



ESPINALER
— DESDE 1896 —

XEITO FISHING

Our sardine harvesters use a **small-scale** traditional fishing method, called '**Xeito**' in Galician, also known as '**Gill Netting**'. It involves curtains of netting suspended by a system of floats and weights to catch sardines. The fine netting is close to invisible, so sardines unwittingly swim into the mesh. As they try to back out, their gill covers get caught and the fish becomes entangled in the net and are then hauled aboard.

It has a **low impact** on marine life; a number of controls address **conservation** in Galicia's sardine fishery. These include:

- **catch limits placed monthly and annually**
- **limitation on number of licensed fishing vessels**
- **restrictions on landing small fish**
- **seasonal closures for conservation purposes**
- **minimum mesh sizes on nets**
- **restrictions on the length and height of nets**
- **concise monitoring and recording of catch at local government auctions called 'Lonxa'**

For more information,
do not hesitate to

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Our practiced
**FISHING
METHODS**

INTRODUCTION

Espinaler will always work hard to ensure our continuous support for **artisanal fishing**, as it is the only way to **preserve** Galician coast marine ecosystems. We work directly with Galician fishermen who work on **small-scale** artisanal fishing: *“passive fishing gear is used in order to avoid bad industrial arts that destroy the seabed, waste the catch and do not respect protected species and closed seasons.”*

In Espinaler, we only work with those who are open to admire the sea for its generosity, but who are conscious of its limitations. We only take part in **sustainable** practices.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTISINAL FISHING

1. Providing high-quality, fresh fish and seafood
2. Helping to establish population in rural fishing communities.
3. Revitalizing coastal areas, favoring economic activities such as tourism.
4. It is an environmentally friendly activity, which has a minor impact relative to other fishing activities.
5. It contributes to the preservation and creation of culture.

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POLE AND LINE

Here at Espinaler, our **white tuna** is captured using the Pole and Line method: **the most sustainable commercial method for catching tuna**, and it's the oldest.

It employs more people than any other method and directly supports artisanal fisherman.

Rates of accidental capture of other marine creatures, often known as **bycatch**, is as low as **1%**. Endangered or protected species such as sharks, whales, dolphins, and turtles are left unharmed by this fishing technique.

To assure **sustainability**, fisheries leave enough fish in the ocean to **reproduce**. This is done by the utilization of a mesh size large enough to ensure that the adult fish is captured and that the smaller fish are allowed to swim free.

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OUR FISHERIES

In terms of sustainability, not only are the fishing methods important but also the fisheries.

Our fisheries are **low-technology**, use **relatively low levels of energy**, **small-scaled** and more **labour intensive**.

As a result, in contrast with modern industrial fishing, **less waste** is produced, and **less stress** is inflicted on fish populations.

We believe in contributing to the importance and maintenance of **livelihoods locally**, as well as the **sustainability of the environment**.

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