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# ”They dig deep squares”, toilers of the sea vs defender of nature, facts and effects of environmental governance

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## Résumé

The state of fishery resources is a key issue that shapes coastal and port activities. Traditionally, fishermen adapted to situations by diversifying their practices and fisheries; they opted for a more diversified and versatile activity. Nowadays, their profession heavily depends on the implementation of regulatory measures based on bioeconomic considerations. These measures generate controversies regarding the qualification of personnel, the legitimate knowledge of the state of fishery resources, the right to fish and the necessary measures. Thus, the environmental approach underlying the European fisheries policy reportedly jeopardizes these workers close to nature. It may seem paradoxical, but only on the surface, because the notion of environment is a category of perception, representation and analysis that does not correspond to that of fishermen who would rather consider the sea as their work space. This category of analysis (environment) therefore transforms the framework of their professional world in which the sea and its fish (and shellfish) face nature and the environment. The prevalence of these last terms illustrates the tensions and legitimacy conflicts already identified in nature-related professions, precisely because nature operates as a jurisdiction.

The presentation will acknowledge the categories of perception and analysis of the situation, adaptive practices of fishermen compared to the requirements and measures imposed for the preservation of fishery resources

**Mots-Clés:** environmental governance, fishermen in traditional fishing

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