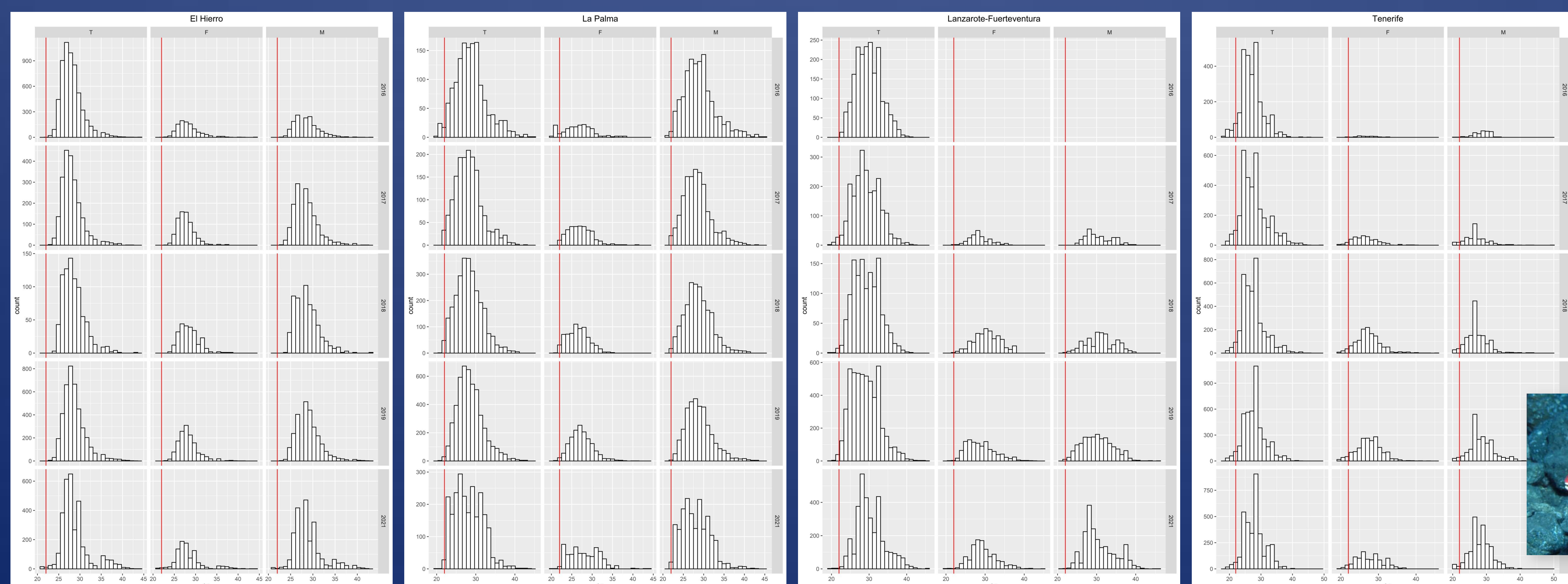


Figure 4. Size histograms for total (T), females (F) and males (M) measured individuals of *Sparisoma cretense* at several islands during 2016-2021 (no data for 2020). Red reference line = Minimum legal catch size.



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Reference: <https://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/agg/sgt/temas/estadistica/pesca/index.html>