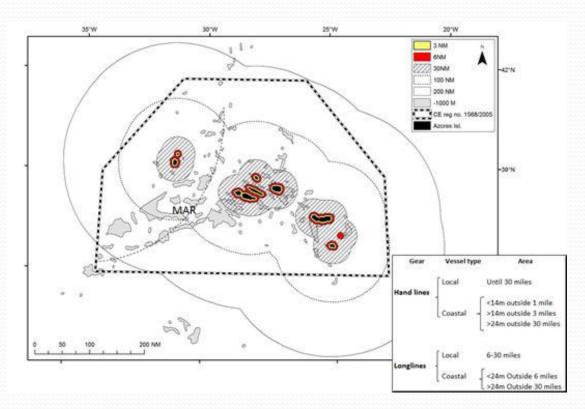
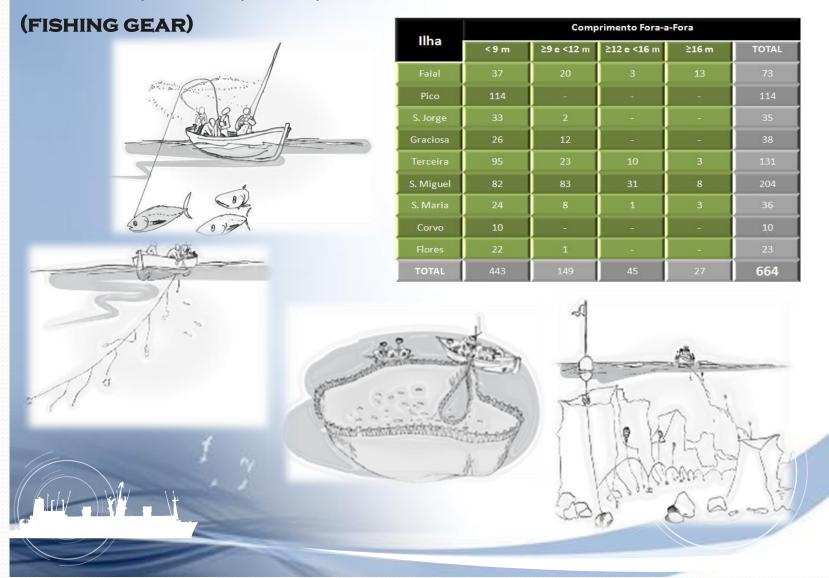
- The European Commission persists on believing that Azores Archipelago should be treated like the European Continent applying the same rules and management tools to the Region that are applied in all the other places with a continental shelf.
- The differences of the Fisheries occurring in the Northern Seas of Europe with the Fisheries in the Azores is evident, being the fishing methods in the Azores much more sustainable, due to the use by the Azorean fishing fleet of very selective fishing gears. This fleet can be divided in two fishing categories being one made by Local boats and other by Coastal boats. (figure 2)



• Figure 2. Spatial distribution of the fishing operation by the Azorean fleet. Source: Pinho et al, 2015 (ICES CM 2015/F:30)

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- 76 % are local boats with cabin or not, with no more than 10 meters;
- Less than 20% are coastal with a length between 10 to 15 meters;
- Less than 5% are coastal with a length between 15 and 30 meters;
- In most of the islands, there is a tradition of one man, for one line, for one hook and in some other cases one line with several hooks. Only at the most populated islands exist fishing boats that use bottom or drift longline. Nevertheless, it is an artisanal fishing.



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- The fishing Gear and fishing methods that are allowable and that we use in the Azores are:
 - Line and hooks; targeting demersal and pelagic (Fig. 3):
 - Hand lines
 - Bottom longline
 - Surface longline
 - Craft fishery