

Fishery Fact Sheet

CECAF Fisheries Reports 2011

Spain Offshore gillnetter hake fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters, 2011

Fileyeurs espagnols de merlus

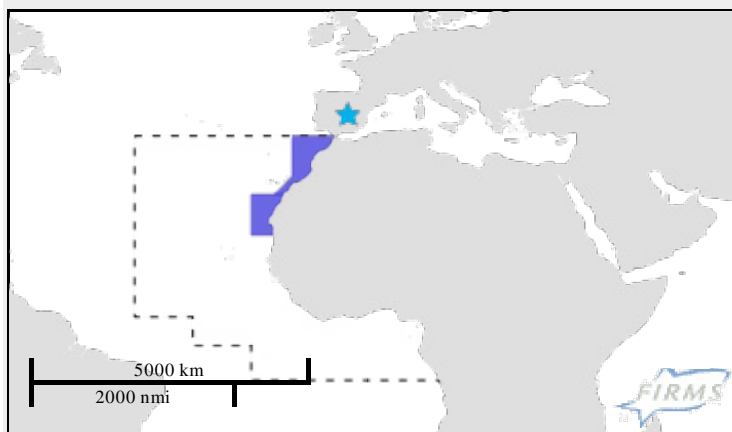
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Fishery life cycle This fishery terminated on 1999.

Overview: *The fleet used to operate between 35°N-25°N, and from 200 to 400 m depth. The main target species was the European hake, Merluccius merluccius. However, an important catch increase of the Senegalese hake Merluccius senegalensis occurred during the last years, probably due to the extension of the traditional fishing grounds to the South. The most noteworthy features of the fishery were: high degree of specialisation in hake, mainly targeting the adult fraction of the stock; stability of the annual yields; and use of multi-filament nets since the end of 1994, in compliance with the Moroccan legislation at that time. The end of the Agreement in 1999 marked the closure of this fishery. The new fishing Agreement signed between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco in 2006 authorises the use of multifilament gillnets targeting black hake, into the category “Demersal fishing” and in an area located south of 29°N and beyond 12 nautical miles. However, the licences provided to gillnetters have not been used until the moment.*

Location of Spain Offshore gillnetter hake fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters



Main layers

- FAO areas and their sub-divisions
- EEZ

Associated layers

APPROACH: FISHING ACTIVITY

Fishing Activity

Fishing Gear: Gillnets (not specified)
 Type of production system : Commercial;
 Industrial
 Fishery Area: Morocco Atlantic coast;
 Morocco; Morocco coastal; Sahara coastal
 Seasonality: All year long

Harvested Resource

Target Species: European hake; Senegalese hake
 Associated Species: Axillary seabream; Dentex nei; Angler(=Monk) ... [more>>](#)

Means of Production

Vessel Type: Gillnetters

★ Geographic reference

Intersecting layers

☐ Intersecting: FAO major fishing areas

Base layers

⤵ 200 nautical miles arcs

Fishery Indicators

Nominal Effort: Number of vessels

Production: Catch total; Catch *M. merluccius*;

Catch *M. senegalensis*

Geographic reference: Spain

Spatial Scale: National

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Overview - Fishery History - Fishing Activity - Post Harvest - Management - Status and Trends - Source of Information

History

The use of gillnets (“volanta”) by the Spanish fleet in Moroccan waters started in 1977, acquiring a special development during 1992 and 1993, followed by a decrease in 1994 due to the banning of monofilament nets. Since the beginning of this fishery until it was disappeared, the fleet suffered continuous modifications in the gears employed, alternatively changing from longline to gillnet and the opposite. In fact, different fishing agreements between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco used to include both gears in the same fishing category.

The Spanish gillnet fishery operating in Moroccan waters until 1999, comprised around 30 fishing vessels of approximately 50 t each, based mainly in the port of La Guardia (Galicia NW Spain) at the end of the Agreement in 1999. During the last years of the fishery, these vessels worked under the conditions established within the framework of the Fishing Agreement between the EU and Morocco of 1995.

Fishing Activity

Type of production system: Commercial; Industrial

Fishery Area

Climatic zone: Temperate. Bottom type: Soft_bottom_clean_sand. Depth zone: Shelf - Edgeshelf; Slope - Upperslope (200 m - 500 m). Horizontal distribution: Neritic. Vertical distribution: Demersal/Benthic.

Geo References for: Morocco Atlantic coast

Morocco Atlantic coast

Exclusive Economic Zone Areas (EEZ)	MAR - Morocco
FAO Fishing Statistical Divisions	34.1.1 - Morocco coastal
	34.1.3 - Sahara coastal

More Geo References

The following area codes have been found as intersecting the location of Spain Offshore gillnetter hake fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters

FAO Major Fishing Areas	34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central
	37 - Mediterranean and Black Sea

Large Marine Ecosystem Areas (LME)

26 - Mediterranean Sea

27 - Canary Current

The Moroccan Atlantic coast is part of one of the four major trade-wind driven continental margin upwelling zones in the world oceans, the northwestern African upwelling system (or the Canary Current System). In the Eastern Central Atlantic, the dynamics of an eastern boundary current interacting with trade wind-driven upwelling control this marine ecosystem with exceptionally high primary and secondary productivity (Cury and Roy, 1989; Binet, 1997; Demarcq and Faure, 2000). While coastal upwelling occurs mostly on the shelf, biogenic particles derived from upwelling are deposited mostly at the upper continental slope. Nutrient-rich coastal water is transported within the Cape Ghir filament region at 30°N up to several hundreds of kilometres offshore. Both upwelling intensity and filament activity are dependent on the strength of the summer Trades (Freudenthal et al., 2002).

Resources Exploited

European hake - Morocco

Senegal hake, Benguela hake - Morocco

Axillary seabream - Northern Areas of the Eastern Central Atlantic

Dentex - Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia

Other resources: Stocks of blackspot seabreams, anglers, John dory, rays and blue sharks.

Target Species

Merluccius merluccius

FAO Names : en - European hake, fr - Merlu européen, es - Merluza europea, ru - Мерлуза восточноатлантическая

Merluccius senegalensis

FAO Names : en - Senegalese hake, fr - Merlu du Sénégal, es - Merluza del Senegal, ru - Мерлуза синегальская

Adults

Associated Species (Bycatch)

Pagellus acarne

FAO Names : en - Axillary seabream, fr - Pageot acarne, es - Aligote, ar - فردي مرجان أبيض, zh - 腋斑小鯛

Dentex spp

FAO Names : en - Dentex nei, fr - Dentés nca, es - Dentones, samas, etc. nep, ru - Зубаны

Lophius piscatorius

FAO Names : en - Angler(=Monk), fr - Baudroie commune, es - Rape, ar - عفریت البحر شائع, zh - 鮟鱇, ru - Удильщик европейский (=морской черт)

Zeus faber

FAO Names : en - John dory, fr - Saint Pierre, es - Pez de San Pedro, ru - Солнечник обыкновенный

Pagellus bogaraveo

FAO Names : en - Blackspot(=red) seabream, fr - Dorade rose, es - Besugo, ar - مرجان وردی, zh - 黑斑小鯛, ru - Пагель пятнистый

Raja spp

FAO Names : en - Raja rays nei, fr - Pocheteaux et raies raja nca, es - Rayas raja nep, ru - Скаты

ромбовые

Prionace glauca

FAO Names : en - Blue shark, fr - Peau bleue, es - Tiburón azul, ru - Акула синяя

Adults

Related Fisheries - Fishery(ies) switching activity seasonally or targeting the same stock

Spain Offshore longliner hake fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters

Spain Bottom wet fish trawler black hake fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters, South 29°N

Spain Bottom wet fish trawlers black hake fishery - Mauritanian waters

Spain Longliners black hake fishery - Mauritanian waters

Spain Bottom trawl black hake fishery - Senegalese waters

Morocco Coastal small bottom trawler hake fishery - Cape Spartel and Cape Bojador

Morocco Coastal longline hake fishery - Cape Spartel and Cape Bojador

Morocco Artisanal boats hooks and lines, trammelnet fishery - Cape Spartel and Cape Bojador

Morocco Morocco Spanish bottom trawler black hake fishery - South 29°N

Morocco Portuguese Hooks and lines hake fishery - North of 34th parallel

Morocco Portuguese gillnet hake fishery - North of 34th parallel

Morocco Portuguese longliners hake fishery - North of 34th parallel

Morocco European Union artisanal trawl and longline fishery - Southern area

Related Fisheries - Same fishing activity(ies) described by another national perspective (at the same or different aggregation level)

Morocco Offshore Spanish gillnetter hake fishery - Atlantic coast

Morocco Offshore Spanish longliner hake fishery - Atlantic coast

Vessel Type

Gillnetters

Flag State

 Spain

The technical characteristics of the vessels varied through the different fishing agreements, from 73 GRT, 293 h.p and 20 m length in 1998 to 45 GRT, 218 h.p and 17 m length at the end of the agreements. The average characteristics of these vessels during the last 7 years of the fishery (1992-1999) were less than 50 GRT, 265 h.p. and 17 m length.

Catch Handling and Processing Equipment

European hake is classified by commercial categories, depending on their sizes, being eviscerated. Senegalese hake are also eviscerated. Catches are preserved in ice.

Fleet segment

The gillnet Spanish fleet has traditionally been composed of vessels from Galicia (NW Iberian Peninsula), mainly based in La Guardia and some of them based in Vigo and Santa Eugenia de Riveira. During the period 1989-1994, the third part of the fleet was based in Algeciras (Andalucía, S Iberian Peninsula), but from 1994 onwards the proportion of Andalusian vessels decreased in favour of

the Galician ones.

Fishing Gear

Gillnets (not specified)

This gear, locally known as “volanta” is a very selective gear consisting in fixed gillnets, always set in waters deeper than 200 m. These nets were 90-100 mm mesh size and constructed with multifilament of artificial nylon since 1994, after the banning of monofilament nets. The gear is rectangular shaped and it is composed of several joined sheet nets, set to the bottom by anchors. It is kept vertically through a lead-line in the ground-rope and a buoyed line in the head-rope. The dimensions of the net depend on the number of sheet nets that compose it. This number could oscillate between 50 and 100 sheets, corresponding to nets of 2.5-10 km nets long. Gillnets used to be set indistinctly at day or night-time. Two gears of the same length parallel and separated between them by 1 mile used to be set.

Seasonality

All year long

Trip Duration

The duration of the fishing trips depended on the distance to the fishing grounds. Therefore, fishing trips carried out in the Northern zone were 7-8 days long, while those developed south of 33°N could last until 14 days.

Ports

La Guardia (mainly), Vigo and Santa Eugenia de Riveira in Galicia (NW Iberian Peninsula); and Algeciras in Andalucía (S Iberian Peninsula).

Fishery Indicators

Type	Measure	Value	Unit	Time period
Nominal Effort	Number of vessels	31	vessels	1996
Production	Catch total	2742	tonnes	1987-1996
	Catch <i>M. merluccius</i>	1732	tonnes	1987-1996
	Catch <i>M. senegalensis</i>	608	tonnes	1987-1996

Post Harvest

Fish Utilisation

Consumption

Markets

Mainly Algeciras (S Iberian Peninsula)

Management

Management unit : No

Jurisdictional framework

Management Body/Authority(ies): Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime. Département de la Pêche Maritime

Mandate: Monitoring; Management.

Area under national jurisdiction: Morocco

Maritime Area: Exclusive Economic Zone Areas (EEZ).

Management Body/Authority(ies): European Union

Mandate: Flag state responsibility for its fishing vessels operating in foreign area under national jurisdiction.

Area under national jurisdiction: Morocco

Maritime Area: Exclusive Economic Zone Areas (EEZ).

Legal definition

Long liners

Management Regime

Agreement on Cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco (OJ L 306, 19.12.1995, p. 7–43). Management measures of the Spanish gillnet fishery were included in the different Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco. This fishery was closed after the end of the Agreement of 1995-1999.

Management measures described below are those included in the latest Fishery Agreement in which the fishery was allowed (OJ L 306, 19.12.1995, p. 7–43) under the fishing category “Long liners”.

Management Methods

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE with focus to Effort control-Licences system

- *Aquatic species-related measures*
Crustaceans by-catches were not allowed
- *Gear-related measures*
Gear type (prohibition of driftnets, encircling nets and monofilament or multifilament nets, excepting multifilament nets made by several filaments of natural and/or synthetic origin, which were allowed); Gear dimensions (maximum length of 1000 m; minimal length between sheet nets of 200 m, if the net is parallel to coast, or 100 m, if the net is perpendicular to coast).
- *Vessel-related measures*
Access control: Vessel size and number-Maximum 9 270 GRT (140 vessels) for both longliners and gillnetters in 1999.
- *Fishing activity-related measures*
Licences (quarter licences of the fishery category “Longliners”), vessel number (140 vessels for both longliners and gillnetters in 1999), closed area (inside 12 miles) and closed season (two months: 15 March-15 May).

Related Fisheries - Fishing activity(ies) managed under the same management unit or being ruled by the same fishing agreement

Spain Bottom wet fish and freezer trawlers shrimp fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters
Spain Small scale purse seine anchovy fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters, North zone
Spain Coastal purse seine sardine fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters, South zones B and C
Spain Freezer bottom trawlers cephalopods fishery - Moroccan Atlantic coast waters, South

More information on fisheries legislation at: FAOLEX legislative database

Status and Trends

The fishery was closed at the end of the Fishery Agreement in 1999, with no renewal in the last Agreement of 2006.

Source of Information

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