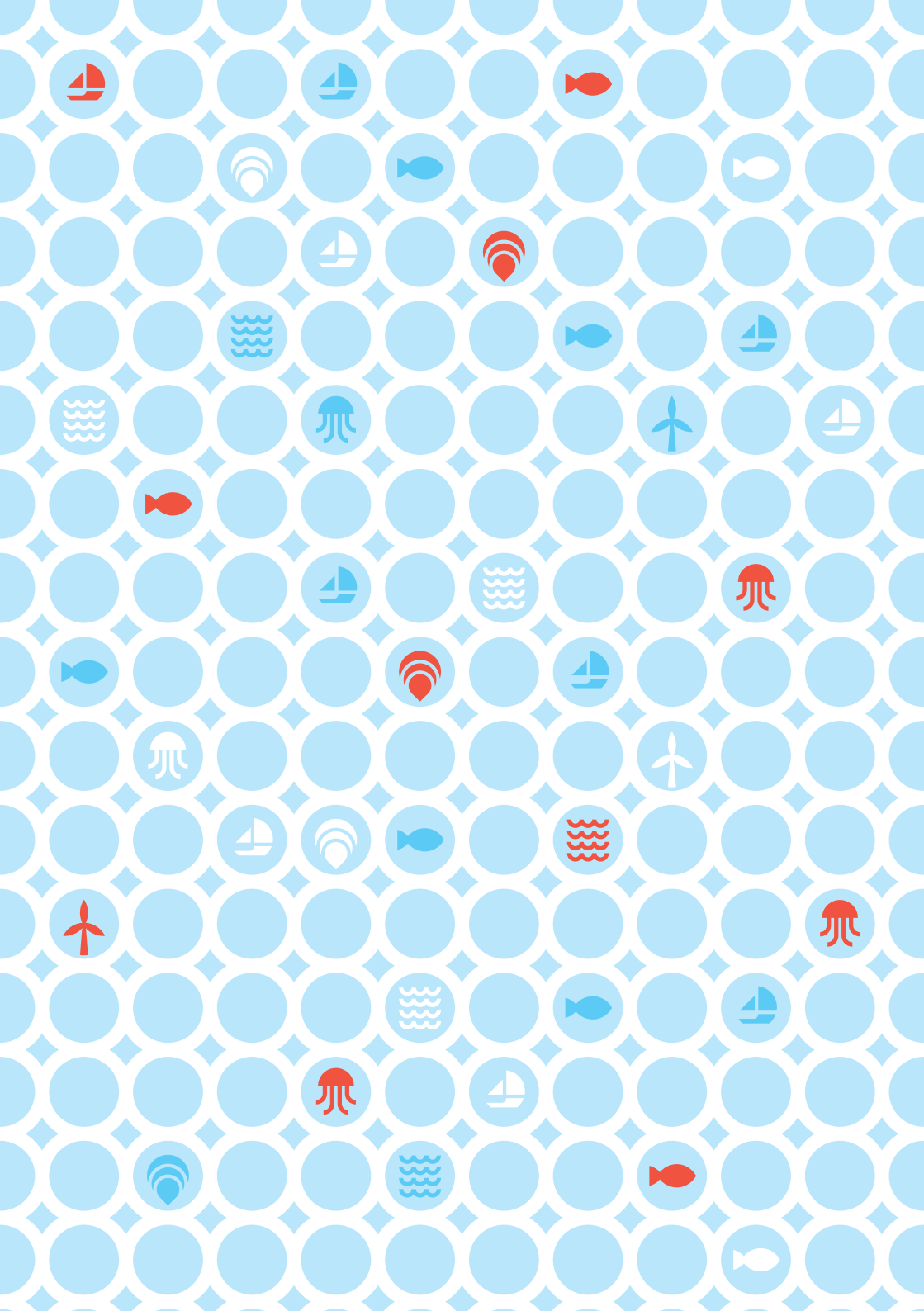


M U L T I
F R A M E

MULTI-USE BLUEPRINT

Fishing and Tourism on the east coast
in Sardinia, Italy



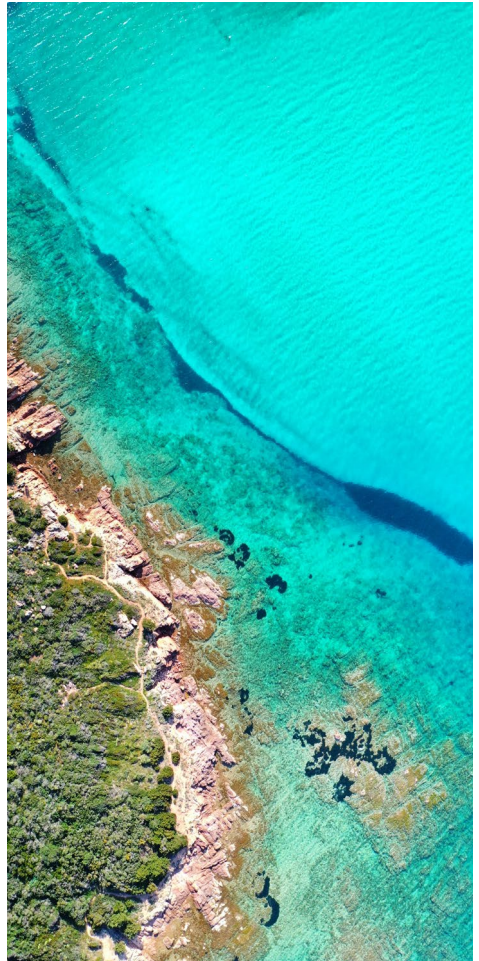
Location



Sardinia is an Italian island located in the Western Mediterranean Sea basin, south of Corsica. It is the second largest island of Italy (24 090 km²) after Sicily, but one of the least populated regions of the country (1,6 million inhabitants). Traditionally, Sardinia was a land of agriculture, and mining; fishing never played an important role regionally, although it sustained local coastal communities. Nowadays, the local economy is mainly driven by the services and the tourism industries: Sardinia is the 12th most visited region of Italy, with approximately 14 million visitors in 2019. Despite the average income per capita being the highest of the Mezzogiorno, the unemployment and aging rates are higher than in other regions. Sardinia is facing socio-economic challenges, exacerbated by its insularity, and needs specially adapted pathways towards sustainability.

Description

Sardinia has increased synergies between tourism and fishing over the last decade, especially on the Eastern coast. A growing number are engaged in pescaturism – taking onboard tourists for fishing trips and unique local experiences. During these daily tours, visitors have a go at fishing and enjoy local seafood. Pescaturism is based on a mutually beneficial relationship between fishing and tourism. On the one hand, fishers take advantage of tourism



to diversify and sometimes increase their revenues while reducing pressures on fish stocks and marine ecosystems. On the other hand, they can promote their job, traditions, and territories without leaving their primary activity like those engaged in ititourism (tourist accommodation and restoration in fishing communities) or operating boat tours. In this sense, pescaturism is a true “win-win” combination which builds local pathways towards sustainability. It became popular in Sardinia, converting this island into a major pescaturism hotspot in Italy and the Mediterranean as a whole.

Enabling conditions and tools

A clear and well established Italian regulatory framework

Pescatourism on the Eastern Sardinian coast was facilitated by the Italian legal framework. In fact, Italy was one of the first countries to recognize and encourage pescatourism. This concept was officially defined in 1982, with fishing-tourism activities being allowed in 1992 and regulated in 1999 through the Decree No. 293 of the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policies. Since then, Italy is a world leader of pescatourism together with Greece. The Italian legislation, which allows tourists to participate in fishing activities, was improved in 2012 to give fishers easier access to pescatourism permits and licenses.

Pescatourism as a socio-economic development strategy

Beyond the national context, pescatourism in Sardinia was enabled by the proactivity of local stakeholders. About 120 professional fishers, seven aquaculture farmers, inland fishing cooperatives and representatives from public authorities united in 2010 to create the East Sardinia Fishery Local Action Group (FLAG). The FLAG led a socio-economic analysis to define a Local Development Strategy (LDS) based on key priorities and actions to foster pescatourism. The Autonomous Region of Sardinia and local municipalities fully supported the FLAG and integrated pescatourism into their development plans to reverse local fisheries decline and fragmentation, in order to address broader socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment and an aging population

Support from European Institutions

The East Sardinia FLAG was created to request technical assistance and financial support from the European Union. Most actions defined within its LDS called "East Sardinia in 2020" were funded through the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) between 2010 and 2013. The FLAG defined a more ambitious plan in 2014 which was supported by European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Integrating European programs was also an opportunity to create links with other groups engaged in pescatourism in Italy, France and Greece.

Impacts and positive changes

Pescatourism is now well established in East Sardinia: in 2013, about 40 professional fishers were engaged into pescatourism, both in the Tortoli Lagoon and the Mediterranean Sea. Although pescatourism still remains a market niche compared to conventional tourism, it stimulated, together with itti-tourism, small-scale fisheries by providing new opportunities and prospects to fishers and to coastal communities in general. It also attracted more visitors to the Eastern coast of Sardinia and thereby boosted local economies. Finally, the Sardinian experience represents, beyond its peculiarities, a successful example and even a model of how to foster, locally, sustainable combinations between fishing and tourism.



Links

- **Franet magazine #9**

https://issuu.com/sergegomesdasilva/docs/farnet_magazine_09_en_0

- **Farnet - fisheries and tourism**

https://www.aianta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FARNET_Fisheries_and_Tourism-9_EN-002.pdf/

- **Flag Sardinia**

<http://www.flagsardegnaorientale.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Blue-economy-and-best-practices.pdf/>

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