

ICES Annual Science Conference 2026

LDAC Horizontal WG



ICES Annual Science Conference

- 15 to 18 September, Brest (France)
- >800 participants.
 - Mostly scientists
 - EU and national representatives (Chabaud French minister for fisheries, Donatella DG MARE C fisheries policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic & outermost regions, some representatives of MS governments Sweden, Finland, France)
 - Fisheries related representatives (Margot Angibaud Européche, Anna Marcout CNPMM, Tamara Tevaleska NSAC, Nils Hintzen scientist of PFA, Claus Sparrevohn scientist of DPPO)
 - NGOs (Max Swartz EBCD, Jean-christophe van der velde PEW)

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Various type of activities

- Special Event (e.g. The future of fisheries advice - Are we ready for 2040?)
- Networking sessions (e.g. Future-proofing ICES science and advice)
- Plenary Roundtable (e.g. Bridging science and policy: Collaborative pathways in Marine Spatial Planning)
- Plenary Keynote (e.g. Does seasonality matter? Unravelling the seasonality of the biological carbon pump and consequences for carbon sequestration in the ocean)
- Posters
- **Presentation sessions**

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Theme session A: Participatory modelling

Theme session B: Ecosystem-based management & fisheries management

Theme session C: Turbines to ecosystems

Theme session D: Bycatch reduction

Theme session E: Extreme temperature events

Theme session F: Climate models to advice

Theme session G: Rethinking marine AI

Theme session H: Human impacts on benthic ecosystems

Theme session I: Restoring fish seascapes

Theme session J: Multi-use marine spaces

Theme session K: Marine biodiversity assessment & monitoring

Theme session L: Quantifying and assessing contaminant impacts

Theme session M: Data quality in small-scale fisheries

Theme session N: Warming-induced changes

Theme session O: Aquaculture & climate change

Theme session P: Gelatinous zooplankton & fisheries

Theme session Q: Novel oceanographic & fish-dependent data

Theme session R: Other important research

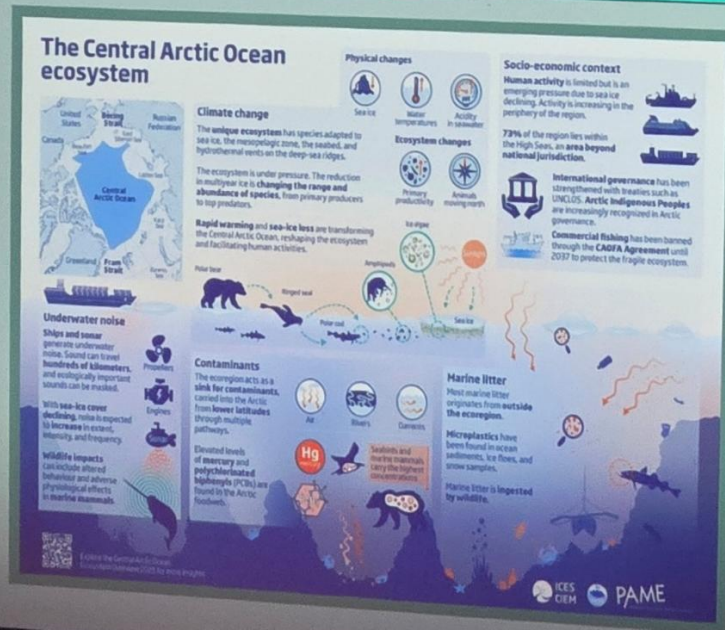
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Where are we today?

Over the last decade scope of our advice has spanned more geographies, more uses, more pressures, and more impacts



Examples....

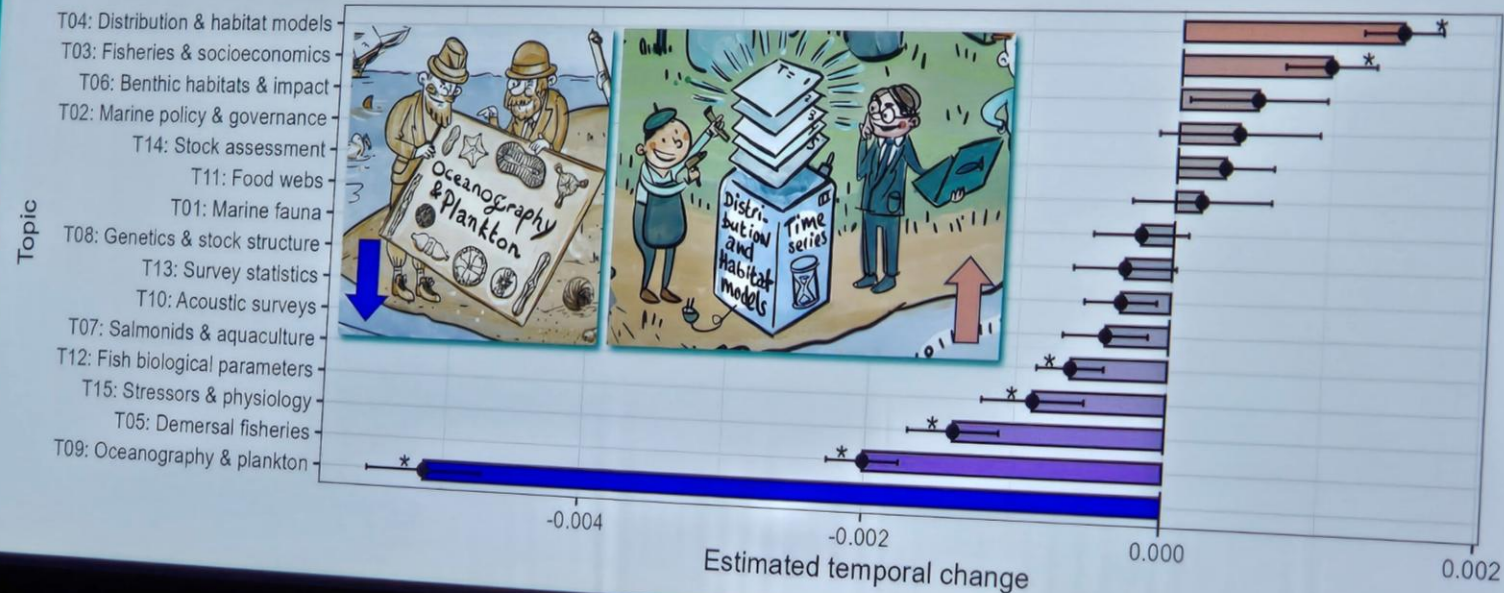
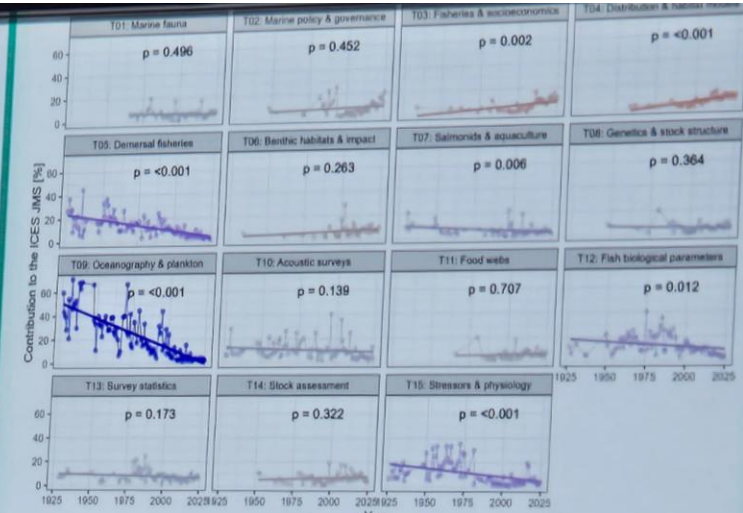
- Fishing Opportunities advice for 260 stocks
- 180 stocks = 4.7 million tonnes in 2025
- Recurrent bycatch and VME advice
- Impact of offshore wind farms
- Risk assessment for aquaculture
- Assessing cumulative impacts
- Arctic and Oceanic Atlantic EO
- North Sea Aquaculture Overview
- North Sea & Celtic Sea FO

2026.....

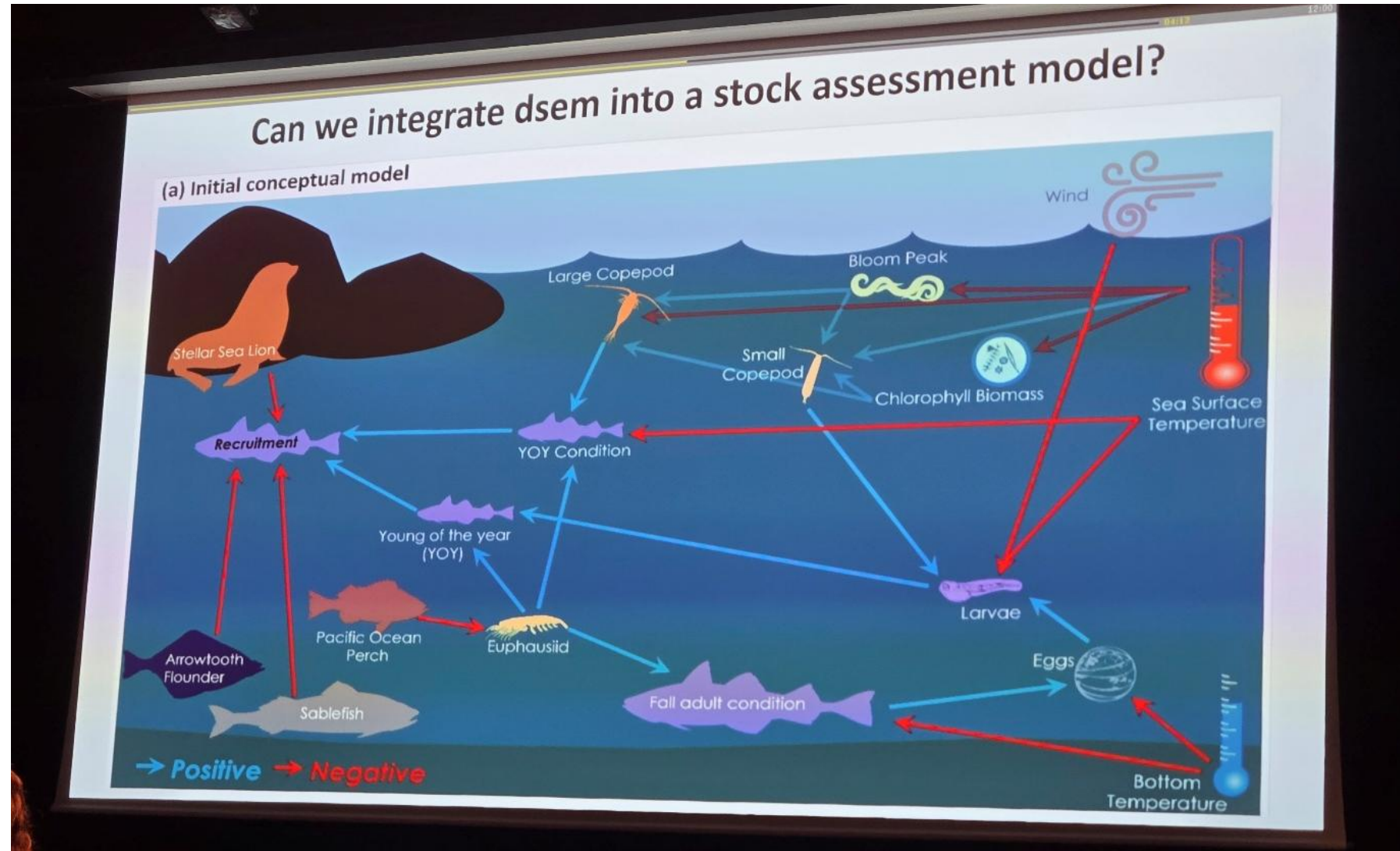
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Findings

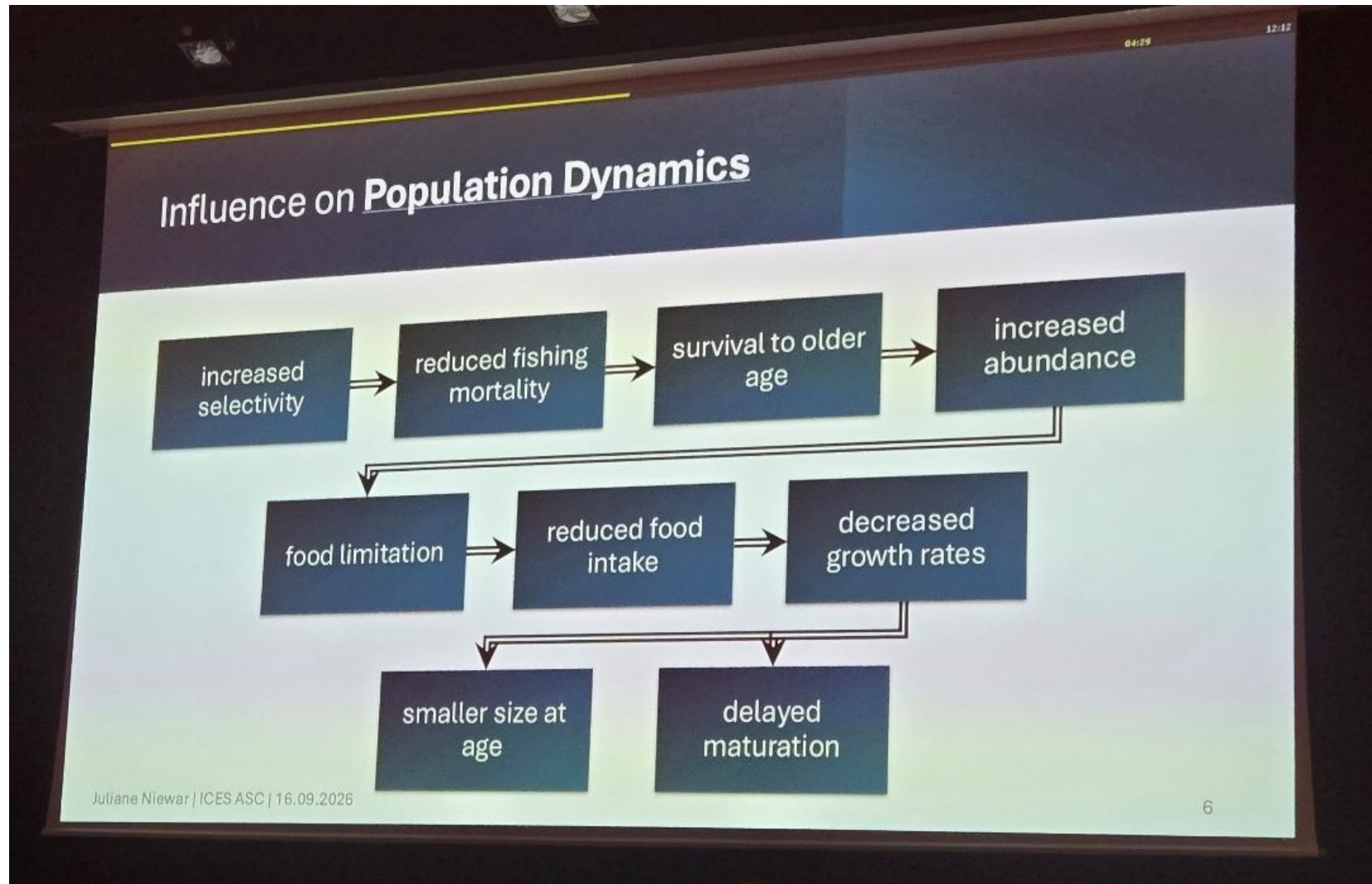
Major shifts in topic dominance
Significant transitions in research focus
over decades



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Comparing the five measures

	Pearl nets (gillnet) 	Bird scaring lines (longline) 	Escape grids (pelagic trawl) 	Pingers (southern gillnets) 	EM deterrents (demersal trawl) 
Political	Fits permits	Political momentum	REM incentive	Government in consultation; low trust	Unproven for trawl gear
Economic	High cost	Cheap	Strong economics	Incentives possible	High unit/battery cost
Social	Accepted but new	Co-developed	Industry led	Fishers not keen	Low awareness
Technological	Production lags	Line entanglement	Limited trial capacity	Effectiveness unclear	Charging issues (EM)
Environmental	Lower bycatch	Plastic litter	Bycatch very rare	Potential noise pollution	No harmful effects
Legal	No conflicts	No barriers	No barriers	Currently not allowed	Exemptions possible, slow

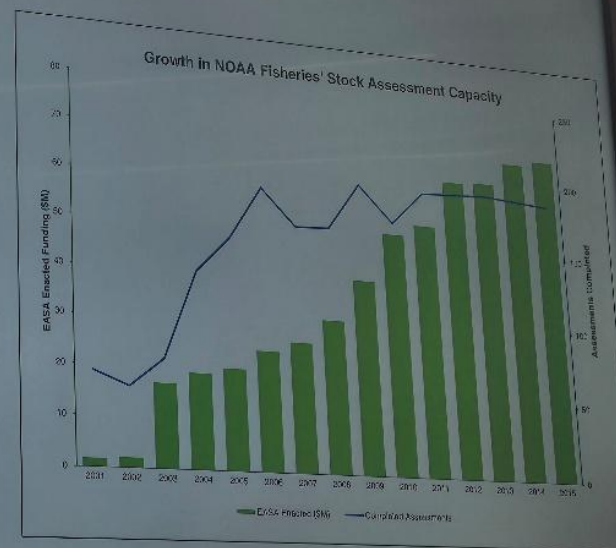
PESTEL rating per measure — green = enabler, amber = mixed, red = barrier-dominated

CIBBR

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Assessment demand has grown, but capacity has not kept pace

- NOAA conducts stock assessments for ~400-500 federally managed stocks
- Annual assessments grew from ~50 in 2001 to ~190 by 2015, but have since plateaued
- Demand continues to grow while the number of assessments conducted has plateaued



Lynch et al. 2018

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1. Gear Movement

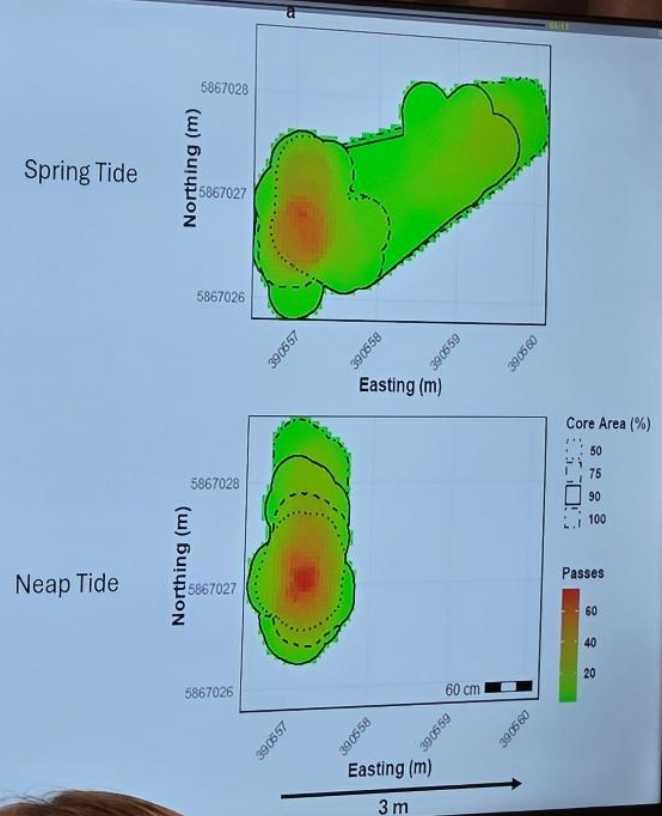
Acoustic Telemetry

We tracked individual pots by attaching acoustic transmitters to commercial strings deployed by skippers within acoustic receiver array

Daily footprints assessed across typical soak time (24 h)

We modelled increasingly conservative **footprint scenarios** using decreasing percentiles of positional data relative to day's centroid:

- **Mean: 2.6 – 9.3 m² per day**



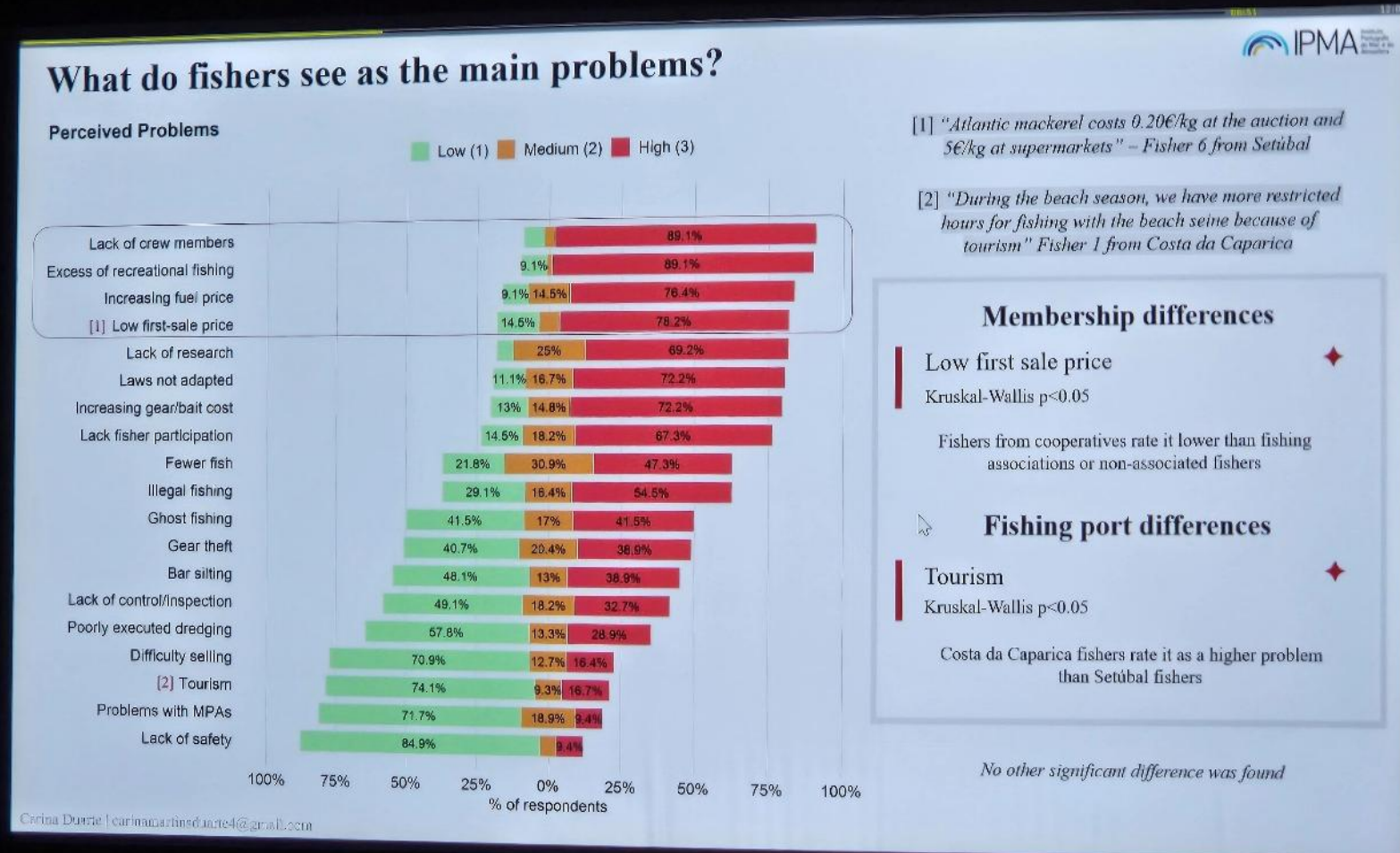
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Conclusions

- Recovery rates are predictable from life history and environment
- R is higher on sediment than hard substrates, and declined with water depth and spatial scale of disturbance.
- Linking recovery rates to maximum lifespan enables mechanistic, taxon-specific prediction of seabed resilience.
- These findings provide a transferable framework for prioritising conservation effort, evaluating restoration feasibility, and assessing the sustainability of seabed exploitation



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