



FarFish

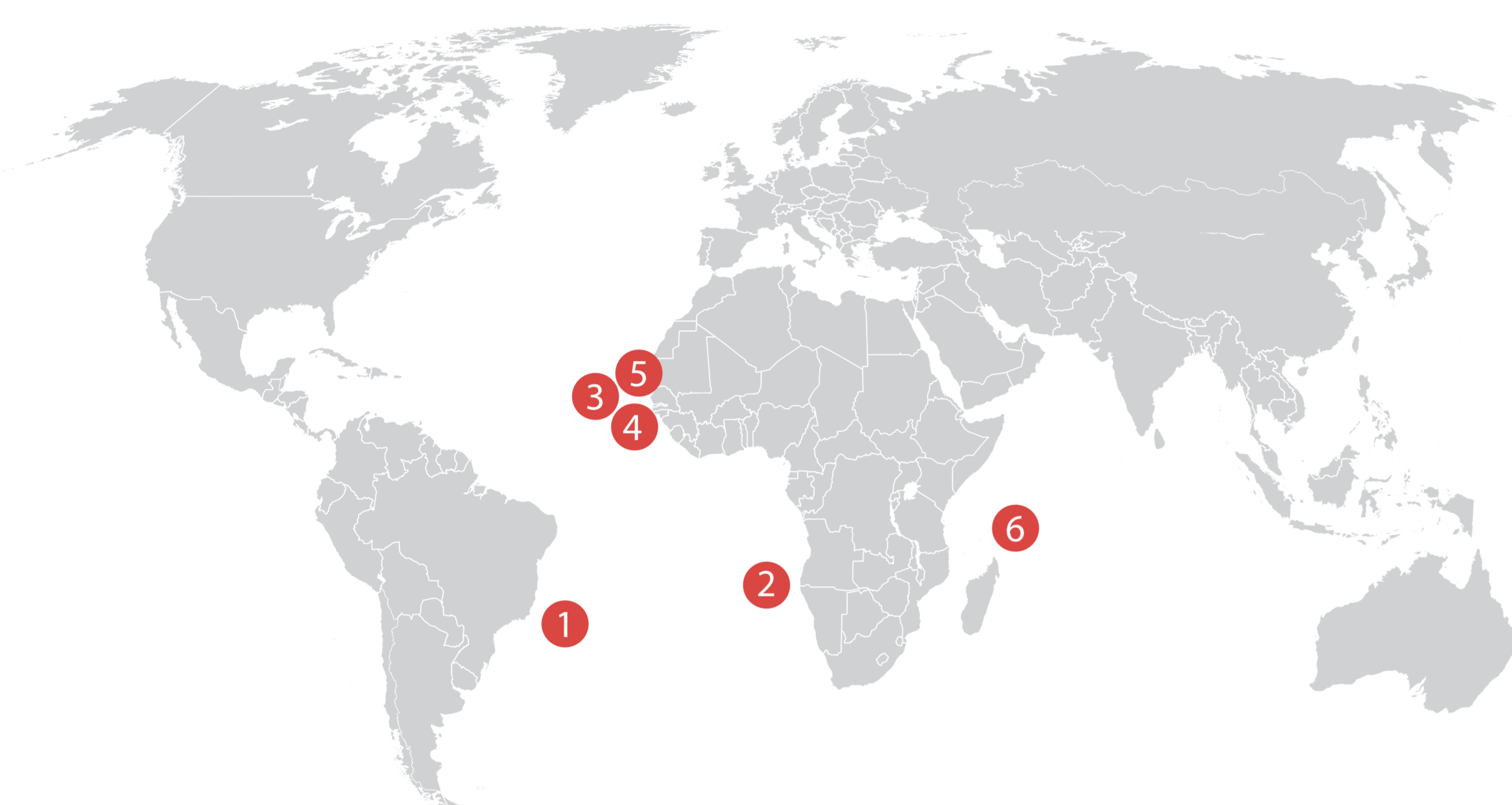
IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND MANAGEMENT OF EU FISHERIES OUTSIDE EUROPE, WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABILITY AND LONG-TERM PROFITABILITY

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Introduction

The Horizon 2020 project FarFish ran from 2017 to 2021, aiming to improve knowledge and management of fisheries in long-distance waters that are of importance for the EU fleet, and build competences among stakeholders responsible for utilisation and management within those waters. The project focused on six diverse case studies, two in international waters and four in Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPAs) waters.

FARFISH CASE STUDIES



The FarFish case studies focused on 1) mixed fisheries in the international waters of the SW Atlantic, 2) mixed fisheries in the international waters of the SE Atlantic, 3) tuna fisheries within the waters of Cape Verde, 4) tuna & black hake fisheries within Senegalese waters, 5) small pelagics & mixed fisheries in Mauritanian waters, and 6) tuna fisheries within the waters of the Seychelles.

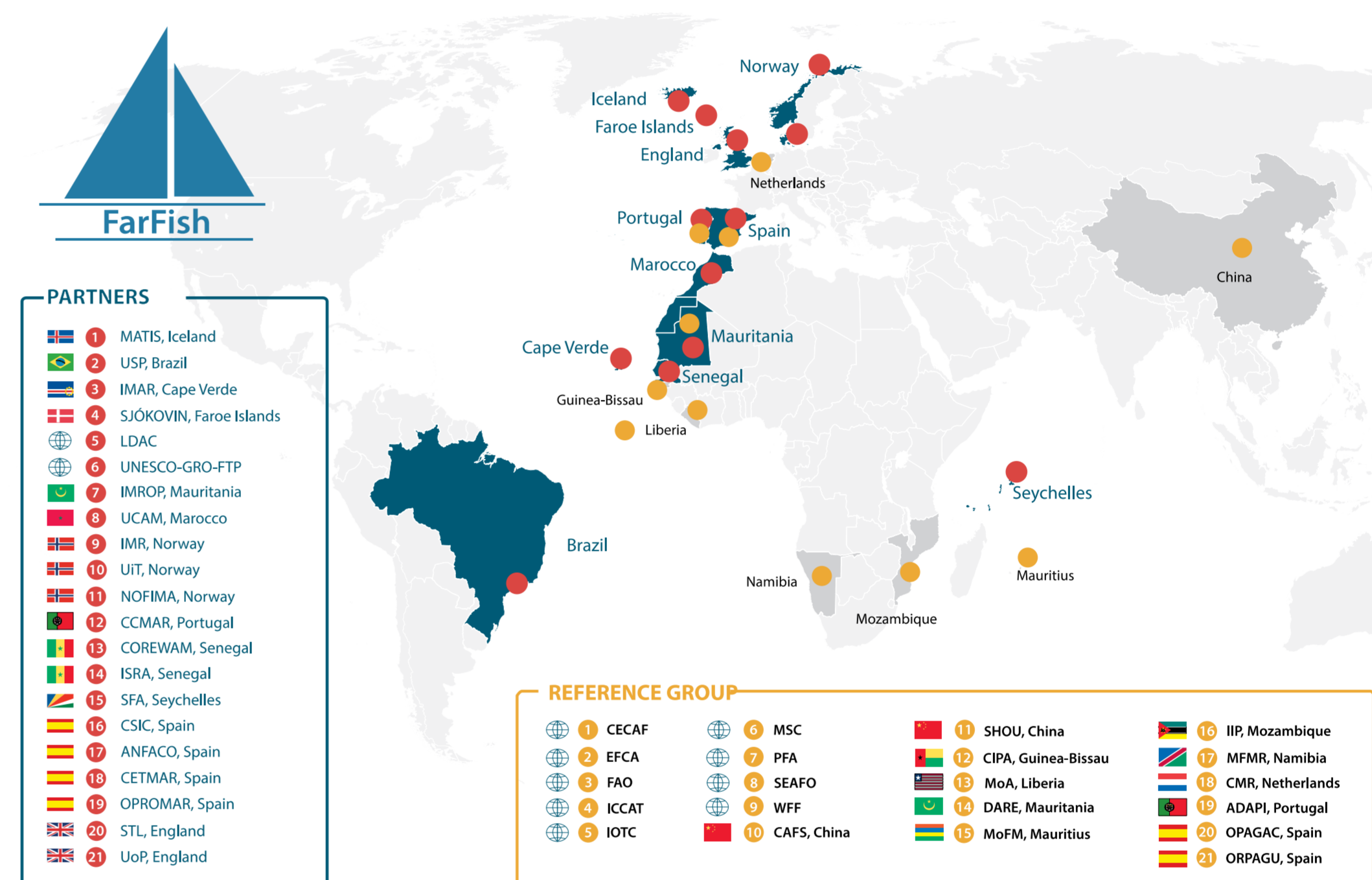
Close to 20% of the total catches of the EU fleet originate from non-EU waters, either from international waters or from within national waters where the EU has negotiated access for its fleets, often in return for financial compensation. The agreements are called Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and have generally gained recognition as a benchmark for good fisheries governance. While SFPAs allow EU vessels to fish for surplus stocks in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of third countries, they are supposed to ensure equal rules, scientific management and social empowerment, with a focus on environmental sustainability, local growth, human rights and shared accountability. The reality is however that fisheries within these waters are often poorly regulated, management decisions are sometimes based on limited knowledge and enforcement capabilities, compliance and trust between stakeholders tend to lack. The objective of FarFish was to address these shortcomings in co-creation with stakeholders.



Stakeholder participation and citizen science

Key component of the FarFish project was stakeholder participation from a diverse group of stakeholders. The stakeholder involvement was facilitated within a so-called Reference Group, consisting of 21 stakeholder representatives, and thorough large number of conferences and workshops held during the lifetime of the project.

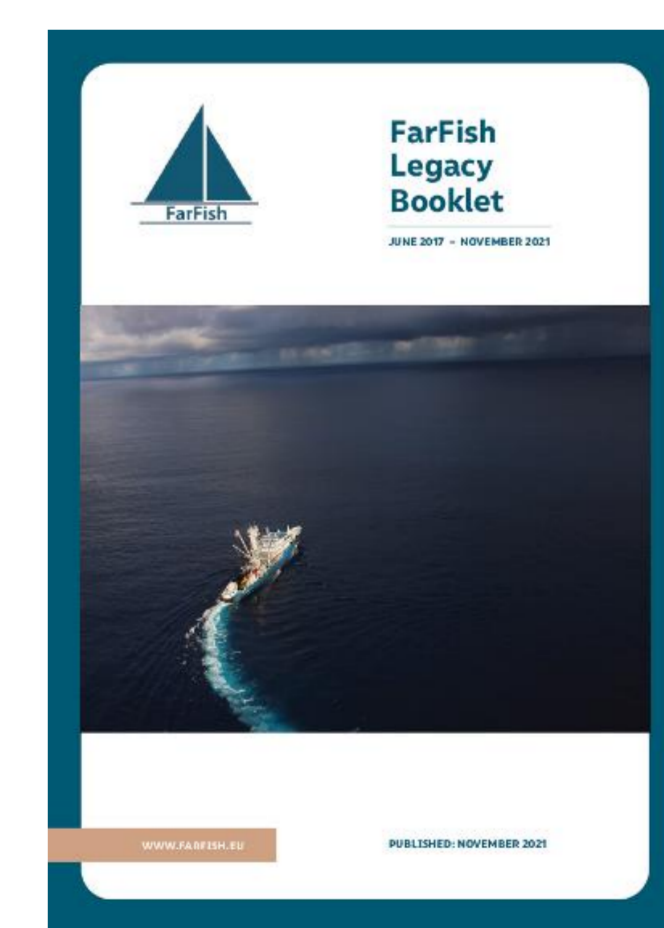
Citizen science was also applied within the project, particularly for collecting scientific data. An example of how FarFish applied citizen science with good success, was when a self-sampling programme was piloted onboard EU and Senegalese fishing vessels. The self-sampling provided scientifically important data on species composition in black hake fisheries along the SW African coast.^{2,3}



The FarFish consortium comprised of 21 partners and 21 stakeholder representatives (Reference Group members). Stakeholders contributing to the project in one form or another were however in the thousands.

Legacy

The impact and legacy of FarFish rests largely on the stakeholder uptake of the project's results. The active hands-on participation of stakeholders in the project and the co-creational approach ensured that the results are relevant and applicable, and provide practical solutions for the intended users. The citizen science components of the project have in addition showcased how fishermen and other stakeholders can collect important data, which can be used by scientists and authorities in fisheries management. For more information, visit www.farfish.eu



The FarFish project produced various results, including training & e-learning tools, mobile application, policy recommendations, and a legacy booklet.

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² Carmen Blanco-Fernandez et al. (2022). Two Fish in a Pod: Mislabelling on Board Threatens Sustainability in Mixed Fisheries. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, March 2022, Volume 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.841667>

³ Karim Erzini et al. (2022). Report on the success of the self-sampling programme in the FarFish project. FarFish public deliverable 2.7 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6425489>

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