

Socioeconomic Dimension of Fisheries (C004245)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 84 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pita, Cristina FAR001 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Fisheries, Resources, Socioeconomics, Governance, Human dimension

Position of the course

This course is part of the 2nd semester of the Master in Aquaculture and Fisheries of the University of Algarve. It is required for the fisheries specialization students and an option for students from other Masters.

Contents

The syllabus of this course is reviewed every year, depending on the evolution of the situation of socioeconomics of fisheries management:

- 1 The situation of the world fisheries resources
- 2 The socioeconomics dimension of fisheries in the world
- 3 The socioeconomics dimension of fisheries in Europe
- 4 The importance of small-scale fisheries
- 5 Importance of including the social dimension in fisheries management
- 6 Governance of fisheries and participation in the decision-making process
- 7 Gender dimension (women) in fisheries
- 8 Access rights in fisheries
- 9 The human dimension of marine protected areas.
- 10 Fisheries trade, seafood consumption, the sustainable seafood movement, labelling and certification
- 11 Marketing tool and initiatives to add-value to fishery products
- 12 Collecting and analysing socioeconomic fisheries data

The course is organized in 3 units:

- The first unit (THE SOCIOECONOMIC DIMENSION OF FISHERIES) includes themes 1 to 5 and its objective is to expose students to social, economic and cultural aspects of the fishing activity, and other activities related to fisheries.
- The second unit (MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF FISHERIES) covers themes 6 to 11 and is dedicated to reviewing relevant current topics of importance to the fishing industry, namely to the European fishing industry (but also global fishing industry) where these topics are identified as the major social and economic challenges faced by the industry.
- The third unit (SOCIOECONOMIC DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS), includes theme 12 and explores in detail the collection and analysis of socioeconomic information related to fisheries (and other information related to the human dimension of fisheries), namely the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of fisheries

Final competences

- 1 Expose the students to the problems associated with social and economic aspects of fisheries and management of living marine resources.
- 2 Stress the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and including the socioeconomic dimension of fisheries in management and conservation.
- 3 Understand socioeconomic data collection and analysis, its use and importance.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Each class includes a presentation and associated study cases, for 1,5 hours. Part of the time is intentionally allocated to debating ideas and students are encouraged to share experiences. A list of readings (2-3 per unit) and in some cases lectures available on-line are used as a complement to the class debate.

Study material

None

References

To be defined in each year, consisting of scientific articles and material available online.

Course content-related study coaching

There is no individual coaching foreseen for students having problems, although there will be regular office hours for students to meet the professor on a one to one basis.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The evaluation of the course is done through a report and presentation, where students will collect and analyse socioeconomic data on a topic of their choice (from the themes discussed in classes, or other relevant themes) and requiring an in-depth reading of the list of papers that constitute the bibliography of the course.

Calculation of the examination mark