



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

July and August 2018

MAIN NEWS

Focus group set up by LIFE will promote co-management across Europe for the next three years

18/7 Barcelona (Spain) – LIFE took to the initiative to gather fishers' organizations' representatives, public officials, NGOs and other stakeholders to formally set up a Co-management Focus Group **to promote an effective and inclusive form of fisheries governance across Europe based on the approach of co-management.** The meeting, facilitated by LIFE and hosted by the Government of Catalunya, gathered 20 "hands-on" experts with different backgrounds to share their experiences and to reflect on the success of existing co-management models, and how to promote the replication of local best practices on a wider scale. The Group plans to coordinate future practical actions, including capacity building and sharing tools and methodologies, that will be carried out over an initial period of two years (2018-2020). A number of successful co-management initiatives were presented. The Focus Group will foster reflection, cooperation and joint actions that could generate a greater impact to the benefit of resources and fishing communities, including by working with the EU institutions and in the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. More information here: <http://lifeplatform.eu/time-paradigm-shift/>



Back to work: Parliamentarians and stakeholders open the way to the institutional year ahead

29/8 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE attended **the first meeting of the PECH Committee of the European Parliament after the summer break.** The agenda included: discussions on the new EMFF (rapporteur MEP Gabriel Mato); reduction of the impact of plastics (rapporteur MEP Renata Briano); the Multiannual Plan for Western Waters (rapporteur MEP Alain Cadec) and an update on the Technical Measures Regulations. On the latter, rapporteur MEP Mato highlighted that discussions on electric pulse fishing would be kept to the last to avoid blockages on other matters and informed that there are 3 scenarios on the table: a ban (proposed by the Parliament); the status quo (85 licenses as proposed by the Council); and a reduction in licenses in line with the 5% derogation (compromise). The next PECH meeting is scheduled for the 24th of September. Agenda and working documents are available here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/draft-agendas.html>



OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- 3/7 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE’s Baltic and North Sea Coordinator attended a **scientific workshop on the regionalization of the Common Fisheries Policy**, organized by the German Thuenen Institut and the representation of Mecklemburg-Vorpommern land. Participants were generally positive about the principle of regionalization, and mildly critical of the system’s slow nature – this was especially the case of industrial fisheries interests, on the search for more flexibility in implementing the Landing Obligation. LIFE’s views on the importance of an even more local approach to fishing communities, best exemplified by the success of Fisheries Local Action Groups, were also heard. Additionally, the need for additional clarifications on the regionalization concept was expressed by some participants, in the quest for a more transparent and public regionalization process.
- 5/7 Riposto (Italy) - LIFE’s Project Manager for Italy visited the South Western Coast of Sicily to present LIFE. In particular, he met with the Regional Fisheries administration, in the city of Riposto, and met with local fishers and their families. Fishing communities lamented a number of challenges for the sector, such as complex regulations and the lack of institutional support. Overall, the months of July and August **were particularly important for Sicily because the regional administration published the call for proposals for the 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**, the EU tool dedicated to supporting fisheries and aquaculture, as well as other “blue economy” sectors. Calls include the diversification of activities (such as through *pescatourism*), fishers’ health and safety on board, a sustainable use of gears, vessels’ energy efficiency, marketing, processing and direct selling of fisheries products. More info are available here (in Italian): bit.ly/2wOBZ5B
- 9/7 Brussels (Belgium) – To celebrate the “Fish Dependence Day” LIFE’s Deputy Director was asked **to moderate a round table discussion organized by Slow Food and to highlight the gaps, challenges, and barriers for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy from the perspective of European small-scale fishers**. EU officials, stakeholders, fishers and fishmongers attended. “Fish Dependence Day” seeks to indicate the degree to which a country or region’s fisheries contribute to its own food security. The discussions highlighted that there is far more to food security from fisheries than what is embedded by the “Fish Dependence Day” concept. Vessel track records, Blue Growth strategy, plastic pollution, the need to feed more and more people on the planet, unknown species and the lack of knowledge about fish species were also discussed. For details see <https://www.slowfood.com/fish-dependence-day-brussels/>
- 16/7 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Deputy Director, Baltic and North Sea Coordinator and Communications Officer participated in a bilateral meeting with the European Commission’s DG MARE staff to discuss the recently published proposal for the **2021-2027 edition of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**. Almost two hours of very constructive and fruitful discussions took place, resulting in a deepened understanding of the Commission’s reasoning behind the proposal and an alignment of views in a number of areas, such as on Article 15 that obliges all Member States to prepare an action plan for small-scale coastal fishing . During the month of July LIFE staff also met with the NGOs BirdLife and Client Earth to exchange views on this new Commission proposal for a regulation. More details in this article on our website <http://lifeplatform.eu/new-european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund/>
- 17/7 Brussels (Belgium) – The European Commission has recently published its proposal for the revision of the 2009 Control Regulation (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32009R1224>). The Market Advisory Council’s (MAC), of which LIFE is a full member, set up a Focus Group to discuss the proposed amendments, and had its first meeting on the matter on July 17. In particular, **traceability provisions of the proposed amendments have several implications for the direct sales of small-scale fishers**, it is therefore important to engage in this. The MAC intends to draft an opinion on the amendments for the attention of the Council and Parliament.
- 25/7 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff met with DG Mare officials to discuss plans for a workshop the European Commission will organize in Brussels on 4-5 December on “digital tools for the monitoring and control of small-scale fisheries”. According to DG Mare, while small-scale fishers are “one of the weakest points” in the existing control regulation, it is not

their intention to install heavy-handed monitoring as on large-scale fleet. Rather **they want to have systems to a) monitor the position of vessels when out fishing and b) to report all catches.** They were also keen to point out that the details regarding the kinds of monitoring equipment and systems to be installed will be included in an “Implementing Regulation” which would not be finalised until the Fisheries Control Regulation is adopted (perhaps early 2020). Thus, the Control Regulation will not enter into force until at least 2 years after it is adopted.



4/8 Inisheer and Arranmore (Ireland) - LIFE Communications Officer went to Ireland to visit members from IIMRO - the Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation - on the islands of Inisheer and Arranmore. Irish local fishing communities have to face a number of challenges, living in remote areas and surviving mainly on non-quota species such as crab and lobster. In fact, most fishing rights are in the hands of large-scale companies, some of which are docked in the port of Killybegs, in County Donegal, leaving very few options for small-scale fishers and impeding polyvalence. LIFE staff was impressed by how resilient our members are. On the island of Inisheer, for instance, **local fishers set up a stall next to the beach with delicious products fished and transformed by them,** that tourists simply adore. Customers appreciate local and fresh products and are happy to be able to support local communities while tasting delicious seafood.

11/8 Truro (UK) - A new academic research focusing on the role of women in fishing families and supported by the University of Exeter has been launched. The project consists in a comparative study that will **look at the experience of women in small-scale fisheries on either side of the Atlantic Ocean,** with a special focus on the UK, Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada). Madeleine Gustavsson, a research fellow, is in charge of leading the project. She will be supported, amongst other experts, by LIFE's Executive Director Jeremy Percy and AKTEA's Chair Marja Bekendam who are part of the Steering Committee and will provide their knowledge and experience in this respect. More information are available here <http://www.thewesternstar.com/news/local/new-study-highlights-women-in-fisheries-232766/> and here <http://lifeplatform.eu/women-in-fisheries-website-launched/>

23/8 Copenhagen (Denmark) – LIFE Baltic and North Sea Coordinator participated in the Demersal Working Group of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council in place of Mr. Wolfgang Albrecht, LIFE Director for Germany. The meeting focused on the **revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation** recently proposed by the Commission. With increased focus on the small-scale fishing sector, the proposal needs special attention from LIFE Members and the views of LIFE German members Fischereischutzverband were duly presented and largely welcomed at the meeting. LIFE called for a level playing field in the approach, extensive testing and practical solutions with a full involvement of small-scale fishers. LIFE also underlined the need for control authorities not to lose sight of the problems that can really endanger the stocks, such as undeclared discards in mobile gear fisheries or problems with controlling engine power.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Darlowska supplies national gastronomic event with top quality cod

7-8/7, Przywidz (Poland) – The Association of Polish Chefs organized the **15th edition of the Cod Harvest, a nation-wide chefs' contest in dishes made of cod, proudly supplied by LIFE Member Darlowska;** LIFE Director Kasia Wysocka and LIFE staff attended as well. This high-level and renowned event, with the participation of numerous food sector business

LIFE supports AKTEA, the women in fisheries network
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partners, was a great opportunity to underline the quality and added value of fresh, top quality fish provided by small-scale fishers using low environmental impact gears. Darłowska and LIFE have both been recognized as Best Business Partners of the event. We're already looking forward to next year's edition with great pleasure!

Wolinska organises well-attended Herring Fest

7-8/7, Niechorze (Poland) – In parallel with the Cod Harvest, on the **Western Pomeranian coast, LIFE Member Organization Wolinska organized the 18th edition of Herring Fest**, in the framework of the larger project called “Wolin: an island of tastes” (<http://wolinwyspasmakow.pl/#oprojekcie>). A tourist-oriented event, it featured a large-scale fish tasting (based on a cauldron of 3000 liters of delicious fish soup!), and discussions about health and other benefits from eating locally supplied, fresh and low-impact caught fish, with the participation of LIFE staff.

PRESS REVIEW AND INTERESTING READING

LIFE's Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan on fish dependence (English)

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/has-the-world-reached-peak-fish-fish-experts-ask/>

LIFE's Executive Director Jeremy Percy on pulse fishing (English)

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/07/13/fao-report-backs-pulse-fishing-as-energy-saving/>

Event on co-management held in Barcelona (Spanish)

http://www.industriaspesqueras.com/noticias/en_portada/63612/un_grupo_de_trabajo_liderado_por_life_impulsara_la_cogestion_en_europa.html

Conference on the Scottish Fishing Sector to be held in October (English)

<https://www.fishupdate.com/inshore-mens-voice-heard/>

Clashes in the scallops fishery between French and UK fishermen (English)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/aug/28/french-and-british-fishermen-clash-in-scallop-war-skirmish>

The mindset that lies behind ITQs systems (English)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/08/22/1716545115>

The crisis of small-scale fisheries of Malta (English)

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2018.00300/abstract>

The impacts on plastics (French)

https://www.lemonde.fr/contaminations/video/2018/09/09/contaminations-nous-avons-navigue-sur-l-immense-soupe-de-plastique-du-pacifique_5352450_5347501.html

This Newsletter is a simple snapshot of our external activities. In addition, the LIFE staff in the UK, Brussels, Poland, Spain and Italy respond to a vast range of queries related to our sector and continuously develop and promulgate policies related to small scale, low impact fishing and fisheries.

Our Regional Directors, all working small scale fishers, also promote the values and benefits of coastal fishing.

Would you like additional information on a specific event, project or initiative? Don't hesitate to contact us at communications@lifeplatform.eu or follow us on Facebook on Low Impact Fishers of Europe or on Twitter on @LIFEplatformEU

Interested to engage with women working in fisheries? Get in touch with AKTEA via contact@akteaplatform.eu or on Facebook on AKTEA women in fisheries and Twitter on @AKTEAwif .