

# Azores Fisheries Observer Program (POPA)



Miguel Machete, Mário Rui Pinho

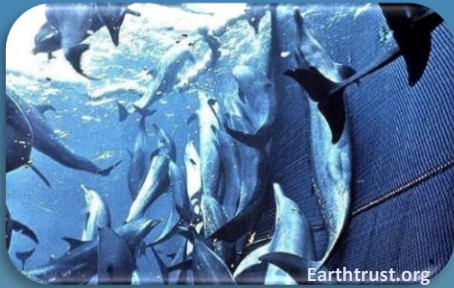
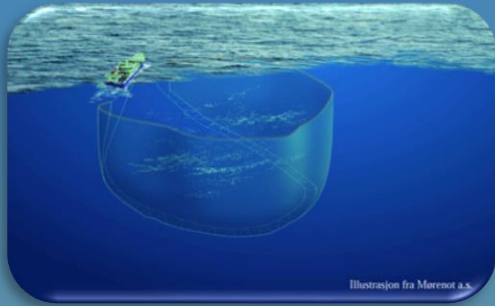
IMAR – Sea Research Institute  
Azores, Portugal



**Oceans  
Governance**  
In Archipelagic Regions  
International Conference  
7-10 October 2019  
Faial (Azores)  
Portugal

# Why and how

90's - "Dolphin Safe" issue in the US goes abroad



- Azorean whaling tradition  
- Sporadic non commercial dolphin hunting (on PL vessels)



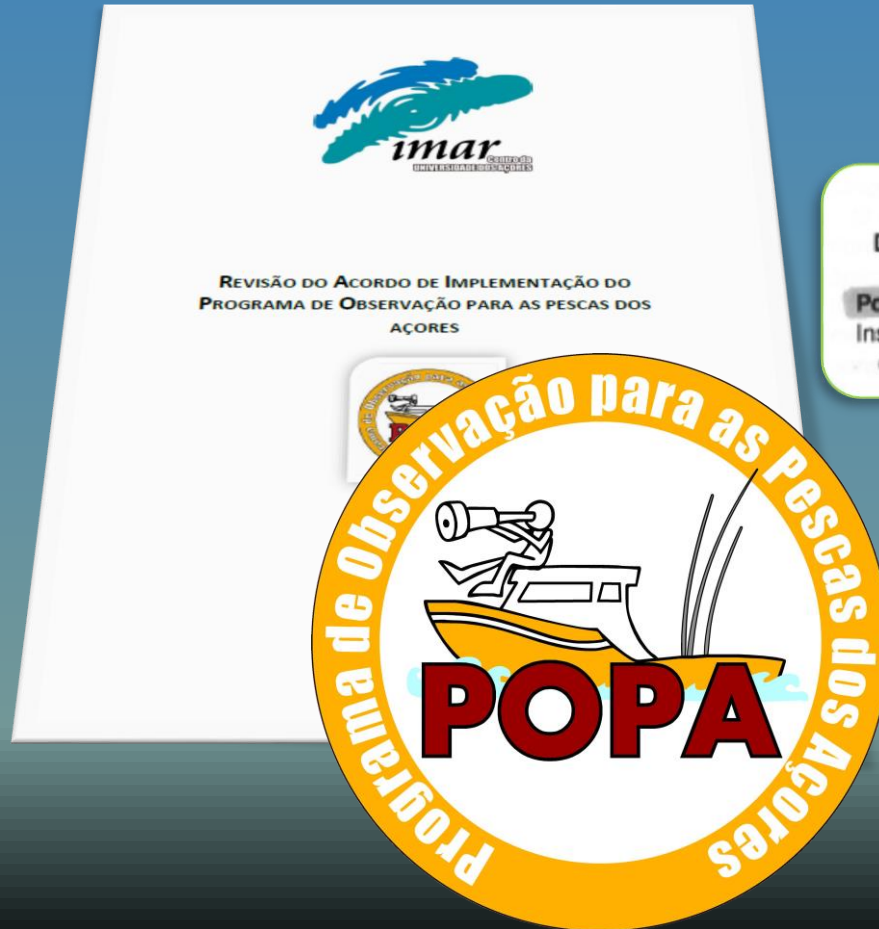
Azorean canning Industry and PL fishery  
jeopardized





# Why and how

- created in 1998 to guarantee dolphin safe certification in tuna fishery
- decreed by regional law in 1999 as an essential tool to monitor local fisheries




## SECRETARIA REGIONAL DA AGRICULTURA, PESCAS E AMBIENTE

Portaria n.º 31/99:

Institui o Programa de Observação para as Pescas nos Açores – POPA.

695

	
<b>JORNAL OFICIAL</b>	
SÉRIE - NÚMERO 22	
SEXTA-FEIRA, 4 DE JUNHO DE 1999	
<b>SUMÁRIO</b>	
<b>PRESIDÊNCIA DO GOVERNO</b>	<b>Declaração n.º 27/99:</b> Rectifica o Despacho Normativo n.º 122/99, de 20 de Maio, que aplica à Região Autónoma dos Açores o Regulamento de Pesca da UE.
<b>Despacho Normativo n.º 110/99:</b> Aprova o orçamento para 1999 do Fundo Escolar da Escola Básica Integrada dos Bacalhois.	695
<b>Despacho Normativo n.º 116/99:</b> Aprova os orçamentos, para 1999, de diversos serviços autónomos.	695
<b>Despacho Normativo n.º 117/99:</b> Aprova o orçamento de 1999 do Centro de Saúde de Ponta Delgada.	695
<b>SECRETARIA REGIONAL DA AGRICULTURA, PESCAS E AMBIENTE</b>	<b>Portaria n.º 31/99:</b> Institui o Programa de Observação para as Pescas nos Açores – POPA.
<b>Portaria n.º 32/99:</b> Estabelece a área de operação das embarcações de pesca costeira.	695

1. Instituir um Programa de Observação para as Pescas nos Açores, abreviadamente designado POPA, modelo de monitorização científica, com o objectivo de promover a recolha e tratamento de dados tendentes ao estudo da gestão sustentada dos recursos marinhos nas águas dos Açores e, em geral a protecção e conservação do meio ambiente oceânico.

# Why and how



Hand line and bottom longline + Pelagic longline + Experimental Fisheries (BSF+DAC)



SCIENTIFIC  
COUNCIL



FISHERIES  
OBSERVERS



EXECUTIVE COMISSION  
Institute of marine  
research/ Azores University



SPONSORS/PARTNERS  
Scientific Projects (EU, US)  
Fisheries Government administration



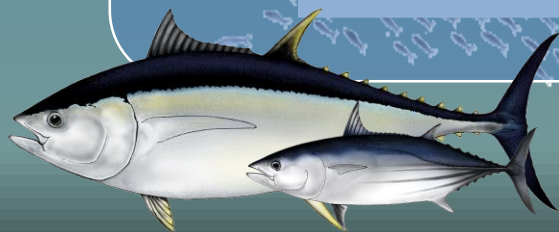
PARTNER  
Fishing  
Associations

# What do we have (PL)



Dolphin safe  
certification  
since **1998**

Friend of the Sea  
certification since  
**2001**, reevaluated in  
**2013**



# What do we have (CF)

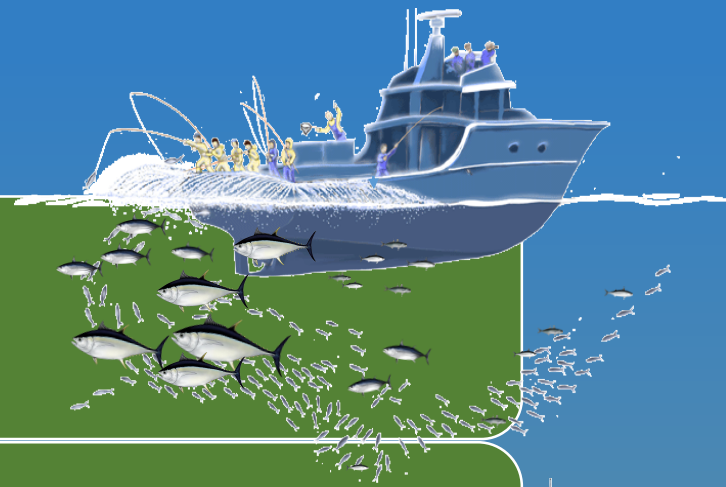


## Pole and Line (1998-...)

9 observers team until 2018 (reduced to 5)

> 3500 Fisheries Observer Reports

> 20.000 DAYS AT SEA (aprox. 30.000 fishing events)

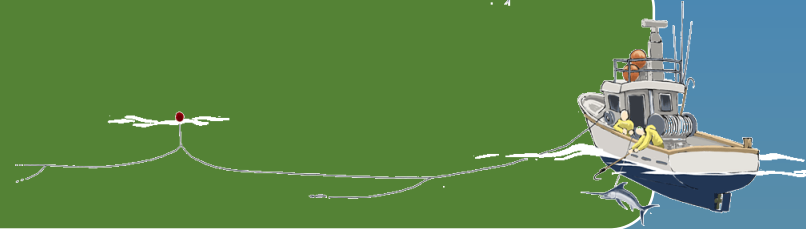


## Surface longline (2008, 2010, 2015-...)

2 to 3 observers

> 80 Fisheries Observer Reports

> 1800 DAYS AT SEA (aprox 1000 hauls)



## Bottom longline (2010, 2017-2019)

2 observers

> 70 Fisheries Observer Reports

> 500 DAYS AT SEA (aprox 300 hauls)



- Technology and fishing operation
- Target species, by-catch, discards, associated species (eg: cetaceans, sea birds, seaturtles)
- Marine debris; Abiotic data (SST)



# What was achieved

## Scientific information (eg)

- . Estimating common dolphin bycatch in the pole-and-line tuna fishery in the Azores (2018)
- . Distribution and composition of floating macro litter off the Azores archipelago and Madeira (2019)
  - . An overview of fisheries discards in the Azores (2019)
  - . Relative abundance of oceanic juvenile loggerhead sea turtles in relation to nest production at source rookeries (2019)

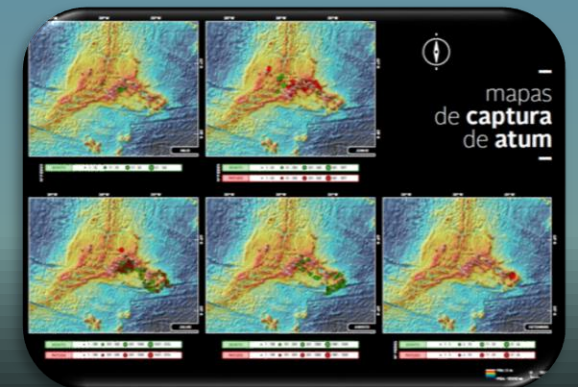
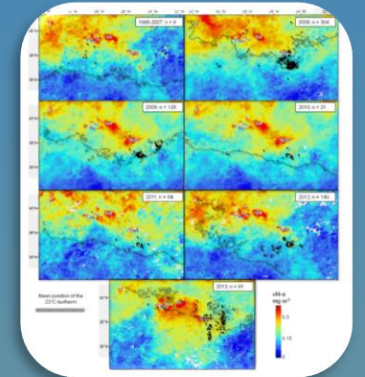
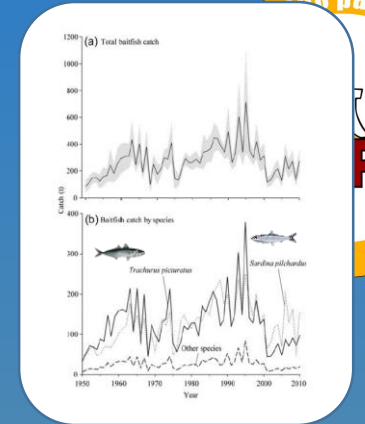
On-line geolocated databases  
that gather global spacial  
information on animal groups  
tuna, cetaceans, birds, turtles

## Public policies within the scope of inter-governmental organizations + EU directives

ICCAT, ICES, MSFD, DCNP

## Information for fishermen

Geolocated maps with estimated monthly catches per  
tuna and live bait species



POPA would not be possible without the  
colaboration and dedication of our observers and  
fishermen



Pictures © Fishpics® & IMAR-DOP, Uaç

Photos – Fishery Observers POPA/Imag Dop