

very important throughout

history

About 4.000 years ago, the inhabitants of the castros started fishing. Since those times the sea has provided food products to humans.

Throughout history, fishing gears, social organization of fishermen communities, preservation and trade of fish evolved until they turned out to be a very important sector nowadays.

and Romans fished and shellfished In early pre-roman castro times people used their hands or simple tools for shellfishing, while they used hooks and nets

to fish from the shore and it is

possible that they already had

Historic evidence shows that

the inhabitants of the castros

small boats. Romans developed the structure of boats and fishing methods and established trading routes between the coast and the inland. The first proof of the used of fishing resources in Galicia is

a shell midden of more than 4.000 years of age which were found in the Areoso. At this time appeared the first sating plants as this one in Adro Vello for the

preservation of fish. Apart

found salting plants of the

same period in Cariño, near

Ferro, in Nerga, in O Morrazo.

from this one there were

At the shell middens of

the castros and roman

barnacle, sea urchins,

archaeological sites of the

map there were found rest of

shellfish as limpets, mussels,

oysters, razor shell, clams,

periwinkles... and fish as hake, pollack wrasse, red sea bream, pouting, ollomoles, fanecas, seabream, mackerel, atlantic mackerel... From late Middle Ages until the 14th century fishing techniques and preservation methods developed New fishing gears are used as long line, traps or trammel

nets. Part of the catches was

consumed fresh in the coast

and the rest was traded dried

or salted. From all the shellfish.

only oysters were appreciated

sold to cities and monasteries.

and thousands of them were

During the Middle Ages

Galician fish trade was internationalised and it reached several ports all over Europe.

From the 14th century to the

17th century; the emergence

Fishermen guilds were formed

They allowed fishermen to

manage and trade maritime

resources as well as helped

them to defend themselves

through association.

During this period new

fishing gears appeared as

xeito (gillnets for sardine and

pilchard), and fish trade had

a strong development even

in almost all the marine villages.

of fishermen guilds and

international trade

reaching an international dimension. FISHERMEN GUILDS

Fishermen guilds had a lot of control over the fishing techniques, they established compulsory rest during the weekends, the so called "English week", in order to reduce pressure over fishing. They also

intervened in confrontation

specially fishermen from the

Cantabria, who came to fish

in the Galician coast and with

French and Basque whales who

the whales they had captured in

used Galician beaches to treat

front of our coasts. Fishermen

economical and social power.

guilds had a very strong

Basque Country, Portugal and

with foreign fishermen,

The church of Santa María a Maior in Pontevedra was built by the local fishermen guild. 18th and 19th centuries: great innovations and improvement of communications and fishing efforts The arrival of Catalan entrepreneurs introduced innovation in this sector: fishing gears, fish preservation methods and social organization. The arrival of the train which communicates Vigo and A Coruña with Madrid fostered trade with the inner parts of the Peninsula, and the introduction of the steam engine increased the catching capacity of the fleet. In the middle of the 19th

From 1960 onwards took place the major development and consolidation of this sector which nowadays exploits new fishing grounds all over the world. At the end of the 20th century

the expansion of the Exclusive

Economic Zone of many

countries up to 200 miles

of Spain in the European

the access to new fishing

grounds.

affected the Galician deep-

sea fishing fleet, and the entry

Economic Community limited

our fishing effort, but allowed

century it is placed in Oza

From the 20th century until

nowadays: fishing all over the

Galicia.

world

the first conserves factory in

In 1981 it was created the Fishing Department at the Galician Government, which will watch over the preservation of fishing resources in Galician coastline as well as over the profesionalization of the fishing sector in Galicia.

Image courtesy of Milagros Riveiro

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