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PhD project: Adaptation of Small-Scale Fisheries to Climate Change

Supervisors: Dra. Elena Ojea (CIM - Universidade de Vigo – Future Oceans Lab)

Summary: (17)

There is broad evidence that climate change is having impacts on marine ecosystems around the world. Despite this evidence, little is known about the consequences of the impacts for the human communities that depend on these coastal systems. In order to better understand climate change adaptation in marine social-ecological systems (SESs), this research (1) identify adaptive strategies and actions that help SSF overcome current and future climatic crises; and (2) avoid potential maladaptation outcomes. Specifically, this thesis focuses on conceptualizing adaptation, identifying gaps in the existing scientific knowledge and demonstrating recent theories about adaptive capacity and using a participatory, bottom-up and network approach.

First, this work contributes to the design of a fisheries SES adaptation framework with a resilience perspective. Second, this dissertation analyses the SES components of SSF in SES, vulnerability and adaptation actions research. And third, this investigation identifies empirically the general adaptation pathway that fishers follow and the role of adaptive capacity in triggering responses to climate change impacts, exploring the early transformative individual behaviour in SSF.

From this comprehensive research, six relevant lines for further discussion are extracted and a policy and practice-oriented recommendations for the real world fisheries and fishing sector are provided.

