



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament d'Acció Climàtica,
Alimentació i Agenda Rural**

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUE ECONOMY IN CATALONIA

**INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY AND THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE BLUE ECONOMY IN CATALONIA**

Towards a Sustainable Ocean Economy: What Role for Cities?

June 2024

INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY (IMP)



- The IMP of the European Union is the policy framework that aims to promote the sustainable development of all maritime activities and coastal regions by improving the coordination of policies affecting the seas through the development of cross-cutting tools.
- The IMP doctrine was established in 2007 and a standardized framework for its practical implementation has yet to be developed.



BLUE ECONOMY IN CATALONIA MAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS



Maritime tourism
Living marine resources
Fishing
Aquaculture
Renewable energies
Marine Biotechnology
Maritime transport
Port activities
Shipbuilding
CAM (Maritime Activity Centers)
Recreational sea fishing
Desalination



BLUE ECONOMY IN CATALONIA (DATA FROM NOVEMBER 2022)

- ✓ A turnover of 25,170.7 million euros (7.6% higher than the previous year). It represents 5.4% of the value of production in Catalonia for 2019.
- ✓ A gross value added (GVA) of 7,304.9 million euros (2.6% higher than the previous year). This represents 3.2% of the GVA in Catalonia for 2019.
- ✓ Direct employment of 209,278 workers (2.4% higher than the previous year). Represents 5.5% of the total number of people employed in Catalonia in 2019.

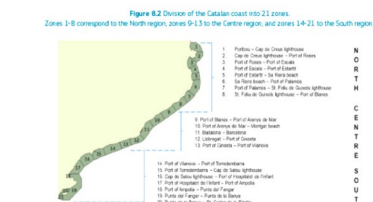


Figure 8.2 Division of the Catalan coast into 21 zones.
Zones 1-8 correspond to the North region, zones 9-13 to the Centre region, and zones 14-21 to the South region.

8.4. RECREATIONAL MARITIME FISHING IN CATALONIA^{62B}
Introductory^{62C}

Recreational fishing is defined as a non-commercial activity exploiting marine living resources for recreation, tourism or sport^{62D}. In other words, it is a non-professional activity practiced for sport and leisure with no commercial purpose. This activity includes three main modalities: shore fishing, boat fishing and spearfishing. The popularity of this practice in coastal populations all year round in Catalonia reflects its social and cultural relevance. There has been a significant increase in the practice in recent decades mostly due to a rise in citizen interest in spending outdoor activities, but also likely due to the expansion of tourism.

Professional and recreational maritime fishing often impact the same fishing resources. However, their combined effect on natural resources is yet unknown. This fact has now drawn the attention of decision makers and the scientific community, convinced that management should incorporate knowledge about the impact of recreational maritime fishing.

The Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, through the Catalan Research Institute for the Governance of the Sea (ICATMARI), developed, in the framework of the 2030 Maritime

BOX 6.2 Marine litter in Catalonia

Marine litter, the remains of all kinds of objects and materials dumped at sea, are currently one of the main causes of pollution, creating serious environmental and economic problems around the world.

The Mediterranean Sea, is especially vulnerable to the effects of marine litter^{62E} and is currently considered one of the most polluted seas on the planet^{62F}. Collection and disposal of marine litter is very difficult because of the drift and the immensity of the two-dimensional space through which objects and particles move. In addition, there are no efficient methods to clean the seabed. Thus, there is a need to take advantage of existing resources, such as fisheries, to help eliminate accidentally caught litter while disseminating both their work and the need to preserve the oceans^{62G}.

Monitoring marine litter

The Catalan Research Institute for the Governance of the Sea (ICATMARI) was created as a result of the collaboration between the Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Government of Catalonia and the Institute of Marine Sciences (IM-CSIC) as an autonomous organization. It responds to the need of generating scientific advice for management purposes in the Blue Economy field. Through the ICATMARI, the IM-CSIC has developed a monitoring program with the trawling fleet to characterize the catch, including marine litter, in the framework of the 2030 Maritime Strategy of Catalonia. Data collection began in 2018 and will continue to offer the data needed to sustain fisheries and improve management plans. However, the data collected and analyzed below covers 2020-2021 for an overview of the debris fished in the Catalan coast and help develop best management practices.

Results on a global scale

Most of the fished marine litter corresponded (in weight) to drinker, which represented 36% of the total litter (Figure 6.10) and a density greater than 33 kg per km². Drinker can be considered as a tracer of trading routes from recent centuries and the high tradition of this activity in the Mediterranean translates in frequent findings of drinker on the seabed. The next most abundant category by weight was processed wood, which would mainly correspond to boxes or remains of ships and parts, being of 25% of the marine litter which corresponded to a density of 23.6 kg per km². The third category most abundant category was glass (19% and 1.77 kg per km²) and then, plastic (9% and 0.8 kg per km²).

Marine litter is present in the Catalan seafloor being drinker, processed wood, glass and plastic the categories with the highest densities. However, synthetic marine macro-litter is not evenly distributed with variability according to area, depth and season. In detail, when analyzing the data by zones, marine litter ranges between 31% and 55% but plastics are most abundant in the central area. At depth, the shelf contains most of the marine debris accumulating up to 50% of the total being plastic and processed wood the main components of the catch. Seasonally, most marine litter was caught in autumn, being 41% of the catch.

Within the plastic category, the results showed that wet wipes are the major component of the plastic fraction, accounting up to 57% of the plastic. The distribution of wet wipes, however, was more than 10 times higher in the central area (8.1 kg per km²) representing 20.3% of the plastic fraction, coinciding with the most urbanized coast of Catalonia.

The study of the macro-benthic marine litter of fishing grounds on the Catalan coast reveals the amount of waste that exists on its seabed, which vast majority is originated from land. Thus, it is recommended to take advantage of fisheries to study and extract accidentally fished marine litter and improve waste management actions on land, especially in the central area of Catalonia.

BLUE ECONOMY IN CATALONIA

The big challenge → SUSTAINABILITY

The Integrated Maritime Policy (2007) is a new area of public policy and aims to ensure that the new blue economy is not "*business as usual*"



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING

MARITIME AGENDA OF CATALONIA



- Strategic definition
- Planning
- Governance
- Innovation and transfer
- Scientific advice

MARITIME AGENDA OF CATALONIA

Instruments to promote the Integrated Maritime Policy of Catalonia



MARITIME STRATEGY OF CATALONIA 2030

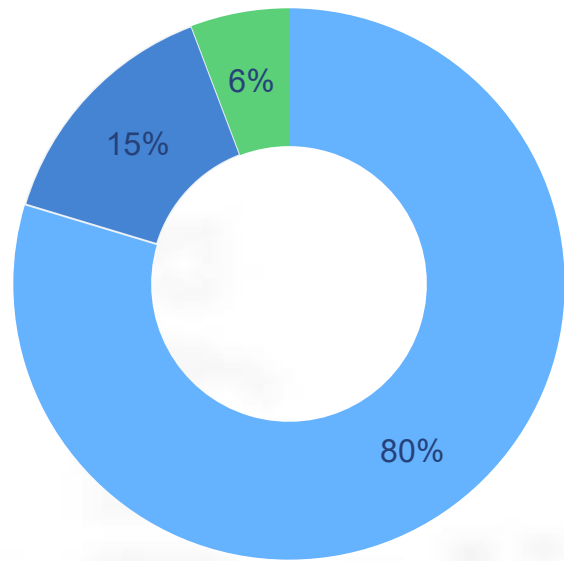


Approved as Government Strategy in 2018 together with its first Plan 2018-2021



VISION
2030

Catalonia fully develops the blue economy potential of its maritime space, thus guaranteeing social and territorial balance, based on resilient, biodiverse and fully functional ecosystems that generate top quality services for society.

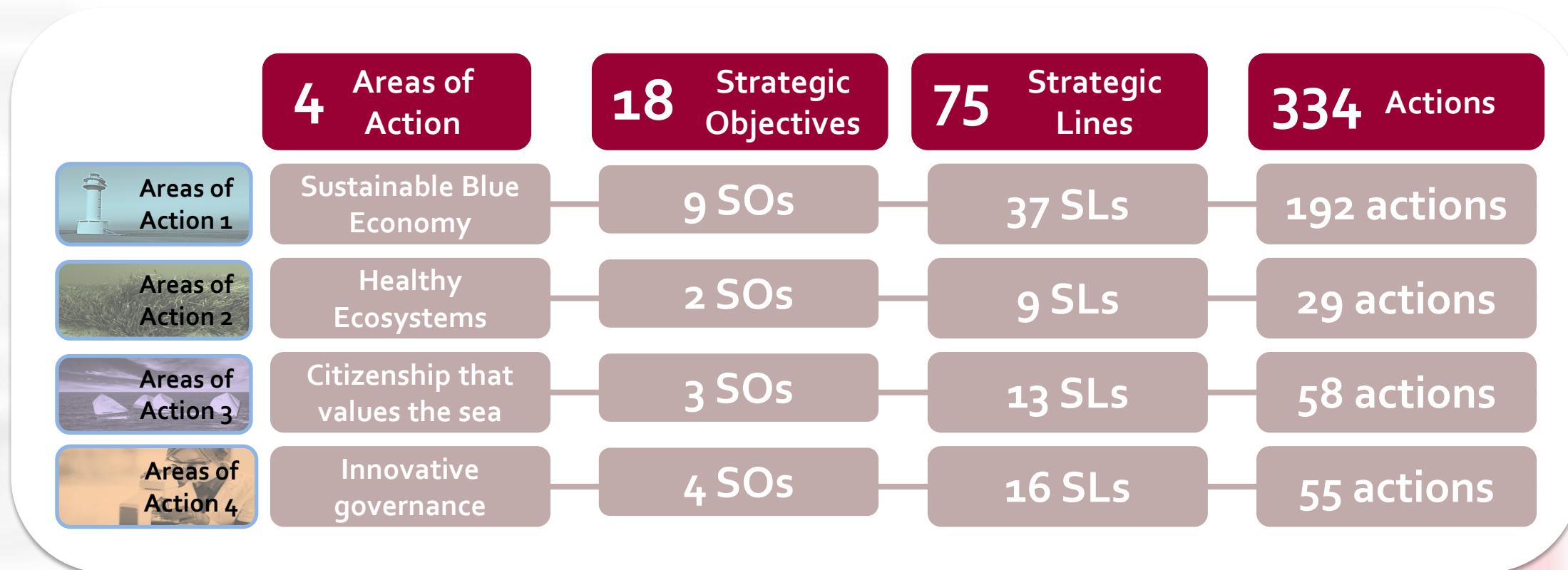


- Acció finalitzada
- Acció iniciada
- Acció programada no iniciada





Structure: 4 areas of action with specific lines and actions for each area



MARITIME STRATEGY OF CATALONIA 2030 NEW DEVELOPMENTS PLAN 2023-2026



Estratègia marítima
de Catalunya 2030

Area of action 1. SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

- Developing a roadmap for natural capital assessment in Catalonia
- New cross-cutting SO to boost energy transition
- Innovative maritime tourism
- **Action Plan for generational change in fisheries**
- Commitment to restorative aquaculture (GFCM-FAO)
- Optimizing the management of **recreational maritime fishing**
- Boosting **recreational maritime activities**
- **Boat building and repair** committed to circular economy and sustainability
- Consolidating the sector of different marine **renewable energy sources**
- Exploring the **biotechnological properties** of species produced in Catalonia

Area of action 2. HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

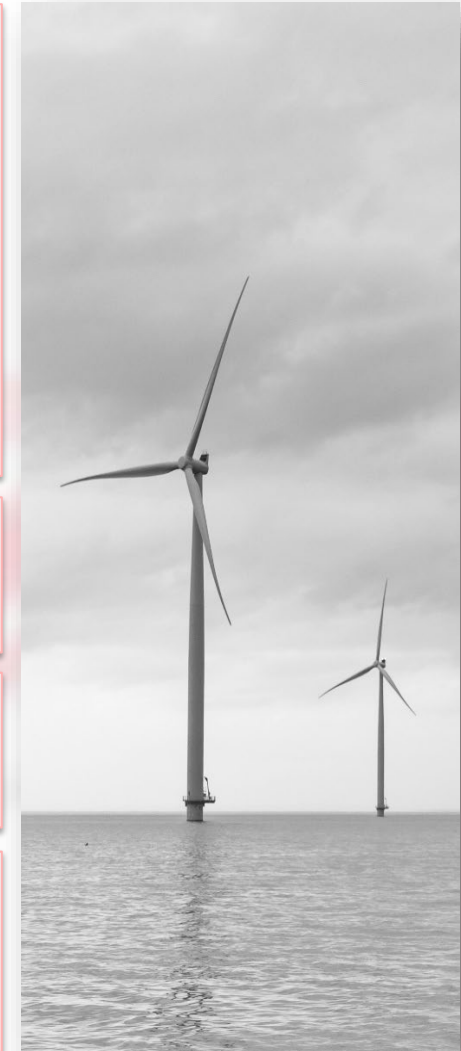
- Execution of a cartography of marine habitats
- Evaluation of the **impact of the blue sectors** on the environment and proposal for improvement

Area of action 3. CITIZENSHIP THAT VALUES THE SEA

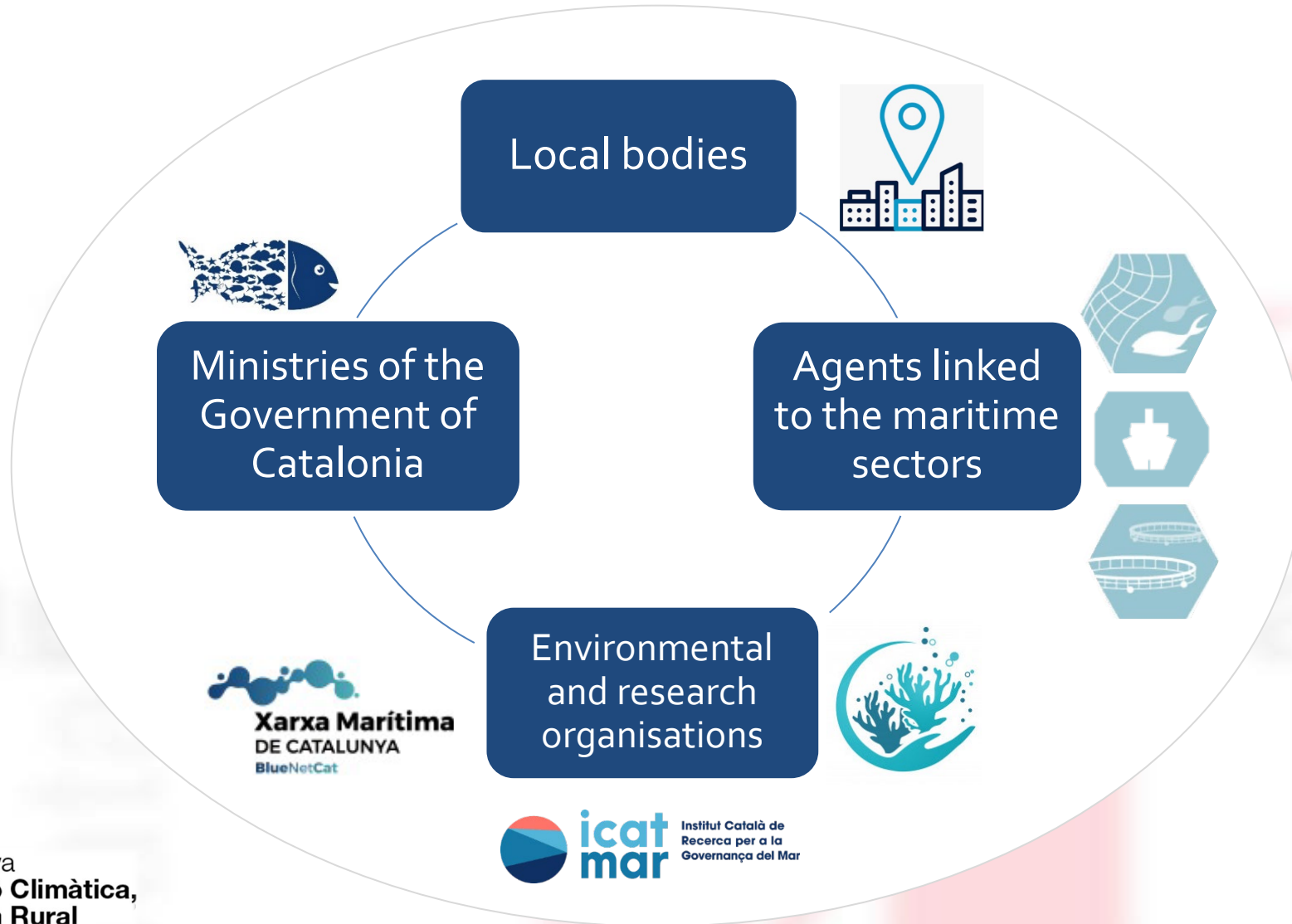
- Health benefits of having a close relationship with the sea (**blue health**)
- Strengthen the business network of the territory with social **economy actions**
- Consolidate the Catalan Association of **Women of the Sea** set up during the first Plan

Area of action 4. INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE

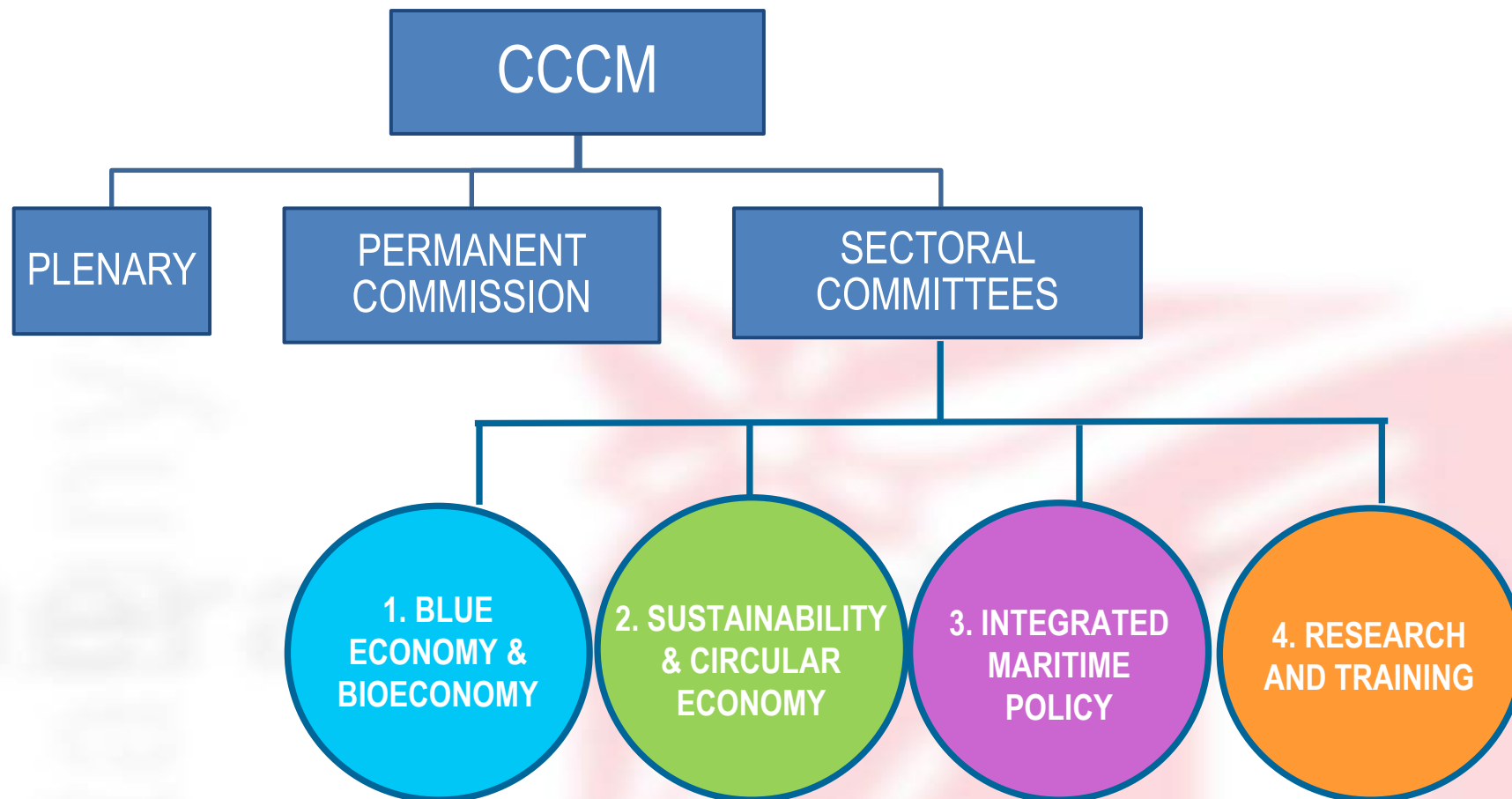
- Consolidating co-management as a model of maritime governance
- Consolidating **scientific advice of excellence** for management
- Consolidating the **FLAG network** as a key tool for implementing the MSC
- Develop the **Law of the Sea of Catalonia**



CATALAN MARITIME CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CCCM)



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GOVERNANCE: MARITIME & FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT BODIES



Baix Empordà coastal maritime co-management round table

- Great diversity of actors (76) and uses
- Two years of preparatory work
- First action plan 2020-2021

Generalitat de Catalunya
gencat.cat

Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació

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> Taula de Cogestió Marítima del Litoral del Baix Empordà

Taula de Cogestió Marítima del Litoral del Baix Empordà

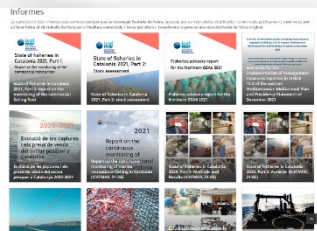
L'experiència en cogestió d'activitats pesqueres professionals adquirida per la Direcció General de Pesca i Afers Marítims des de l'any 2012 amb el **Comitè de Cogestió del Pla de Gestió de la Sonsera**, han permès l'aprovació del Decret 118/2018, de 19 de juny, sobre el model de governança de la pesca professional a Catalunya. Aquesta norma estableix el nou model de gestió de l'activitat pesquera professional de Catalunya, un model pioner a nivell internacional. Així mateix, l'experiència en nous models de governança d'activats també ha servit de base per la creació del Consell Català de Cogestió Marítima l'any 2017.

Aquest nou model en la governança de les activitats professionals en l'àmbit marítim de Catalunya a través de la implantació de sistemes de gestió "*Bottom up*" participats pels principals actors implicats, la comunitat científica, la societat civil i l'administració, suposa un gran pas endavant en la participació i corresponsabilització dels actors en els processos de presa de decisions.

Aprofitant l'experiència adquirida durant els darrers anys en l'àmbit pesquer professional i amb l'objectiu de donar

Document de síntesi
Taula de Cogestió Marítima del Litoral del Baix Empordà [PDF]

Espai de participació virtual
Taula de Cogestió Marítima del Litoral del Baix Empordà

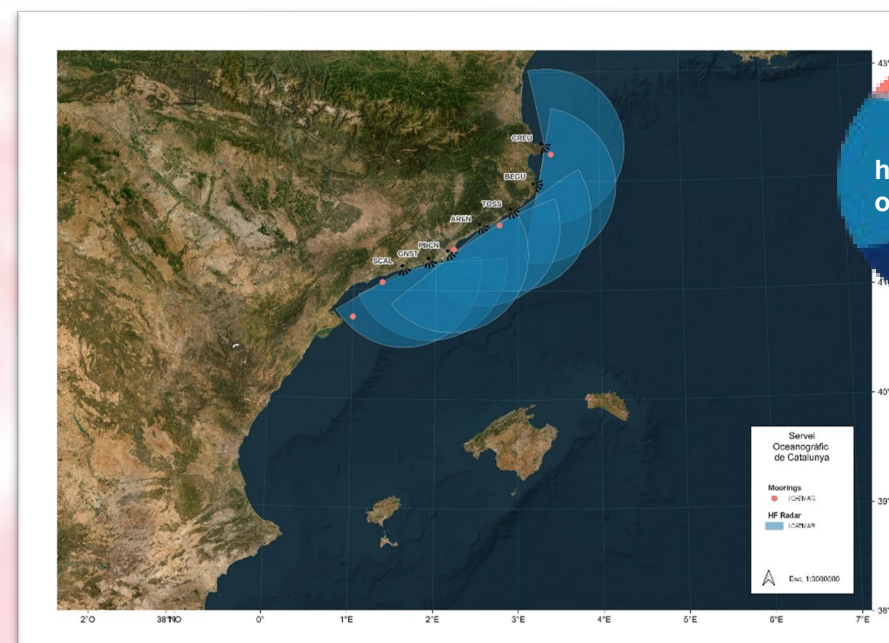


Integrated assessment for the sustainable management of the Blue Economy (data collection, scientific projects, monitoring studies)

Fishery Advisory Service(SAP)



Operational Oceanography Service (SOCAT)



<https://icatmar.cat/observacions/>

BlueNetCat – CATALONIA'S MARITIME R+D+I NETWORK



Creating an **interdisciplinary ecosystem of transfer and innovation**, a bridge with the quadruple helix, to **improve the competitiveness of the Blue Economy innovation sector in Catalonia**

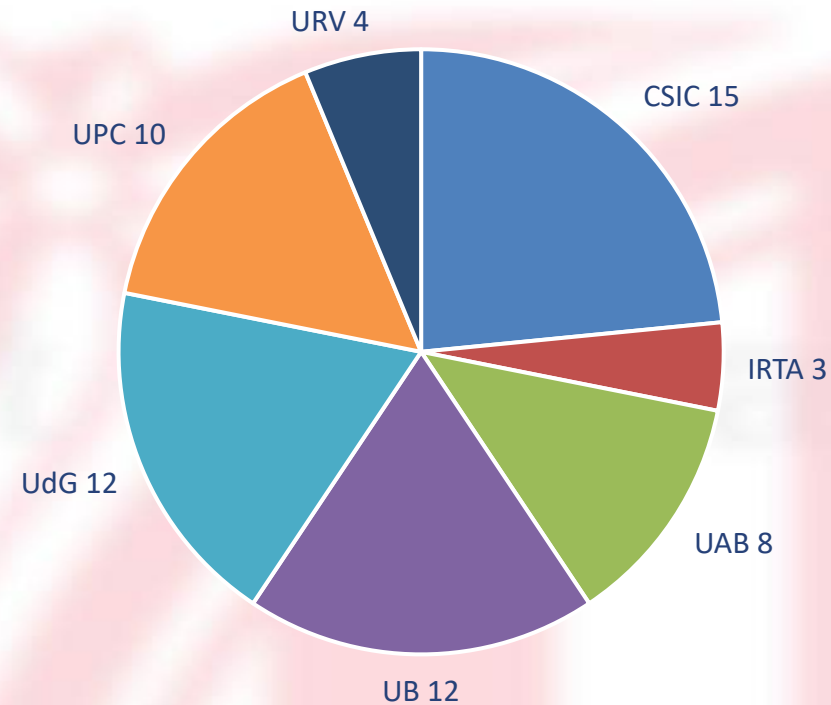
COMPOSITION

71 research groups

7 institutions

800 members

RESEARCH GROUPS





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<https://ruralcat.gencat.cat/web/guest/oficina-del-mar>