



THE **ORFISH** PROJECT

A platform for exchange of knowledge on low-impact offshore fishing techniques among outermost regions

The project pursues three main objectives: developing and optimizing fishing techniques in order to alleviate fishing pressure on coastal fish resources; raising awareness of the opportunities to develop innovative low-impact fishing techniques for small-scale fisheries; and creating alternative sustainable fishing opportunities that will help consolidate jobs in the fishing industry.

The ORFISH partners come from French, Portuguese and Spanish outermost regions. The European project ORFISH is coordinated by the Guadeloupe Region.

ORFISH WORKSHOP #2 IN AZORES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORUM

Island of Sao Miguel (Azores) on 19 and 20th of march



The key objectives of this workshop is to **compile all collected data** on fisheries within the territories, and to exchange on the outcomes of the compilation of experimental fishing undertaken over the past decades.

The workshop should lead to a validated **state of the art** on experimental fishing in the outermost regions.

Azores Socioeconomic Fisheries Forum

The ORFISH project will attend the **Azores Socioeconomic Fisheries Forum**, that will be held in Terceira Island (Azores, Portugal) on 22 and 23th of March 2018.

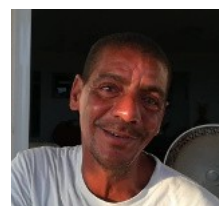
The forum aims to bring together a few projects of fisheries good practices, from some of the existing european fisheries local action groups (FLAGs), in order to share ideas and experience.

TESTIMONIAL FELIX, FISHERMAN

First outcome of the testimonials collection effort

Felix is a fisherman from **La Désirade**, Guadeloupe (France). He tells us about his fishing techniques, about the recent evolutions of the way fishermen are working in La Désirade, and much more. Check it out [here!](#)

If you are interested or know a fisherman interested in contributing, please [contact us](#).

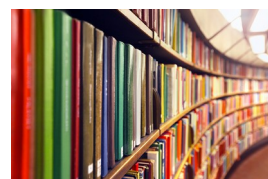


LAUNCH OF THE LIBRARY AND TESTIMONIALS MODULES

The ORFISH project is releasing two new modules of its website

The **Library**, an open repository of free documents on small-scale fisheries. The **Testimonials** module will collect texts, pictures and videos of fishermen of outermost regions.

Contributions of everyone interested are welcome! [Contact us](#) if you are interested.



ORFISH Experiment #1

Setting up Moored Fish Aggregating Device in Condor Bank Seamount (Azores)

The ORFISH project aims at developing and testing low impact fishing techniques adapted to the biogeographical conditions of each European Union outermost regions. This objective consists in several fishing experiments in the ORs, with exchanges of expertise among fishers and fisheries experts between Ors.

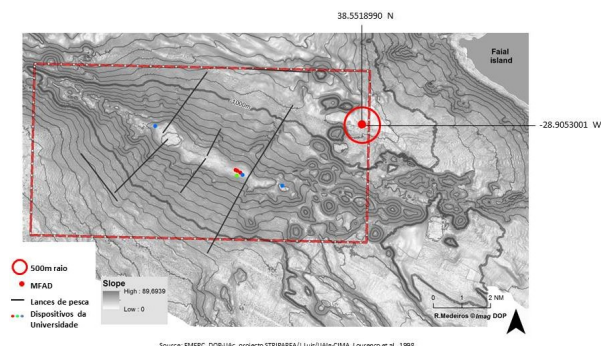
SeaExpert, the coordinator of these experiments, will soon implement a test in the Azores of the most common fishing technique all around in the Caribbean - with special emphasis in Guadeloupe and Martinique region – the Moored Fish Aggregating Device (MFAD).

The setting up of the MFAD will occur by the end of March, with the presence of most partners of the project in the Azores. This MFAD will be deployed in the Marine Protected Area of Condor Bank, 5 nautical miles SW of Faial, and anchored at 1100 m deep (see map below).

After establishing where to place this device, with the support of the University of the Azores, the Azorean Fisheries Federation (Federação das Pescas), the Regional Directorate for Fisheries (Direção Regional das Pescas (DRP)) and the Maritime National Authority (AMN), seaExpert is now dealing with the technical requirements for building and deploying this structure.

The MFAD will be put at approximately 1100m depth in a sandy substrate, where the slope is smooth and there is no risk of damaging the structure. Besides the environmental parameters, the experiment also considered the position of all the research devices in the area and, of course, the presence of important and fragile ecosystems, like corals, in order to avoid their destruction.

After its deployment, this structure will be monitored regularly throughout the year, with on-site surveys and with the help of a special buoy with a solar panel and sonar incorporated.



ORFISH Experiment #2

Hand-line experiments in Canaries and Guadeloupe

Dissemination and knowledge exchange on handline, the most sustainable Azores fishing gear

The Azores, due to its geomorphological conditions, like rocky bottoms, steep slopes and absence of continental shelf, has adopted handline fishing gear as the most widespread fishing technique all around the archipelago.



With traditional open deck wood boats, onboard engine and hand reels (moulinet), the fisheries sector remained sustainable, economically, biologically and socially, until nowadays.

As a partner of this project, the Region of the Azores is deeply engaged on disseminate and exchange knowledge on its most sustainable and alternative fishing gear, the handline.

There will be two experiences with handline, namely in the island of Guadeloupe, and in the Canaries. For 15 days in April and in May an experienced handline Azorean fisherman will explore the sea bottoms around Guadeloupe and Canaries, respectively.

Hand-line is a fishing technique where the fisherman holds in one hand the line, possibly wound on a reel, with a number of hooks that goes from 3 up to 9. Fisherman are known by being superstitious, they only use an unpair number of hooks... This fishing method does not make contact with the ocean floor and causes minimal amounts of habitat damage. This fishing technique is very labor-intensive, but it is highly selective concerning species and size, and provides high quality fish. As the line is set for a relatively short time, it allows that discards can often be returned live at sea.