

## **Socioeconomic and Biology study of Artisanal Fishers in the West Part of Moroccan Mediterranean**

### **Abstract:**

Artisanal fisheries in Moroccan Mediterranean generally lack management and planning, thus development. Recently, some of these fisheries had received an attention in the field of infrastructure, however, there is a lack of data on the situation of these fisheries. The main objective of this work is an update of the state of knowledge of biology, fishery, socioeconomic of the artisanal fishers, by means of a case study in Belyounech, Fnideq, Martil and KaaAsras areas, through a diagnosis based on analysis of species inventory and fishery techniques, and socioeconomic indicators derived from data obtained through a structured questionnaire. This study is carried out through surveys between April 2014 and June 2014. The data analyses revealed that the artisanal fishing sector in the selected sites could be characterized by different components. Therefore, we can note the following characteristics: Presence about 308 active boats; and create direct job offer to almost 1110 fisherman young fishermen from almost all regions close to the sites. The target population is mostly rural. It consists mainly of fishermen using boats, and their tonnage is less than 2 GRT. They have good experience in the fishing activities; Unfortunately, there was a high illiteracy rate and a low level of education among fishers, in addition, maritime training remains low. The study demonstrated also that there are twelve techniques, are used in all sites. They are divided into three major groups: traps, nets and hooks, in addition to dragging. Generally, sites, the fishermen used 12 techniques, with 2 to 3 methods per boat they are generally practiced throughout the year. Other techniques are used periodically in particular sites. The estimated fishing effort (April - June) about 4310 sorties, and the catch estimated total is in the order of 231,701 tons. The species most captured by fishermen are: clupeidae (Sardine), cephalopods (octopus) and sparidae (besugue, bug, sea bream, dorado). The community of fishermen had lack of awareness about the issues related to the sustainability of resources. Despite the diversity of species and their a high commercial value, Income Net Profit is somewhat not satisfactory, thus, the wealth produced by these fisheries have no real impact on the quality of the fisher's lives, hence, do not ensure sustainable development of this activity

Keywords: socio-economic, fishing, Mediterranean, Boats, Fishing boats