



The Atlantic Arc: a shoreline stretching from the Highlands to Andalucia

The concept of the Atlantic Arc was born in Faro, a port in the Portuguese Algarve, at the ‘Conference on Maritime Peripheral Regions’ in 1989. Today, 32 regions of the European Union – from the Highlands of Scotland to Andalucia – make up this arc, which stretches over 2,500 km. These regions came together to pool forces and develop their assets in an attempt to measure up to the famous ‘blue banana’, or central axis of the EU, which stretches from London to Rome.

In terms of fishing activities, the Atlantic Arc is important to the EU in a number of ways. It adjoins the maritime regions that are among the Community’s major fishing zones: the west of Scotland and Ireland, the Celtic Sea, the Bay of Biscay, the Gulf of Cádiz, etc. Fishing activities are characterized by the prominence of a distant-water non-industrial sector, which does not prevent the existence of industrial centres often centred around deep-sea fishing, e.g. Vigo in Galicia, Lorient in Brittany, Aveiro in the Centro region of Portugal, Killybegs in Ireland, etc.; not to mention the bases for tropical tuna campaigns, e.g. Berméo in the Basque country, Concarneau in Brittany and the departure ports for the neighbouring coasts of Africa: Sesimbra, Peniche, Huelva and Barbate.

Despite the existence of processing centres, the fish-catching sector dominates, and the problem of access to fish resources is of interest to the whole Arc region. User conflicts are exacerbated by the fact that they involve European maritime regions where fishing is important in terms of employment or tradition : Galicia, Brittany, the Algarve, the west of Scotland, the Basque country, the south-west of England, Andalucia, etc. The importance of aquaculture should not be overlooked with mussels in Galicia, oysters in Poitou-Charentes and Basse-Normandie, and salmon in the Highlands of Scotland and the west of Ireland.

The Arc extends further into the North Atlantic with the fishing activities of the Azores, from the great international fishing base of the Canaries, down to the shrimp fishing grounds of French Guyana. These so-called ‘extremely remote’ maritime regions of Europe are also evidence of the importance the Atlantic Ocean holds for the EU.

The Editor

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Region of the month

Aveiro: from the lagoon to deep-sea fishing



The lagoon of Aveiro (110m²) to the south of Porto in the Centro region of Portugal is home to a variety of activities. It is one of the pilot regions within the framework of the LIFE programme associated with the integrated development of coastal regions.

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The region offers a wide range of fishing and fish-farming activities. Apart from lagoon-based activities – inshore fishing and the farming of sea bass and sea bream – it includes one of Portugal's leading fresh-fish ports and the main base for deep-sea fishing, which has led to the development of a significant processing industry.

Lagoon fishing is practised using both rods and nets cast from fishing boats, and on foot, particularly in the case of small bivalves. There are even fixed traps used to catch eels. Fishing here is mostly non-industrial, though it does provide a living for many of the region's inhabitants. The Portuguese Institute for Ocean Research, IPIMAR, conducts numerous analyses of shellfish. The risks of pollution from industrial and urban waste, which are badly managed, have made this monitoring necessary, though a project involving the treatment and improved discarding of effluent is in the pipeline. A number of fishing boats used for this offshore fishing operate at the edge of the lagoon, close to the beaches that still feature traditional beach-net fishing. Although fishing boats are still used, the oxes of yesteryear have been replaced by tractors.

Aveiro also houses the country's biggest fishing vessels – industrial trawlers, 60 to 80m long, fishing for cod and redfish in the North Atlantic – along with somewhat smaller vessels, between 35 and 45m long, fishing off the coasts of Morocco, Mauritania and Guinea, not to mention those operating from Mozambique, which the crew reach by plane. Longliners from Aveiro fish for tuna, swordfish and sharks (for the Spanish market) all the way down to the Azores.

Between these two extremes, coastal artisanal fishing, comprising vessels some 20m long, has begun moving from the old harbour of Aveiro to a new complex with brand-new quaysides, a new fish market – run, as elsewhere in Portugal, by Docapesca – which became operational in October of this year, and fresh-fish storehouses. Located closer to the mouth of the lagoon, it should attract a number of offshore-fishing vessels and non-industrial seiners based in other ports.

Questions put to Pedro Jorge Batista da Silva, President of the Industrial Fisheries Producers' Organization (OPESCA).

Pesca Info (P.I.): What are your main hopes for the fishing industry in Aveiro?

Pedro Jorge Batista da Silva (PJBS): Our organization is not confined to Aveiro; we have members in other ports, too. My hopes include the need for the proper management of fisheries resources, involving in particular a balance between the opportunities they offer and the number of boats, and the preservation of peripheral fishing in Europe. Aveiro is Portugal's leading industrial fishing port and, as you have seen, great efforts have been made regarding marketing instruments. We are an hour and a half away from Porto airport by road, three hours from Lisbon and Salamanca and five hours from Madrid. Obviously, there is a local identity and where is much talk of regionalisation. I don't think that this applies much to Portugal, however, since it is small enough to be considered as one big region.

**Data sheet
Aveiro**

- *Location:* Centro, Portugal
- *Fleet:* 5 longliners and 30 distant-water trawlers, 60 multi-purpose coastal vessels, approx. 1,000 lagoon and coastal fishing boats
- *Type of fishing:*
 - industrial: bottom trawl, longline
 - non-industrial: bottom trawl, net, octopus pots
 - lagoon: net, line, dredge, on foot
- *Output:*
 - *species:*
 - North Atlantic industrial fishing: cod (*Gadus morhua*), redfish (*Sebastes spp*), black halibut (*Reinhardtius sp.*), grenadier
 - African industrial fishing: shrimps, squid, grouper, meagre, porgy
 - longliners: tuna, swordfish, sharks
 - coastal non-industrial fishing: hake, octopus, grouper, meagre, ray, monkfish, scad (*Trachurus sp.*), mackerel (*Scombrus scombrus*)
 - lagoon fishing: sea bass, sea bream, sole, flounder, cuttlefish, cockles, clams, green crabs
 - *Volume:*
 - fresh fishing: 6,000 t (1997)
 - industrial fishing: 15,000 t (1997)
 - *Value:*
 - fresh fish: 1.7 billion escudos (**EURO 8.5 million**)
 - industrial fish: 4.5 billion escudos (**EURO 22.5 million**)
- *Employment in fishing:* sea-fishing (approx. 1,000 full-time jobs), lagoon fishing (approx. 1,000 part-time jobs)
- *Processing:* 20 companies (between 2,000 and 3,000 part-time or seasonal jobs)



Common Fisheries Policy

Extremely remote areas of the European Union

The title of extremely remote areas applies to dependencies of three EU Member States, i.e. France, Portugal and Spain. Almost all of these dependencies are oceanic islands or archipelagos. French Guyana, between Brazil and Surinam, is the sole exception to the rule. With its sandy and silty coastline just up from the mouth of the Amazon, this French overseas department (so-called DOM), is a special case in terms of fisheries, particularly due to the presence of tropical-shrimp fishing grounds.

All the other regions are groups of islands, mostly located in the Atlantic. Another French overseas department – Réunion – is the exception to the rule, since it is located in the Indian Ocean, to the east of Madagascar. Réunion is characterized by the recent development of distant-water non-industrial fishing in pelagic fisheries (tuna and swordfish). Nevertheless, the island is also used as a base by industrial fishing vessels operating in the South Seas. The other French overseas departments are two islands in the French Antilles, i.e. Martinique and Guadeloupe, home to mostly small coastal non-industrial fisheries, but where the fishing of big pelagic species is also taking off.

Located off the coast of Morocco, the Spanish Canary Islands are home to a variety of fishing grounds (tuna, demersal species) and a large fleet (longliners, trawlers, multi-purpose vessels). It also boasts the

major international fishing base of Las Palmas, from which big fishing vessels from all over the world operate, frequently landing some of their catches there: trawlers from Eastern Europe and the EU fishing off Africa, Asian longliners, etc.

The Portuguese islands of the Azores in the middle of the Atlantic have a long tradition of fishing. Nowadays, the dependency rate is high for fishing, with tuna and mackerel dominating, as in Madeira, another group of Portuguese islands. The tuna-canning factories on these islands are a major economic activity. There is also bottom-line demersal fishing, particularly in the Azores, targeting species with a high market value.

Specific measures adopted in favour of these regions

Legal instruments enabling particular measures to be enforced have been implemented in favour of these regions in order to compensate for the extra costs arising from their specific position (insular economies, shortage of space and insufficient local market, extreme remoteness from the European continent, etc.). For example, support measures for producer organizations have been adopted, and a compensation scheme for the extra costs involved in selling a number of fisheries products has been set up. Other measures relate to support towards the development of fisheries and aquaculture and the financing of ocean research. Furthermore, the revised Treaty on the European Union contains an autonomous provision relating to these regions.

PESCA on the spot

PESCA in Northern Ireland: a series of wide-ranging projects

The PESCA projects in Northern Ireland project was launched in March 1996 with a budget of EURO 2.4 million. It covers Northern Ireland's four main fishing ports, i.e. Kilkeel, Annalong, Ardglass and Portavogie.

To date, PESCA has contributed euro 2.1 million towards 36 projects. These include assistance towards lobster notching in Strangford Lough, numerous projects for expanding SMEs, promotion of the seafood-product sector, tourist initiatives and a series of training programmes.

One of these projects, KITE, supported by the Kilkeel Development Association, focuses on professional retraining and advice aimed at meeting the needs of former workers in the fishing industry. The project will cost EURO 315,000, with EURO 204,000 provided by PESCA funds. At Ardglass, the local 'Viking' association has built the 'Black Swallow', a life-size Viking boat, with EURO 13,779 of PESCA aid. It will be the showpiece of the tourist industry on the coast of County Down.

For further information on PESCA in Northern Ireland, contact Barbara Whitfield at the Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, tel. 44 693 67011, or e-mail: nmcoop@dial.pipex.com.





Interview of the month

Interview with Alain Bertin, President of the regional shellfish section of Marennes-Oléron, France

Editor's note: intended as a medium for freely voiced opinions, the PESCA bulletin reflects the views held by professionals. Articles express the opinions of the authors alone. Latin names are used to identify fish species to improve recognition in various languages.

Introduction: The shellfish basin of Marennes-Oléron is one of the two major centres of Charente-Maritime, France's leading "département" in shellfish farming.

Pesca Info (P.I.): What does the Marennes-Oléron basin represent in terms of shellfish farming?

Alain Bertin (A.B.): Oyster-farming predominates, with sales of 60,000 tonnes, half of which undergoes its entire production cycle in the region. Mussel farming, with sales of 4,000 tonnes, is also present, though mainly in the north of Charente-Maritime. In our basin alone, the industry accounts for some 3,000 permanent jobs and some 3,500 part-time jobs, not to mention family workers.

P.I.: What are your main activities at the moment?

A.B.: One of our measures involves the recognition of the quality of our products. Our old labels are no longer compatible with European regulations. We opted for a PGI (Protected Geographical Indication), verifying, against a list of set criteria, the product's origin (whether it is local or from another

basin in France well known to us) and the conditions for refinement, which must be carried out in Marennes-Oléron. Another of our activities involves the conditions of production within the framework of a project for the restructuring of beds on the foreshore.

P.I.: Your activities are conducted in various parts of the coastline, where the concept of integrated management increasingly applies. What are the conflicting interests facing oyster farming?

A.B.: We encountered problems when the SMVM (Outline for the Development of the Sea) was being developed, with some of its promoters wishing to preserve the marshlands as they are, though they can only be maintained using more modern techniques. Nowadays, however, we are in favour of the SMVM: even if the SMVM controls our activities, it also safeguards them, recognizing as it does the importance of shellfish farming to the sector. Our beds on the foreshore are only accessible by boat, and the only conflicting interests have concerned projects for sailing resorts, which lead to pollution and which we fought against within the framework of the SMVM.

We have a project for deep-water seabed cultures, and we resent the fact that a number of fishermen from La Rochelle have already protested against it when we are still only at the stage of carrying out technical and economic studies. There are also experiments involving pre-growth on floating channels. If the studies are positive and opposition persists, we will propose another deep-water site for oyster farming closer to home, getting local fishermen involved.

Newsflash

'Illustrated multilingual dictionary of aquatic plants and animals', second edition

Over 1,500 species of fish, shellfish, molluscs, aquatic mammals and plants have been collected, illustrated and listed in the 11 languages of the European Union (as well as Latin) in this volume.

Produced under the general coordination of the European Commission, it is the product of cooperation with scientists from all EU countries. Professionals from the world of fishing and aquaculture will find it an indispensable tool, enabling them to share a common language.

This glossary, published jointly with Fishing News Books, is available at a cost of EURO 90 (excl. VAT) from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2, rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg or via Internet: <http://europ.eu.int/indexen.htm>.

This column is available to you if you wish to announce various events or actions likely to be of interest to the fishing world.

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