



A closer look
into the
spatial
dimension of
Spanish
fisheries in
the Bay of
Biscay

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#### **Objective**

To determine whether the catch composition by gear is spatially dependent or not.

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#### Why?

Since competition for marine space is increasing, it is interesting to included spatial information into Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to inform Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM).

Evaluation tools should include this kind of information to better predict impacts and define effective management strategies.



#### For what?

Consequences of different space usages can be accounted e.g., Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

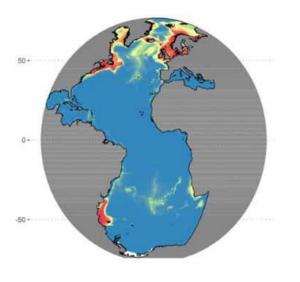


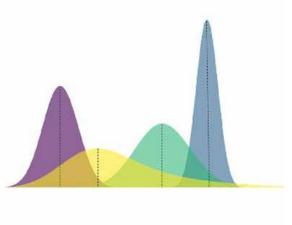


#### How?

Some fishing gear, such as bottom otter trawls (OTB), catch a wide variety of species due to their high non-selective nature.

The objective is to check if it possible to create clusters that are spatially explicit and species-wise explainable.





## **Objectives and methods**



#### Methods

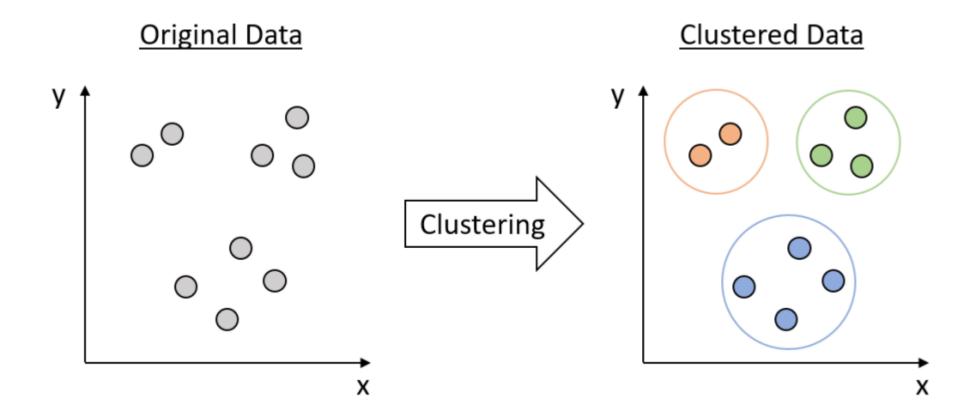
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#### How?

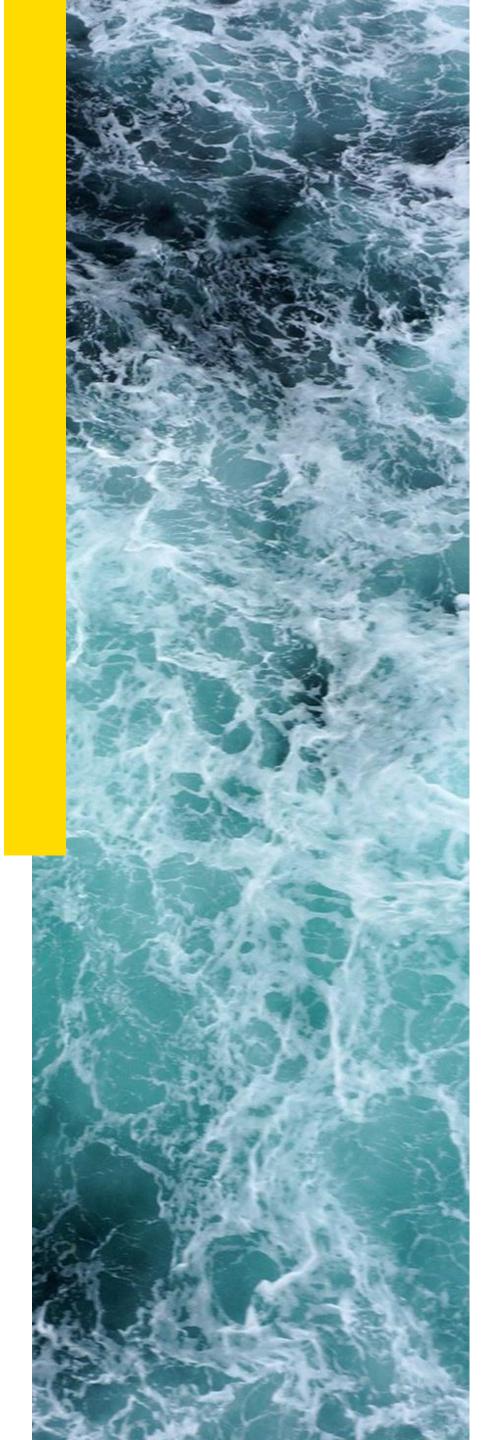
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#### Clustering



## Methods



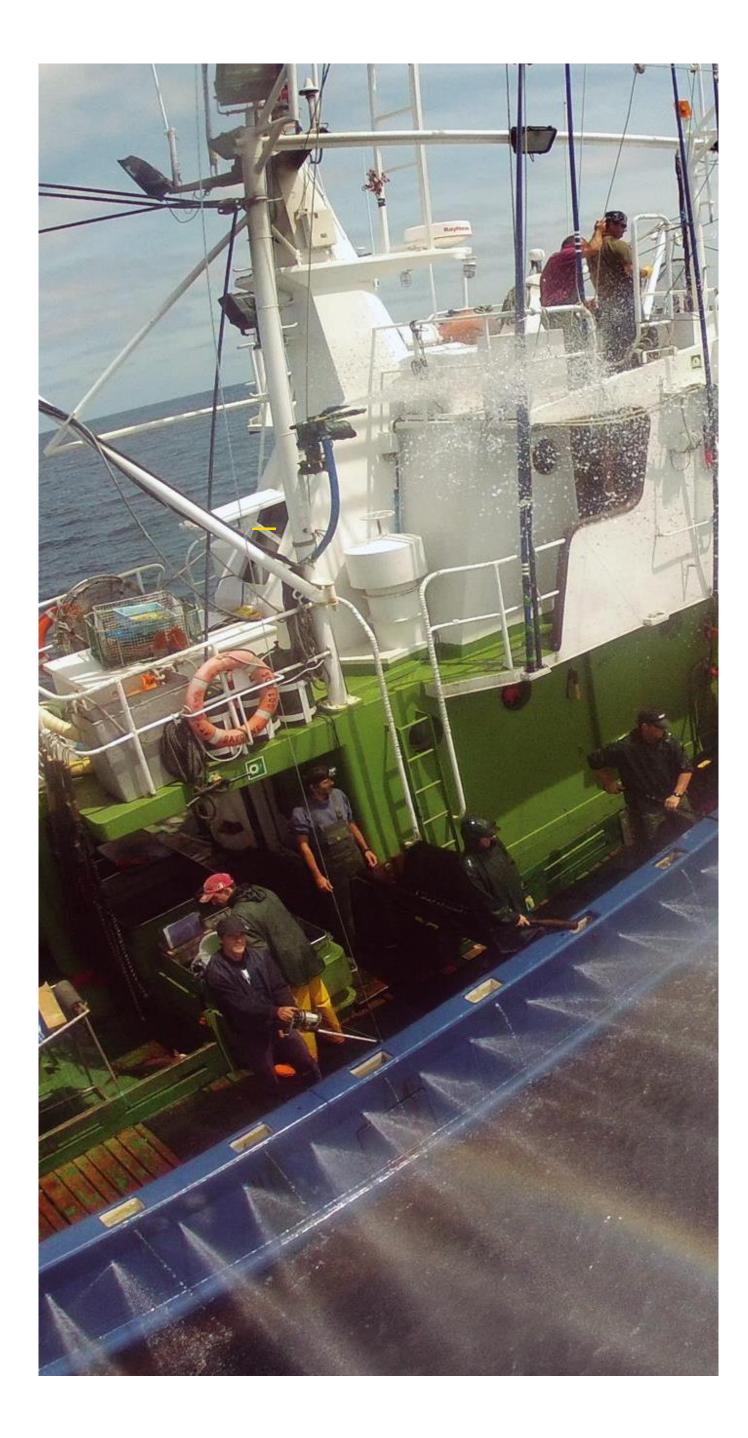
#### Clustering



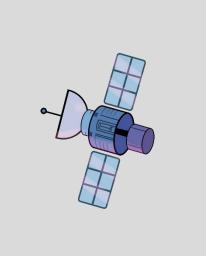
#### K-means {R} with Hartigan-Wong algorithm

Widely used identify **groups** within a dataset. It can be used to identify a preset amount of groups or an unsupervised number of groups. Observations are supposed to be more **similar in their group** than they are to the ones in other groups.

- 1. Define *k* number of clusters.
- 2. Select metrics to be used
- 3. Define method to create initial centroids (knowledge, random observations, most distant *k* points...).
- 4. Create *k* centroids.
- 5. Assign to nearest centroid.
- 6. Relocate centroids to the mean of the observations belonging to their clusters.
- 7. Assign the observation to the cluster with the lower SSE.
- 8. Update centroids.
- 9. If none of the observations swapped clusters, stop. Otherwise, repeat 7-8.



## Data



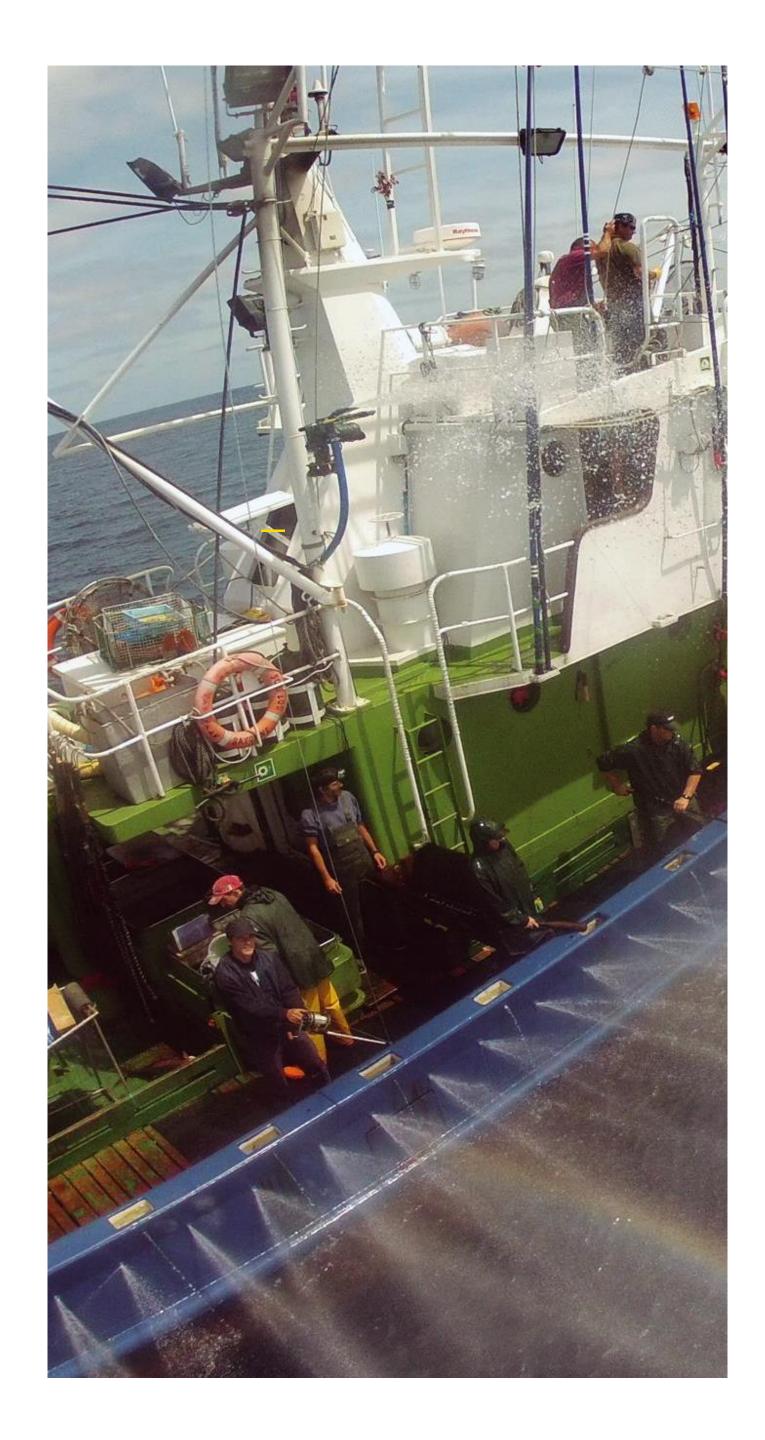
#### **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

The VMS uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) to display the accurate geographic position of the vessel. The satellite monitoring device transmits the information from the vessel(s) to the Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) of each Contracting Party.



### Logbooks

Logbooks are records of catch and effort registered at the time of the catch operation. The records can be in books or on electronic media. Data transmission to authorities can be at the time of landings or immediately after the fishing operation has been concluded and catches recorded. Logbooks are widely used as a method of collecting statistical information on commercial activities.



## Data



VMStools {R}

Vmstools is an open-source software package built in R. It is specifically developed to process, analyse and visualize logbooks and VMS data.

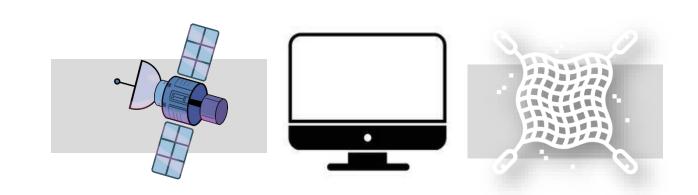
### Logbooks



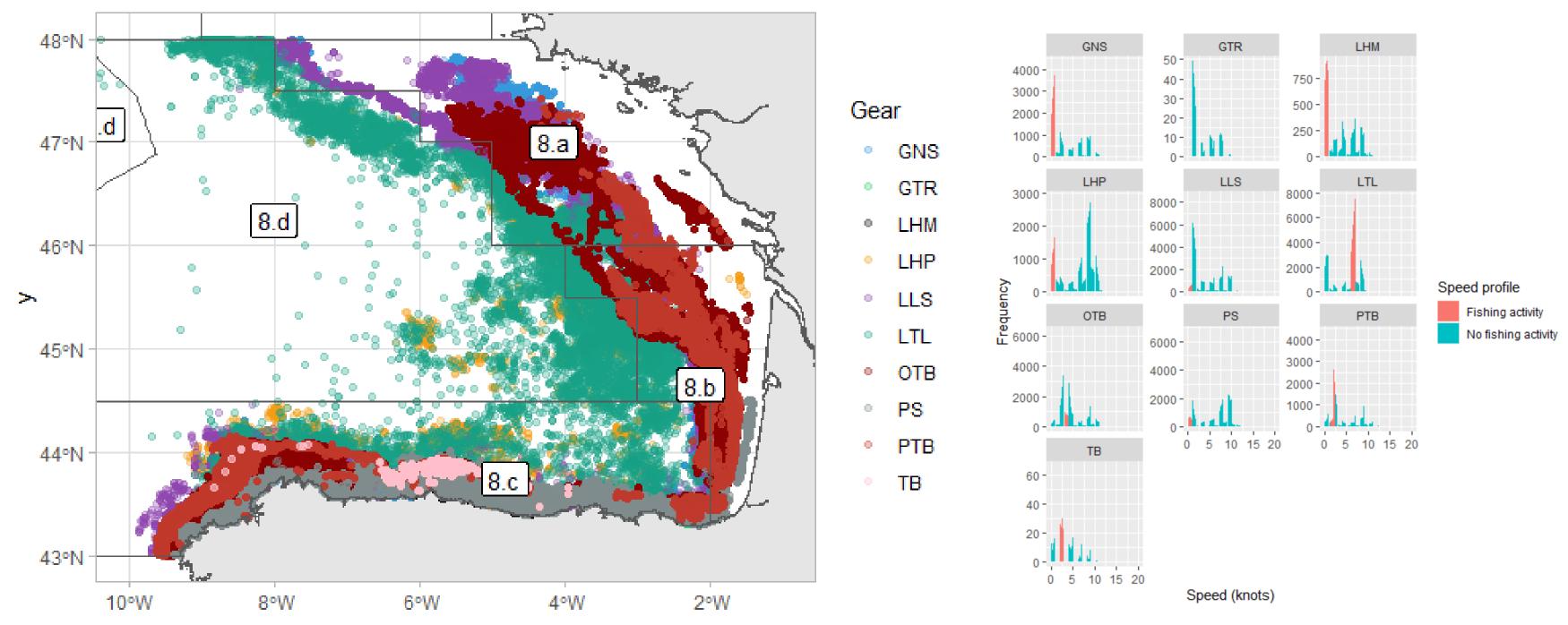
- 2022-08
- 29425 kg Thunnus alalunga
- LHP = Handlines and hand-operated pole-and-lines



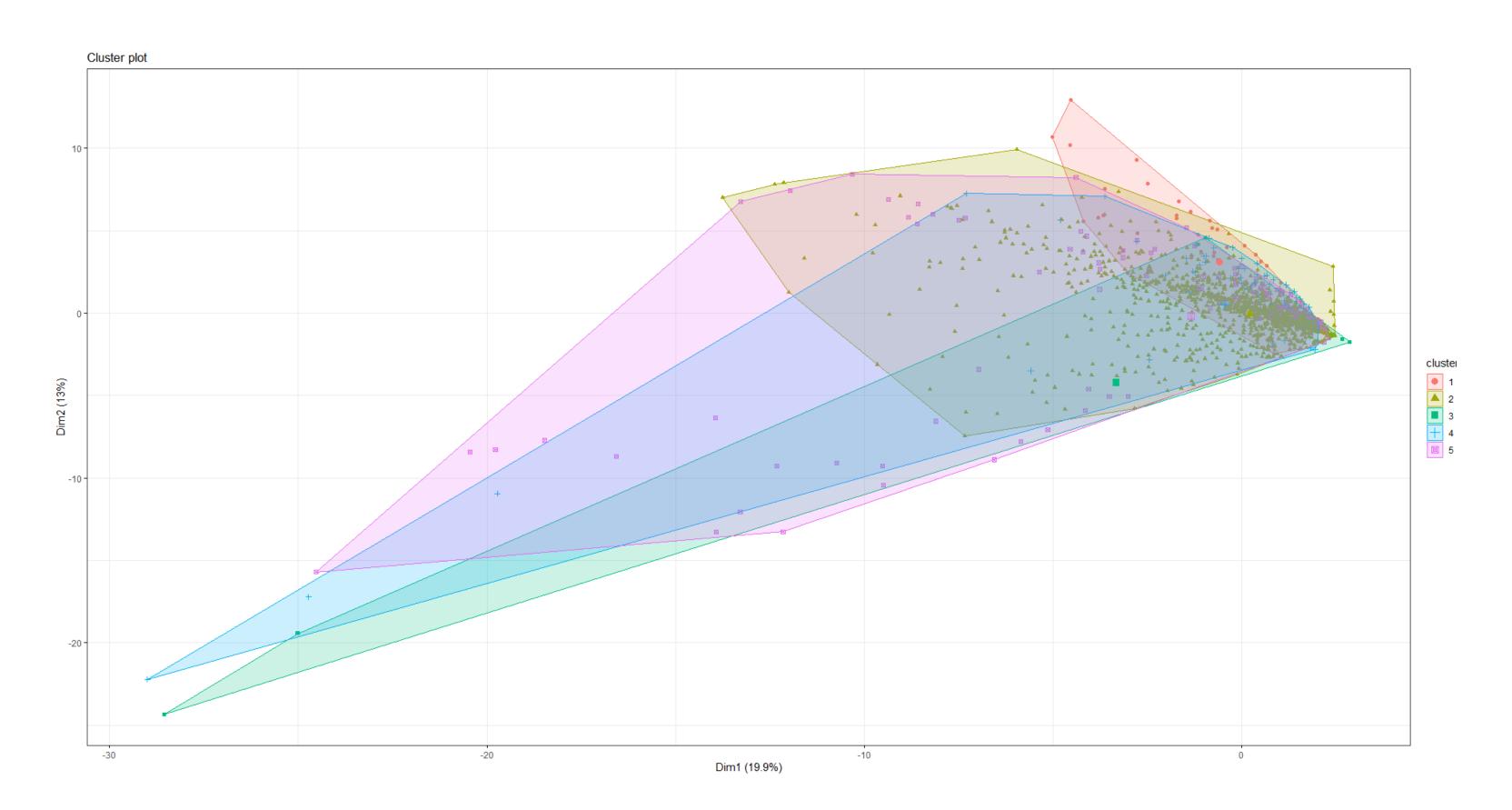
# Data



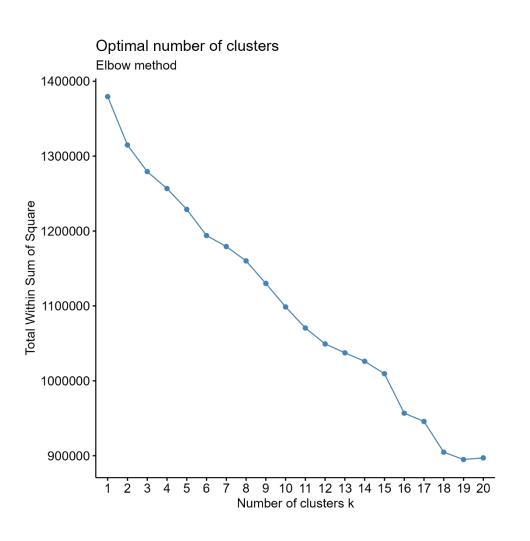
#### 454 vessels | Year 2022 | 10 gear | 659 species | ~15960 T

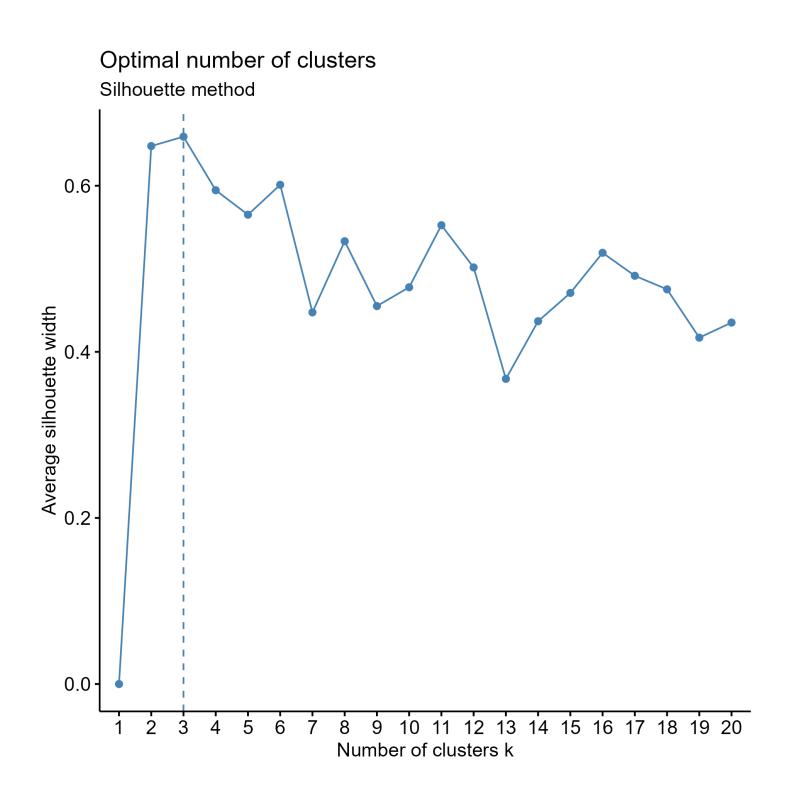


### Not easily distinguishable clusters



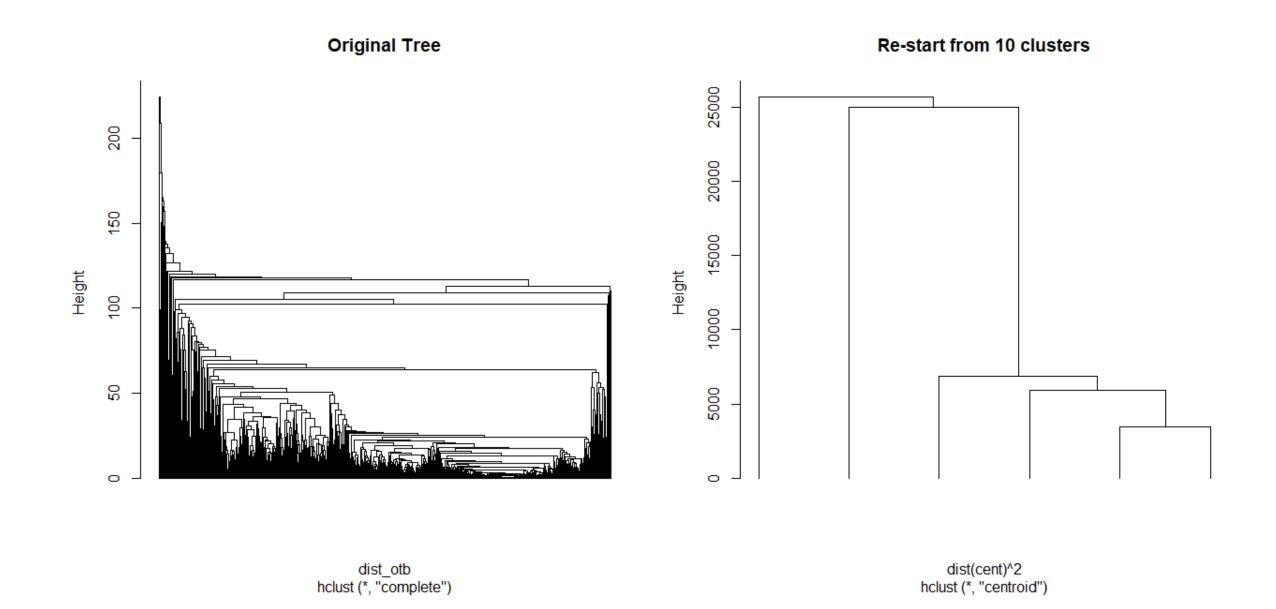
#### Uncertain optimal number of clusters



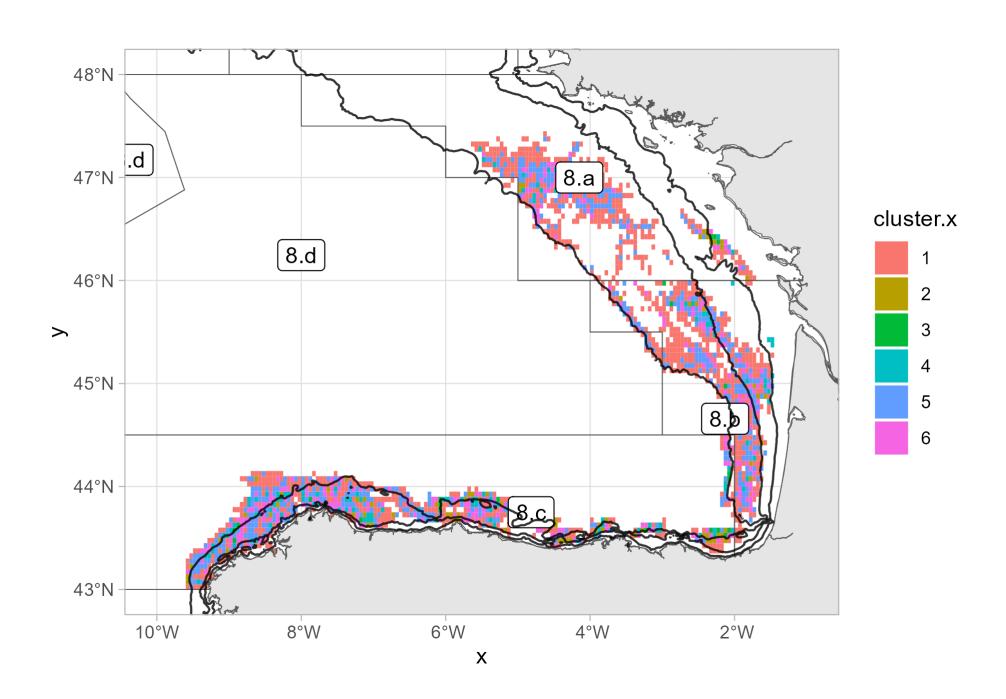


## Not easily distinguishable clusters

cluster	1	2	3	4	5	6
n	84	522	1006	289	124	24

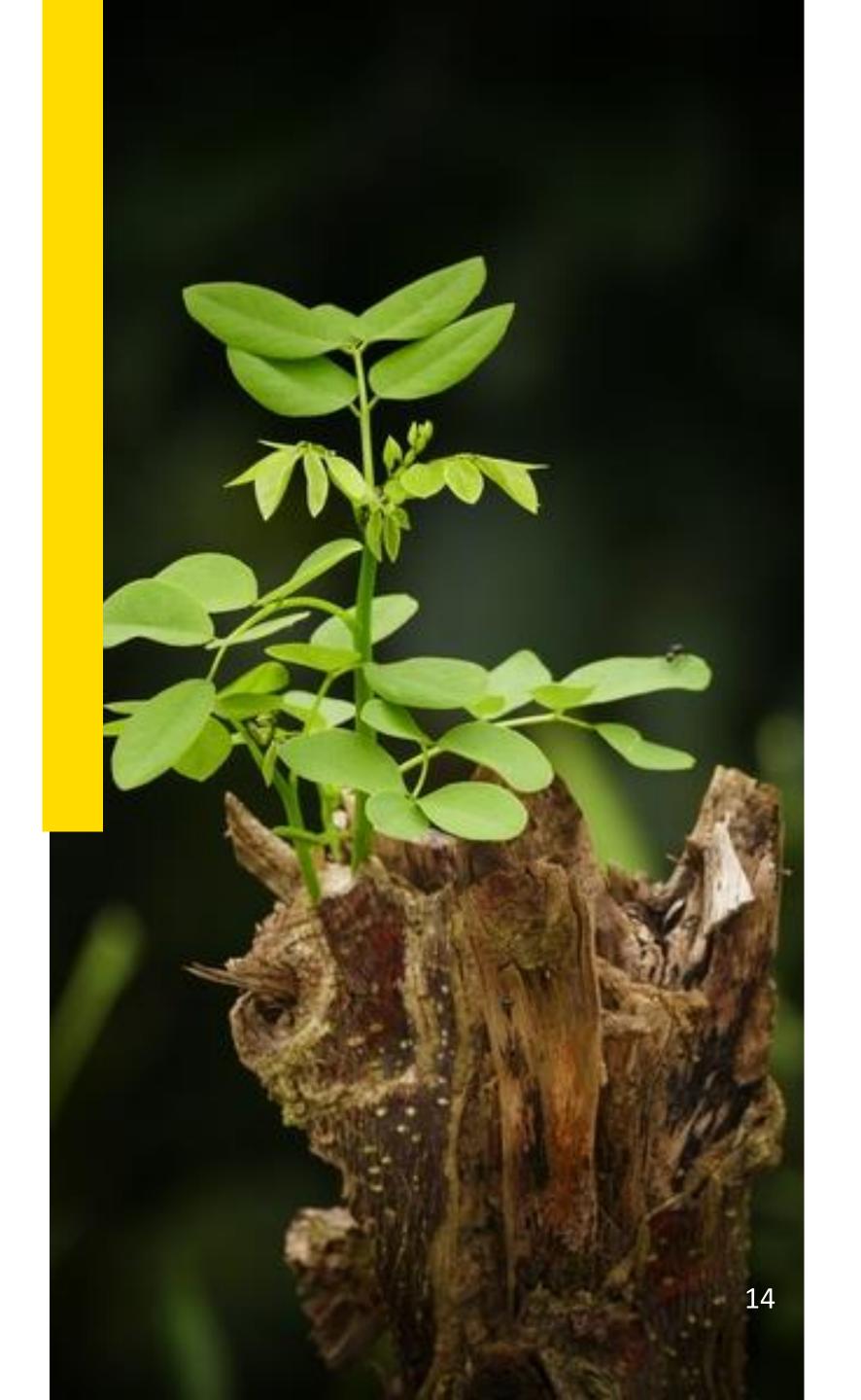


Clusters cannot be defined by species, similar species composition in every cluster.



# Conclusion

Catch composition is homogeneous in the space (by fishing gear).



# Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Next steps





Continue with spatial data What about productivity per unit?



Environmental variables
How does climate change affect fisheries?



Natural mortality
Species interactions.

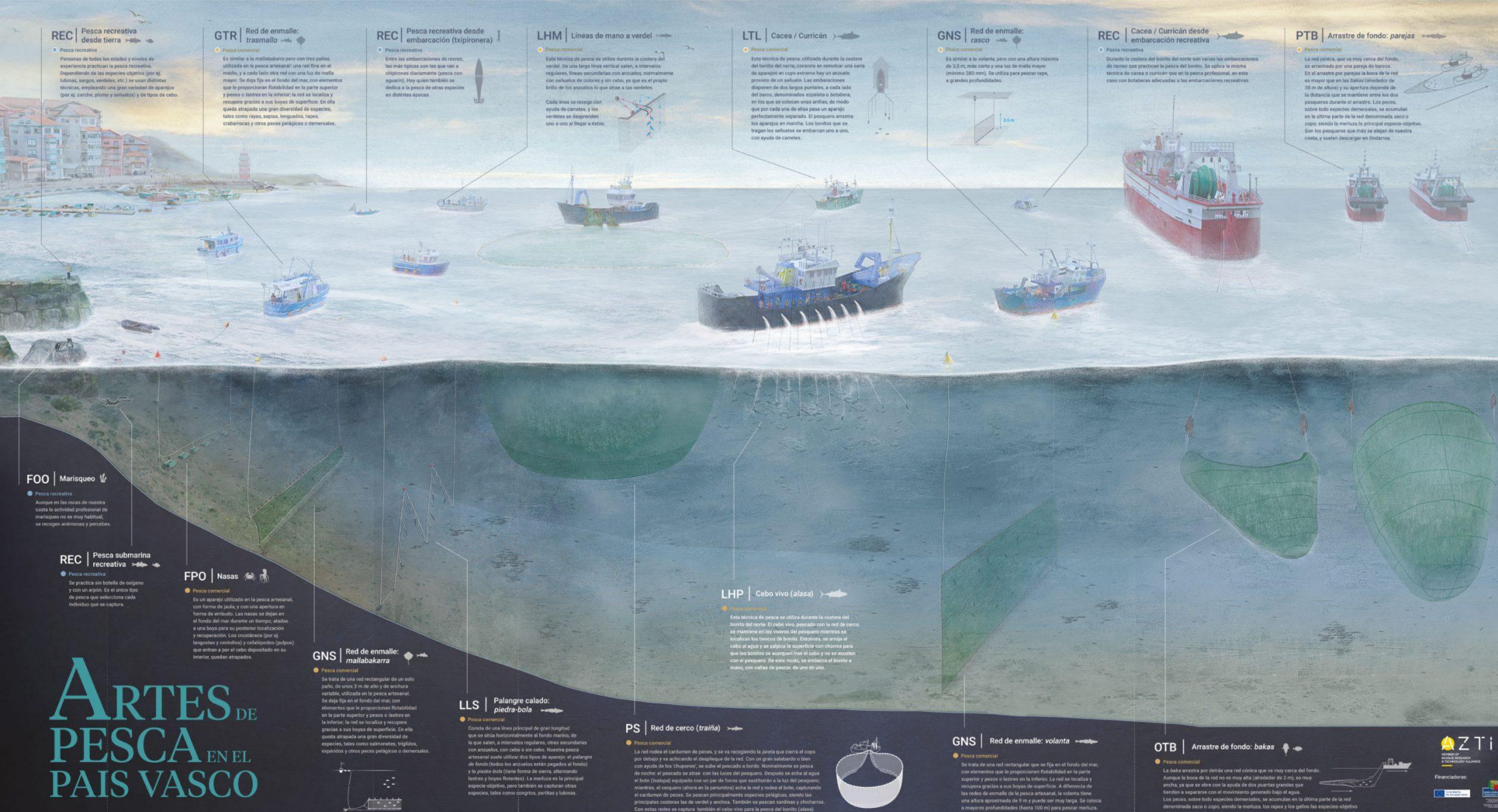


How to include all of this in FLBEIA (toolbox for impact assessments).

# THANK YOU

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Con estas redes se captura también el cebo vivo para la pesca del bonito (alasa).

más importantes. En nuestra costa, estos pesqueros suelen descargar en Ondarroa y Pasala.