



OBSERVATIONS TO GEOMAR-OCEANA
REPORTE ON THE STATE OF FISHING
STOCKS WORLDWIDE

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1. ABSTRACT

In relation with GEOMAR-OCEANA document, presented in November 2016 and coordinated by Professor Rainer Froese, the CACT-ARVI, through its members, the scientists Mr. Enrique de Cárdenas and Mr. Álvaro Fernández, has produced an exhaustive report, of which the following observations are highlighted:

- 1) The GEOMAR-OCEANA report is a laborious and exhaustive work of collecting the information available worldwide, and very useful to see the desirable way for the recovery of the different species biomass in the absence of detailed information.
- 2) However, for the NE Atlantic fisheries included in the report, with detailed information from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the model used is too far from reality.
- 3) In the case of multispecies and multi-gears fisheries, the authors, even acknowledging that because of the trophic interaction it is not possible to achieve the Maximum Sustainable Yield simultaneously for all stocks, then they ignore it, inasmuch as they simply compare the sum of the recent catches of the selected stocks for each Region and they do it based on the sum of the MSY estimated for each stock independently.
- 4) Therefore, this comparison is made without taking into account whether these stocks are overexploited, in which case the fishing pressure would have to be reduced or, on the contrary, under-exploited, in which case the activity would have to be increased.
- 5) In the case of the of Iberian waters stocks in the NE Atlantic, it can be said, based on the ICES results, that the situation of the species defining trends in the demersal fishery in Atlantic waters of the Iberian Peninsula is absolutely not dramatic as reported by OCEANA.
- 6) The applied method offers a distorted image of the trend and of the situation in Iberian fisheries, since the same weight is given to stocks situation where reliable information is available and to those stocks which are completely unknown
- 7) The comparative analysis that has been carried out for the stocks in the Atlantic Iberian waters, reflects quite well the problems presented by the method used by the authors, which we consider to be common for all the areas analyzed in the report. In general we can conclude that the Oceana report gives a very biased vision. We think that if the authors wished to better reflect the trends and the fisheries situation in each zone, they should have done so by using only data for the set of stocks in the area, of which



there is good information (evaluations, or, at least, trends in biomass and reliable catches) because, by including the rest of the stocks only noise would be added. This would allow to monitor over time the proportion of stocks that are exploited within safe biological limits and the proportion of stocks that have reached the FMSY range, which would give a better picture of the trends and the actual situation of fisheries in each zone.