

Analysing EU fishers and fish farmers strategies vis-à-vis contextual market and regulatory conditions

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① BACKGROUND

Coastal capture fisheries and aquaculture are strongly interconnected resource systems and economic activities, representing evolving and complex dynamics, **constrained by several socio-economic, policy and biophysical factors** – such as the decline of marketable fish stocks, the increasing fishing pressure, the consequent change in fisheries policies and management systems, overfishing and climate change - that intervene and alter behavioural dynamics within the production system.

③ THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Conditions, Strategies and Performances are interlinked through a dynamic causal mechanism that builds on theories of industrial and organisation economics, focusing on the impacts that strategic decisions will have on the performance level of the business activities and on the capacity to change structures and conditions of the sector.

⑤ FINDINGS

The first findings of this preliminary analysis in Tuscany and Cornwall allowed identifying a number of sequential relationships of C-S-P at a context-specific level:

② AIMS

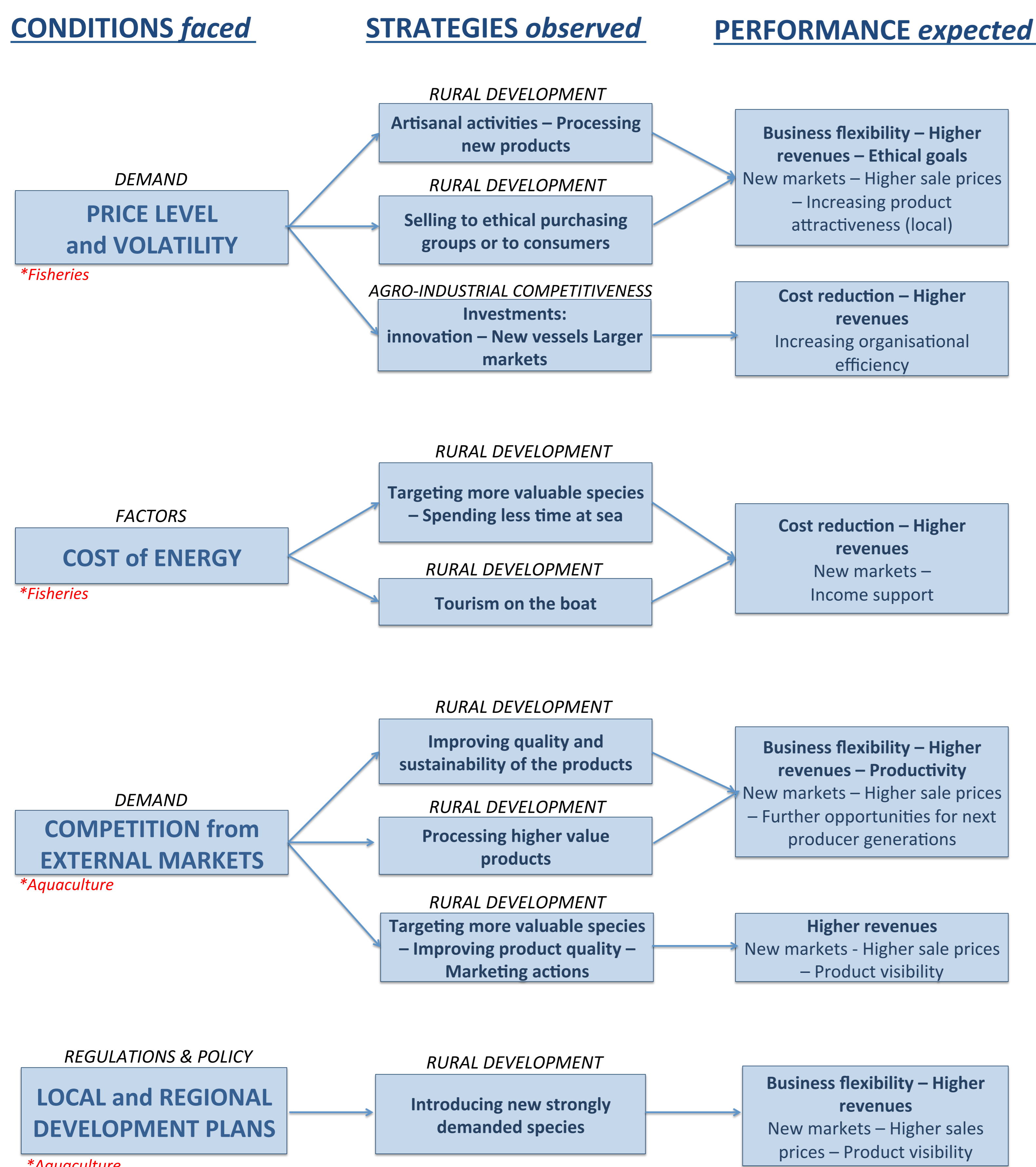
- Present a preliminary analysis of the multidimensional causal dynamics of key socioeconomic and environmental drivers, including **market/policy factors** influencing the decision-making process of Fishers and Fish Farmers
- Identify conditions in which **primary producers** are involved, the related strategies developed to manage those conditions and the consequent performances in terms of **profitability, sustainability and resilience** of the businesses from both a socioeconomic and ecological perspective.

④ METHODS

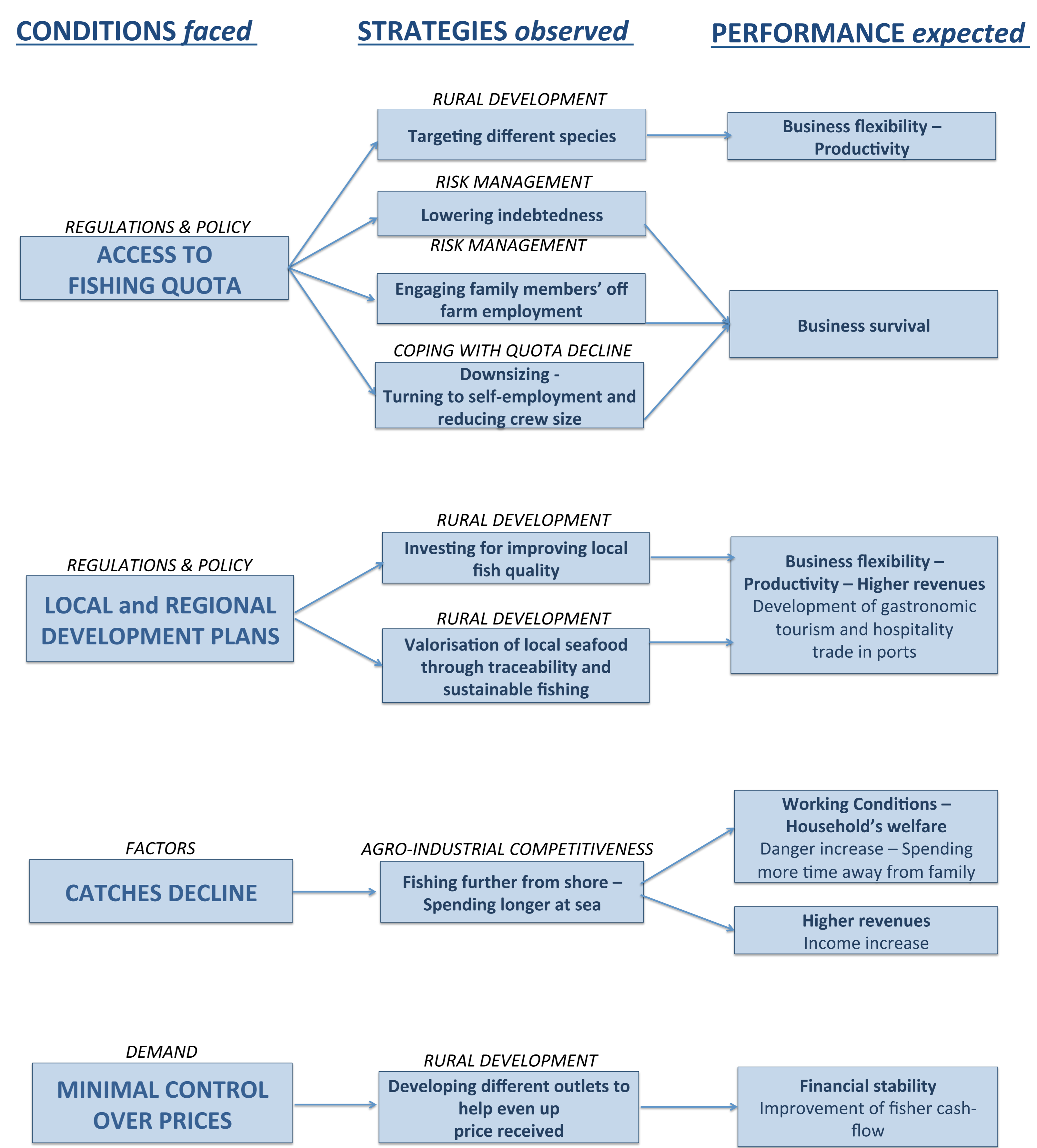
- The C-S-P causal dynamic framework was applied to study the Conditions, Strategies and Performances of the primary producers of fisheries and aquaculture in **Cornwall** and **Tuscany**.
- A **context-specific literature review** was carried out to identify how primary producers' strategies are influenced by the contextual conditions.



Fisheries and Aquaculture in Tuscany (Italy)



Fisheries in Cornwall (United Kingdom)



⑥ CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES

- The C-S-P framework, in this preliminary analysis, proved to be a **suitable conceptual tool** to explore decision-making and strategies of primary producers in fisheries and aquaculture.
- It emerges the need to **further challenge the framework** exploring the interlinkages feeding back from performances to conditions.
- It will be important to further investigate the causal mechanisms stemming from other conditions which have not yet been considered through this first step of context-specific literature review for both case studies such as lack of credit and financial services, lack of labels, discard ban, consumption patterns and stock collapse.
- Engaging with stakeholders and experts** through integrated and structured knowledge-based tools, and accessing qualitative as well as quantitative information, will be key to comprehensively analyse how primary producers develop decision-making processes when they are exposed - and thus potentially vulnerable - to specific stressors and changing conditions, calling for transformation strategies **towards sustainable solutions and performances for fisheries and aquaculture**.

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