

CO-MANAGEMENT: A PROCESS NOT A PANACEA FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



Low Impact Fishers Forum
November 5th 2021



FISHERIES AS A COMMON POOL RESOURCES

For many years the “Tragedy of the commons” (Hardin, 1968) idea have dominated

State control and privatization of resources have been seen as the only solution



Tragedy of the Commons



CHANGE OF PARADIGM

Elinor Ostrom won Nobel prize in 2009 for “Governing the commons”.

Investigated communities and how they devised rules to govern the commons to assure its sustainability for their needs and future generations

Drew up a list of 8 principles for managing the commons that do not lead to tragedy



Community-based co-management may be able to achieve sustainability by **improving governance of marine resources**

WHAT IS CO-MANAGEMENT?

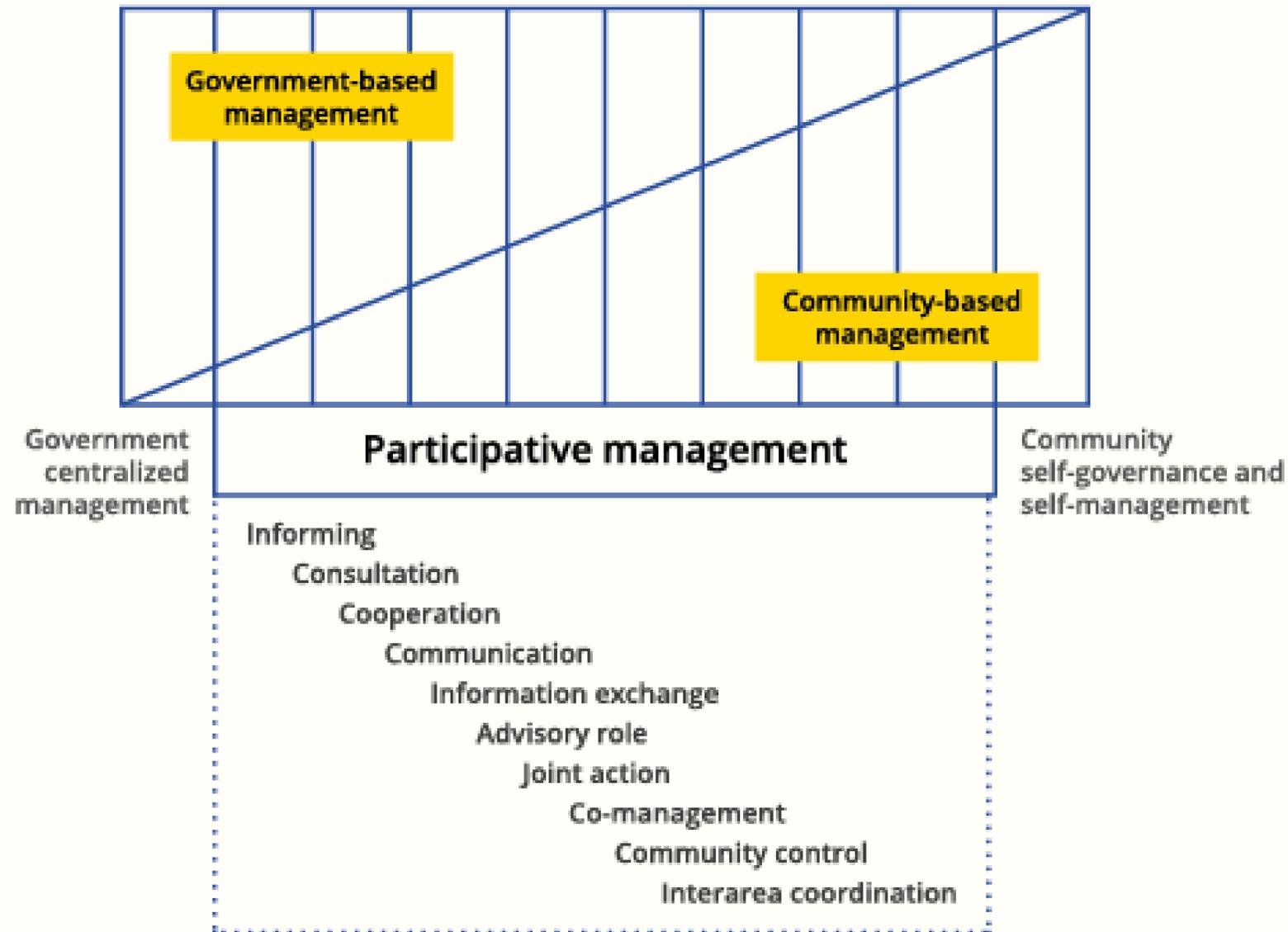


Figure 01. Gradation of participative arrangements (Based on Pomeroy's hierarchy (1994) with our own contributions).

"A partnership arrangement between government and the local community of fishers, sometimes also connected with agents such as NGOs and research institutions, and other resource stakeholders, to share the responsibility and authority for management of a resource or area"
(Pomeroy et al.)

*Co-management can incorporate a wider appreciation
view of what are complex and context-specific needs*



WHY IS IMPORTANT?

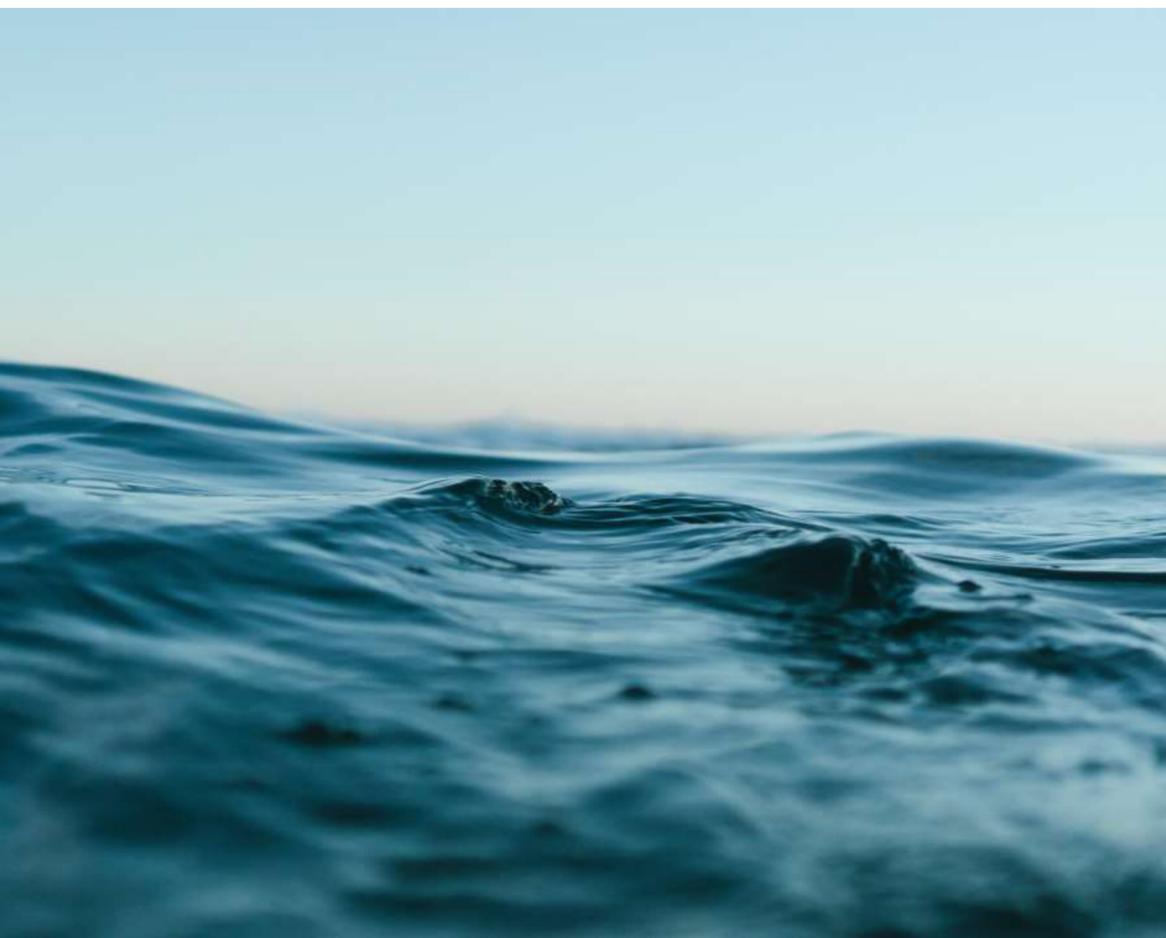
1

Improved Governance:
relationships, common
understanding, trust and
communication



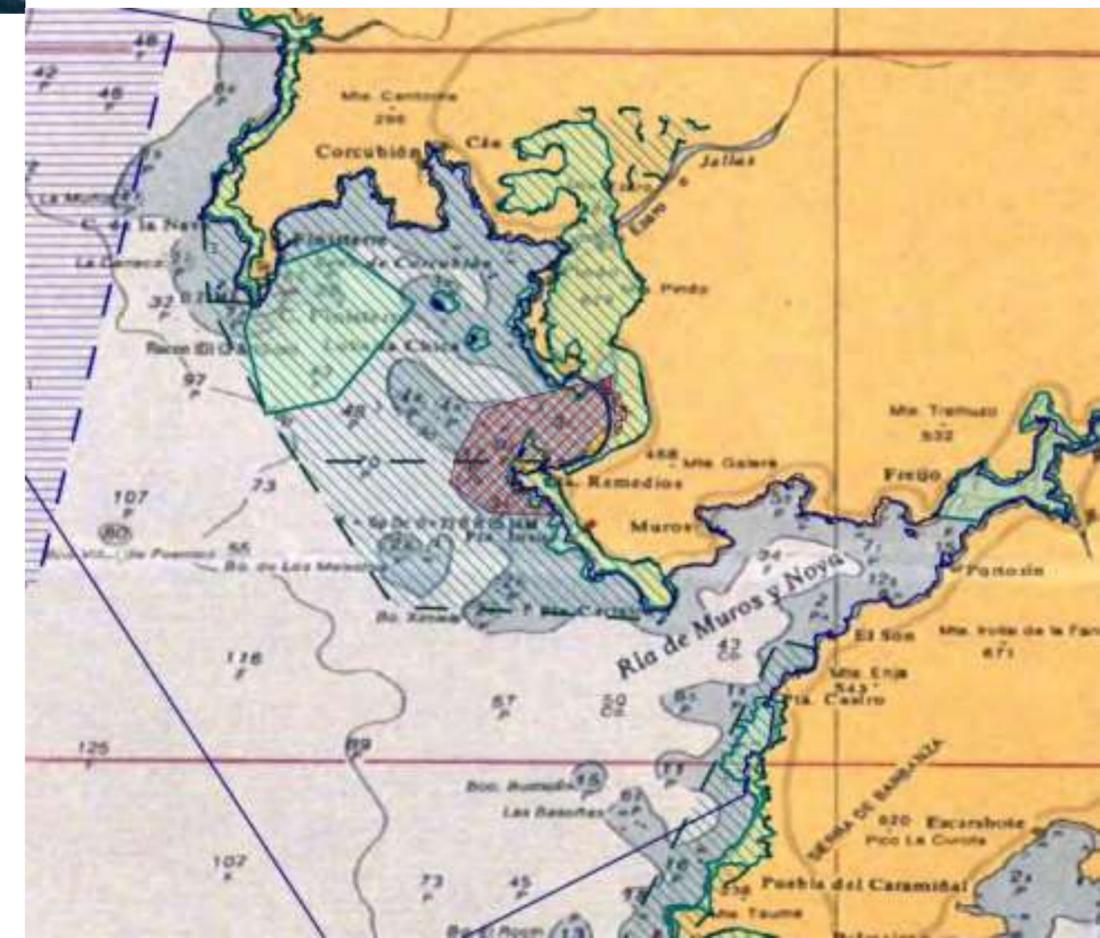
3

More effective fisheries
management, inclusion of
Traditional Ecological
Knowledge



2

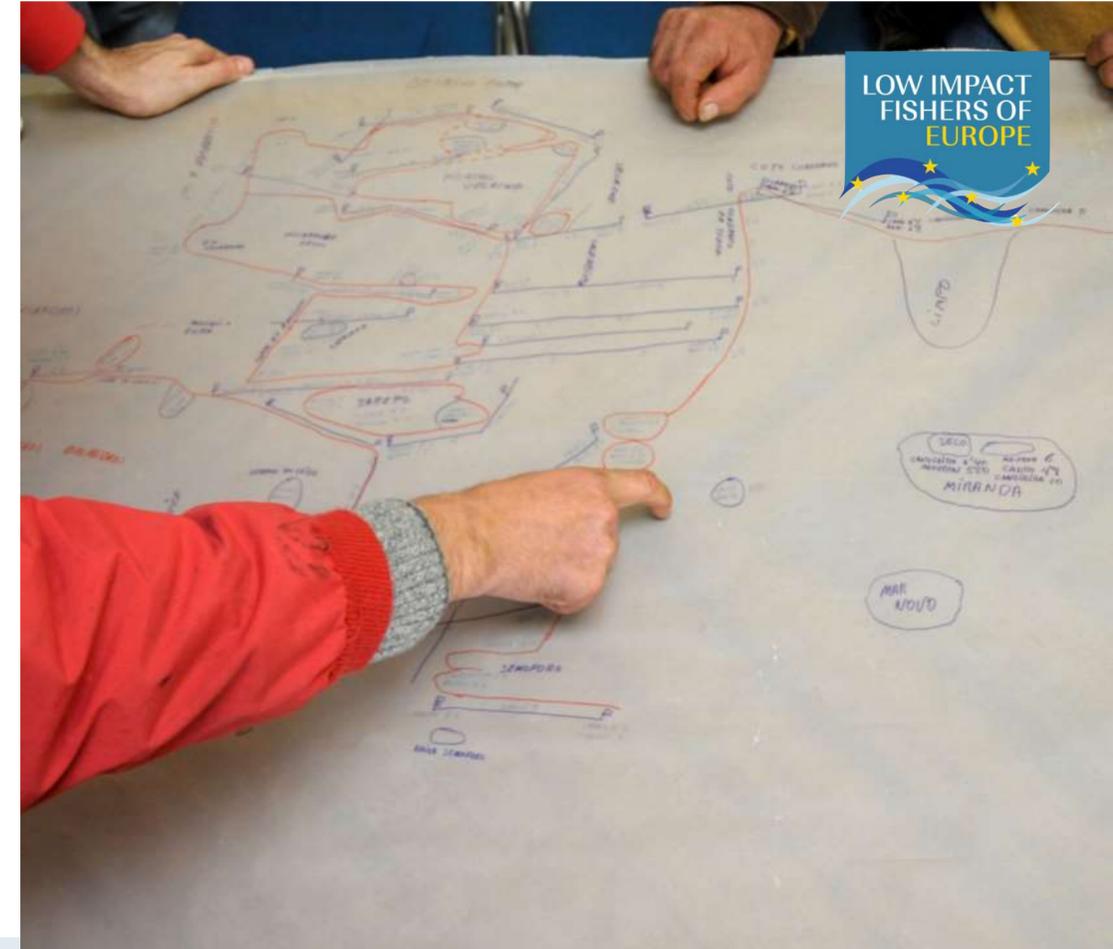
Devolves sense of co-
responsibility encouraging
responsible fishing.





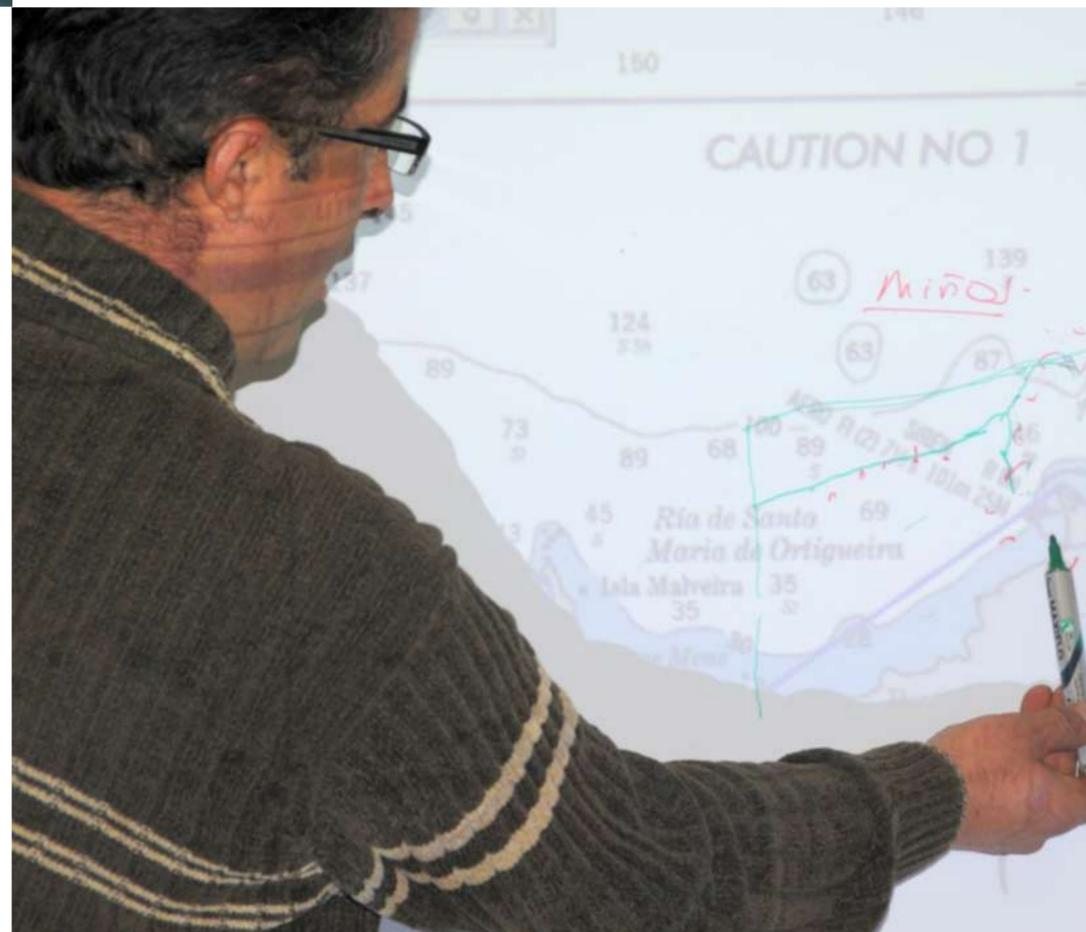
5

Better quality data
for management
decision taking.



4

Collective ownership by users
of decisions taken, leading to
increased compliance (reduce
IUU)

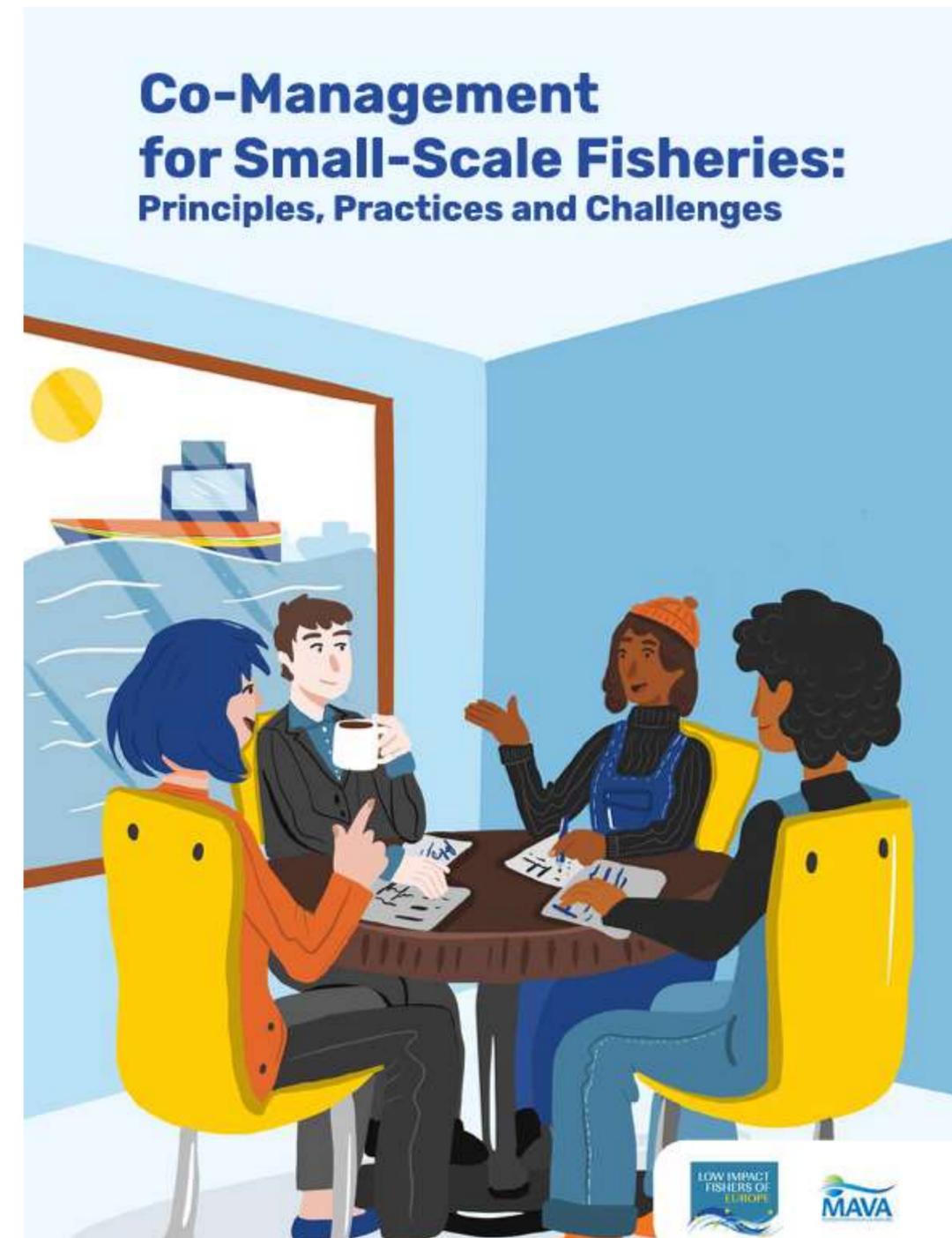


6

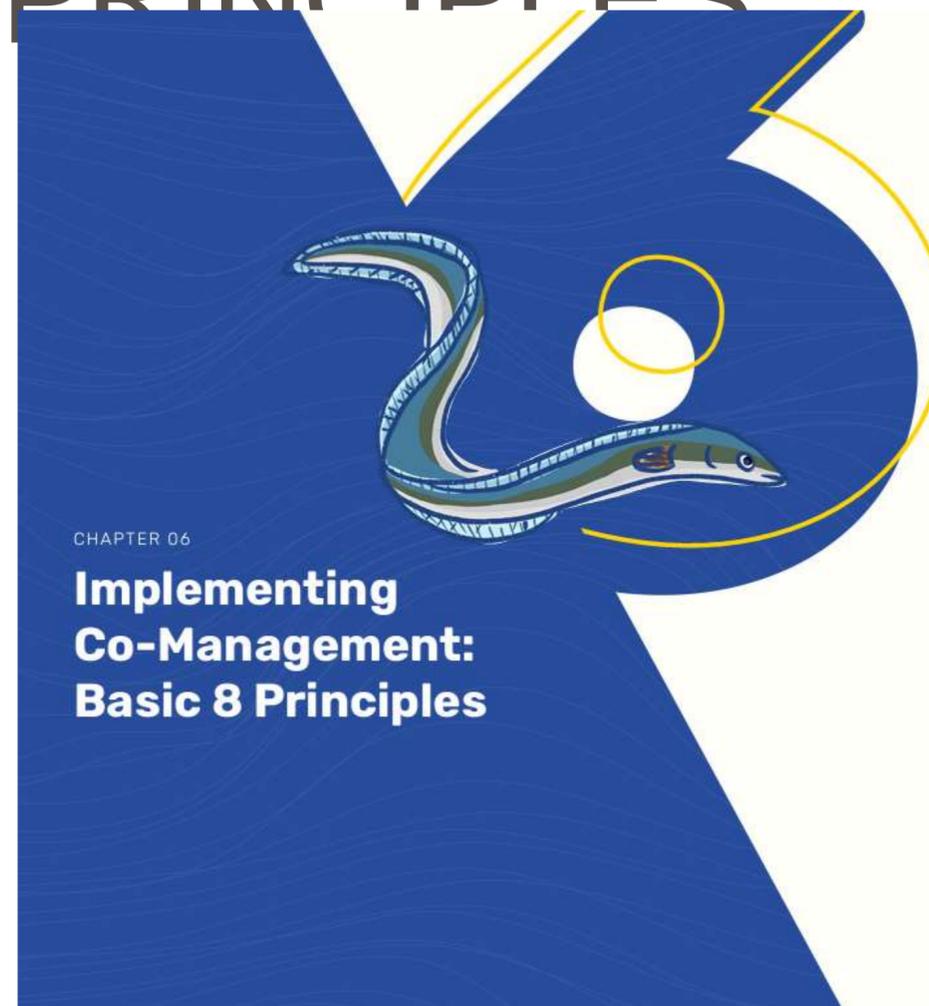
Enabling real-time
and adaptative
management

LIFE AND CO-MANAGEMENT

Co-management provides a central plank underpinning LIFE's Mission to restore the health of European seas through improved governance, that brings fishers from the periphery to the center of decision taking, which takes into account different local and regional realities and which builds on the experience and skills of people who directly depend on the fishery, strengthening the three pillars of sustainability.



IMPLEMENTING CO-MANAGEMENT: BASIC 8 PRINCIPLES



Adapted from Elinor Ostrom

- 1- Define clear group boundaries
- 2- Match rules governing use of common goods to local needs and conditions
- 3- Ensure that those affected by rules can participate in modifying the rules
- 4- Make sure the rule-making rights of community members are respected by outside authorities
- 5- Develop a System, carried out by community members, for monitoring member's behavior
- 6- Use graduated sanctions for rule violators
- 7- Provide accessible, low cost means for dispute resolution
- 8- Build responsibility for governing the common resource in nested tiers from the lowest level up to the entire interconnected system

FURTHER ATTRIBUTES NEEDED



- 1- Relationships are at the heart of co-management- social cohesion
- 2- Strong leadership
- 3- Empowerment of fishers
- 4- De-centralisation and devolution of authority
- 5- Social transformation- process of change
- 6- Management rules need to be simple
- 7- Coupling production to market and social benefits

CHALLENGES OF CO-MANAGEMENT



- 1- Time needed to build trust and social cohesion, expectations
 - 2- Need of an enabling environment and political will
 - 2- Lack of understanding and capacity
 - 3- Policy conflicts between sectorial administrations
 - 4- Co-management schemes are not necessarily costly but previous social processes to engage all stakeholders and provide social cohesion need resources
 - 5- Culture and power relations
- Etc.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Enable Legal frameworks for co-management
Promote and upscale the model

- Catalan Governance Decree and others to follow
- Western Mediterranean MAP
- RPOA- SSF in the Mediterranean
- Report of the implementation of the CFP
- FAO Guidelines Evaluation of Co-management



SUPPORT TO MEMBERS- CAPACITY BUILDING



- Many exchanges of best practices and webinars
- Support on the ground to develop co-management schemes

Empowering the legacy: Scaling up co-managed and financially sustainable No-Take Zones/Marine Protected Areas

**THANK YOU
GRACIAS, MERCI, GRAZIE, ΣΑΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ,
GRAZZIE**



med@lifeplatform.eu
www.lifeplatform.eu

***Vibrant Communities,
Fair Fisheries,
Healthy Seas***