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Orientation: Ocean Observation and Global Change
Specialization Area: Ocean Observation
Research Area: 1.1 Physical Oceanography

PhD project: **Adaptation responses of marine social-ecological systems linked to hotspots of rapid biodiversity change**

Supervisors: Dr. Elena Ojea (Universidade de Vigo)
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Summary: Climate change-driven ocean warming is currently the greatest driver of change in global biodiversity, causing changes in species abundance and distribution. A primary effect of ocean warming is a shift in the species abundance and distribution ranges of fish assemblages and associated trophic webs jeopardizing coastal people's livelihoods and food security. Fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries, are often chosen to represent the close interaction between humans and the ocean and have been described as particularly vulnerable to climate-induced global environmental changes. Current climate impacts are already challenging small-scale fishing communities' ability to adapt, however, studies investigating fishers' implemented adaptation actions are still scarce. Therefore, my Ph.D. thesis aims to understand how small-scale fisheries are being affected by climate change, how they are responding, to understand what environmental and social factors drive fishers' adaptations by using a multi-disciplinary approach. Lessons learned from hotspots of climate change are needed to be able to transfer solutions to other regions that are being impacted at a slower pace.