



**International Workshop**  
**«Fostering Ocean Innovations»**  
**Naples, September 4, 2023**

# Fragility of commercial fishing in the next maritime spatial use scenario

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# The origin of the fishing «paradigma tardoglaciale»



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In the Mediterranean, fishing was man's first productive activity, contributing to his neolithicization process by enabling the stabilization of prehistoric man in coastal caves through the capture of supalittoral marine organisms. Later, first with hooks and spears made of bone and stone, then iron and bronze, they moved on to real fishing



**Genovese cave (3000 a.c.)**

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**The evolution of the fishing over time**

**Already 4000 years BC a fishery capable of catching large fish had developed as shown by the apotropaic paintings of the Genovese cave in Levanzo which show a silhouette of a big tuna.**



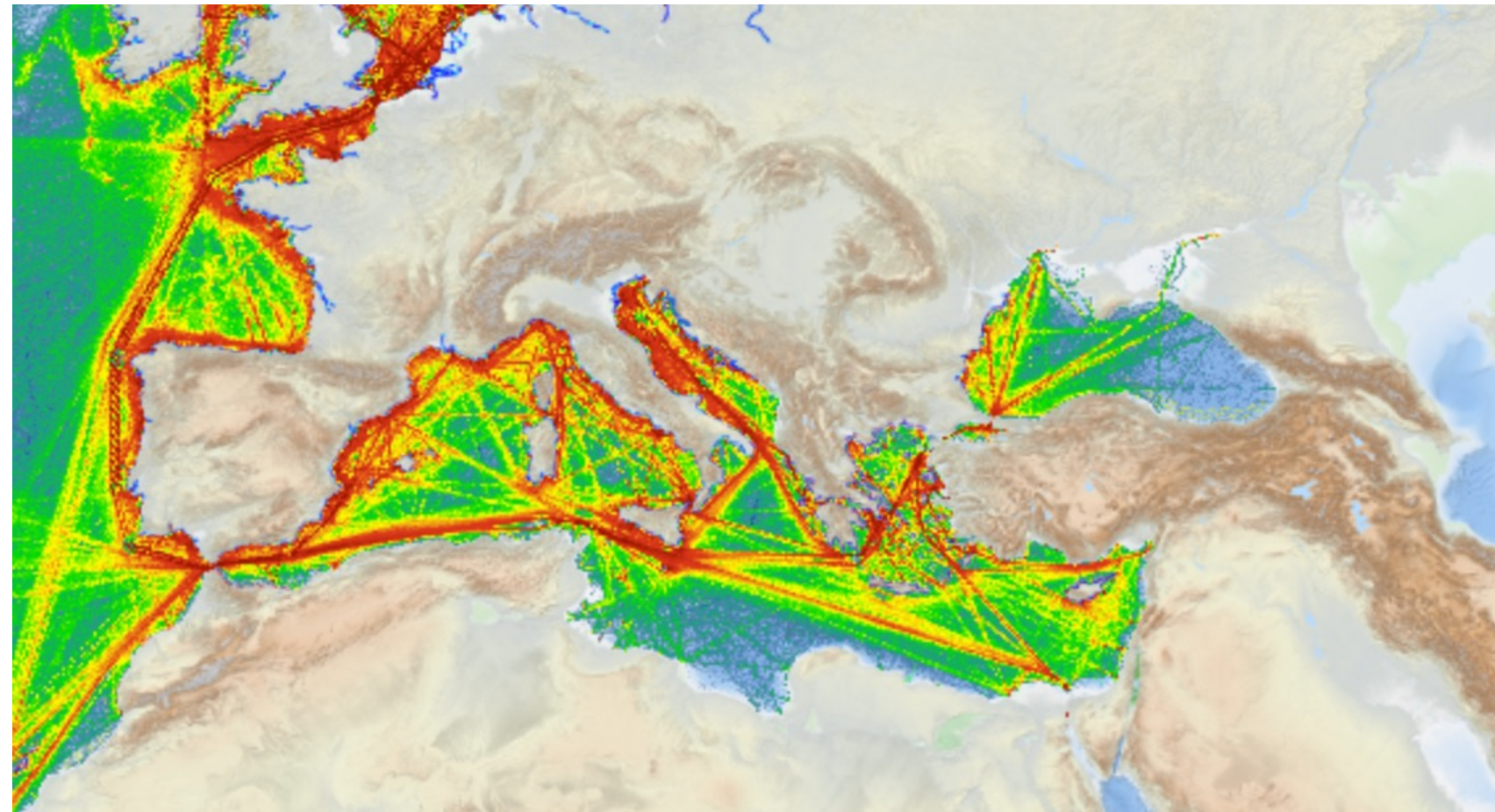
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## The evolution of the fishing over time

the mosaics of Piazza Armerina in Sicily and of the museum of the Bardo in Tunis show how already in the IV AD fishermen were fished with gears comparable to those of the late nineteenth century and more species than those present in today's fish markets were caught

# the use of the sea in antiquity

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**the maritime space, in addition to fishermen, was occupied only by navigation for commercial or military purposes, however it was a question of modest traffic compared to the current ones which see 30% of world oil traffic converge in the Mediterranean.**



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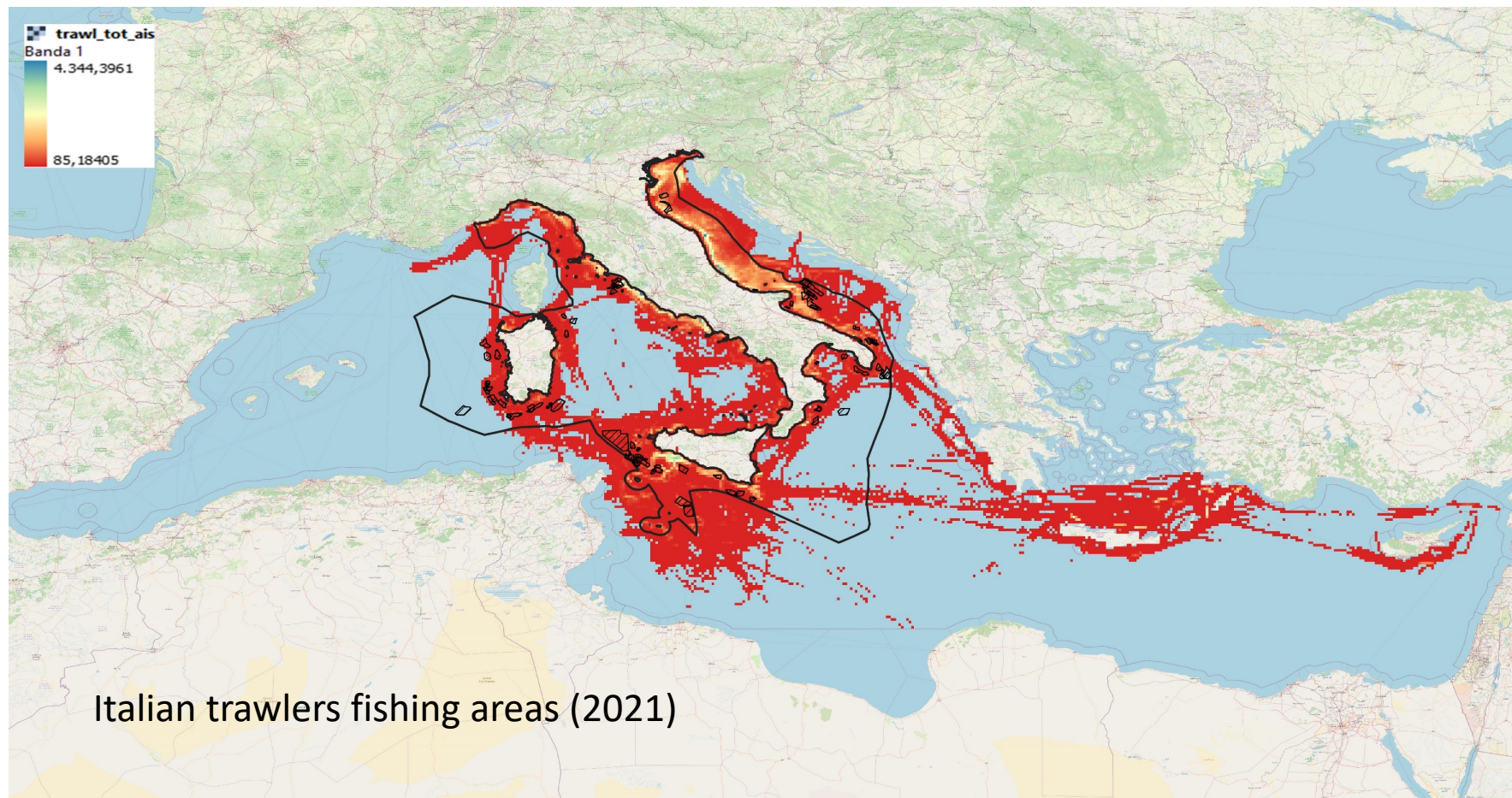
## The development of industrial fishing

In the xx century the motorization of fishing vessels and the use of electronic devices developed an industrial fishery that competed with artisanal fishing.

Fishing is blamed for overfishing 80% of Mediterranean fish stocks even though it actually shares responsibility with other forms of anthropogenic pressure and climate change.

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The industrial fleet has expanded throughout the Mediterranean, in all areas where it is possible to fish with different fishing gears



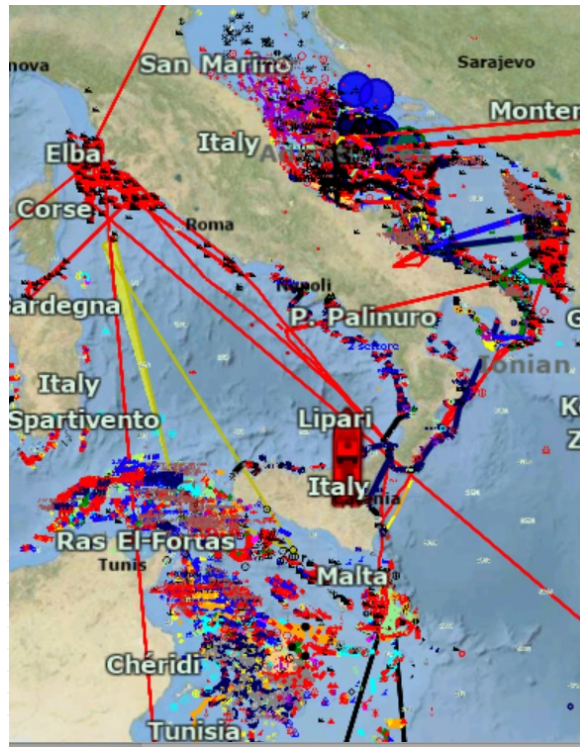
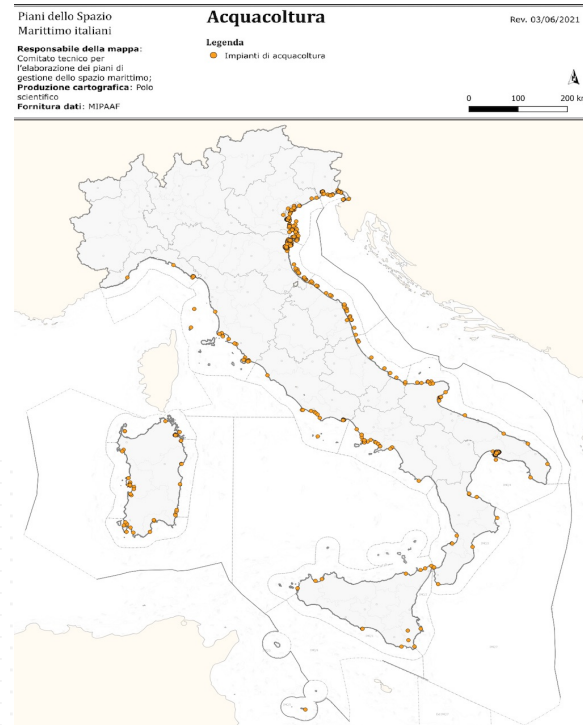
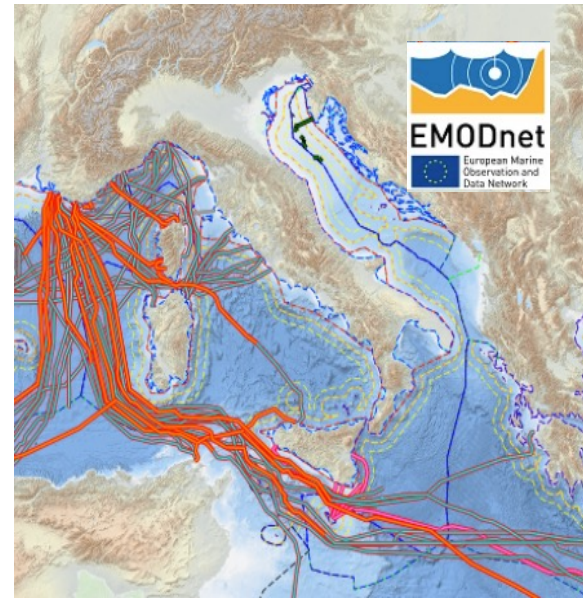
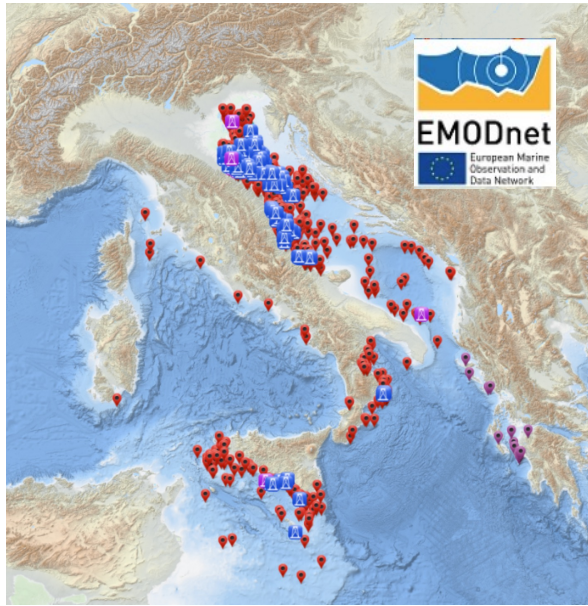
# THE OCEAN GRABBING

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In recent years, however, maritime space has become increasingly valuable for a multitude of uses and a real race to hoard it has begun. Bennett (2015) refer to “ocean grabbing”. This phenomenon is defined as the involuntary transfer of property rights from local inhabitants to outside interests. It is easy to imagine that all these processes give rise to conflict, and that social struggle often evolves, certainly if fishing populations have limited options to move into other, alternative occupations.





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The main uses of maritime space are oil and gas platforms, mining, shipping, ports, marinas, recreational boating submarine cabling; mariculture, tourism

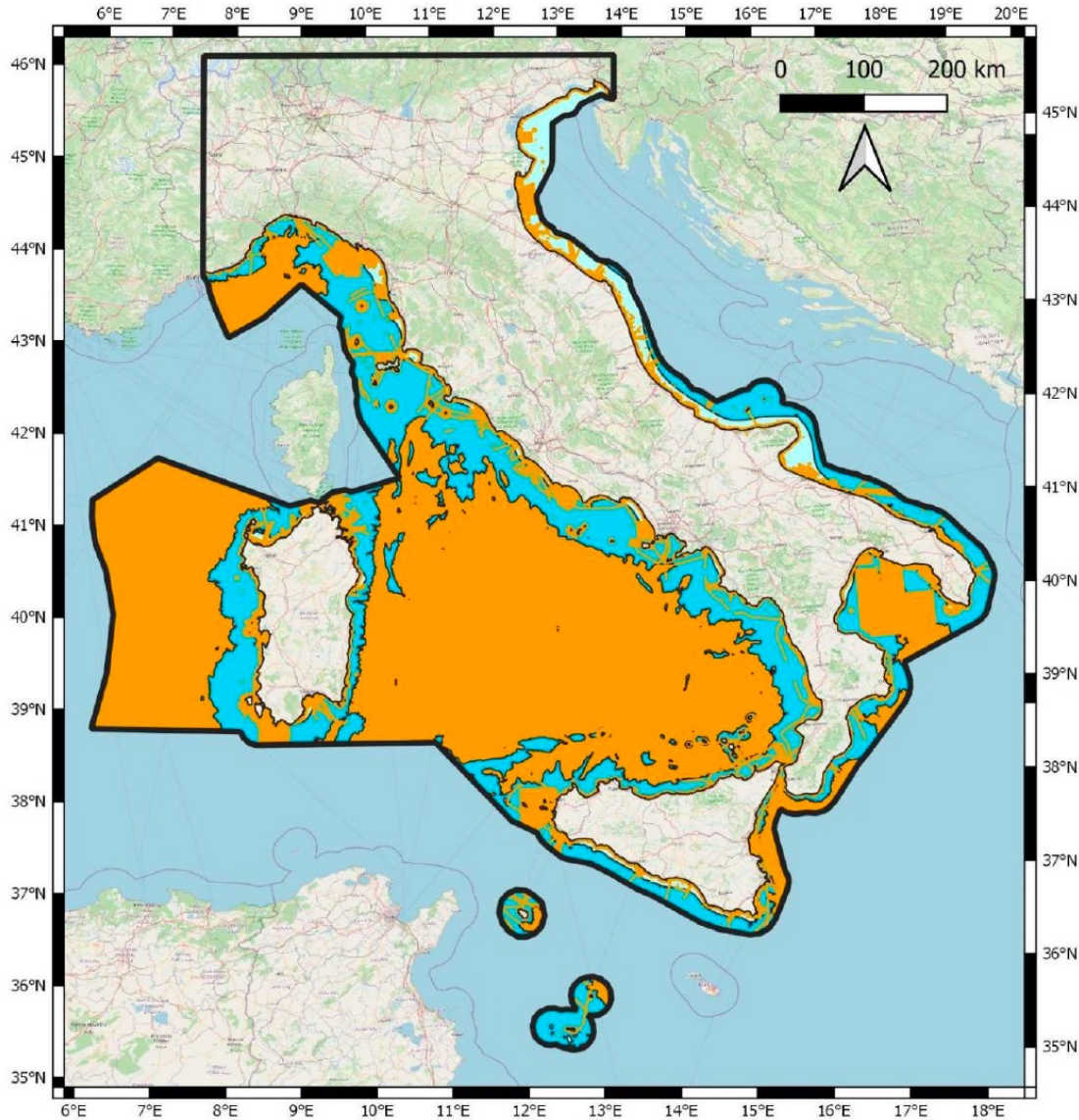


Fig. 80. Tutte le interdizioni, incluse le servitù militari che non prevedono divieti permanenti, in arancio come le aree con profondità superiore a 1000 m, anch'esse comunque interdette. Nel complesso è interdetto il 67.8% dei mari italiani.

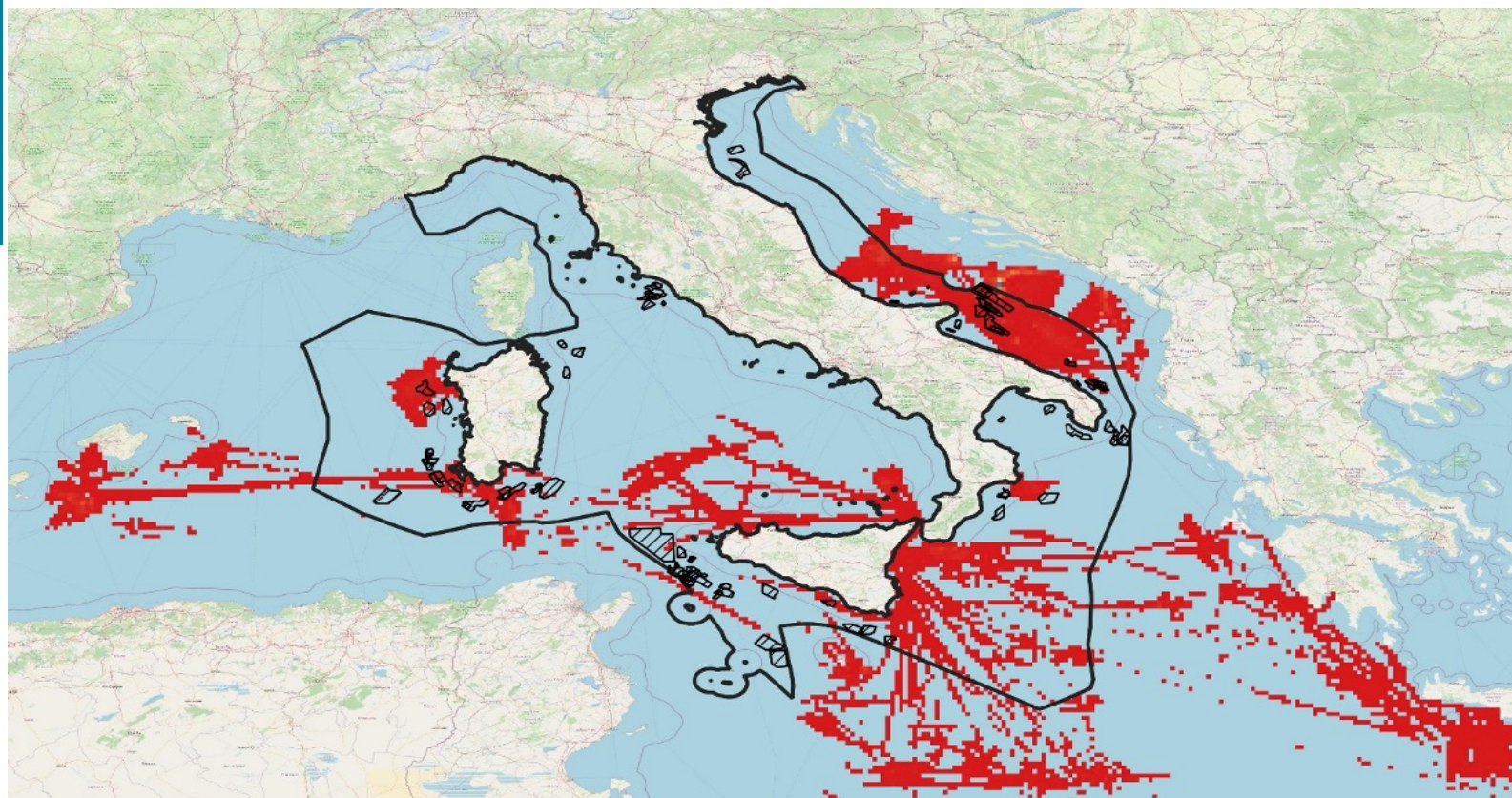
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### Other limits to fishing

But there are not only limits resulting from competitors but also those resulting from differently managed areas such as MPAs, Marine Parks, sanctuaries, Biological Protection Zones, areas of military easements, essential fish habitat zones, protected habitats, Natura 2000 areas, as well as depth limits for fishing. A study by agci agrital shows that only 32.2 percent of the Italian seas are trawlable. there are also military servitudes, polluted sites of national interest and local guard coast restriction.

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## OWF and Continental shelf (EEZ?)



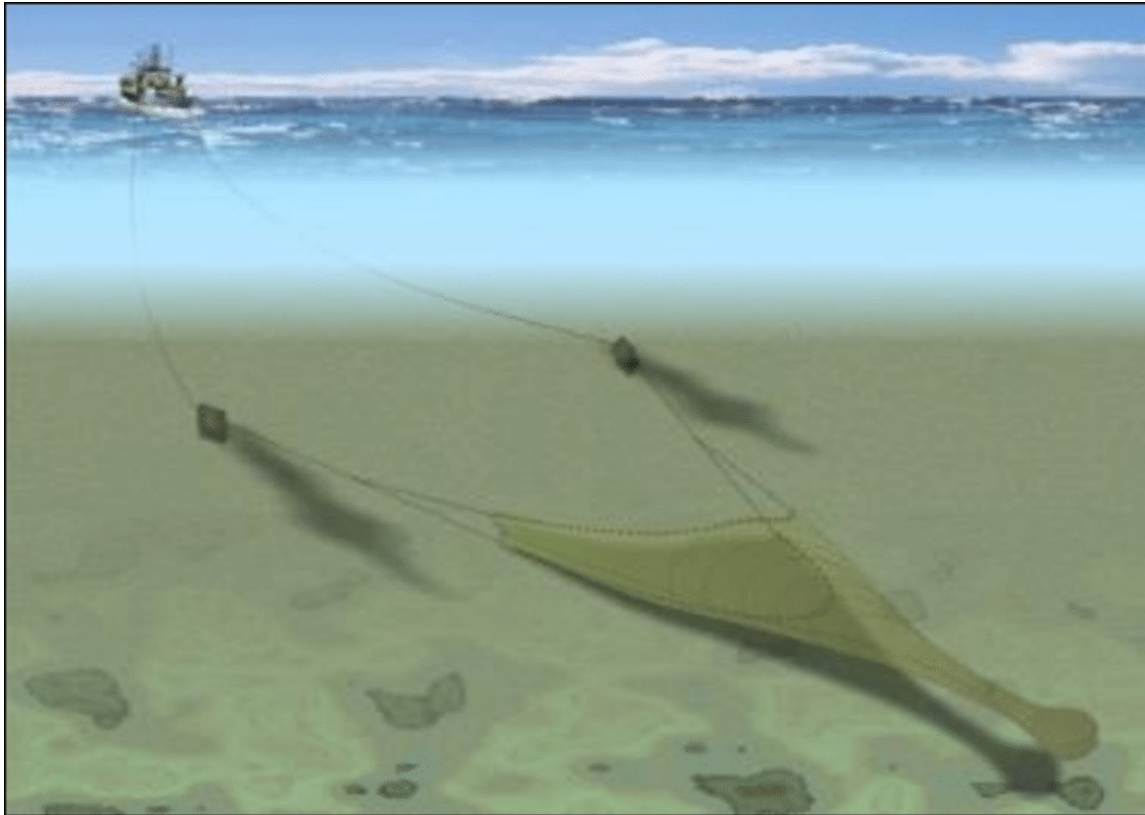
## Other new limits

A growing new competition over maritime space is due to the implementation of OWFs.

The entry into force of the EEZ could also further restrict Italian fisheries especially against non-EU countries. While waiting for international negotiations to be concluded, we use the boundaries of the continental shelf in the map

# Trawl Fishing banning

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However, fishing is considered the main cause of destruction of the marine life therefore the banning of fishing trawling gears is at the center of sea policies such as "EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries" and the Italian "national sea plan» often ignoring all the other threats brought to the sea by illegal fishing, climate changing, alien species invasion and anthropization

# Results of fish vessel decommission

## EVOLUZIONE DELLA FLOTTA PESCHERECCIA ITALIANA

DATA RILEVAZIONE	NUMERO M/P	TSL	GT	KW
31/12/1995	19.374	241.130,70	-	1.915.003,00
31/12/2000	17.420	209.930,90	-	1.672.268,40
31/12/2005	14.392	179.868,50	214.090	1.418.019,20
31/12/2010	13.545	158.418,50	187.520	1.224.694,30
12/05/2018	12.334	131.924,90	154.864	977.426,90

Tabella 2.1: Andamento nazionale degli stock in stato di sovrasfruttamento

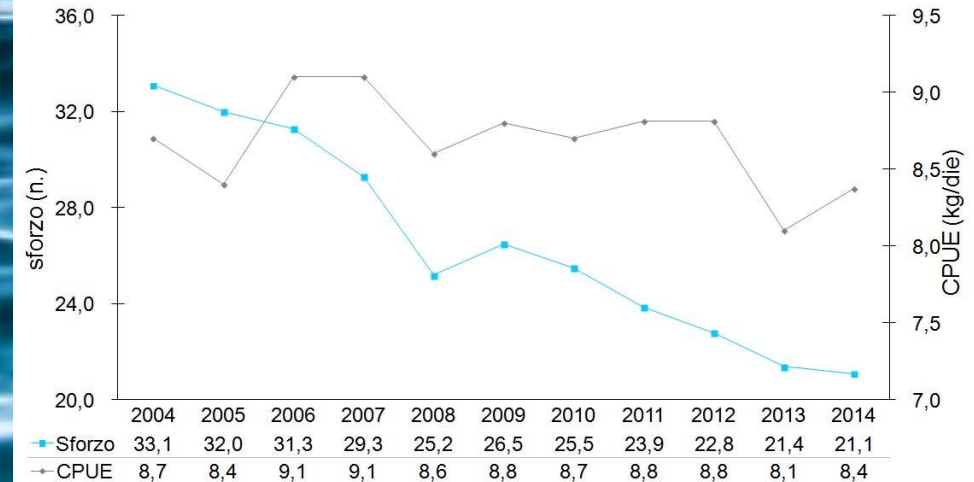
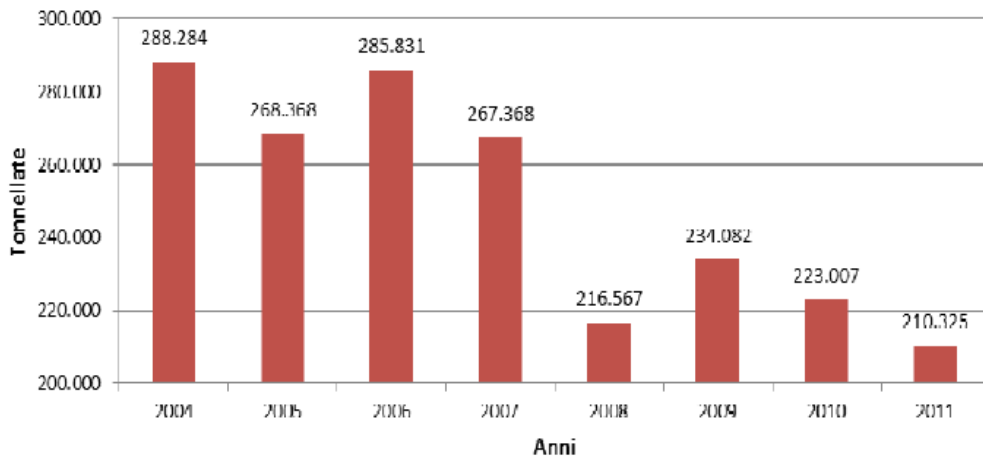
Anno	Stock valutati		Sbarcato nazionale corrispondente agli stock valutati		Stock in sovrasfruttamento	
	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%
2007	9	21,4	7	77,8		
2008	12	19,9	10	83,3		
2009	20	14,7	18	90,0		
2010	23	13,1	21	91,3		
2011	34	27,4	32	94,1		
2012	14	6,5	13	92,9		
2013	20	34,5	19	95		

Fonte: Elaborazione ISPRA su dati di stock assessment validati a livello internazionale dallo STECF e dalla GFCM

**Nota:**

In caso di stock valutati per più GSA, gli stock vengono considerati come singoli stock

Andamento delle catture totali della flotta italiana negli anni 2004-2011 (Fonte MiPAAF-Irepa)



# But small-scale fisheries are more fragile and in danger of disappearing

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Artisanal fishing appears more fragile than industrial fishing because the coastal area is the most anthropized so there is greater competition for space even with non-commercial stakeholders such as marine tourism, scuba diving, water sports, recreational boating, recreational fishing, and poaching. In addition, both urban and industrial anthropogenic pollution severely burdens the state of coastal resources

# Marine space management: From the ICZM to the MSP



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The first dictations of the ICZM date back to the 1980, but despite international recommendations, the ICZM has never moved out of scientific reflection and into policy deliberations. Now the MSP on will represent only a management tool but becomes the key table where the rights of the parties can be asserted from the perspective of ocean equity principles

L 148/24 IT Gazzetta ufficiale delle Comunità europee 6.6.2002

II

(Atti per i quali la pubblicazione non è una condizione di applicabilità)

CONSIGLIO

RACCOMANDAZIONE DEL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO E DEL CONSIGLIO  
del 30 maggio 2002  
relativa all'attuazione della gestione integrata delle zone costiere in Europa

28.8.2014 IT Gazzetta ufficiale dell'Unione europea L 257/135

DIRETTIVE

DIRETTIVA 2014/89/UE DEL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO E DEL CONSIGLIO  
del 23 luglio 2014  
che istituisce un quadro per la pianificazione dello spazio marittimo



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# Towards Ocean Equity

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«Access to ocean resources and sectors is rarely equitably distributed. Many of their benefits are accumulated by a few, while most harms from development are borne by the most vulnerable. Inequity is a systemic feature of the current ocean economy. It is embedded in existing political and economic systems, the result of historical legacies and prevailing norms. This has brought global environmental challenges and negative effects on human well-being»



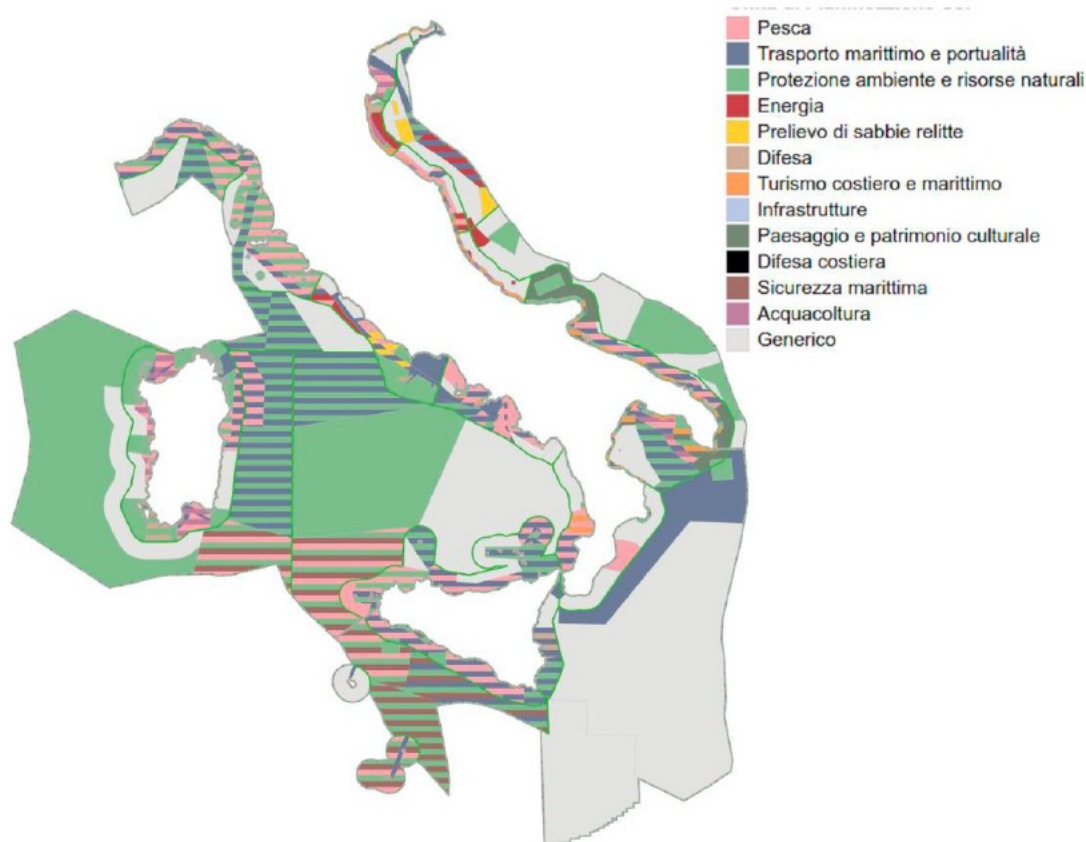


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IL TRASPORTO MARITTIMO E PER VIE D'ACQUA INTERNE

# The Italian MSP



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-the Italian MSP, notwithstanding the large delate, is not yet in force, but it has been a long and laborious work that has required a huge effort to collect all available data on the sea considering that Italy has the largest coastal development in the Mediterranean

- the MSP will represent a starting point and not an arrival point and will be the only and last chance to oppose to the ocean grabbing that once again crushes fragile communities.

Figura 3 esempio di mappa delle Unità di Pianificazione con l'indicazione degli usi prioritari, limitati e riservati.

## CONCLUSION

**With the economic value of coastal space going up, the incentive to remove fishing populations too increases everywhere in the world.**

**FAO (2012) thus notes that »Inadequate and insecure tenure rights increase vulnerability, hunger and poverty, and can lead to conflict and fight environmental degradation when competing users fight for control of these resources»**

**The MSP process is the last opportunity to the fishermen to preserve their activity and their enormous cultural heritage that is an irreplaceable value for humanity.**



**If this does not happen, as the world literature shows us, the risk will be social struggle.**

**This will be avoidable only if fishers can sit with equal dignity with other activities at the negotiating tables to assert their needs something this has so far been lacking in all countries of the world**