



SPANISH UNDERWATER ACTIVITIES FEDERATION

Overview of underwater fishing in Catalonia (Western Mediterranean)

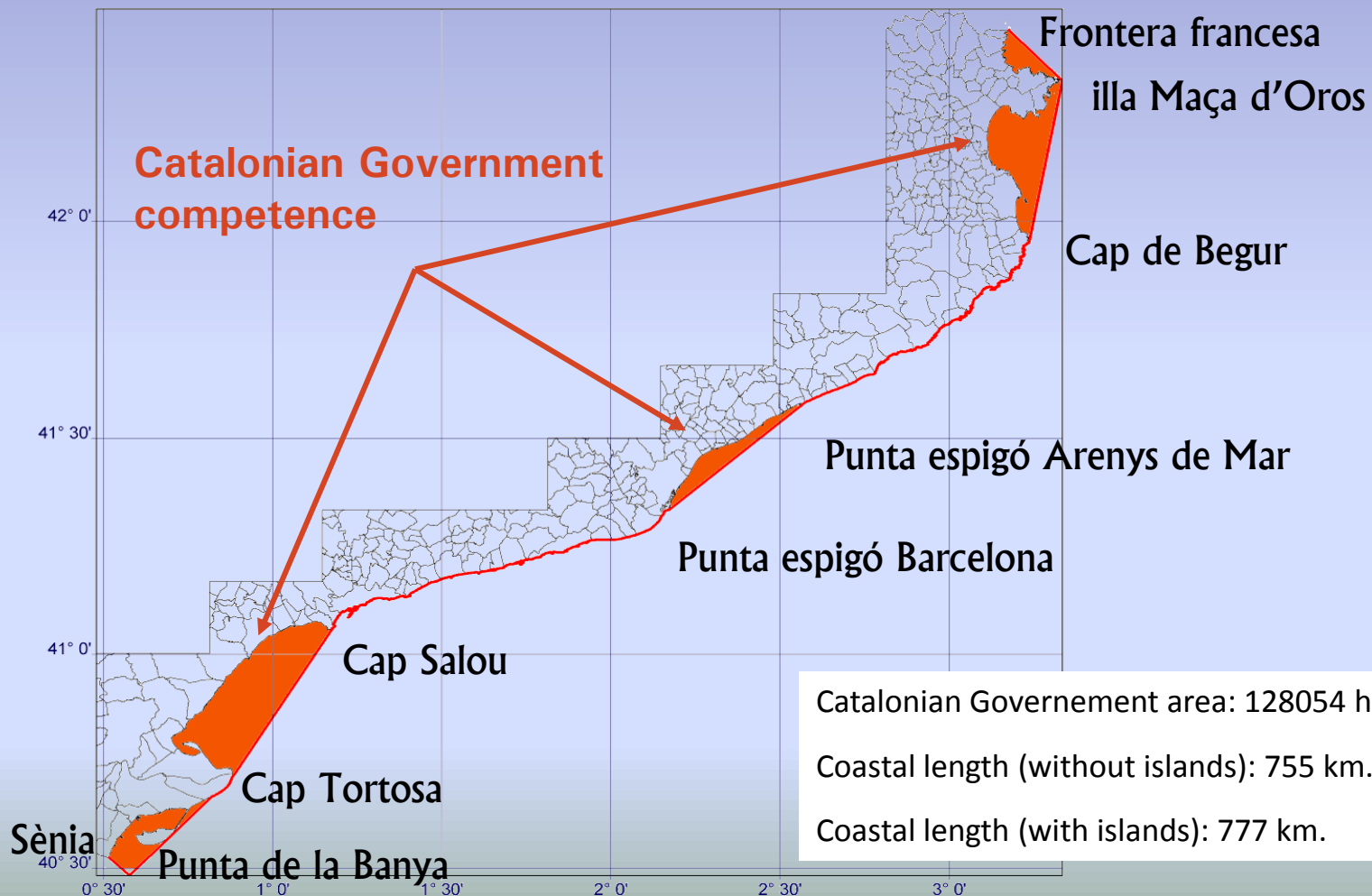


Underwater fishing Regulation

- Catalonia: 2 recreational fishing regulations.
 - Spanish government (outer waters).
 - Catalanian government (inner waters).



CATALONIAN COAST





Underwater fishing regulation

- **License system** (compulsory).
 - 1 year
 - Medical certificate
 - Assurance
 - Spanish regions or UE countries → Valid.
 - Free under 14, pensioners and disabled.
- **Competitions** → Organized by FECDAS but approved by the government.



Underwater fishing regulation

- Catches (inner waters):
 - Fish → 10 kg
 - Cephalopode → 5 kg
 - Sea urchin → 150 units
 - Competitions → No limits but charity
 - Minimum size and closing seasons → Same as professionals
- Catches (outer waters):
 - Fish → 5 Kg



Underwater fishing regulation

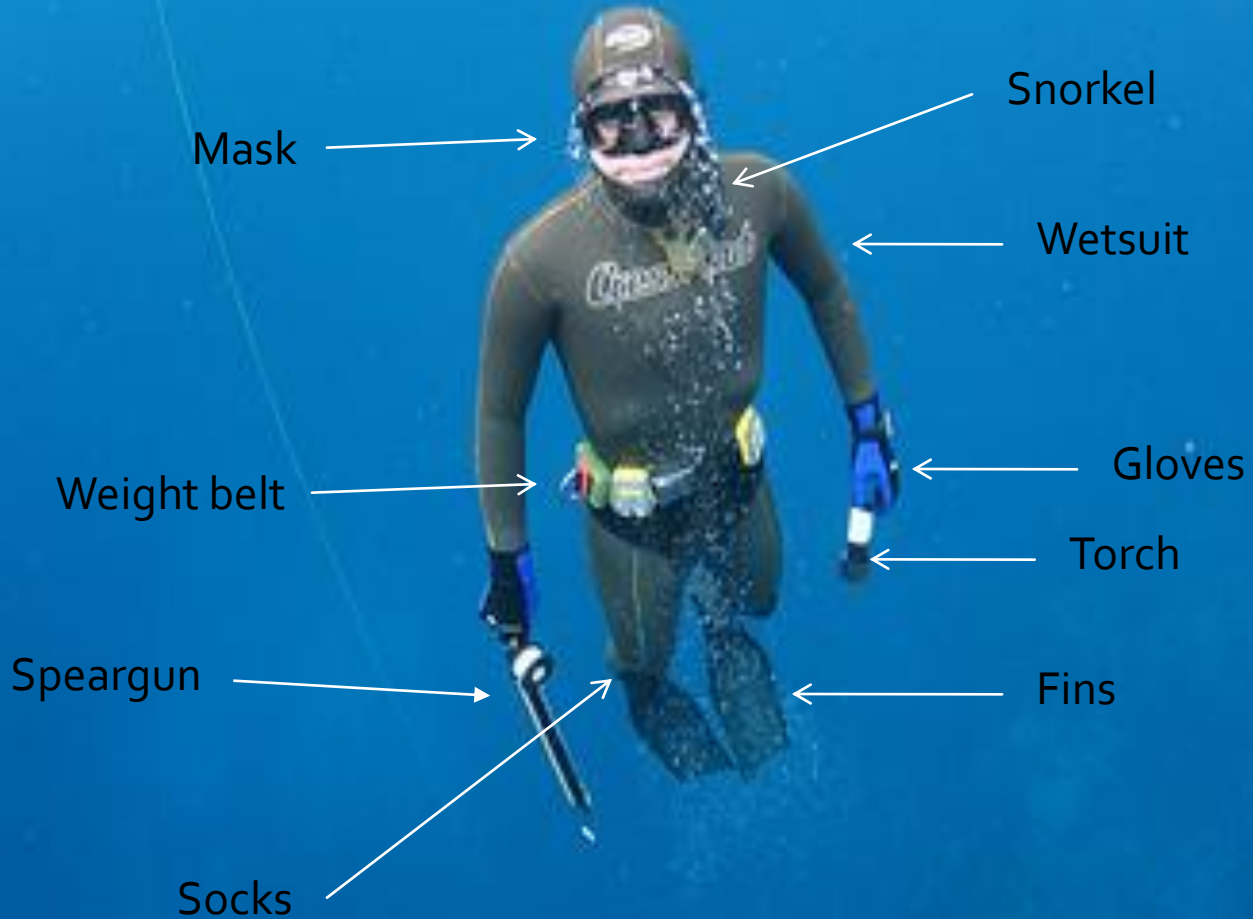
- **Definition:** Free diving practiced without the help of breathing equipment.
- Only practiced during daylight.
- Harpoons or spear-guns charged underwater.
- 100/200 m from professional gear , aquaculture and anglers (inner waters).
- Divers must mark their position (buoy).
- Protected areas → More restrictive regulations.



Underwater fishing regulation

- Prohibitions:
 - Selling catches.
 - Fish with or having on board professional gear.
 - Fishing closer than 100 m from bathing areas.
 - Fishing with mechanical devices (scooter).
 - Fishing with scuba.
 - Fishing at night.

GEAR



Techniques – Waiting

- **Target species:** Mainly predators (*Dicentrarchus labrax*, *Dentex dentex*, pelagics...) but often also *Diplodus sargus*, *Mugilidae sp.*, *Sarpa salpa*, and *Sparus aurata*.
- **Description:** The fisherman dives to the chosen spot and hides between the unevenness of the terrain (big rocks, shadows...). Once there he tries to lure and attract the fish by making sounds or little movements.
- **Season:** During summer main species are *Dentex dentex* and pelagic. In winter main targets are *Dicentrarchus labrax* and *Diplodus sargus*.



Techniques – The glide

- **Target species:** Benthonic species with important static behavior (*Symphodus tinca*, *Labridae sp.*, *Epinephelus marginatus*, *Diplodus sargus* and *Sciaena umbra*).
- **Description:** The fisherman falls to the bottom making the most of negative flotation. Immobility is essential. During the glide he'll try to find his target before it hides under the rocks.
- **Season:** Technique practiced mainly in summer, very limited by water clearness and the absence of big currents.



Techniques – Under the rocks

- **Target species:** Benthonic species that live always or occasionally in holes, caves or under the rocks (*Conger conger*, *Muraena helena*, *Diplodus sargus*, *Phycis phycis*, *Sciaena umbra*, *Scorpaena sp.* and *Epinephelus marginatus*).
- **Description:** The fisherman searches the target species in holes, caves or under the rocks.
- **Season:** Practiced all year. In winter in shallow water, and in summer at greater depths.



Techniques – Stalking

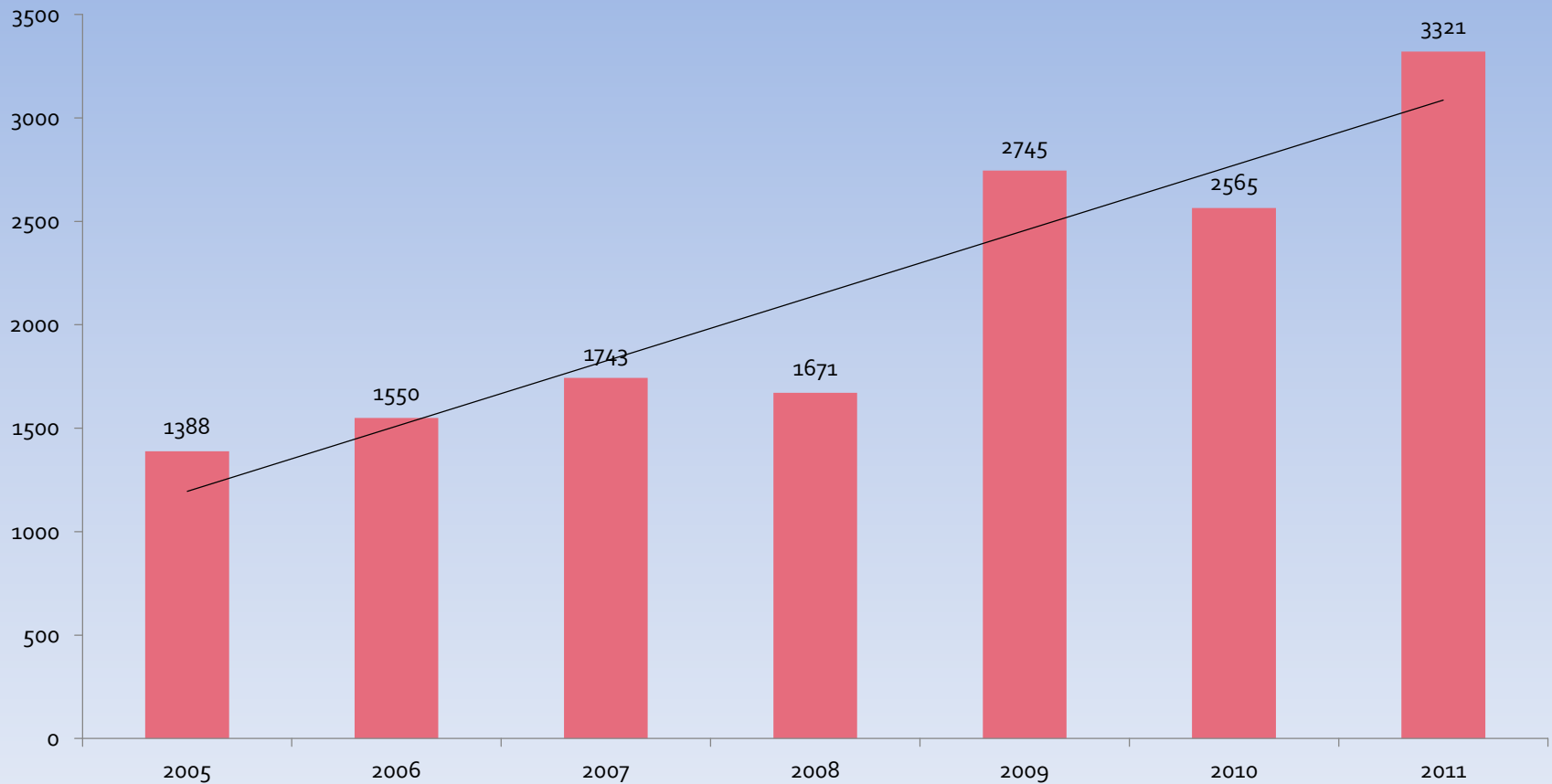
- **Target species:** Benthonic species that live always or occasionally outside the holes or caves but close to the bottom (*Diplodus sargus*, *Sciaena umbra*, *Mullus surmuletus*, *Sparus aurata*, *Labridae sp.*, *Symphodus tinca*, *Mugilidae sp.* and *Epinephelus marginatus*).
- **Description:** The fisherman stalks target species taking advantage of terrain unevenness.
- **Season:** Practiced all year.



License system



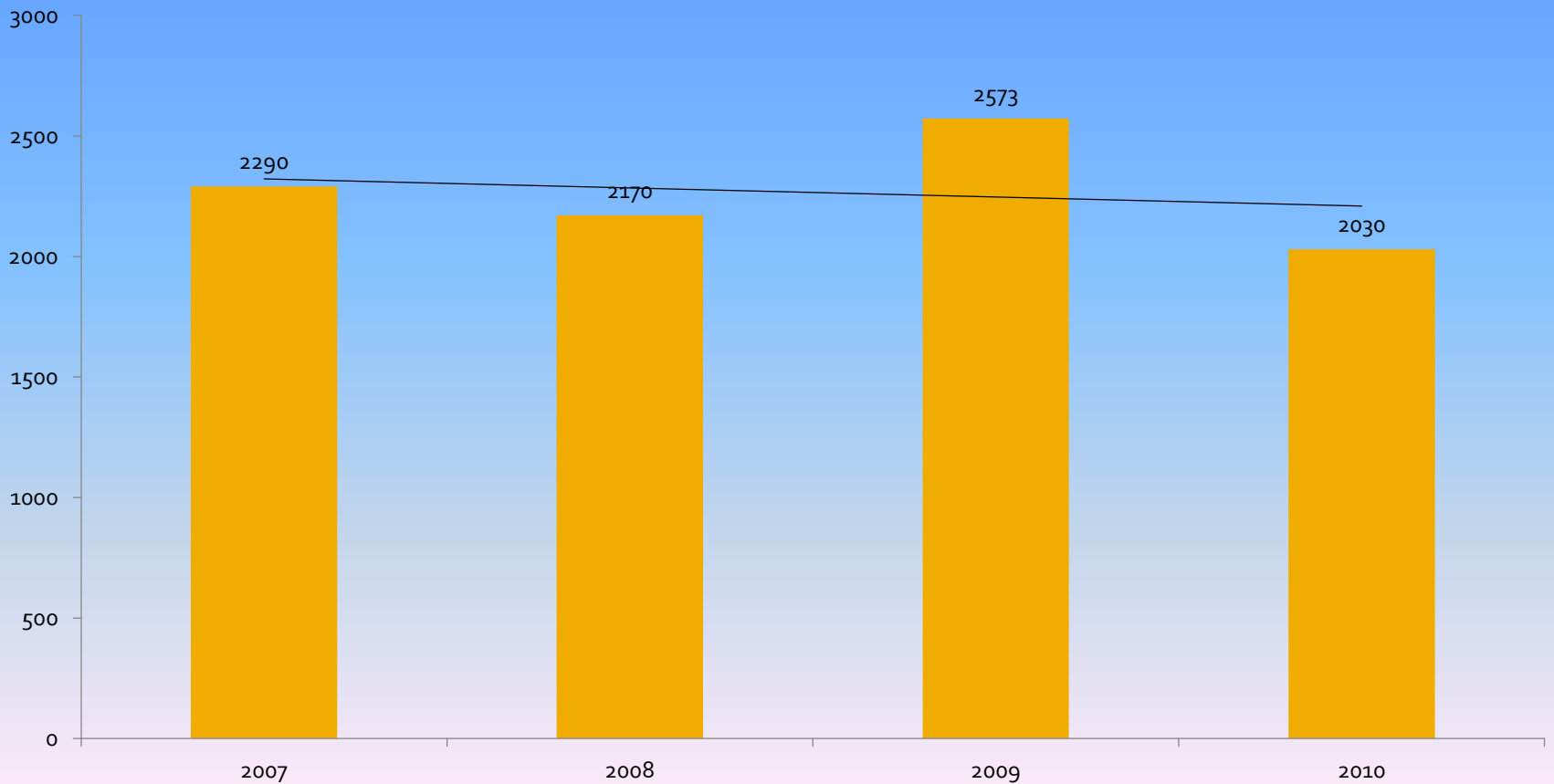
Underwater fishing licenses



Catches



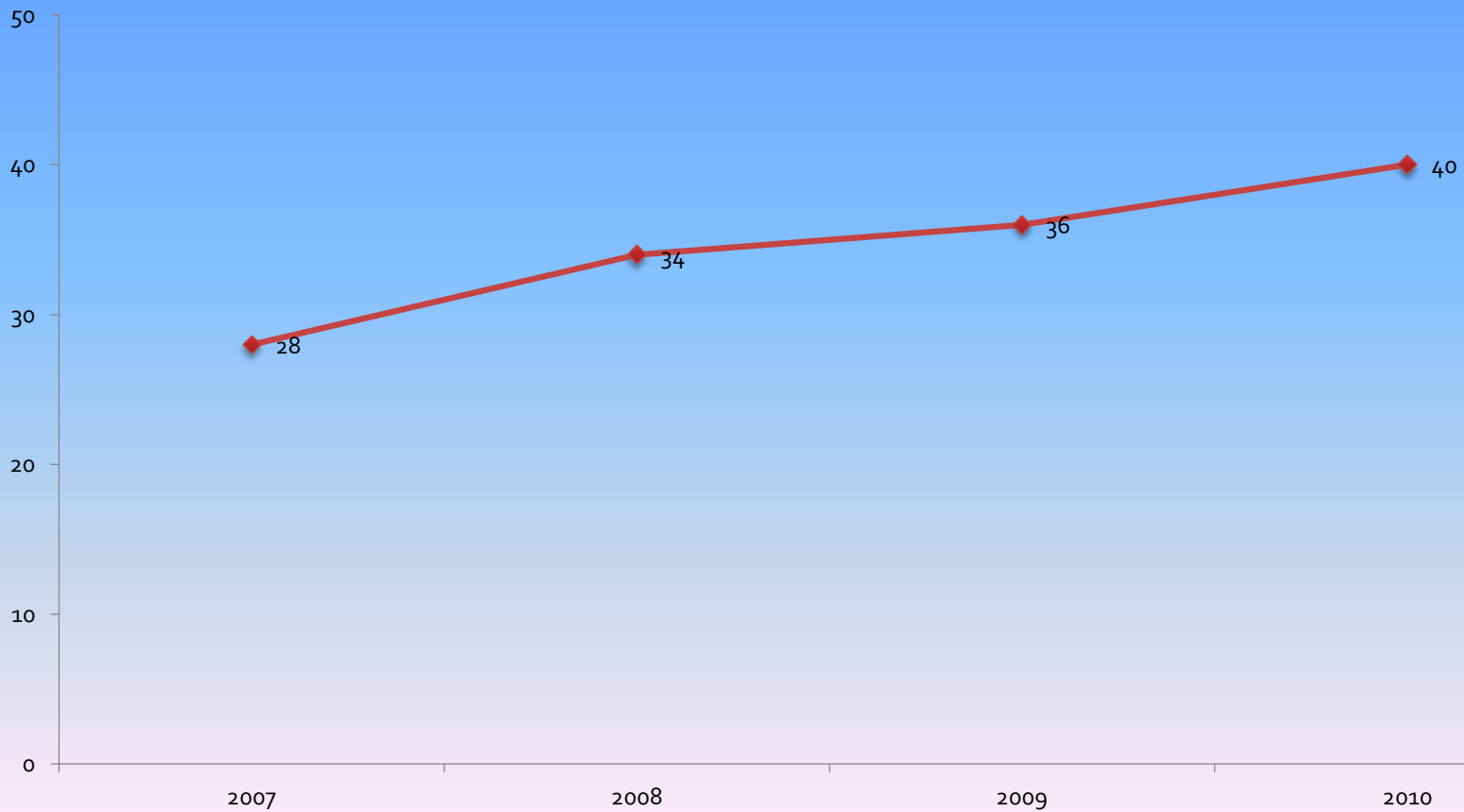
COMPETITIONS' CATCHES (Kg)



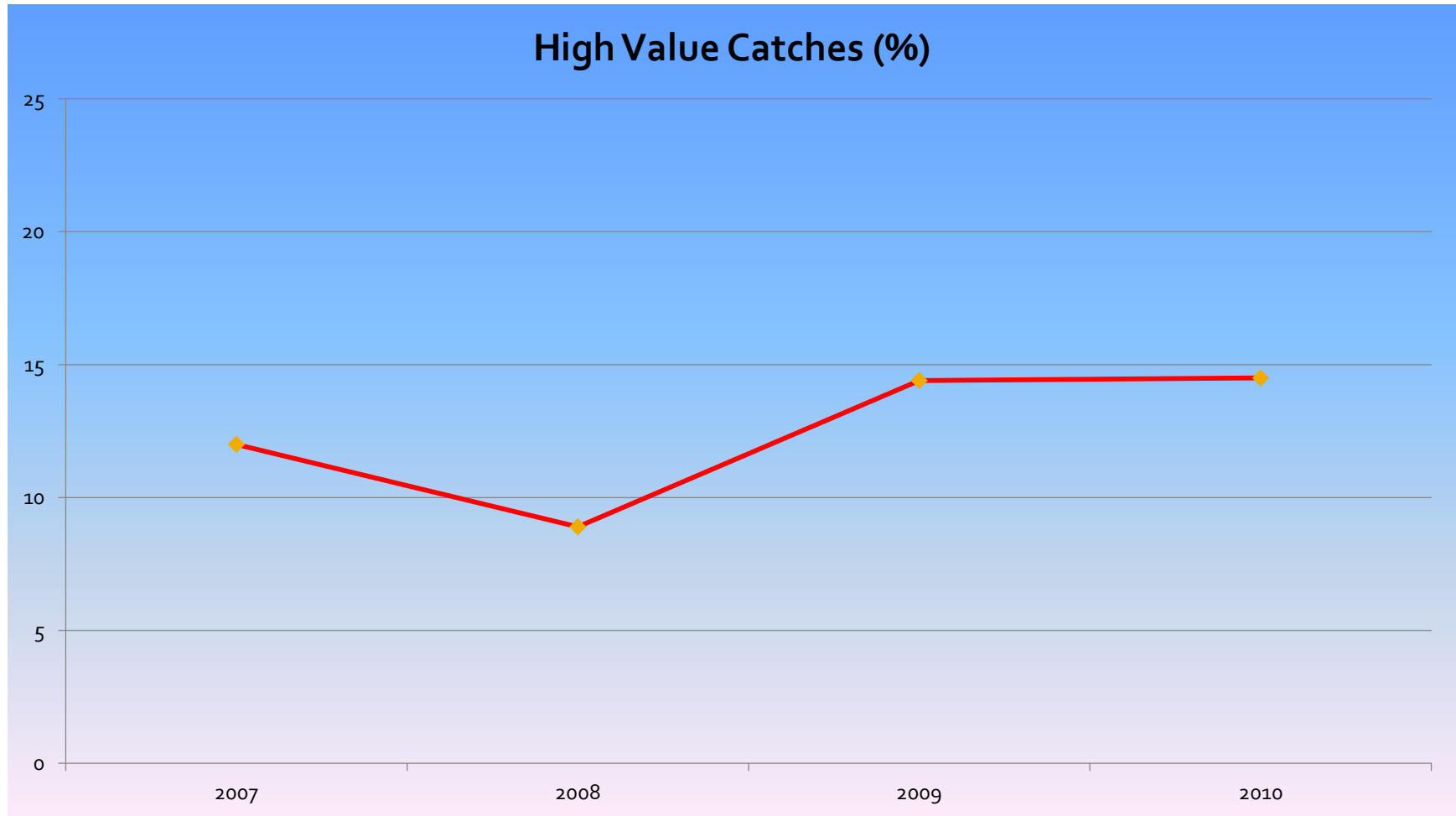
Species caught



Species



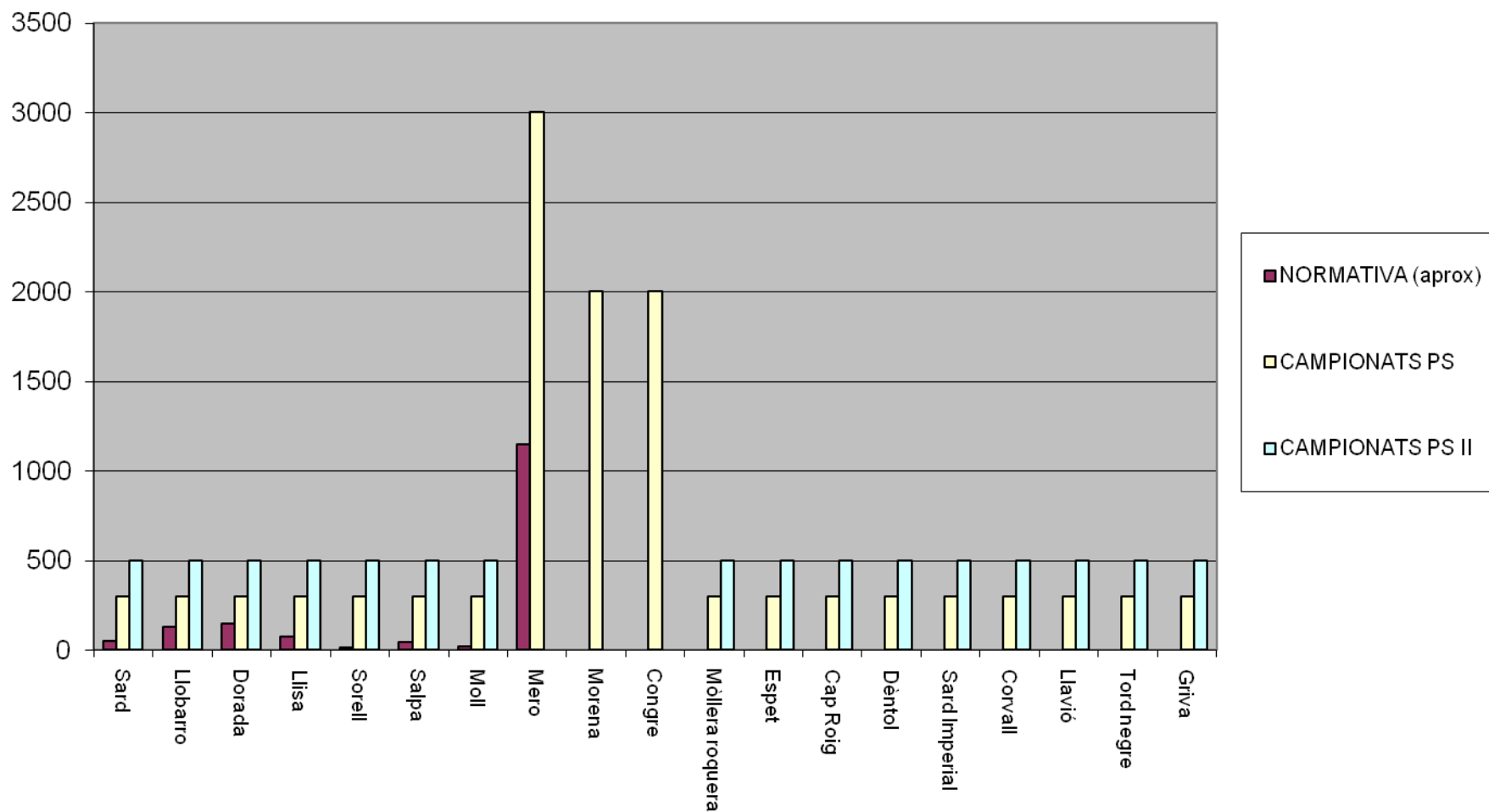
High Value Catches





Minimum weights comparison

Minimum weight (gr) - REGULATION vs COMPETITIONS



THANK YOU!

