

# Multi-platform integrated assessment for the sustainability of Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea

**Alvarez-Berastegui D., Alemany F., Ingram W., Reglero P.,  
Mourre B., Balbín R., Juza M., Tintoré J.**

# Principle



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

*“The Blue Economy is a knowledge based economy looking to the sea, not really for extraction of natural goods but for data to address societal challenges and inspire solutions” (R. Spinrad, NOAA).*

# Market sectors



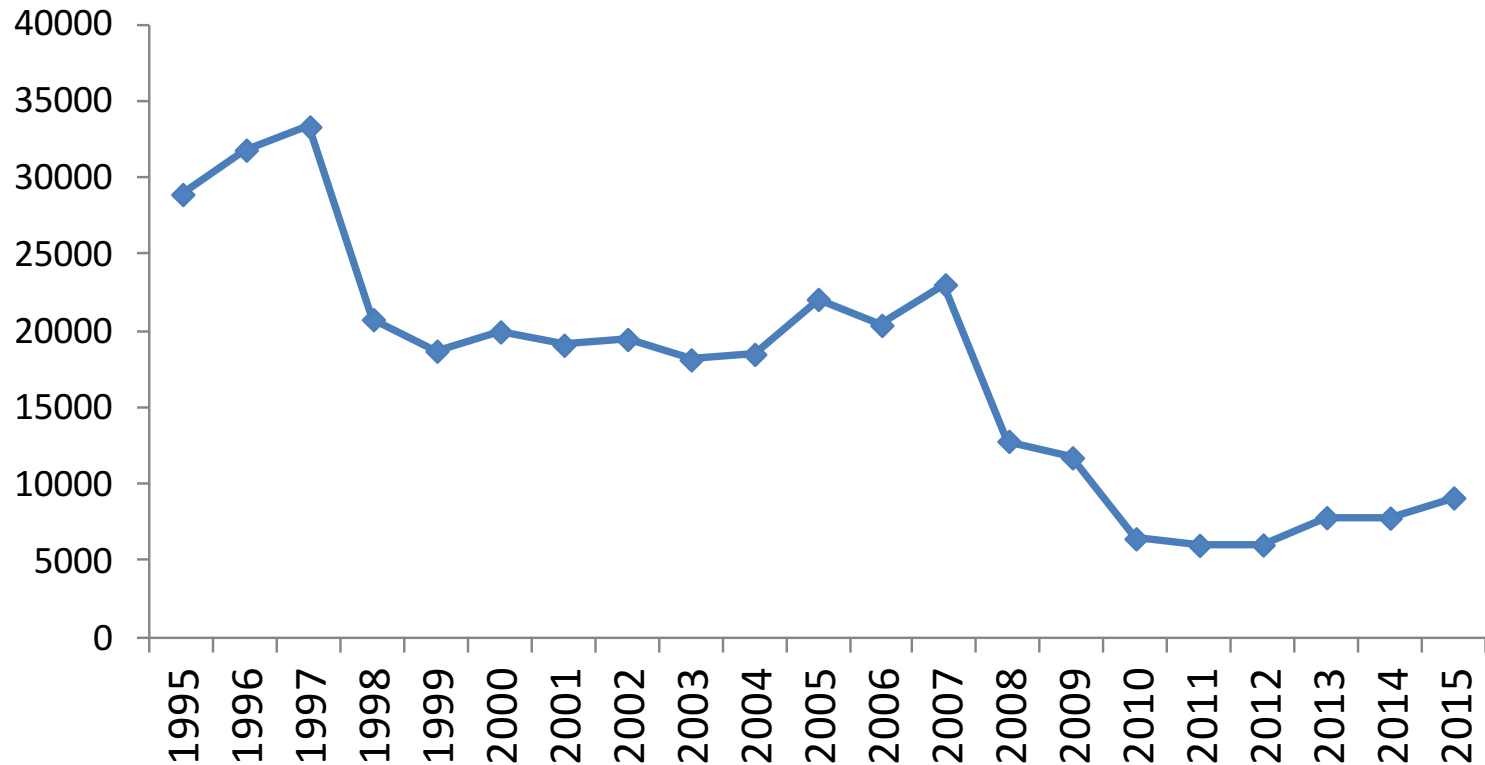
Photo: Tom Puchner

**Fishing:** Sustainable fisheries

**R&D:** Research & Tools for assessment and management

## End users

### Atlantic bluefin tuna, total catches (tones) European Union



**Assessment & Management (TACs)**



**R&D fisheries assessment**

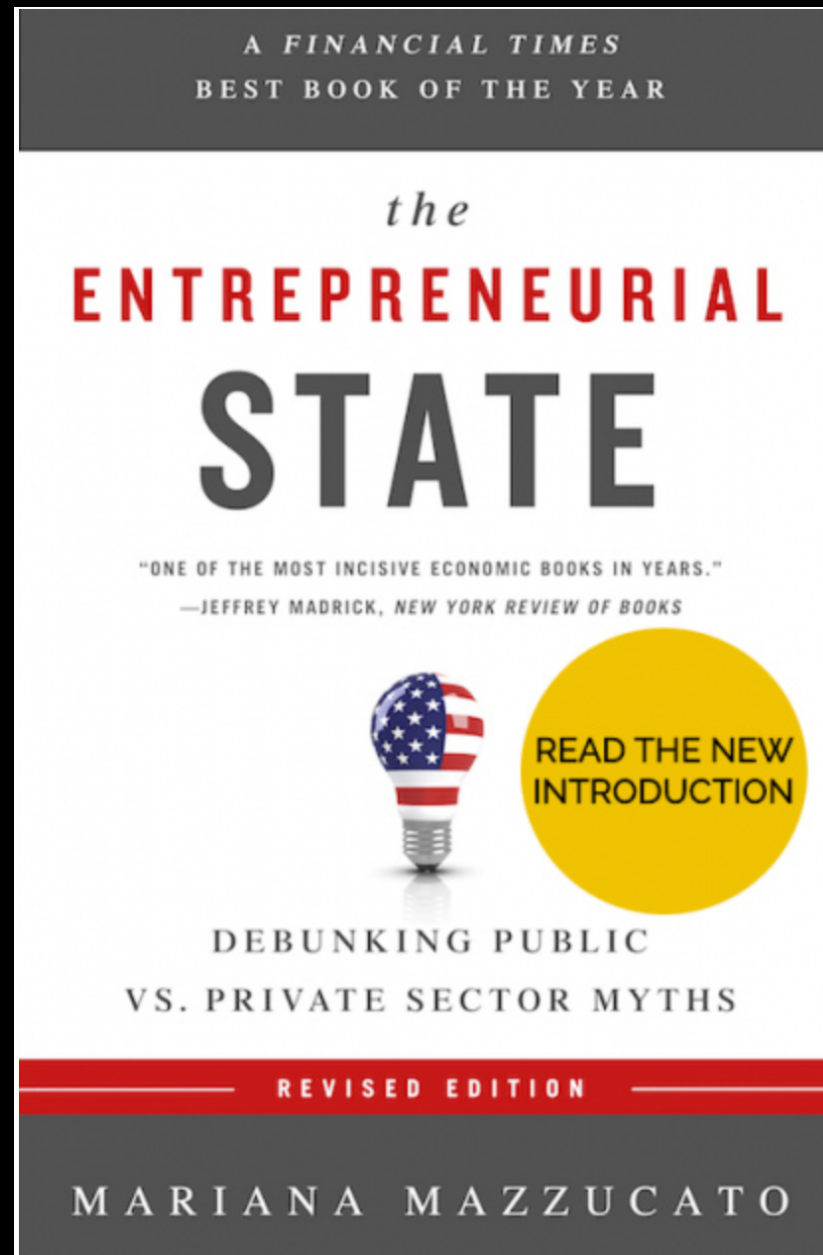


# Relevance



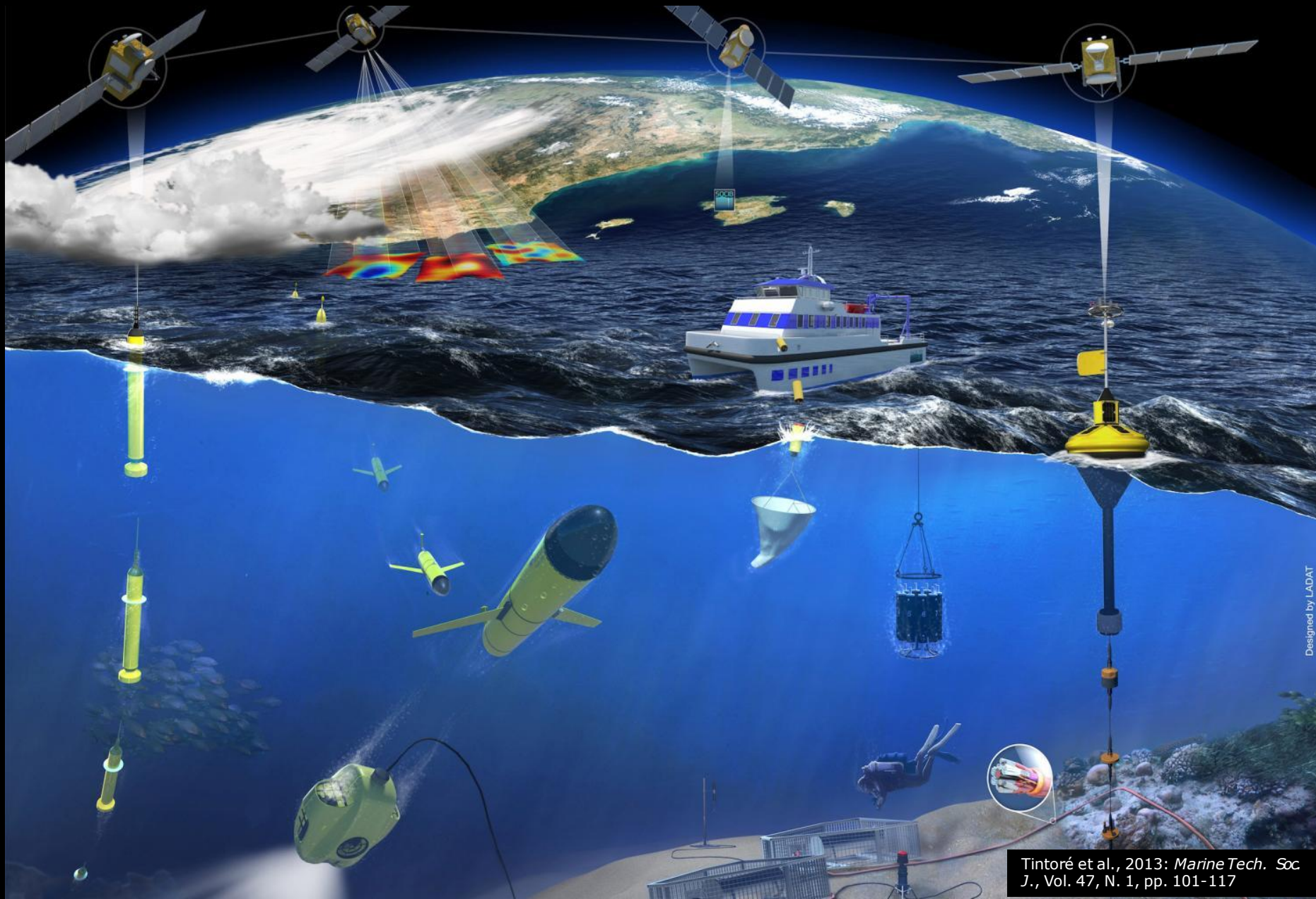
**Sustain fisheries industry -traditional & advanced technological-  
Ecosystem functioning and resilience**

Relevance: public sector driver & mission oriented innovation

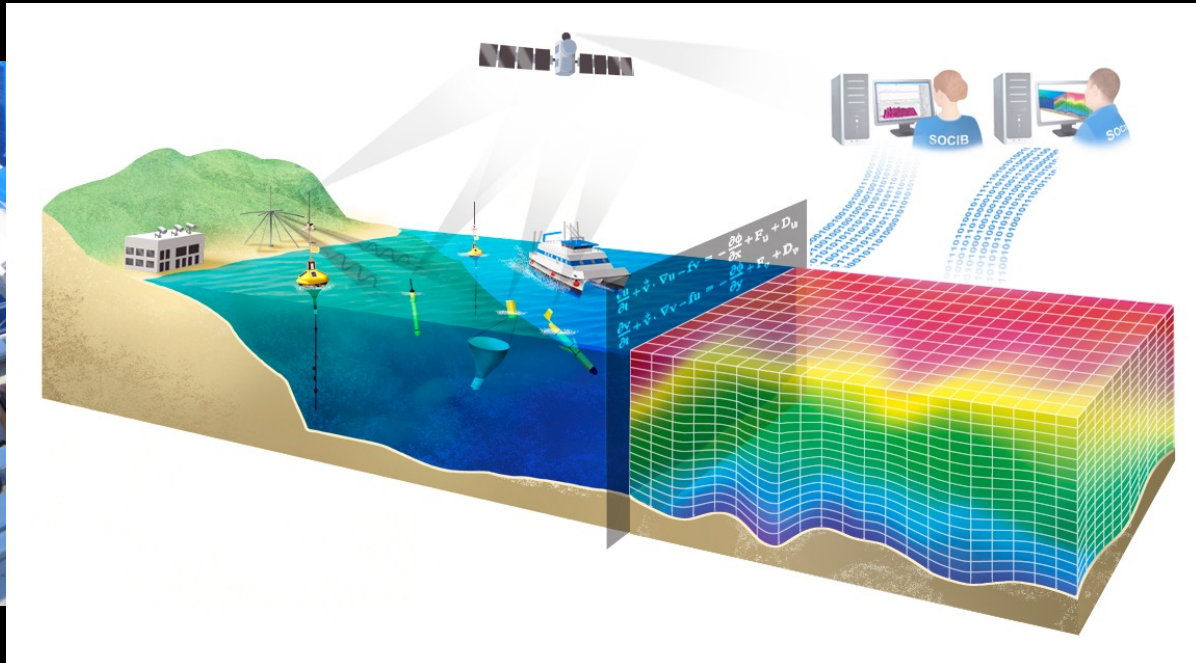




# SOCIB approach



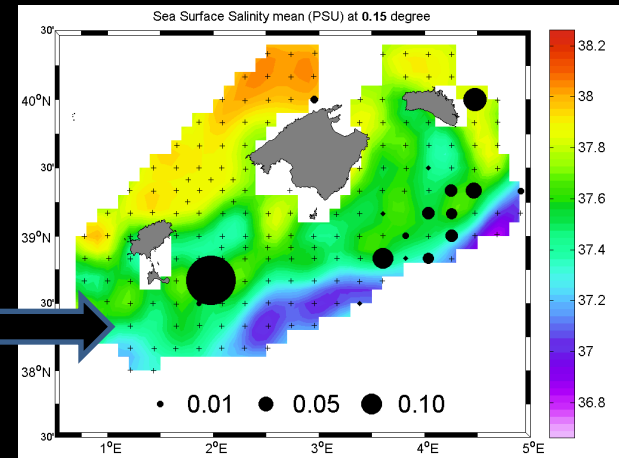
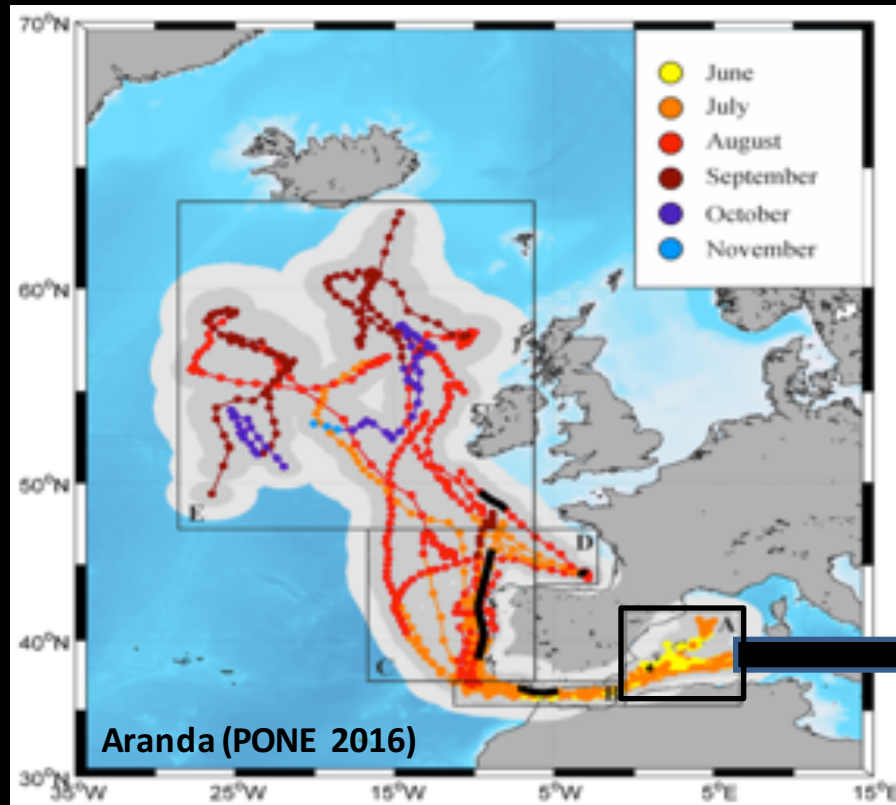
# Mission oriented innovation: the Bluefin tuna focused research project



Species ecology + Operational oceanography



# Context



1-Fisheries assessment relies on fish abundance indices

2-Standardization of abundances observed to the habitat is needed but not widely implemented: very relevant for Bluefin tuna



ICES Journal of Marine Science (2016), 73(7), 1851–1862. doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsw041

Contribution to the Themed Section: '*Seascape Ecology*'

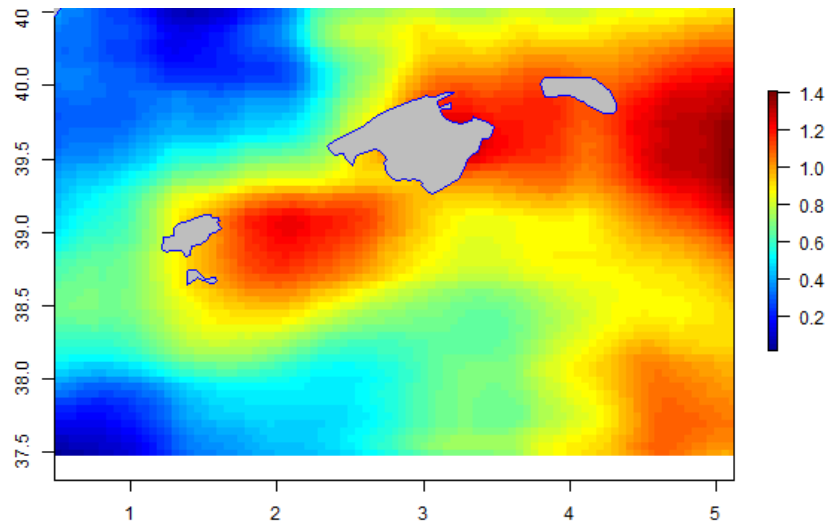
## Original Article

# Pelagic seascape ecology for operational fisheries oceanography: modelling and predicting spawning distribution of Atlantic bluefin tuna in Western Mediterranean

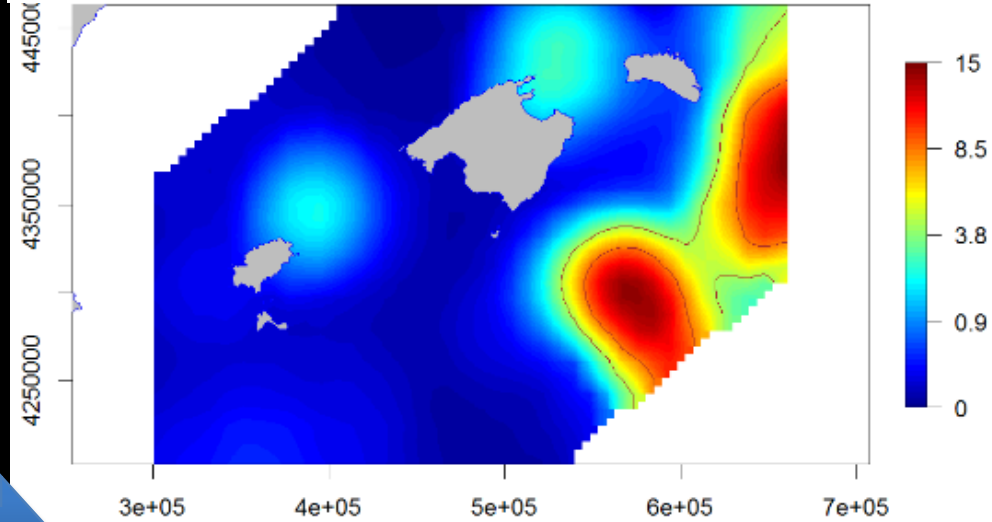
Diego Alvarez-Berastegui<sup>1\*</sup>, Manuel Hidalgo<sup>2</sup>, María Pilar Tugores<sup>2</sup>, Patricia Reglero<sup>2</sup>,  
Alberto Aparicio-González<sup>2</sup>, Lorenzo Ciannelli<sup>3</sup>, Mélanie Juza<sup>1</sup>, Baptiste Mourre<sup>1</sup>, Ananda Pascual<sup>4</sup>,  
José Luíís López-Jurado<sup>2</sup>, Alberto García<sup>5</sup>, José María Rodríguez<sup>6</sup>, Joaquín Tintoré<sup>1,4</sup>, and  
Francisco Alemany<sup>2</sup>

# Spawning Areas

Temperature increase in spawning area during summer (°C)



Predicted spawning areas



**Identification of key ocean variables driving Bluefin tuna spawning ecology & developing operational oceanography products**

**Generalized Additive Model - GAM**

**Spawning areas**



# Application

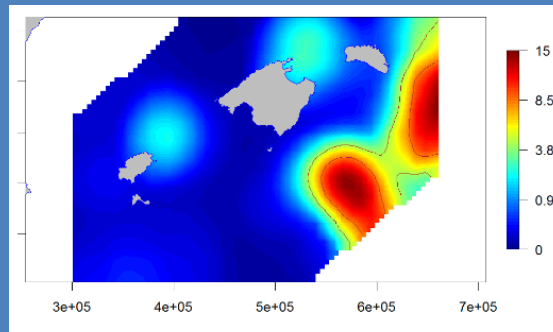
- **Development of larval abundance indices used by ICCAT** since 2017 as fisheries independent index assessing spawning stock biomass
- Design Ichthyoplankton surveys

## Design ichthyoplankton surveys

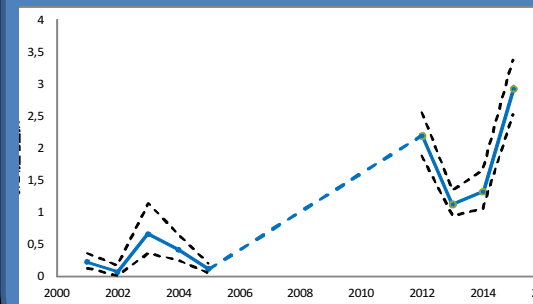


## Standardization of larval abundance indices

Predicted spawning areas



## Assessing bluefin tuna adult populations



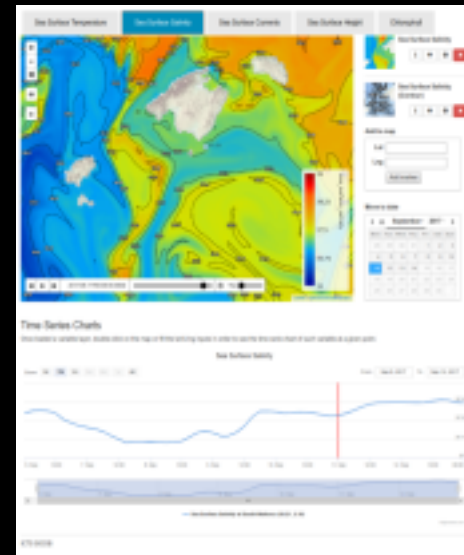
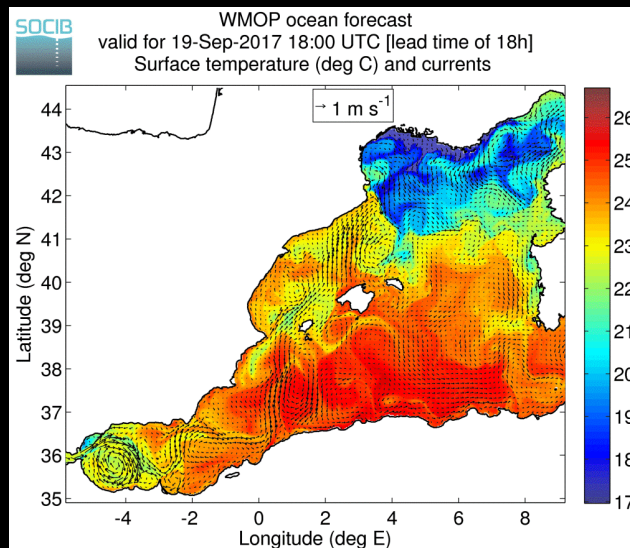
Alemany et al. 2010, Reglero et al. 2012, Alvarez-Berastegui et al. 2016; Ingram et al. 2017; Alvarez-Berastegui et al. 2017

# CMEMS Products Used

## 1-CMEMS provide:

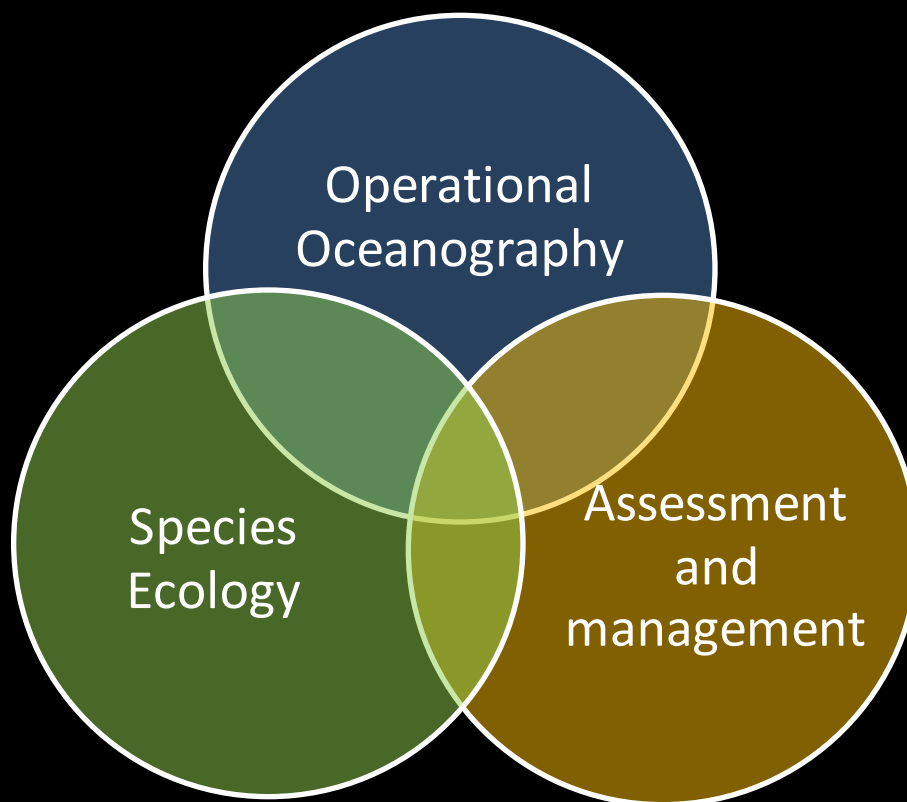
- Forcing conditions for High-resolution local models (WMOP)
- Satellite Surface Chl-a (Mediterranean adjusted algorithms)
- SST

## 2-SOCIB develops new products for monitoring ecological relevant processes and for data exploration



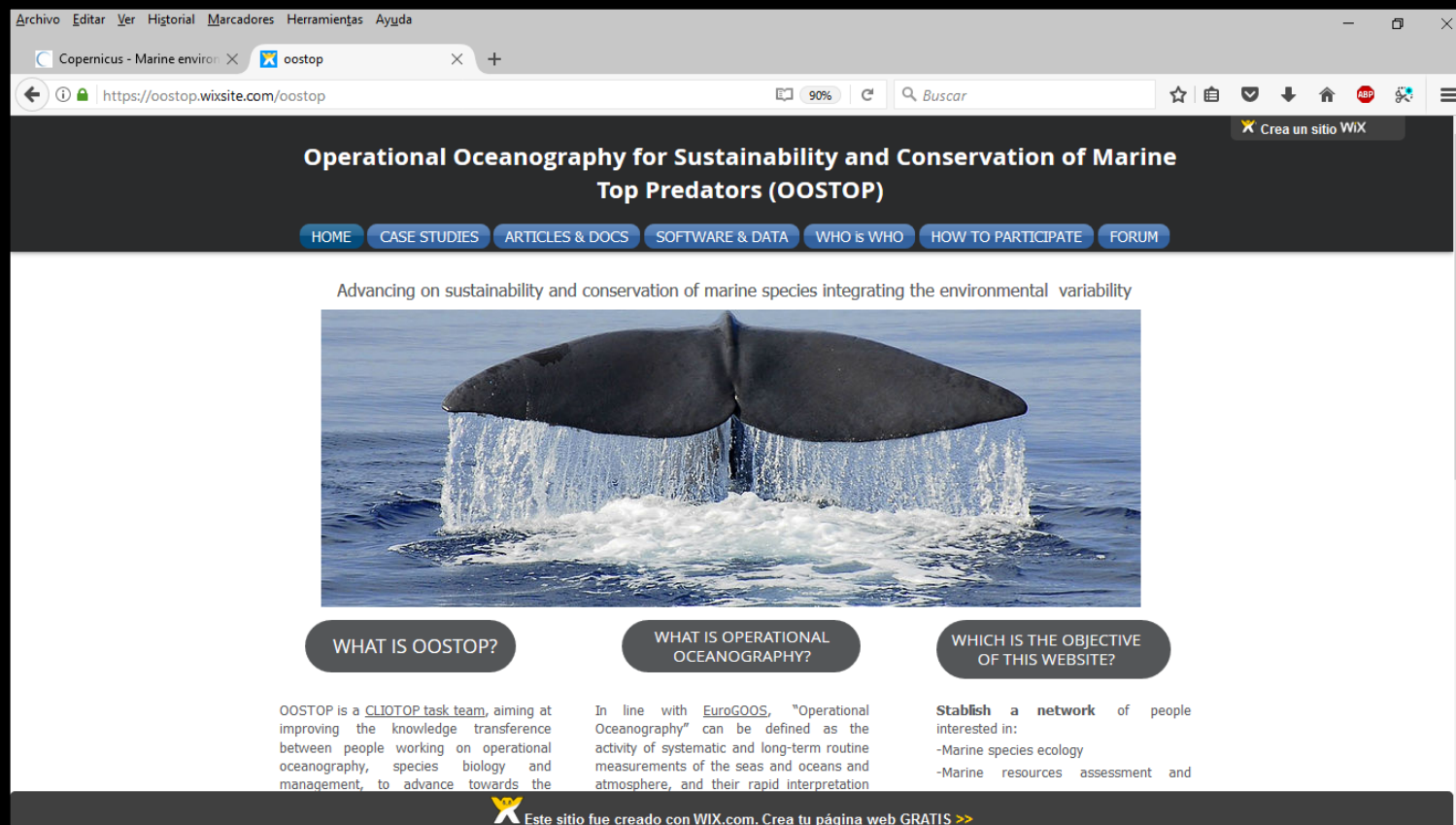
# Improvements Needed

Improving multidisciplinary approach  
Towards mesoscale  
Validation



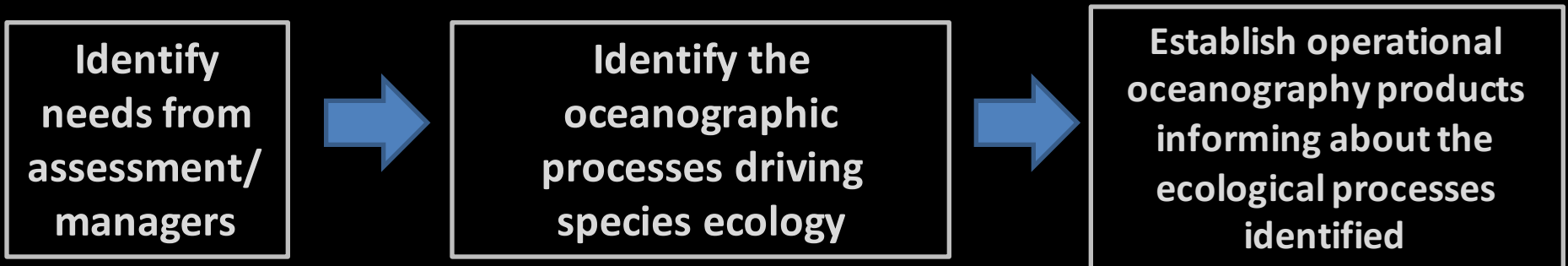


# Improvements Needed



## Summary

.... the sustainability of Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea requires... :



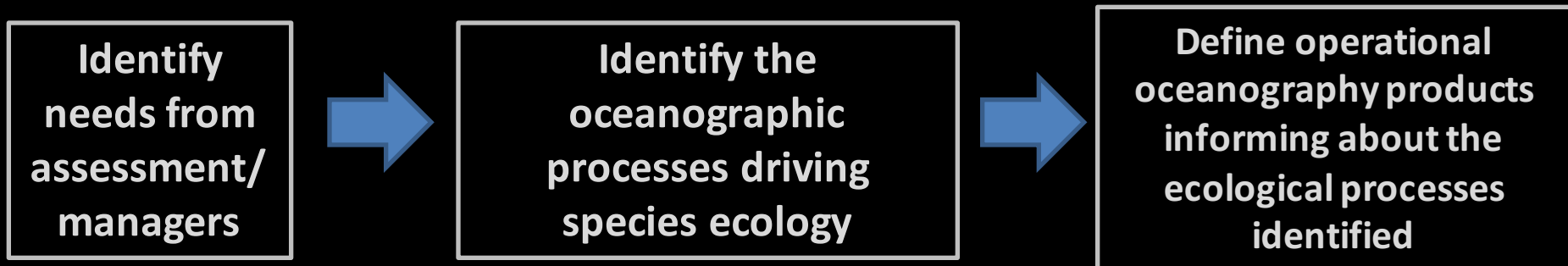
Three core elements for

**“Operational fisheries oceanography”**

# Summary

- IEO develops long time monitoring of bluefin tuna reproductive ecology in the Balearic Sea
- SOCIB develops operational oceanography services targeting fisheries assessment and management institutions
- Linking species ecology and operational oceanography allowed modeling spawning areas, applied for improving the quality of larval abundance estimations used for assessment by ICCAT

**Three core elements** for “Operational fisheries oceanography”





Thank you