The Galician Mob Background

The Galician Mob is a Spanish crime family whose foundations were laid long before becoming anything official, far from city streets, nightclubs, or political offices. Created in Spain.

A region moulded by isolation, poverty, and the Atlantic Ocean. For generations, Galician communities survived on fishing, shipping, seasonal labour, and forming tight social structures where trust was personal and betrayal carried permanent consequences. Long before the mob ever touched narcotics, its members understood logistics, patience, and fishing—down to the very taste of saltwater in the air, and of course, what hooks did the job best.

In Galicia, the sea wasn't romantic. It was cold, violent, and decisive. Boats sank without warning. Men vanished. The ocean took what it wanted and never cared about consequence. That mentality shaped the organisation before it ever became criminal. It was easily taught that survival meant adaptation, and adaptation often meant operating outside the law.

The modern Galician Mob began in the early 1970s, during Spain's state-controlled tobacco monopoly. Legal cigarettes were expensive, tightly regulated, and scarce. Demand, however, was constant. Fishermen—already skilled navigators with access to ports, coves, and international waters—filled that gap. What began as individual side hustles quickly turned into coordinated, organised operations.

Fishing vessels travelled farther than usual. Cargo holds carried more than nets and ice. Cigarettes sourced from the United States were smuggled into Spain and neighbouring European countries, unloaded at night along the Rías Baixas, and distributed inland through trusted intermediaries. Entire villages were involved in one way or another—dockhands, mechanics, drivers, bookkeepers, merchants, and families willing to store goods for a cut.

This period defined the family's core principles: no unnecessary violence, no outsiders in leadership, no cooperation with authorities, and arguably most important—problems were to be handled quietly.

Law enforcement underestimated the scale of these operations because they looked unsophisticated. Fishermen didn't wear suits. They didn't brag. They didn't expand fast. But the money accumulated, and more importantly, so did experience. By the late 1970s, the Galician Mob had already built something most criminal organizations lack early on: infrastructure. Boats. Routes. Safe ports. Corruptible officials. Financial fronts. A population conditioned to mind its business.

The 1980s brought pressure, with smuggling networks testing not only resolve but also bringing opportunity. American drug markets were flooded, and that surplus had to move somewhere. Europe became the answer. Suppliers needed reliable entry points, and while major ports came under tight surveillance, the rugged coastline remained difficult—if not impossible—to fully control.

The Galician Mob adapted without hesitation.

Cigarettes slipped into the background. Hashish and heroin came first, used to test routes, techniques, smuggling methods, and security. When those shipments moved cleanly, cocaine followed. The family didn't reinvent itself; it simply refined what it already knew. Fishing vessels were fitted with better parts. Communications became tighter and faster. Routes multiplied. Backup plans were baked into every operation, and the whole operation grew in size, becoming a defining feature in the Spanish markets while being backed by several other cartels.

When violence exploded elsewhere, the leadership remained untouched. Arrests fell on expendable intermediaries, not the people giving orders. Informants, when they surfaced, were spotted early and handled quietly.

The sea, as always, remained the family's greatest ally. The mob was no longer regional—it was transatlantic. New York became a focal point. The city's ports, criminal density, and established drug infrastructure made it a natural extension of existing routes. Members stationed in New York operated under the same philosophy as those back home: blending in, staying quiet, and building fronts to move products without attracting attention.

Fishing companies, seafood distributors, restaurants, and import-export businesses became fronts. These weren't fake businesses; they functioned legitimately while masking criminal activity. Cash flow was laundered slowly and conservatively. The goal was sustainability, not speed.

Under the leadership of Sergio Pérez, the New York operation consolidated. He understood that the organization's strength lay in respect, patience, and loyalty.

By the late 1980s (1986–1990), the New York operation was fronted by someone else, with 1990 being the first year in a long time that leadership was passed to another individual without bloodshed.

By this point, the mob's activities included:

Cocaine transportation from the U.S. back to Spain.

Smuggling of illicit substances and contraband across regions such as the USA, EU, Mexico, Spain, Brazil, and France.

Weapon trafficking via maritime routes.

Money laundering through legitimate and illegitimate fronts.

Political and legal infiltration through intermediaries into the Police Department, Department of Justice, and other organisations.

The organization maintained strict internal standards. Members were expected to work, and recklessness was punished. Attention from law enforcement agencies was unacceptable. Anyone who endangered routes or operations became a liability, shut down by killings within the group.