

SUPPORTING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BY PROMOTING CITIZEN SCIENCE

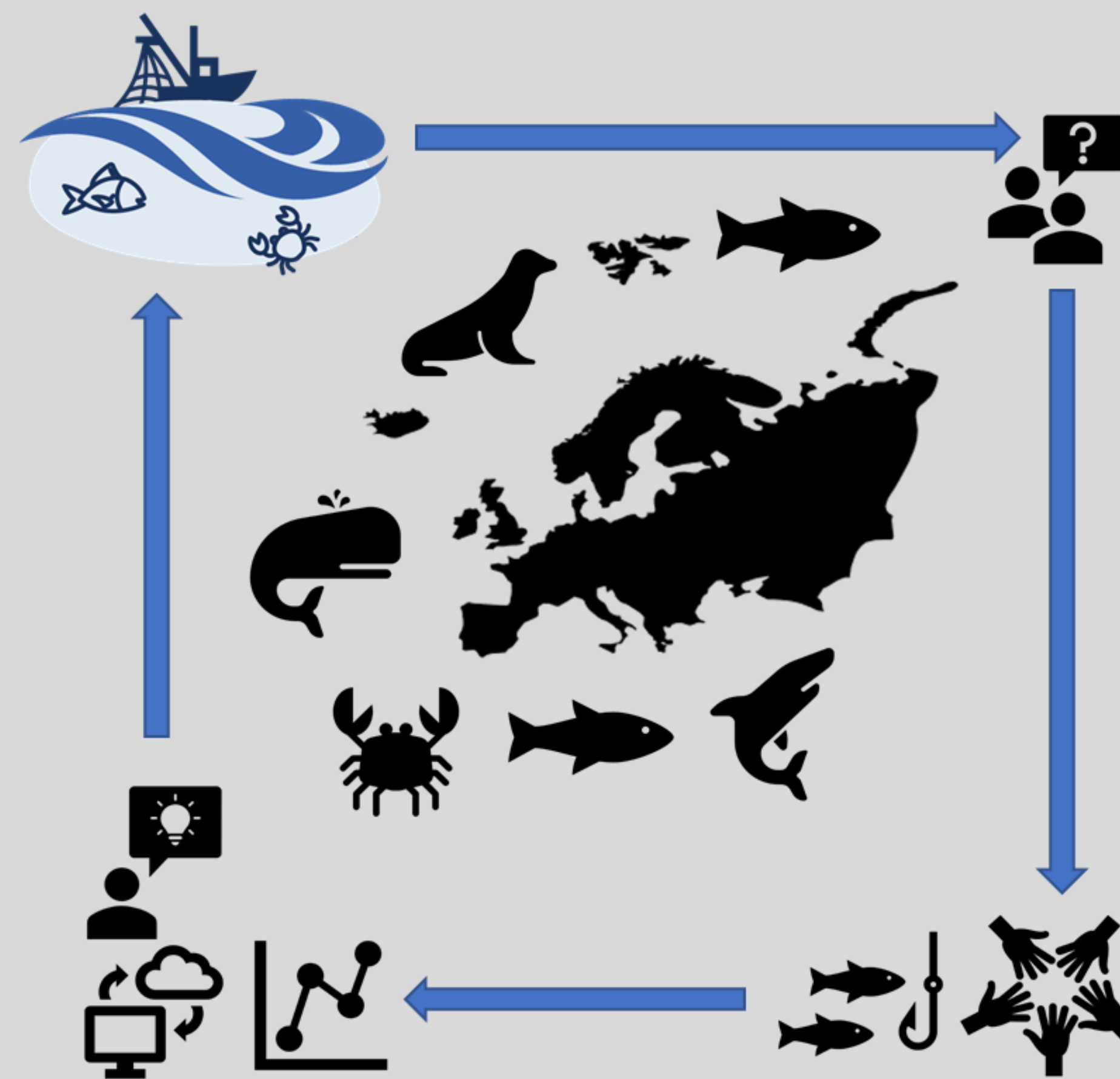
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CHALLENGES

National, regional, and international fishery management authorities collect and analyze fisheries data leading to meaningful management decisions, yet many stocks and fisheries remain unassessed.

Citizen Science (CS) should not and cannot replace existing science programs, but collection of fisheries-related data is time-consuming and costly. Limited data is, or is seen as, a significant management constraint for the determination of fisheries regulations (Bonney, 2021).



OPPORTUNITIES

Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) and data collected by citizens, particularly fishers, on fish populations, discards, vulnerable or invasive species, habitats, and other important factors, can be used to augment existing efforts, bridge data gaps and inform fisheries management decisions (EC, 2022).

When successful collaborative (CS) efforts are made, they may contribute to winning hearts and minds and building trust between stakeholders, which is fundamental to successful management of fisheries.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE ILIAD AND OTTERS PROJECTS TO CITIZEN SCIENCE POLICY

The Iliad project builds on the assets resulting from decades of data collection and aims at establishing interoperable, data-intensive, and cost-effective Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs). It capitalizes on the explosion of new data provided by many sources, including Citizen Science, seeking to improve decision making. Iliad engages key stakeholders to make progress on the goals of the UN Decade for Ocean Science in Sustainable Development, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



The OTTERS project will support the coordination of water-related CS initiatives to accelerate the creation and adoption of technical, legal, and ethical standards for protocols and methods. The project will also scale up aquatic CS via piloting cross-community campaigns to feed into data spaces and projects like ILIAD.



THE NEED TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY AND VISIBILITY OF FISHERIES-RELATED CS PROJECTS

Searching multiple databases, we found that fisheries-related Citizen Science Initiatives, including LEK, are only seldom featured in large repositories (Fig.1)



Availability and visibility of fisheries related CS projects should be increased, and we encourage the development of inclusive repositories

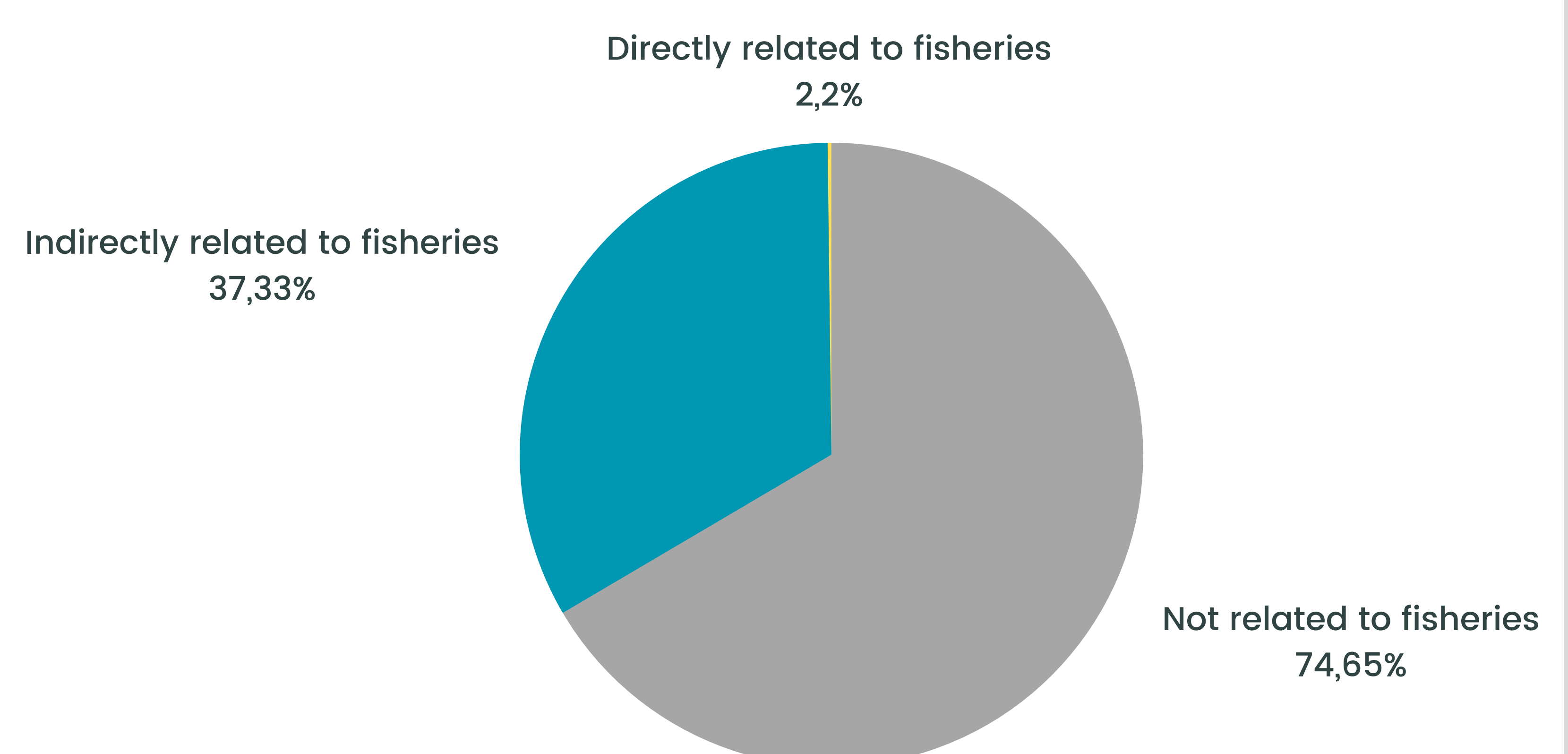


Fig.1. Amount and proportions of fisheries-related initiatives among all catalogued EU marine CS projects. ILIAD Marine CS Catalog, based on EUCS, US GOV, Zooniverse, Scistar and CitSci-X repositories

SOURCES

Bonney (2021). Expanding the Impact of Citizen Science, BioScience, Volume 71, Issue 5, May 2021, Pages 448–451, To wrap up your poster, present two to three key findings. You can also add a brief explanation or narrative to these that can encourage conversation or dialogue with the audience. These findings can be actionable items that can lead to implementation, policy creation, or further study.
 EC (2022). The implementation of ecosystem-based approaches applied to fisheries management under the CFP. 139 p To wrap up your poster, present two to three key findings. You can also add a brief explanation or narrative to these that can encourage conversation or dialogue with the audience. These findings can be actionable items that can lead to implementation, policy creation, or further study.



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