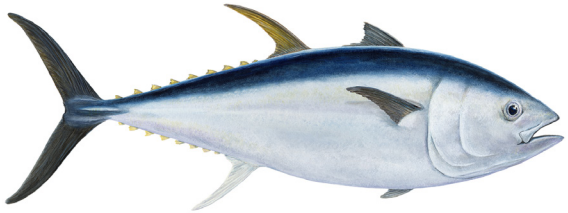
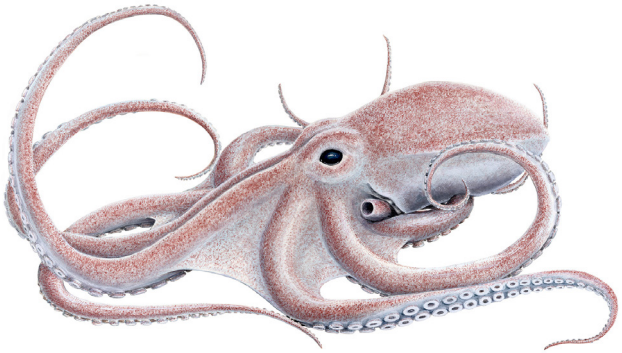
# Expected impact

- Advanced knowledge on impacts of EU fisheries in non-EU waters.
- New findings and tools used for fisheries management and decision making.
- Fishing exploitation adjusted to Maximum Sustainable Yields.
- Improved long-term profitability of the European fleet.
- Increased number of jobs in the fishing sector.
- Capacity building and dissemination.



*Tuna*



*Octopus*

*Hake*

*Drawings @fauna.is*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# FarFish

***Providing knowledge, tools and methods to support responsible, sustainable and profitable EU fisheries outside European waters***


**Funded under EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.**
**A consortium of 21 partners from 12 countries and 16 reference group members representing other countries and international organisations.**
**48 months duration: June 2017- May 2021**

**Work programme topic addressed:**
**H2020-SFS-21-2016: Advancing basic biological knowledge and improving management tools for commercially important fish and other seafood species**

This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement no. 727891.

# Why?

About 20% of the catch of the European fishing fleet is obtained from non-European waters. Access to these waters is often based on agreements with coastal states that allow the EU fleet to fish from surplus stocks in return for financing of infrastructure development in the fisheries sector. These agreements have been criticized as these fisheries are often poorly regulated and management decisions are sometimes based on limited knowledge, compliance, and enforcement capabilities. It is also too often the case that trust between stakeholders is lacking.

# Objectives

The overall objective is to improve knowledge and management of EU fisheries outside Europe, while contributing to sustainability and long-term profitability.

Specific objectives are:

- To advance knowledge and collate data related to biological characteristics of the main fish stocks in selected fisheries outside EU waters that are important for the EU fleet.
- To map and analyse the value chains of the selected fisheries and their current infrastructure and suggest improvements that promote future sustainability, profitablity and predictable provision of seafood.
- To analyse current legal and contractual practices and constraints in these fisheries, and produce policy recommendations for improved management of these fisheries.
- To develop flexible, dynamic and ready-to-use management plans in close collaboration with stakeholders.
- To evaluate the relevance, applicability, sustainability, costs, benefits and compliance with overall goals for the management plans and to provide feedback on feasibility and a roadmap for potential implementation.
- To develop general fisheries management support tools.
- To provide education, training and dissemination to stakeholders within the value chains of EU fisheries in Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement waters and international waters, and to improve their professional skills and regional networks.

# Approach

Six case study areas in which the European fleet are actively engaged in fishing activities, including Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal and Seychelles, as well as the international seas in the southeast and southwest Atlantic.

Analysis of biological, ecological, technological, economic, political and social impacts of EU fisheries in the case studies to advance knowledge and promote sustainable and profitable exploitation.

Introduce Results-Based Management approaches and develop new decision support tools for these fisheries and test their applicability in collaboration with stakeholders.

Build capacities in fisheries management and related disciplines amongst stakeholders.

*Map showing case study areas and the countries where the project participants come from.*


# Expected outcomes

Increased knowledge base to improve fisheries management of EU fisheries in non-EU waters e.g. through collection of data on ecological, economic and socially important aspects of these fisheries.

Insights into the sustainability of commercially important species such as tuna, hake, mackerel, octopus, and other relevant fisheries in non-European waters which will contribute to the exploitation at or below corresponding Maximum Sustainable Yields for these fisheries.

FarFish DataBase and standardised methods for collecting biological and ecological data on fisheries.

Accessible and adaptable fisheries decision support tools.

Tailor-made management plans as well as a voluntary standard on guidelines for making these plans.

Policy recommendations for improved management and implementation of new fisheries management tools.

Training programmes and training materials providing in-depth knowledge on fisheries management and optimisation of resources throughout the entire value chain.

Improved professional skills and competences of those working and being trained to work within the blue economy.

Increased responsibility of the European fleet for sustainable utilisation of marine resources outside European waters.

*Horse mackerel @fauna.is*

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