



Fishing in Croatia

Erasmus+ Project „Let us sail together!”

The numbers

- The average Croat eats 20kg of fish a year, which is low compared to the global average
- As of 2020, Croatia's fishing fleet consisted of 7 808 ships, the majority of which were in the category of „small scale coastal fleet” and most of them belong to local fishermen
- The vast majority of larger vessels are purse seiners („koće” in Croatian)
- In 2021 a total of 70 793 tons of fish was caught, with an additional 18 992 tons from mariculture
- Our biggest catches are:
 - Blue fish: pilchards, anchovies and tuna
 - White fish: hake, surmullet
- The total gross of fishing in 2020 was €180.1 million, the biggest contributors being gilt-head bream(€46.6 million) bass(€40.7 million) and tuna(€35.7 million)



Pelagos tuna d.o.o. from Zadar is among our strongest tuna exporters



Tuna is one of Croatia's most lucrative exports, 4000 tons of high-quality bluefin tuna is sold in Japan each year

- Croatian fish canneries are spread out across the entire coast and export their produce across the globe
- The biggest such company in the entire region is Sardina d.o.o. from Postira on the island of Brač which has a tradition spanning over a century



Mariculture



- Mariculture is a relatively new practice in Croatia
- Currently only a small part of national fish production(21%) but is rapidly growing
- All Croatian farms are situated near the shore, potentially polluting the nearby sea and turning away visitors
- Main produce: sea bass, tuna and oysters



Lim Bay

The main locations for oyster mariculture in Croatia



Bay of Šibenik



Bay of Mali Ston





Restaurant
Kapetanova kuca
MALI STON

- The restaurant „Kapetanova kuća” (Captain’s House) in Mali Ston is famous for serving fresh oysters straight from the nearby farms



The missing link between two parts of Croatia



The delta of the river Neretva, overlooking the Mali Ston Bay and the construction site of the Pelješac bridge, is a vast expanse of brackish water, an important location for local fishermen and a great spot for kitesurfing



The problems

- While the Adriatic has many different kinds of marine organisms, their numbers are relatively low and can easily be overfished
- Several invasive species are destroying our sea's natural biodiversity



Caulerpa taxifolia, a toxic species of algae destroying native habitats on the seafloor



The lionfish reproduces quickly and has no natural predator, thus growing in numbers at an alarming rate

Processed fish food used in mariculture greatly damages the seafloor below and spreads greasy slicks across the surface, deterring tourists

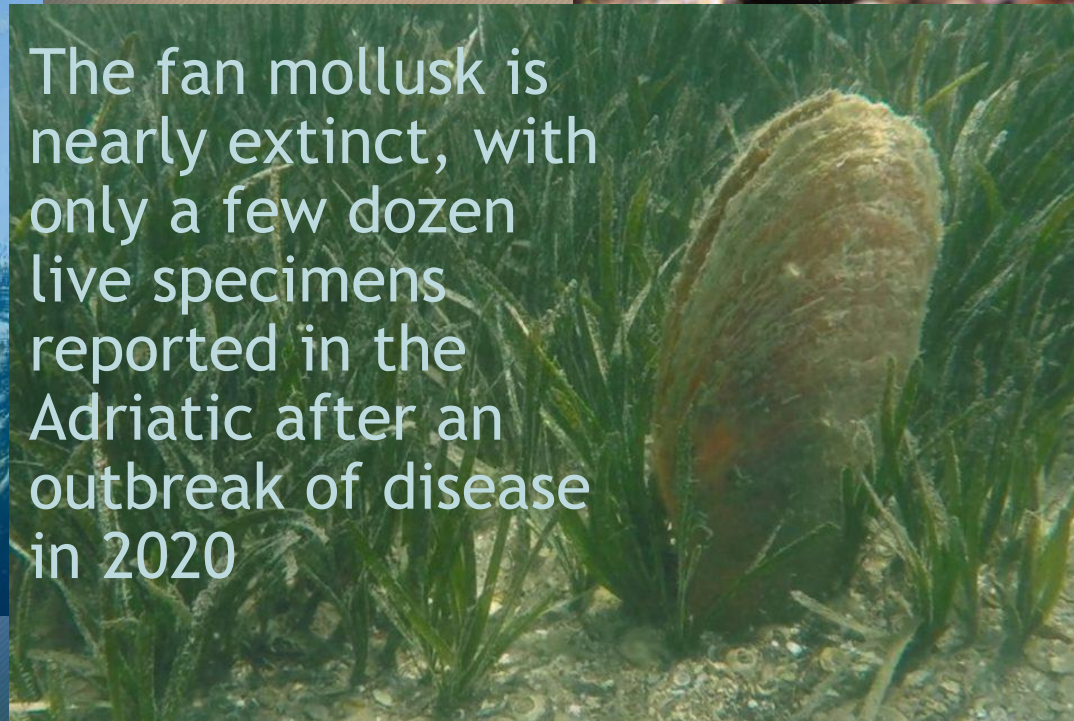


Endangered species

The Mediterranean monk seal had completely disappeared from the Adriatic, but has recently been spotted again in the far south



The fan mollusk is nearly extinct, with only a few dozen live specimens reported in the Adriatic after an outbreak of disease in 2020



The spiny and short-snouted seahorses are severely endangered by poaching



No-take zones

- As the Croatian fishing industry expands, more and more fish are caught every year
- Continuing intensive fishing across the entire Adriatic may completely deplete the numbers of many species
- To counter this, multiple no-take zones have been established to allow fish populations to regenerate
- Locations are decided based on input from local fishermen so that they don't lose their main fishing areas



Telašćica Nature Park, the location of the first no-take zone in Croatia



Thank you for listening!

Literature

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