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The impacts of COVID-19 on small-scale fisheries in Europe



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WEBINAR ON COVID-19 IMPACTS



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Small-scale fisheries in Europe



Socioeconomic importance

- 82% fleet in number (70,400 vessels)
- 47% of employment (52,000 fishers)
- 14% of the value of landings (€ 943 million annually)

Provides EU markets with high quality fresh products

- High dependence in HORECA channels (food service industry, i.e., hotels, restaurants, cafes)

Pascual-Fernandez, Pita & Bavinck (Eds.). 2020. Small-Scale Fisheries in Europe: Status, resilience and governance. Springer, MARE Pub. Series 23



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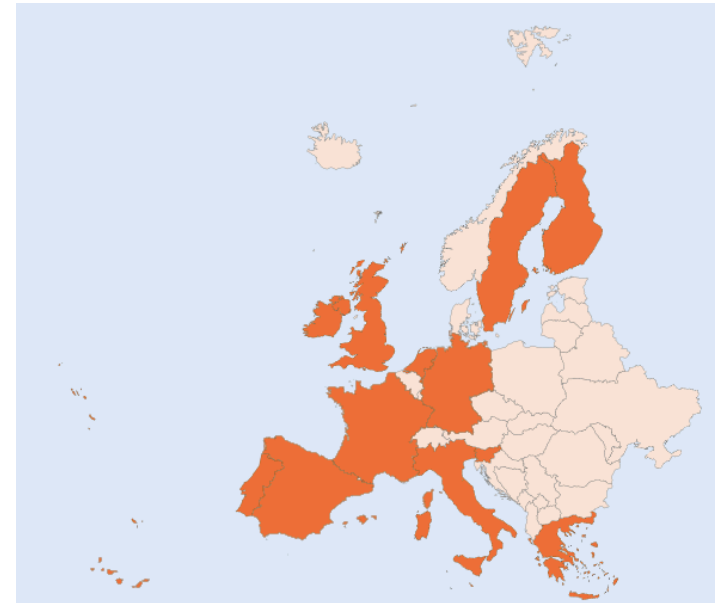
Rapid assessment of the impacts of COVID-19



- Primary data collection (survey)
 - Representatives of SSF organizations

- Guiding research questions
 1. The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on the activity (of their associates),
 2. Impact on health and wellbeing,
 3. Measures adopted to face this crisis.

- 105 organizations
- 12 countries



Impacts on the activity



Major economic loss (7*)

- Losses btw 20-100%
- High especially in the North of Europe
 - 80-100% in the case of shellfish
- High for fishers targeting high-value species (e.g., nephrops, lobsters, prawns, seabreams) all over Europe

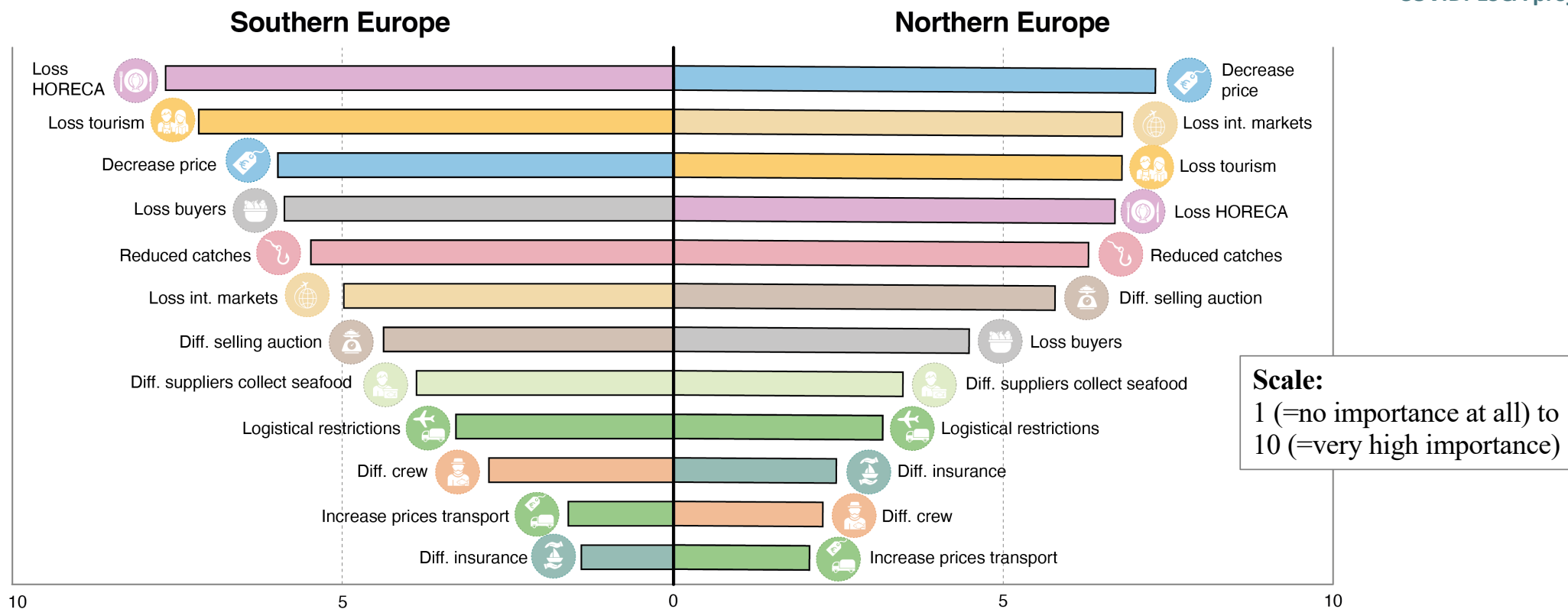


Low loss of jobs (4*)

- Some fishers in lay-off, some working for less pay, some sent on vacation
- Mostly a family business
- If it continues it will result in a loss in jobs

* **Scale:** 1 (=no loss at all) to 10 (=very high loss)

Socioeconomic impacts caused by COVID-19



Socioeconomic impacts caused by COVID-19



- Closure of HORECA channels
- Shift consumer demand from fresh to frozen/canned



- Connected to loss of HORECA
- Cancellation of summer seafood festivals will have major impact

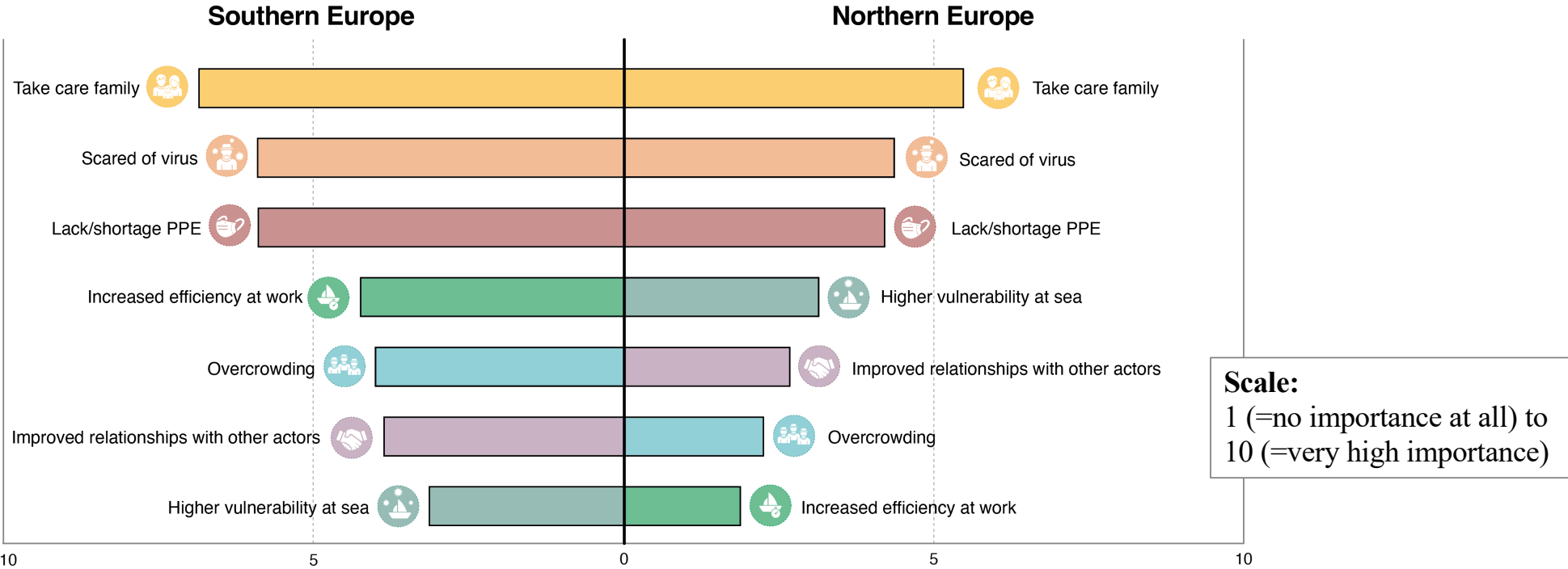


- Decrease price, specially of “luxury” seafood
- Decrease in demand at auction



- No exports to Spain, Italy & France
- Local buyers don't buy enough

Impact on health & wellbeing caused by COVID-19



Impact on health & wellbeing caused by COVID-19



- Older, vulnerable fishers staying home due to being at higher risk
- Younger fishers staying home for child support

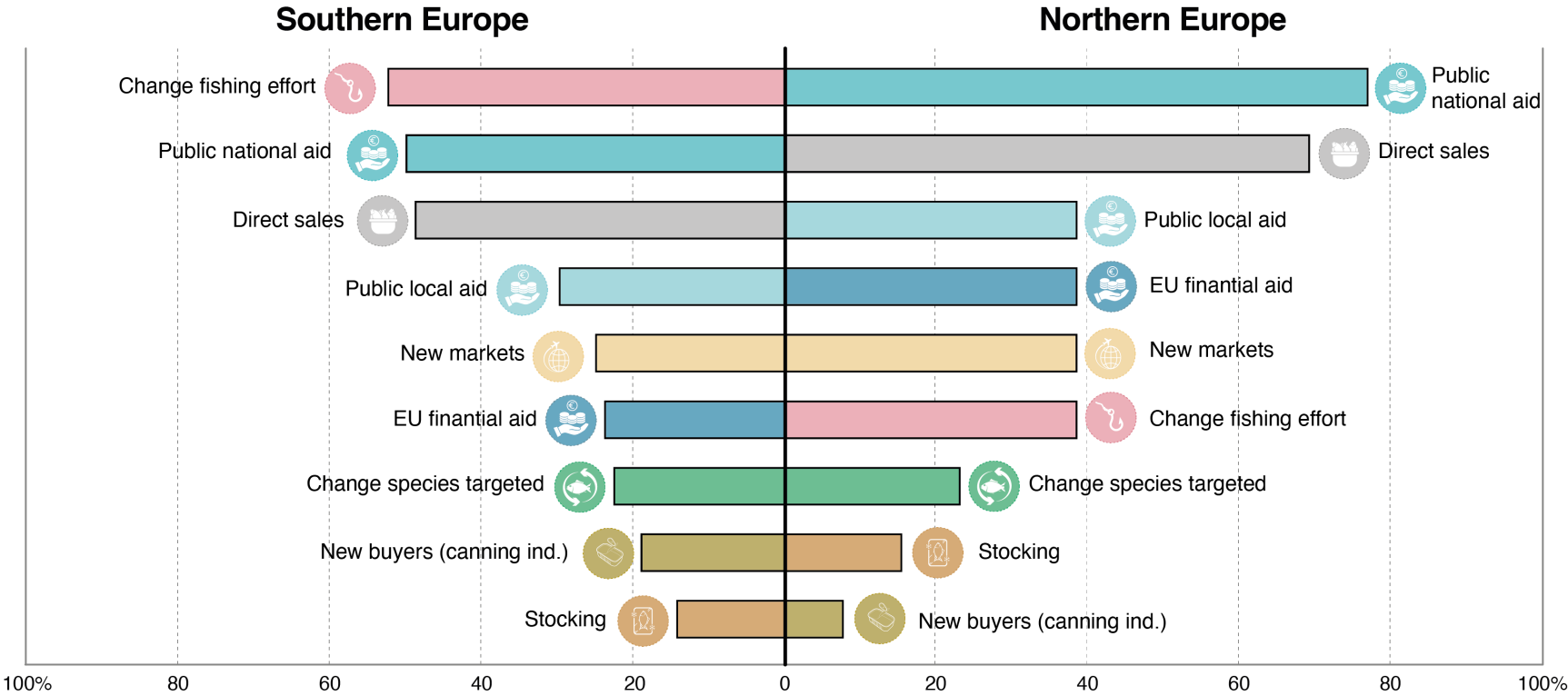


- Space confined in vessels
- No problem at sea, problem at landing sites



- Difficulty complying with security measures (social distancing)
- Difficulty accessing PPE

Measures adopted to face the COVID-19 crisis



Measures adopted to face the COVID-19 crisis



- Hard accessing to funds
- Extremely bureaucratic



- Increase online selling
- Fishbox schemes with more clients
- Selling door-to-door (South)



- Change target *sp.* to match market demand
- Rules make it diff. to shift target *sp.* (North)
- Fish less (little demand and decrease in prices)

COVIDPESCA Project



Thank you

- **Project co-coordinators** Sebastian Villasante, Jose Pascual-Fernandez,
- **Co-authors** Alicia Said, Ana Ruiz, Andrea Belgrano, Antonio García Allut, Arantza Murillas, Daniela Castelo, Evangelos Tzanatos, Gill Ainsworth, Jaime Ramón, Joly Ghanawi, Leyre Goti, Katina Roubledakis, Maria Cristina Mangano, Marloes Kraan, Maricela de la Torre Castro, Marta Coll, Marzia Piron, Olivier Guyader, Pablo Pita, Pekka Salmi, Raquel Jacinto, Ruth Brennan, Sasa Raicevich, Silvia de Juan, Susan Koning, Tereza Fonseca, William Östmar, Vahdet Unal, Vlasis Ketsilis-Rinis,
- Representatives of 105 European small-scale fishing organizations.



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