A comparative approach to the Croatian and Montenegrin small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the coastal eastern Adriatic Sea: fishing gears and target species

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Small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Croatia and Montenegro have a long tradition, similar to those of SSFs in other parts of the coastal Mediterranean. In order to improve fisheries management and save the cultural heritage of fishing traditions on the eastern Adriatic coast, scientists and fisheries managers, from these two countries, made an effort, to gain a better understanding of fishing activities and targeted stocks. This is a complex research topic, due to the high and increasing fishing pressure on marine resources as well as the fact that fisheries management throughout the Mediterranean region remains conventional in its nature. Basic characteristics of SSFs in each country are presented. Specific conclusions related to improvement of coastal resources state in term of sustainable use are suggested together with proposal for additional conservation measures and actively involving fishermen in the management process. Finally, guidelines for future management in terms of monitoring and data collection framework (DCF) are proposed for both countries.

Key words: Small-scale fisheries, Adriatic Sea, Croatia, Montenegro

INTRODUCTION

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Croatia and Montenegro, as well as in other parts of the Mediterranean is a very important component in the exploitation of marine resources and it is mainly managed through a combination of effort-control and technical measures (PAPA- CONSTANTINOU & FARRUGIO, 2000; LLEONART & MAYNOU, 2003; MATIĆ-SKOKO *et al.*, 2011a). Generally, those SSF as the Mediterranean ones comprise large fishing fleets, scattered along an extensive coastline and are thus difficult to monitor; individual fisheries generating relatively low catches per fishing day and vessel and their catch often goes unrecorded, being directly

supplied to market (TZANATOS et al., 2013). Most fisheries along the eastern Adriatic coast, as in the whole southern Europe, are multi-species (i.e. the catch of a fishing gear is composed of a variety of species) and multi-gear (the same species is fished by a variety of fishing gears). In addition, fishing behavior can be unpredictable and this creates problems for fisheries management (SALAS & GAERTNER, 2004). Furthermore, data collection in Croatia has only been carried out on a continuous and standardized basis in the last decade, particularly after 2012 when data collection within Data Collection Framework (DCF) started. There is currently no systematic data collection for small-scale fisheries in Montenegro. Data collection within Data Collection Framework is scheduled to start in 2017.

The importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the coastal Mediterranean is highlighted in last few years. According to the available data, for the Mediterranean & Black Sea fleet, the small scale fleet (SSF) possessed 69% of the fleet in number and accounted for 67% of the effort but provided jobs for only 51% of the total number of people employed in fishing fleets. In terms of production, the SSF landed only 13% in weight but 23% in value; generating overall 27% of the revenue (STEFC, 2014). Although, estimations of the General Commission for Fisheries in the Mediterranean (GFCM) are slightly different in term of numbers, they highlight that SSF exemplify sustainable resource use: exploiting living marine resources in a way that minimizes environmental degradation while maximizing economic and social benefits. In the period up to 1990, the Adriatic Sea was in the second place among the 10 fishing areas in the Mediterranean, when fishing and its economic importance are considered. Several countries participate in total fishing activities in the Adriatic Sea, i.e. Italy (80%), Croatia (17%), Slovenia (2%), Albania (2.6%) and Montenegro (0.3%) (JAR-DAS, 1996). Croatia is the most important coastal fishing country on the eastern Adriatic coast in terms of landings of marine capture fisheries while Montenegro is on the fourth place. Traditionally, in Croatia, marine resources have been distinguished as pelagic, demersal and coastal,

even though there is no clear distinction between them in nature (JARDAS & PALLAORO, 1997). The same is the case in the Montenegro (IKICA *et al.*, 2013; PEŠIĆ *et al.*, 2016).

Small scale low impact activities of SSF, using passive gears applied in a non-intensive and seasonally polyvalent manner also provide a ready-made solution to the problems of overfishing and environmental degradation caused by larger scale intensive, industrial fishery activities (CFP, 2014), as it is highlighted in reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). However, although fishery activities undoubtedly have a significant impact on fish stocks and on the marine habitats essential for fishery production, the Mediterranean is also highly vulnerable to the impacts of human activities (STAGLIČIĆ et al., 2011). Including Gibraltar and Monaco there are 23 countries bordering the Mediterranean, and the impacts of industrial and domestic sources of pollution are considerable, as are the impacts of port, shipping, and offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction, and the actual and potential impacts of climate change (TZANATOS et al., 2014). Of course, considerable environmental impact is also being caused by the unrestricted use of small-meshed monofilament gillnets, and the associated effects of ghost fishing (TUTMAN et al., 2015).

Scientists and fishery managers in this region have started making effort to gain a better understanding of the fishing activities and the stocks targeted, in order to improve their management and to save the cultural heritage of fishing traditions in coastal communities. However, the Mediterranean basin is a semi-enclosed sea and to a large extent its resources complete their life cycle within it. The same is valid for the Adriatic Sea. Therefore, only an integrated approach can answer the needs of an appropriate fishery resources management in this region. In order to plan and improve management measures, an important objective becomes the detailed knowledge of all Mediterranean coastal fishing activities (BATTAGLIA et al., 2010), together with spatial planning for fisheries (BASTARDIE et al., 2017). Also in recent years, seasonal closing of fishing grounds or proclamation of marine protected areas are increasingly advocated as a management tool for restoring fish resources and ensuring the sustainability of their exploitation (FRANCOUR *et al.*, 2001, ROBERTS *et al.*, 2005). The main objective of this study is to present comparison of the Croatian and Montenegrin small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the coastal eastern Adriatic Sea with the special focus on differences in seasonality of using fishing gears and target species.

Croatia

Baseline regulation framework governing fisheries issues in Croatia is reported by MATIĆ-SKOKO et al. (2011a, 2011b). Although, there is no explicit definition of SSF in Croatian legislative, usually it is considered as commercial, multigear fisheries operating with vessels <12 m using all static gears (nets, hooks and long lines, traps) and shore seines since they are traditional, relatively small sized fishing gear and operating with small fishing vessels not far from the shore. This fishery is carried out within the distance of one nautical mile from the mainland and islands coasts, in the shallow water at the depth of no more than approximately 80 m which represents a little more than 3% of the total surface of the Adriatic (CETINIĆ et al., 1999).

The Fishing Fleet Register of Croatia currently includes 7733 vessels (DF, 2015). All national reports for period before 2014 indicate the number of around 4400 vessels (of which 3360 vessels are less than 12 m indicating their small-scale character) and around 11000 vessels registered under subsistence category. This discrepancy is the consequence of inclusion of 3500 vessels (small coastal fishery) in the fleet register following the accession negotiations. The remaining number of fishermen either joined the recreational category of fisheries or became inactive as many of those licence holders neither were full-time fishermen, nor do they depend on fishing activity and only perform it in very specific places and in very specific times. Due to prolonged administrative and legislative procedure, the transition process of their full registration ended only in April 2015. The largest percentage of the fleet (over 90 %) is comprised of vessels less than 12 m LoA (Length over All), which also constitute the largest segment of the fleet capacity in terms of power (some 60 % kW). The bulk of total tonnage of Croatian fishing fleet refers to purse-seiners, while multipurpose vessels comprise the most important part of total power. The purse-seiners fleet contained 375 vessels (8.1 % with LoA > than 12 m) while bottom trawlers account for some 17 % of the fleet. The largest number of vessels is registered as multipurpose vessels (over 45 %) where fishermen target assemblages rather than species and where gears are changed several times over a year (DF, 2015).

Total Croatian catches reported in 2014 amounted to almost 80.000,00 tons. By far, the largest percentage of the catch is realized by purse seines (> 90%). Towed gears account for some 8% of the catch. In terms of multipurpose vessels, driftnets and fixed nets (DFO) represent the majority of the values. However, their share in total landings is small, and accounts for less than 1 %. Their actual activity is highly seasonal. Only fixed nets are used in Croatia (gillnets and trammel nets), and they operate in shore and coastal waters, in limited areas and during limited periods. They landed mostly sole, Solea solea (21 %) and a mixture of other demersal species (hake, cuttlefish, sea breams, common octopus, etc.). Percentages for other fishing gears are less than 1% in the total catch. Landings in 2014 included 109 species in total. Majority of the landings of purse seines included sardine (80%) and anchovies (11%). Out of the total catch, fish represent 96%, cephalopods about 2%, crustaceans and shellfish also about 2% each (DF, 2015).

Data on the number of fishers are under evaluation, and taking into account the data from the crafts and commercial registry, and data on the number of crew and the number of licenses (vessels) in the fishing fleet, it is estimated that the sector directly employs around 11.000 people while around 7000 fishermen are involved in SSF sector. The highest number of SSF fishers (> 1200) is from regional units of Zadar, Split and Dubrovnik. In addition to fulltime employees, there are a significant number of seasonal workers but they are not present at SSF. Usually, there are just one or two fishers work on vessels < 12 m (mainly the owner and the close family member), while on average 3 and 8 fishers are employed on bottom trawlers and purse seiners, respectively.

In Croatia, shellfish are collected by hydraulic dredge - rapido trawl ("rampon" in Istra county) and by SCUBA diving in other parts of the coastal areas (VRGOČ et al., 2009). Due to small catch quantities, this group of marine organisms was not included in DCF and there is limited data on their distribution and catches. According to the Assessment of demersal fish and shellfish stocks commercially exploited in Croatia (VRGOČ et al., 2009), most important species are Mediterranean mussel (Mytilus galloprovincialis), European flat oyster (Ostrea edulis), Mediterranean scallop (Pecten jacobaeus), Warty venus (Venus verrucosa), smooth clam (Callista chione), Noah's ark shell (Arca noae), grooved carpet shell (Ruditapes decussatus), and baby clam (Chamelea gallina).

Montenegro

Legal framework in Montenegro recognizes small-scale (commercial) fisheries, which differ from large-scale fisheries in vessel size, type and number of fishing gears permitted and defines it as commercial fishing using a vessel of up to 12 m length overall (LOA) with fishing gear allowed for SSF: gillnets and trammel nets, fish pots and traps, harpoons, longlines, hooks and beach seines (IKICA et al., 2013; PEŠIĆ et al., 2016). Up to 180 licenses can be issued for small-scale commercial fishing. During the first half of 2016 in Montenegro, there was a total of 140 licensed fishing vessels for commercial fisheries. The largest percentage of the fleet is comprised of vessels less than 12 m LoA (83%), of which 49% are vessels less than 6 m LoA. Vessels below 12 m LoA comprise about 34% of the fleet capacity in terms of power. Around 71% of all vessels in the fleet would fall under the SSF category, with trawlers represented by 16% and purse seiners by 12% of all vessels. A total of 17% of the fleet is made of vessels of over 12 m LoA. Multipurpose vessels represented approximately 53% of

the fleet, with gillnetters and bottom trawlers coming up second, with 15% each. Trammel netters and beach seiners were represented by 6% each while purse seiners comprised 5%. There is only limited data available on the size and catch of the current small-scale fishing fleet. The number of licensed SSF vessels (90 in 2015, 100 in 2016) represents only a part of the total fleet, and apart from some estimations, poor data on small-scale fishing fleet catch are available, both regarding the catch in weight and catch composition. In total, 63% vessels in the fleet could be considered as multipurpose (polyvalent) vessels. Gillnets are the most common type of fishing gear used in small-scale fisheries, followed closely by trammel nets and beach seines targeting pilchard (Sardina pilchardus) and anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus). In Montenegro, the shellfish fishing is regulated by the Law on Marine Fisheries and Mariculture (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF MONTENEGRO, No. 56/09 and 47/2015) by which is allowed to collect edible shellfish tools manually, without the use of dredges. Each year, there is a possibility for issuing a total of 5 licenses for manually collecting shellfish, of which in 2015 were issued only 3, and allowed quantity of harvest is 1 tones per license. The license does not define the shellfish species that can be harvested. There is no data available on the amount of the annual catch, or catch by species.

This review study represents integrated and comparable approach between Croatia and Montenegro to investigate the state and perspective of SSF on the eastern Adriatic coast. Different alternatives are proposed to modify the strategies of management and research in order to achieve sustainable exploitation of coastal resources. Thus, this paper includes a number of aspects in order to obtain better insight into the structure of SSF activities in the Croatia and Montenegro. We will present current fishing effort, qualitative and quantitative catch composition, characteristics and distribution of target species and exploitation levels. And finally, as a result of the above, preparation of recommendations for protection, sustainable use and management of coastal resources on the eastern coast, and the Adriatic sea as a whole, especially in view of the guidelines of Regulation of the European Union which must be accepted by member states, but also in Montenegro, as country which is in the pre-accession negotiations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The Adriatic Sea is a semi-closed, elongated basin of the central Mediterranean Sea and, because it is set deeply into the land mass and is of low depth, it can be considered a closed, inland sea. The Adriatic is connected to the other parts of the Mediterranean basin through the Strait of Otranto. The length of the Adriatic Sea is approximately 870 km, and the width ranged from 90 to 220 km. Its area, including the islands, is 138,595 km2, which is approximately 4.6% of the total area of the Mediterranean Sea. Practically, the Adriatic Sea is usually divided into North, Central and Southern Adriatic. The geomorphological characteristics of the Adriatic basin, the geopolitical changes

on its eastern seaboard, the existence of national statistics directorates, and the distribution of fishery resources have led to the division of the Adriatic area into two Geographical Sub-Areas: GSA 17 (North and Central Adriatic) shared by Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and GSA 18 (South Adriatic) shared by Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and Italy. The western coast of GSA 17 is flat and mostly sandy, whereas the eastern coast and the western coast of GSA 18 is generally steep and rocky, including sensitive marine habitats as seagrass meadows and coralligenous habitats (GRATI et al., 2013). The central and northern Adriatic Sea has an extended continental shelf and eutrophic shallow waters, whereas a narrow continental shelf and a marked, steep continental slope characterize the southern Adriatic. The basic inflow of nutrients into the Adriatic occurs via the rivers that raise the primary productivity. Eutrophication is particularly pronounced in the northern Adriatic, where it influences primary production and ultimately leads to higher landings quantities, allowing to this part to become one of the most productive areas of the Mediterranean

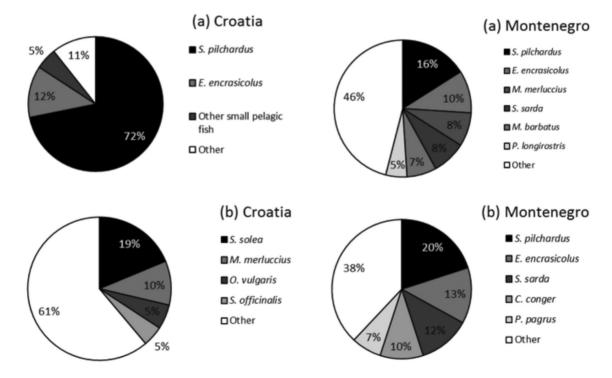


Fig. 1. Landing composition of the total landings (a) and small-scale fisheries landings (b) for Croatia and Montenegro (2013).

in terms of fisheries. Due to the pronounced seasonal fluctuations in environmental forcing, coastal waters show a high seasonal variation in sea temperature, ranging from 7°C (winter) to 27°C (summer). Prevailing currents flow counterclockwise from the Strait of Otranto, along the eastern coast and back to the Strait along the Italian coast (Fig. 1). According to productivity, the Adriatic Sea is classified as an oligotrophic sea, characterized by relatively low productivity. In the present study, data for SSFs operating on the eastern Adriatic coast, in the national waters of Croatia and Montenegro are taking into account.

Data collection

The aim of the present study was to collect the best available data on SSFs in order to assess the seasonality of used fishing gears and target species catches in the Croatia and Montenegro. On this basis, all the potential data sources have been considered in the study: Data Collection Framework (DCF) and statistical data from Croatian Fisheries Directorate for Croatia and statistical data from Montenegrin Fisheries Directorate.

In order to assess the seasonality of the fishing activity, we agreed to focus on the most common fishing gears used: gill nets, trammel nets, traps and longlines by estimating catch composition, landings biomass and monthly fishing effort for each fishing gear in 2013.

Data analysis

Monthly data concerning landings (kg) and fishing effort (days at sea) from the small-scale

Table 1. CPUE for different fishing gears in Croatia

Fishing gears

fisheries in 2013 in Croatia were obtained from statistical reports of the Fisheries Department and Fleet Register. In Montenegro, the total data were obtained from Montenegrin Fisheries Directorate and are based on the estimations based on the landing data provided by fishermen. Croatian data are presented according to seven regional units (Dubrovnik, Split, Šibenik, Zadar, Senj, Rijeka and Pula) while Montenegrin data are divided by eight main landing places (Bar, Budva, Herceg Novi, Kotor, Petrovac, Tivat, Ulcinj and Zelenika). The nominal LPUE (Landing Per Unit Effort) of each fishing gear was calculated by dividing total landing by the number of fishing days. Basic statistics in Excel were performed.

RESULTS

Total landings

The total landings of Croatia was 74.935,325 tons in 2013 and the vast of the catch was realized by purse seins and towed gears (about 98 %). Percentages for other gears were less than 1% in the total catch. The largest part of the catch was represented by small pelagic fish, Sardina pilchardus (72% in total catch) followed by Engraulis encrasicolus (12%) and other small pelagic fish (5%). According to landings data presented in Table 1. total catch of SSF was 1,101 tonnes. The total catch of Montenegro amounted to 534.67 tons. Most of the catch came from bottom trawls landings (35%). Purse seine catches comprised around 25% of the total catch, followed by beach seines (20%), gill- and trammel nets (10%) and longlines (8%). There-

(number of licences)	Total landing	Total fishing effort	Average landing (SD)	Average fishing effort (SD)	Average CPUE (SD)
GNS (1331)	409,472.5	41,115	307.41 (52.29)	30.86 (14.21)	11.49 (2.04)
GTR (1247)	391,938.04	29,918	314.3 (159.62)	23.99 (5.15)	12.76 (3.94)
LLD (633)	196,045.36	8,858	309.71 (216.90)	13.99 (3.10)	14.73 (6.13)
LLS (10)	7,665.5	142	766.55 (605.86)	14.2 (4.36)	47.7 (8.96)
FPO (513)	96,944.55	11,988	341.52 (86.31)	23.37 (10.45)	11.55 (7.13)

LOA (m)	Dubrovnik	Split	Šibenik	Zadar	Senj	Rijeka	Pula
<3	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
4	7	14	1	4	1	20	10
5	79	94	41	60	14	104	181
6	115	79	33	77	14	59	98
7	154	194	69	152	34	150	119
8	82	152	61	108	31	170	128
9	34	108	50	69	13	61	97
10	23	53	25	33	9	45	62
11	-	20	6	29	3	20	71
12	2	5	8	15	4	20	52
13	-	-	8	1	3	4	27
14	-	3	-	-	-	5	13
15	-	1	-	6	-	-	8
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	496	727	303	555	126	658	869

Table 2. Number of vessels (active licenses) according to vessel length and regional units in Croatia.

fore, the estimated landings per SSF are around 203 tons. Most important species in the total catch were also *S. pilchardus* and *E. encrasico-lus* (26% of total catch) (Fig 1a).

Most of the Croatian SSF landings come from gillnets (37.0%) and trammel nets (36.0%), followed by set longlines (17.0%), traps (9.0%)and drift longlines (1.0%). On the other side, in Montenegro most of the SSF catches were landed by beach seines (52%), gill- and trammel nets (27%) and set longlines (21%). In Croatia, common sole, Solea solea represented largest part of the landing biomass (19 %) accomplished by fishing gears used by SSF, followed by the hake, Merluccius merluccius (10%) and octopus, Octopus vulgaris (6%). Other species in total landings (104) corresponding to 61% of the total catch in term f abundance. However, in term of landing biomass those species were presented less than 5 %. In Montenegro, S. pilchardus and E. encrasicolus were also the most dominant species in the catch of SSF (33%), together with atlantic bonito, Sarda sarda, European conger, *Conger conger*, red porgy, *Pagrus pagrus*, bullet tuna, *Auxis rochei* and round sardinella, *Sardinella aurita*. All other fish species (20) corresponding to 38 % of the total catch in term of abundance, but each species was represented under 5% in landing biomass (Fig. 1b).

Fishing licences

Total number of registered licenses for gillnets, trammel nets, traps, set longlines and drift longlines in Croatia for 2013 were 11,450 of which 3,734 were active and 7,716 inactive licenses. Pula have the greatest number of registered licenses (869) followed by Split (727) and Rijeka (658) while Senj had lowest number of registered licenses (126) (Table 2). Vessels with the length overall bellow 12 m were represented by around 98% while others were larger than 12 m (2%).

There were a total of 118 licenced fishing vessels in the Montenegrin fleet with 273 employed fishers in 2013 for SSF. This number of employees is far from realistic, as there were

				PORT				
LOA (m)	Bar	Budva	H. Novi	Kotor	Petrovac	Tivat	Ulcinj	Zelenika
≤ 3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
4	0	3	3	11	1	2	9	5
5	2	4	3	5	0	3	1	1
6	6	1	3	3	1	0	1	0
7	1	3	3	0	0	2	0	2
8	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
≥ 9	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	11	12	12	21	2	11	11	9

Table 3. Number of vessels registered for small-scale fisheries according to vessel lenth and by port (MARD) in Montenegro

many unreported workers engaged in the fisheries. The total number of vessels registered for SSF by port and length overall in Montenegro is presented in Table 3. Kotor has the greatest number of registered vessels (21), while Petrovac has only two registered vessels.

In Croatia most of these vessels were equipped with more than one type of fishing gear during the year depending when the target species concentrate inside the coastal areas during the recruitment or the spawning season. Gillnets and trammel nets were the most commonly used fishing gears represented by 35.6% and 33.4% respectively (in total 69%) followed by set longlines (17.0% (633), traps with 13.7% (513) and drift longlines with 0.3% (10) of the total active licenses (Fig. 2, Table 4).

As shown in Table 4, there were 7,716 inactive licenses. According to the regional units, Pula had the greatest number of inactive licenses (2,473), followed by Split (1,479) and Zadar (1,221) while Senj (191) had lowest number of inactive licenses. According to the type of gear, traps were represented with 2,328 licenses, followed by trammel nets with 1,985 and set longlines with 1,842 licenses.

Most of the SSF vessels in Montenegro (63%) use more than one type of fishing gear. The single-gear vessels from use mostly gillnets (18% of total fleet), trammel nets (11%), and beach seines (7%). In general, gillnets and trammel nets are the most widely used fishing gears in small-scale fisheries (65%) (Fig. 2), followed by beach seine nets (14%). Longlines, both set and drift ones, are represented by about 10% each.

Fishing gears used by SSFs per each country are divided according to the target species and mesh size (Table 5). In general, both countries have the similar minimum mesh sizes for

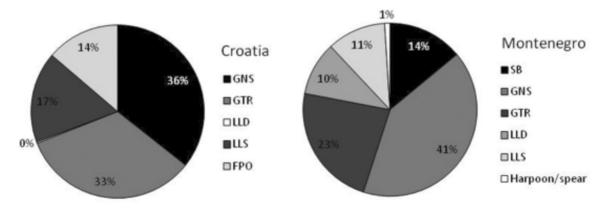


Fig. 2. Distribution of active licenses for each type of fishing gear in Croatia and Montenegro.

Gear	Dubrovnik	Split	Šibenik	Zadar	Senj	Rijeka	Pula	TOTAL
GNS	193 (94)	261 (299)	121 (100)	187 (270)	48 (32)	228 (246)	293 (481)	1331 (1522)
GTR	153 (176)	178 (395)	69 (103)	208 (349)	34 (38)	150 (223)	455 (701)	1247 (1985)
LLD	4 (2)	- (7)	3 (20)	3 (4)	-	- (2)	- (4)	10 (39)
LLS	81 (160)	192 (297)	64 (152)	87 (327)	16 (52)	125 (286)	68 (568)	633 (1842)
FPO	65 (236	96 (481)	46 (223)	70 (271)	28 (69)	155 (329)	53 (719)	513 (2328)
TOTAL	496 (668)	727 (1479)	303 (598)	555 (1221)	126 (191)	658 (1086)	869 (2473)	3734 (7716)

Table 4. Number of active and inactive licenses according to the regional units and type of gear.

Table 5. The difference between type of fishing gears according to the target species and mesh size (bar length)

GILLNET	CRO	MNE
for big-scale sand smelt ("oližnica")	10 - 18	-
for sand smelt ("gavunara")	20	20
for picarel ("girara")	30	30
for blotched picarel ("menulara")	36 - 40	32 - 40
for small pelagic fish ("vojga")	32 - 40	32
for bogue ("bukvara")	56	40 - 52
for demersal fish ("prostica")	64	56
for atlantic bonito	80	80
for sharks ("psara")	120	120
for lobsters ("jastogara")	240	-
for rays and crabs ("sklatara")	260	80/300*
TRAMMEL NET		
for cuttlefish ("sipara")	64/300**	
trammel net ("popunica")	80/300**	56/***
for common sole ("listarica")	80/300**	72/***
for salema ("salpara")	80/300**	80/***
for turbot ("rumbara")	240/700**	
TRAPS***		
for demersal fish	32	32
for lobsters	55	55
for Norway lobster	18-20	18
for european eel	12	

* In Montenegro gillnet for rays has mesh size 80 mm and gillnet for crabs has mesh size 300 mm.

** inner/ outer layer

*** In Montenegro, the minimum size of external mesh size for trammel nets are not defined.

gillnets with exception of gillnets intended for catching big crabs and rays that is separated in Montenegro. Regarding trammel nets, minimum mesh size is greater in "poponica" and "listara" used in Croatia. Also, outer layer mesh size of trammel nets is not defined in Montenegro. Also, special constructive measures for traps not exist in Montenegro. The constructive measures for traps are practically identical in the two countries.

The gill nets have the highest and set longlines the lowest total fishing effort in Croatia (Table 1). Further on, the average fishing effort is also highest for gillnets following with

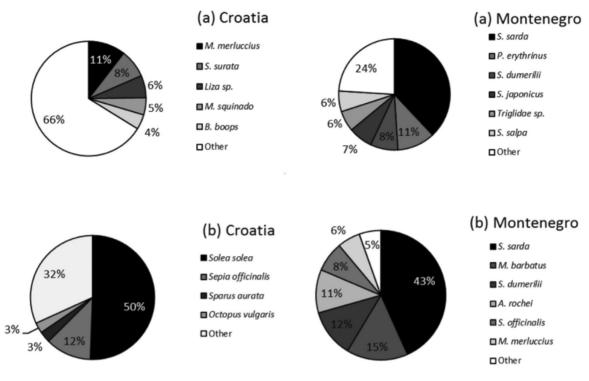


Fig. 3. Landing composition of the gillnets (a) and trammel nets (b) in Croatia and Montenegro.

trammel nets and pots. However, average CPUE is highest for set longlines following by drift longlines and trammel nets. Due to the lack of systematic data collection on fishing effort, no reliable data on CPUE are available in Montenegro at this moment.

Gillnets

The landing composition of Croatian gillnets was dominated by the three species: hake (*Merluccius merluccius*, 10.5 %), gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*, 8 %) and mullets (Liza spp, 6.3%). Other species contributed to the landing composition with a less than 5% (Fig. 3a). Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*) appeared as the dominant species in catch in Montenegro (38%). Other significant species in the catch were common pandora (*Pagellus erythrinus*, 11%), greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerilii*, 6%), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*, 7%), gurnard (Triglidae sp., 6%), and salema (*Sarpa salpa*, 6%). All other species were represented

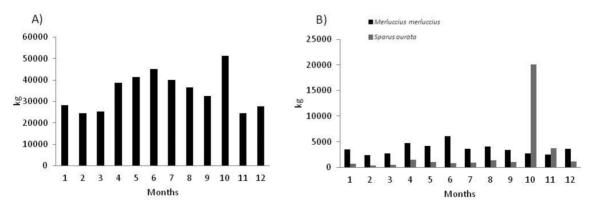


Fig. 4. Monthly fluctuation of total biomass (A) and biomass of target species (B) for gillnets landings in Croatia (2013).

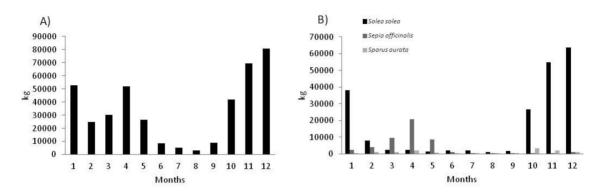


Fig. 5. Monthly fluctuation of total biomass (A) and biomass of target species (B) for trammel nets landings in Croatia (2013).

with less than 5% in the total gillnet catch, and together amounted to 24% (Fig. 3a).

Total catch accomplished by gillnets in 2013 (Croatia) were 416,150 kg. With respect to months, highest catch was registered in October (51,347 kg) due to seasonal catch of gilthead seabream, Sparus aurata and the lowest one was in February (24,524 kg) (Fig. 5A). Total estimated catch of gillnets in Montenegro was 73,010 kg. Unfortunately, monthly values for gillnet landings are not available for this country. In Croatia, gillnets were used to catch M. merluccius all year round with the highest monthly catch in June (6,053 kg) and the lowest one in February (2,394 kg). During the rest of the year, monthly landing biomass values of hake were around 3,000-4,500 kg. Landing of gilthead seabream showed a more distinct seasonality with landings almost exclusively accomplished in October (20.048 kg) and the lowest catches in February (443 kg). During other seasons, catches of S. aurata remained near 1,000 kg per month (Fig. 4B).

Trammel nets

The landing composition of trammel nets in Croatia was dominated by the common sole (*Solea solea*; 50%), and followed by the cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*, 12%) while other species contributed to the total landings with a fraction lower than 3% (Fig. 3b). Similar to gillnet catches, Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*) was the dominant species in Montenegrin trammel nets (44%). Other species with significant share in the catch were red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*, 15%), greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerilii*, 12%), bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*, 11%), common cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*, 7%), and European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*, 6%). The contribution of all other species together in total catch was less than 5%.

In Croatia, the landing biomass showed the highest values during fall-winter for the common sole and during winter-spring period for cuttlefish. Total landings in Croatia was 404,780 kg with the highest value in December (80,967 kg) and the lowest one in August (2,993 kg) (Fig. 5A). The total catch for Montenegrin trammel nets in 2013 was estimated at 9,390 kg. Unfortunately, monthly trammel net catch statistics are not available for Montenegro. In Croatia, landing biomass of the common sole was the highest in fall and early winter with a peak in December (63,785 kg), during the spawning season of this species. During the rest of the year, landings showed subsequent decrease in the following months with the lowest catch in August (1,119 kg). The landings of cuttlefish were mainly concentrated in spring, with the maximum value of 20,579 kg in April while the lowest landings were reported in summer (June and July). Biomass of gilthead seabream landed by trammel nets showed similar seasonality in catch like in gillnets. Highest landing was recorded in October (3,204 kg) and after that landings decreased through winter and spring period with another peak in April (1,939 kg). The lowest landing biomass of *S. aurata* was reported in August (41 kg) (Fig. 5B).

Traps

The octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*) was dominant species (44%) in the trap's landings in Croatia, followed by the Norway lobster (*Neprophs norvegicus*; 21%). Other species individually contributed to the total landings accomplished by traps with a fraction lower than 10% (Fig. 6).

In 2013, total catch using traps were 100,835 kg with highest landing biomass during the late spring and summer with a peak in June (15,706 kg) (Fig. 7A) while lowest catches were recorded for February. A peak in late spring-summer season was achieved due catches of the Norway lobster in August (3,102 kg) and owing to the high landings of the octopus in June (5,066 kg; Fig. 7B).

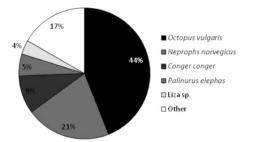


Fig.6. Landing composition of the traps in Croatia.

Drift longlines

In Croatia, the landing composition accomplished by the drift longlines was dominated by the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*; 63%), alba-

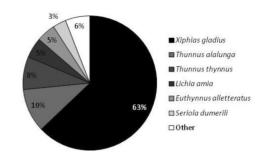


Fig. 8. Landing composition of the drift longlines in Croatia.

core (*Thunnus alalunga*; 10%) and bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*; 8%) (Fig. 8).

Total landing biomass using drift longlines were 7,906 kg with highest landings in late spring and summer (2,061 kg were recorded in July) with additional one peak in December (1,076 kg) (Fig. 9A). Particularly, the swordfish and albacore were mainly caught during the late spring and summer with a peak in August for the swordfish (1,598 kg) and July for the albacore (479 kg) (Fig. 9B).

Set longlines

In Croatia, the landing composition of set longlines was dominated by the hake (33%), followed by the gurnards (Triglidae sp) that constituted 17% of landings and European conger (*Conger conger*) with 11%, while other species contributed to the total landings with a fraction lower than 6% (Fig. 10). In Montenegro, European conger (*Conger conger*) was the dominant species in the landings (47%), followed by red porgy (*Pagrus pagrus*) (32%), European hake

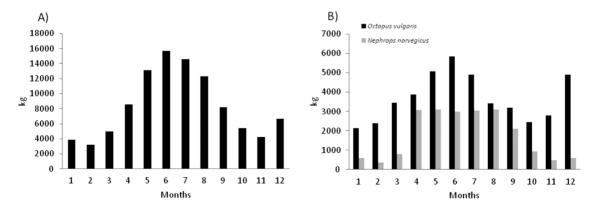


Fig. 7. Monthly fluctuation of total biomass (A) and biomass of target species (B) for traps landings in Croatia (2013).

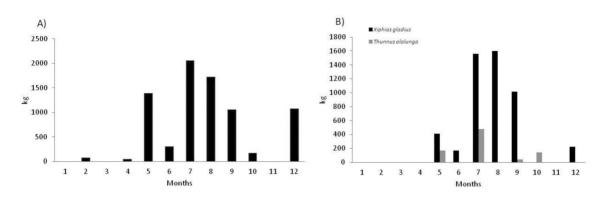


Fig. 9. Monthly fluctuation of total biomass (A) and biomass of target species (B) for drift longlines landings in Croatia (2013).

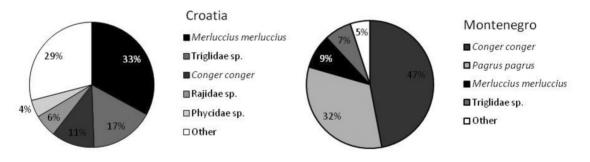


Fig. 10. Landing composition of the set longlines in Croatia and Montenegro.

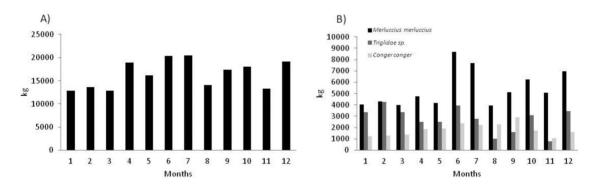


Fig. 11. Monthly fluctuation of total biomass (A) and biomass of target species (B) for set longlines landings in Croatia (2013).

(9%) and gurnards (Triglidae spp.) (7%), with all other species represented by about 5%.

Total landing biomass using set longlines in Croatia was 197,326 kg with the similar landings during the whole year. However, the highest values were recorded in June (20,408 kg) and July (20,439 kg) and lowest ones in March (12,836 kg) and January (12,907 kg) (Fig. 11A). All dominant target species in set longlines were landed during the whole year, with highest landing peaks different for each species. The hake had the highest (8,662 kg) and lowest (3,946 kg) values of landings in June and August, respectively. The gurnards had a marked landings peaked in February (4,251 kg) and June (3,952 kg). European conger was mainly landed during warmer part of the year with a peak in September (2,924 kg) (Fig. 11B). In Montenegro, the total estimated landings of set longline were 43,800 kg. No estimates for monthly landings are available.

DISCUSSION

Croatian fisheries in general, and consequently SSF, is more significant in terms of the number of participants and the total landings within the Adriatic basin than Montenegrin. However, in both countries the percentage contribution of SSF fishers in total fisheries sector is 71%. Such fact clearly pointed out that SSF is predominant type of fisheries on the eastern Adriatic coast. Further on, it's fully fit in Mediterranean fisheries context since much of the fishery in the Mediterranean coastal zone is SSF (80%) (FARRUGIO et al., 1993; FARRUGIO, 1996). Official statistics of 1989-1990 for SSF suggests that in the EU countries operate 41,900 units, of which majority are registered in Greece, Italy, Spain and France (FARRUGIO, 1996). Beside these mentioned countries, Croatia also has a large SSF fleet in term of vessel units but it was not considering in this list prior to 2013 when it became the EU Member State. Small-scale fishers rotate fishing gears throughout the year not only in accordance with legislative regulations, but also to optimize yields, based on their knowledge of the behavior and catchability of target species, and they strongly depend on proximity to home harbor (particularly in winter period) and habitat heterogeneity (FORCADA et al., 2010). According to the national Croatian statistics, SSF landings contribute by only 1% (around 1,500 t) to the total landings. This contribution is for sure underestimated. According to Montenegrin statistics, almost 40% of landings originated from SSF (around 215 t). However, both values can be considered speculative due to unreliable data used for statistical analysis and numerous estimations in situations when direct data are not available. Further on, in the Mediterranean, in certain cases, the volume taken out by recreational fishing can be equal or even greater than that of commercial fishing (FONT & LLORET, 2014). They suggested that the sum of catches in recreational fishing in the Mediterranean regions represents between 10% and 50% of the total haul of small-scale fishing (excluding trawls and seines). A total of 10% of adults living in developed countries practice recreational fishing, which in the Mediterranean Sea represents around 10% of the total production of fisheries. Despite its importance, this fishing is not as controlled or studied as commercial ones. Also, the Mediterranean also has a notorious reputation for illegal fishing. Sometimes this is carried out under the guise of "sports fishing", the impact of which is considerable. In addition, due to the complex nature of national maritime boundaries and inadequate monitoring, control and enforcement, much illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishery activity takes place beyond national boundaries (LLORET *et al.*, 2017).

At the EU level, there is no uniform, straightforward definition for SSF (e.g. COFI, 2014). The reformed CFP defines SSF as "fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 m and not using towed fishing gear". In Croatia, legislative framework recognizes only fisheries for commercial and non-commercial purposes. Commercial fisheries encompass commercial fisheries sensu stricto and the new category of small coastal fishery, limited in terms of gears and manner of operation, while non-commercial include sport and recreational fisheries (Official Gazette No. 81/2013), but usually under SSF is considered multi-gear fisheries operating with vessels <12 m using all passive gears and shore seines. However, after accession to the EU, shore seines are usually exempt from analyses regarding fishing gears used by SSF. Contrary, beach seine in Montenegro represent very important fishing gear used by SSF fishers, particularly in term of total landings. This is clearly visible from total landings statistics where most of the Croatian SSF landings came from gillnets and trammel nets, while in Montenegro most of the SSF catches were landed by beach seines. Target species in total landings follow that frame and thus small pelagic fish landed by beach seines represented the bulk of catch in Montenegro, while in Croatia almost 110 different demersal fish species is regularly caught by SSF. Although, such multispecies SSF can be problematic in term of sustainable management, recent investigations suggested that such character can results in a balanced trait removal, while management should regulate the effects of purse-seine fisheries on the fisheries assemblage functioning (KOUTSIDI *et al.*, 2016).

Total number of registered licenses for passive fishing gears in Croatia is pretty high because in the review of licenses prior 2008, fishers were allowed to get licenses for different fishing gears regardless of existing personal fishing track record for each gear type, and issuing of new licenses stopped in 2008 (MATIĆ-SKOKO et al., 2011a). This can be explanation for drastically high total number of inactive licenses (48.4%). Regional units with highest number of fisherman and licenses (Pula and Split) have also the highest number of inactive licenses. Beside expected statistical explanation of such high percentage of inactive licenses, in mentioned counties, there is a large seasonal variation in the use of different fishing gears and targeted species. For sure, it is of high priority that in the nearest future, both countries conduct audits in term to determine the exact number of active fishers to which will be carried out a strict control of fishing activities and administrative check-out of reported landings.

Both countries use same passive fishing gears within very similar legislative framework. This is probably consequence of common past when both countries were part of same federation (MATIĆ-SKOKO et al., 2016). The fisheries legislation of the different Mediterranean countries contains a great variety of conservation/ management measures but all of them can be separated into two major categories: the fishing effort control (CADDY & SEIJO, 2005; STEFANSSON & ROSENBERG, 2005) and sustainable exploitation (PAPACONSTANTINOU & FARRUGIO, 2000). Rich fishing tradition of eastern Adriatic SSF is typical Mediterranean multi-species and multi-gear fisheries sector employing more than 50 different types of fishing gear to catch about 150 different species of commercial interest (CETINIĆ et al., 2002). In the last decades, type and quantity of fishing gear with which SSF can work have been the subject of fisheries management changes (STAGLIČIĆ et al., 2011), but those legislative changes are usually more "cosmetic" in nature. However, even such small changes have the potential to shift SSF towards sustainability

as it has been already shown in an offshore Adriatic region (MATIĆ-SKOKO et al., 2011a) and along eastern Adriatic coast (STAGLIČIĆ et al., 2011). In both countries, there is no catch limits and quota systems, and control of discards and by-catch will be phased out until 2019 according to e new CFP a landing obligation (DAMALAS, 2015), at least for Croatia as EU member. The second set of measures is based on provisions concerning gear specification, gear deployment, fishing practices or techniques, fishing seasons or areas, and resource exploitation patterns, which are commonly known as technical measures (PAPA-CONSTANTINOU & FARRUGIO, 2000) and such type of management is characteristic for the Mediterranean. Beside this, in last years, there has been some progress towards sustainable management by means of closed seasons and areas (DI FRANCO et al., 2016). Moreover, it seems that higher discard ratio in trammel nets is more related to season then to mesh size (KALAYCI & YEŞILÇIÇEK, 2014), which points out that direction of future sustainable management on the eastern Adriatic coast must go toward proclamation of closed area and seasons rather than numerous changes in the constructional features of fishing gears.

Comparative results of present study suggest that gillnets and trammel nets are the most widely used passive fishing gears on the eastern Adriatic coast. Trammel nets are traditionally considered as a very efficient gears with high catchability (MOROVIĆ, 1970; JARDAS, 1979), but also with low selectiveness resulting from their specific construction and operation properties (JARDAS et al., 1998; STERGIOU et al., 2006; STO-BART et al., 2009). However, gillnets and trammel nets, as well as other passive fishing gears used by SSF, in general have higher mesh size and species selectivity when compared with the active fishing gears (i.e. trawls, purse and beach-seines), that can have important ecological repercussions (PALLAORO et al., 2008). Further on, the gill nets have the highest total and average fishing effort, following by trammel nets in the present study. However, average CPUE (kg/ fishing day) of trammel nets is higher than for gill nets highlighting higher unselectivity and greater catchability of trammel nets (FABI et al., 2002; STERGIOU *et al.*, 2006; FABI & GRATI, 2008; TZANATOS *et al.*, 2013). Also, the fishing effort showed a pronounced seasonality, characterized by an increase from the minimum value in February to the maximum of June, followed by a subsequent decrease in the following months. It is worrying that the traditional seasonal use of this gears and the highest landings of certain target species coincide with the spawning of these species, when they are most vulnerable (LLORET *et al.*, 2017), and it certainly needs to be changed when designing future measures for the protection and sustainable exploitation of marine resources in coastal Adriatic Sea.

Unfortunately, we don't have reliable data on the type, dimension and quantity of gillnets and trammel nets for accurate assessment of fishing effort STAGLIČIĆ et al. (2011) highlighted that even when such data exist, they are usually unsystematically monitored and taken. Thus, serious analysis is very complex in the Mediterranean type fisheries. We can discuss what in reality number of fishing day represent: real fishing operations or period from departure and return to fishing port as well as the real number of active fishers. Moreover, the reliability of catch statistics is also questionable since it's based on fishermen logbooks and usually not adequately systematically validated (FARRUGIO et al., 1993). Landing data from official statistics are often very far from reflecting the reality since underestimation of total catch due to misreporting and/or not quantifying discards are widespread (FARRUGIO et al., 1993; PAPA-CONSTANTINOU & FARRUGIO, 2000; LLEONART & MAYNOU, 2003) and are also not representative of the whole community as they are dominated by commercial, targeted species, compared with scientific surveys (ROCHET & TRENKEL, 2003 and references therein). In Croatia, SSF landings can be considered as underestimated (MATIĆ-SKOKO et al., 2011), but probably the same situation can be related to Montenegrin coast. Regarding the SSF fishing effort on the eastern Adriatic coast it is probably very high as in southern Italian coastal area (COLLOCA et al., 2004), but according to available statistic data it remained steady

throughout the last twenty years. This can be questionable, since large fleet sizes, short fishing trips and a small number of days at sea result in low sampling ratios attained through sampling schemes and inaccurate estimates (e.g. the overall coverage of days at sea of the 3,734 professional vessels registered in Croatia, of which the small-scale vessels are active for only 21 days annually on average, requires a great annual sampling effort that nevertheless results in poor confidence intervals in the final estimates as previously concluded by TZANATOS et al. (2013) for Greek SSFs. Moreover, the large heterogeneity of SSF activities implies differences in duration of fishing trips, in time and landing places and different sales channels representing an additional difficulty in collecting reliable information. Croatia has already in a process of systematic fisheries data collection, and, as a step of its's accession to the EU, Montenegro will also take over an obligation of accepting monitoring and data collection framework (EU Data Collection Regulations, EC no. 199/2008 and following legislation) proposed by EU in 2017.

In Croatia gillnets are used for catching several target species, and those intended to catch the hake, M. merluccius are used all year round with highest landings in June while those for gilthead seabream, S. aurata are mostly used in October during their spawning season. In that period, many fishermen target S. aurata when it is congregate inside the coastal area. In Montenegro, interestingly, Atlantic bonito, S. sarda is the dominated species both in gillnet and trammel net landings, but unfortunately, there are no monthly values for this species share in landings. Further, dominance of S. sarda in total landings can be unreliable due used estimation. On other side, in Croatia trammel net landings are strictly dominated by two species: the common sole, S. solea from November to February and the cuttlefish, Sepia officinalis in from February to May, both species during their respective spawning season. GRATI et al. (2013) concluded that the landings of the cuttlefish showed demography characterized by a strong seasonality: large specimens are dominant in catch in winter and spring in correspondence with the spawning period, while small individuals are predominant in summer and fall in correspondence with the recruitment phase. Most of trammel nets types used in Croatia were prohibited during late spring-summer (15 May - 10 Sept.) and in that period landings of trammel nets were lowest. Without doubt, regional differences, conditioned by the distribution of target species, exist in seasonality and frequency of their use (MATIĆ-SKOKO *et al.*, 2011a).

The species composition of trap landings in Croatia highlighted the great selectivity by species of different traps (GRATI et al., 2010). Thus, the octopus, O. vulgaris was dominate species in traps for fish and traps for Norway lobster due their inappropriate use. This problem is currently hot issue in Croatian management, and a solution of including co-management that will not only empower stakeholders and share responsibilities between resource users and managers, but also become flexible, context-specific strategy where knowledge exchange between scientific and fisher's knowledge is requested (LEENHARDT et al., 2015). Contrary, N. norvegicus represented just 21 % of this traps and its population state requires special attention (LLEONART & MAYNOU, 2003). For traps, there is no landing data for Montenegrin coast as no licences for traps have been issued. Although licences were issued for drift longlines in Montenegro, the data available was considered lacking, unreliable and unsuitable for analyses and estimates. Reported catches in Montenegrin set longlines are strongly dominated by European conger, which is likely the result of the estimation methods. In Croatia, the realized catch by longlines almost fully belongs to set longlines (96 %). The highest landings of dominant species (hake, tub gurnard and European conger) usually correspond to summer months (June).

Compared to the past, fisheries management has recently adopted "ecosystem approach to fisheries" (e.g. FAO, 2003; JENNINGS & RICE, 2011; GASCUEL *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, future fisheries management design and implementation on the eastern Adriatic coast need to draw on insights into biological, environmental, social, and economic issues, and on how they are interconnected on local, regional and/or national scales as recommended more than decade ago by JENNINGS (2005). Also, involvement of fishers in management process could be effective solution for managing Mediterranean type artisanal fisheries (MATIĆ-SKOKO et al., 2011b). At the end, the Mediterranean Sea is warming in both shallow and deep waters (TZANATOS et al., 2014). However, the consequences of climate change on fishing communities will depend on exposure and the sensitivity of target species and ecosystems to climate change and fishermen's ability to adapt to climate change (GAMITO et al., 2016). Also, an increase of warmer-water species in relation to colder-water ones, and shifts in distribution affect their availability to fisheries (DULČIĆ et al., 2004; STERGIOU & TSIKLI-RAS, 2006). They suggest that Mediterranean area is expected to suffer changes in temperature and precipitation more accelerated than the global mean alteration rate. Fisheries landings fluctuations of the seven Mediterranean EU member states (Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Malta and Cyprus) during 1985-2008 showed significant year-to-year correlations with temperature for nearly 60 % of the cases (TZANATOS et al., 2014). Increasing trends were found, mainly in the landings of species with short life spans, (VALENCIA-GASTI et al., 2015).

Such scenario is already taking place in the Adriatic waters where a significant number of thermophilic species occur in the catches more often, especially in the coastal areas (Sphyraena viridensis, Synodus saurus, Balistes carolinensis, Pseudocaranx dentex etc.) (PEĆAREVIĆ et al., 2013; TOMANIĆ, 2016). Thus, a quantification of the contribution of the number/landings of the thermophilic species to the total small-scale landings is needed. For sure, climate change will provoke changes that will be reflected in all fishery sectors, professional and recreational. Both artisanal and industrial sectors may adapt to these changes mainly through expansion of fishing grounds that will consequently increase operation costs. Trawlers may be more adaptable and less vulnerable to climate change, given the high mobility of their fleet. Multi-gear fisheries may be more flexible in changing target species

or fishing gear, which makes them potentially less vulnerable to climate change (GAMITO et al., 2016). On the other hand, the high sensitivity of sardine to the effects of climate change makes the purse-seine fisheries particularly vulnerable to climate change. However, BELHABIB et al. (2016) highlighted that historical changes in target species are more common in industrial than artisanal fisheries. This result challenges the prevailing assumption that artisanal fisheries, given their limited movement capacity, would adapt to climate change by shifting target species and/or gear type, pointing that will make them potentially less vulnerable to climate change. For sure, changes in SSF landings provoked by climate changes are important issue on the eastern Adriatic coast and have to be monitored in proper way and on regular basis (DULČIĆ & DRAGIČEVIĆ, 2014).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank all those who were involved in SSF surveys and fisheries data collection on the eastern Adriatic coast carried out by the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Croatia) and the Institute of Marine Biology, University of Montenegro (Montenegro), for their valuable help. We are grateful for the financial support to the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport and Ministry of Science of Montenegro for bilateral project BIOS (BIOdiversity and Structure of eastern Adriatic coastal fish and other marine organism communities: case studies of Croatia and Montenegro).

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Received: 3 March 2017 Accepted: 20 June 2017

Usporedba hrvatskog i crnogorskog priobalnog ribolova na istočnoj obali Jadrana: ribolovni alati i ciljane vrste

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SAŽETAK

Priobalni ribolov u Hrvatskoj i Crnoj Gori ima dugu tradiciju kao uostalom i cijelom obalnom području Sredozemnog mora. Znanstvenici i ribarstveni gospodarstvenici koji su uključeni u ovu problematiku u obje zemlje su uložili napor kako bi se bolje upoznale ribolovne aktivnosti i ciljane vrste, i time poboljšalo upravljanje priobalnim resursima i spasilo kulturno nasljeđe ribarske tradicije na istočnoj obali Jadrana. Istraživanje priobalnog ribarstva je složeno pitanje zbog visokog ribolovnog pritiska na morske resurse i činjenice da je gospodarenje ribarstvom na području cijelg Sredozemlja još uvijek konvencionalno po svojoj naravi. Osnovne karakteristike priobalnog ribarstva su prikazane u svakoj zemlji. Specifični zaključci koji se odnose na poboljšanje stanja priobalnih resursa u smislu održivog korištenja su predloženi, zajedno s prijedlogom za dodatne mjere zaštite i aktivno uključivanje ribara u proces upravljanja. Naposljetku, smjernice za buduće upravljanje u smislu praćenja i prikupljanja podataka u ribarstvu su predloženi za obje zemlje.

Ključne riječi: priobalni ribolov, Jadransko more, Crna Gora