



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the Low Impact Small-Scale Fishers of Europe

May 2016

MAIN NEWS OF THE MONTH

The EU Commission releases an inception of the impact assessment for the Med MAP



Before proposing a legislation, the Commission takes stock of existing laws and conducts an impact assessment to evaluate the potential economic, social and environmental consequences of any new initiative. Regarding demersal species in the Western Mediterranean Sea, the most recent assessments show that 93% of fish stocks are overfished, with a particularly critical situation for hake and red mullet. It is in this light that on 28/4 DG Mare published an inception of the impact assessment for a “Proposal

for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea”. The MAP will aim to complement the existing national management plans and to cover the fishing gears which target demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean but can’t be regulated according to the provisions of the current "Mediterranean Regulation" such as demersal trawlers, long - liners, gillnets, trammel nets and traps of the French, Spanish and Italian fleets. Full text of the Inception Impact Assessment is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2016_mare_021_western_mediterranean_fisheries_en.pdf

LIFE attends the presentation of the Success project at FAO Headquarters



LIFE was invited to Rome to attend the Focus Group Workshop on “Competitiveness and Sustainable Sourcing in Europe for fish and seafood”, that took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome on May 18-19 in the framework of the Success project.

The two-day workshop gathered specialists from a diverse array of organizations engaged mainly in the large scale fishery sector: fish processors and traders, retailers, certifying bodies, policy analysts, academics, FAO personnel, DG Mare, and others.

Although AIPCE-CEP and Europêche representatives were present, LIFE was clearly the only organization dedicated to the cause of small scale low impact fishers. As such there was a lot of interest shown in LIFE and LIFE's Deputy Director's presentation, especially regarding alternative labelling schemes, short supply chains and marketing arrangements for products from small scale fisheries. Specifically, the certifying agency "Bureau Veritas" is keen to discuss methodologies and criteria for evaluating social and economic aspects of fisheries with LIFE, and the MSC would like to engage with small-scale fishers on pre-assessment projects.

For more details: <http://www.success-h2020.eu/>

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- LIFE met with the managers of "Projecte Sepia" (the Spanish for "The Cuttlefish Project") on the 2nd of May in L'Escala, Spain. The project, focusing on the reproduction of cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) in open seas, uses a technique that allows the production of 7500 eggs every two and a half months. The project included the design of incubators for those eggs that fishers would normally take out of the pots and throw away, so that the eggs can be protected until they hatch. LIFE hopes to strengthen cooperation with the project by involving its members and supporting the replication of the initiative in other areas.
- With the view to ensure a fairer allocation of the quota and the implementation of Art.17 of the CFP by Member States, LIFE is coordinating its action with a number of organisations. It is in this view that on the 5th Jerry Percy, LIFE's Executive Director, had a teleconference with the staff of the New Economics Foundation [NEF]. The latter, a research institute specialized in economics, is committed to help the cause of the low impact fishers by providing studies and data that LIFE can use to support its requests to Member States and EU Institutions.
- On the 11th LIFE's Executive Director, together with colleagues from the Brussels and Barcelona offices had a teleconference with the Marine Stewardship Council and partners to explore potential synergies on the Medfish project. The latter, led by WWF and MSC, aims at conducting an analysis of the state of Mediterranean fisheries in France and Spain and at encouraging the development of partnerships between the seafood market actors and the fishing operators, to incentivize improvements through market opportunities.
- On the 16th and 17th LIFE went to Edinburgh to attend a supported Strategic Planning meeting with member organisation, the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation. LIFE contracted NEF to facilitate a day of discussions between members and our Director in order to develop an effective and strategic overview of the way forward for the rapidly expanding Federation. NEF Are also to produce a report covering the debate and outcomes.
- From 15/5 to 18/5 LIFE spent three days in Brittany (France) with the fishers of the member organisation "Association Ligneurs Pointe de Bretagne" to film the first TV show of the Low Impact Fishers of Europe. The show, will be made available in English and French on the Nautical Channel,

available to 20 million subscribers in 44 countries, and other broadcasters, will show the everyday life of a low impact fishers and the exchange of best practices between two sea-related professions: fishers and yachting skippers.

- The European Commission adopted a report on the feasibility of an EU ecolabel scheme for fishery and aquaculture products. The report, released on 18/5, analyses three options for action by the EU: reinforcing the use of existing tools; minimum requirements set by the EU; or establishing an EU-wide ecolabel scheme. It discusses each option's feasibility, advantages and disadvantages. Full documents are available here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0263&from=EN>

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/feasibility-report-eu-ecolabel-scheme-for-fishery-and-aquaculture-products_en.pdf

- LIFE attended the roundtable meeting on the "Economic impact of the Landing Obligation" organized at the EU Parliament by the Cabinet of MEP Peter Van Dalen, Europêche and the EAPO on 24/5.

Four experts from Seafish, VisNed, AZTI and the University of Copenhagen presented the results of studies. These focused almost entirely on larger scale fisheries in the UK, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark respectively. All the findings highlighted major unforeseen and negative consequences of the discard ban.

The studies pointed to declining profits for fishery enterprises due to the increased costs of handling discards both at sea and ashore, with early closures of some key fisheries due to quotas for "choke species" getting used up. Implications for working conditions, crew wages and sea safety were also highlighted, given the need for extra labour to sort and process discards, and the need to carry more fish, fish boxes and ice. There were few winners, with the possible exception of gears using hooks in the Iberian Atlantic. Experts highlighted the role of gear selectivity in providing a solution, though admitted that more research is needed to develop meaningful selectivity for mobile gears. The Dutch research highlighted the significant shift of the Netherlands beam trawl fishery towards the use of electric pulse fishing.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

- **FSK committed in the seals issue**

FSK, a LIFE member organisation from Denmark, attended an informative meeting where scientists from the Danish National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU Aqua) presented a report relating to the damage caused by seals in the coastal fisheries of Denmark, with a special focus on the Baltic Sea. Scientists showed how in some areas fish damaged by seals constitutes a significant loss of income for the fishermen. For instance, in Bornholm up to 20% of the catch of cod can be damaged, and in other parts of Denmark there can be losses of up to € 3,500 per month. The fishers of FSK were also given information on the parasites in seals that can generate high infections rates.

According to the scientists, great improvements are being made in seal proof gears and the latter could be a solution to the problem in the near future.

- **ADPAM gathers 200 fishers to call for a fairer allocation of Tuna quotas**

ADPAM, a LIFE member organization from Spain, and Federación Canaria de Cofradías with the support of the Spanish political party “Podemos”, on 7/5 organized a gathering of 200 small-scale fishers from all over the Spanish Mediterranean coast and Canary Islands. In the light of Article 17 of the CFP, participants called for a fairer allocation of the Tuna quota and access rights for small-scale fishers to other species. The meeting resulted in a series of concrete actions: a position paper, an agenda to take the work forward, a petition and a wide range of common actions in addition to the creation of a Coordination Committee. The latter will be composed of representatives of different associations and will benefit from LIFE support for the overall coordination.



WELCOME ON BOARD!

In addition to the members who joined since the beginning of 2016, the following organisation officially became part of LIFE this month:

- **Confraria de Pescadors de Sitges (Spain)**



The Confraria is a not for profit association based in Sitges, a coastal town of Catalonia, with the mission of representing the interests of the local fishing community. Members meet on a regular basis both to work on governmental issues and to provide their contribution to the life of the local community, for instance during the local religious festival for the Saint Virgen del Carmen.

This Newsletter is a simple snapshot of our external activities. In addition, the LIFE staff in the UK, Brussels and Spain 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 some additional information on a specific event, project or initiative? Don't hesitate to contact us at communications@lifeplatform.eu