

## Department of Environmental Science and Engineering

### Towards resilient fisheries: fish producers' organizational adaptability. Lessons from Portugal

CENSE – Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research /  
ECOMAN – Ecological Economics and Environmental Management



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## Objectives

Fisheries face combined pressure from overfishing, environmental conditions, changes in market and regulations. To respond to these challenges fishers need to change and adapt their productive and marketing activities to secure livelihoods for the long-term. In this work we explore this fishers' adaptive capacity by focusing on the case of fish Producers Organization (PO) and their specific Portuguese context. Fish PO brings together fishermen or fish farmers on a voluntary basis with the aim of improving the marketing of their products. We aim to understand how POs may operate in order to increase its adaptive capacity and how this organizational adaptation enhances the resilience of fisheries systems?



## Methodology

In line with the research questions, my methodological approach is based on the case study methodology. The analytical framework for studying organizational adaptivity is based on the theoretical concepts from resilience theory, organizational sociology and social science of fisheries, and has been used as an iterative process of data collection and analysis. Data are triangulated from different sources, including a survey of the literature, legislation relevant to POs, a document analysis, interviews (semi-structured and narrative), and participatory observation of the organizations' dynamics and activities.



## Expected Results

Research papers:

Paper I: What went well, what went wrong with fish producers' organization in Portugal and why?

Paper II: 'How to learn to be adaptive?' An analytical framework for organizational adaptivity and its application to a fish producers' organization in Portugal

Paper III: Factors influencing adaptability of fish producers organizations: lessons from Portugal

Paper IV: Social learning in fish producers organizations: how fisher perceive their membership and what do they learn from it

