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**Cephalopods in
the Anthropocene:**
Multiple challenges in
a changing ocean



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Octopus fishing in the Tagus estuary and contributions to sustainable management

Marco Santos [ORCID iD](#)^{1,2}, Sónia Seixas [ORCID iD](#)^{2,1}

¹MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Coimbra, Portugal. ²Universidade Aberta, Dep Ciência e Tecnologia, Lisboa, Portugal

Abstract

The Tagus estuary, in Portugal, with about 320 km², is one of the largest estuaries in Europe, thus, several fishing communities dedicated to octopus' fisheries can be found in it. For the first time, a comprehensive study was done with report to all the vessels triangulated with the answers of all fishermen, which allows us to know the exact quantity captured in the estuary. For this purpose, in 2018, data from all vessels were collected and all the fishermen were interviewed. In this study, the different types of fishing gears employed are described, as well as the purpose and the procedures of their construction. On the other hand, the real volume of captures in the estuary and the fishing efforts were thoroughly calculated. Furthermore, the main problems reported in this activity were: environmental damages, legal issues, usages and the relationship between all the intervenients in the process. In the end, several changes were proposed in the management of sustainable octopus' fisheries in this area, which can be replicated to other areas.

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