



NEWS FROM THE DECK

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

June 2016

MAIN NEWS OF THE MONTH

The Low Impact Fishers of Europe have a voice in the Mediterranean Advisory Council as official members



On June 8th LIFE attended the MEDAC Executive Committee meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus. The meeting was the first participation of LIFE as official member of the stakeholder-led organisation, and was attended by LIFE's Med Coordinator and small-scale fishers (SSCFs) of Cyprus. The joint recommendations on discards management plans for demersal species (focusing on mullet and hake fisheries in the western Mediterranean; hake, mullet and sole in the Adriatic; and hake, mullet and shrimp in central and eastern Mediterranean) was discussed and approved. The future discard plan is the implementation tool of the

landing obligation specified at the Article 15 of the new CFP. The landing obligation affects SSCFs as well, as it requires to land all species that do not reach the minimum conservation reference size. The fact that the approved plan embodies specific indications to "ensure preferential access to fishing grounds for those small-scale fishers that use more selective gears" is also significant.

The final document is available at: http://en.med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2016/06/190_medac_jr_lo_demersal_8june.pdf

LIFE lands in Portugal with the event "Artisanal Fisheries : opportunities for sustainability"

LIFE staff attended the two-days event "Artisanal Fisheries: opportunities for sustainability"



organized in cooperation with Farnet and Pong-Pesca that took place on the 28 and 29 June in Sesimbra (Portugal). In particular, LIFE provided its input with the workshop "Organization and Capacity Building in Small Scale Fisheries" and was applauded by the audience. Supportive of the mission and vision of LIFE, fishers, scientists, NGOs and local authorities highlighted the economic and social importance of small scale fisheries and encouraged once again the fishers to get united and make their voice heard in the decision-making process.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- ✚ On the 31st of May and 1st of June LIFE Med Coordinator and member organisation Pescartes represented the Low Impact Fishers of Europe at the 40th session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean in Malta. The meeting approved the *GFCM medium-term strategy towards sustainability in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (2017-2020)* that for the first time will include a specific chapter on small-scale fishing. In addition, within the framework of GFCM, a new working group focused on small scale fishing will be set up with the participation of LIFE and a high-level seminar on small-scale fisheries will be organized soon in the Region.

- ✚ On the week-end of 3rd-5th June LIFE staff met with current and potential members in the region of Galicia, in north-western Spain. The meetings were aimed at discussing ways forward for local organisations to cooperate in joint initiatives and to ensure an effective voice at EU level for Spain's biggest fishing region. In particular, they met with fishers of communities located on the coast from A Coruña to Pontevedra and visited the local ports of Corcubiòn and Fisterra with host member organisation Asoar Armega.



- ✚ On the 6th of June Jerry Percy, LIFE's Executive Director, gave a presentation at Manchester University to PHD Students and Researchers of the Social Sciences Department. The seminar was organized in conjunction with the screening of the film *A Turning Tide in the LIFE of a Man* at the presence of the Director, Loïc Jourdain. Jerry Percy explained the objectives of LIFE, the role of SSCFs in Europe and the importance of the involvement and commitment of young researchers to respond to the current challenges in the maritime sector.
- ✚ On the 8th of June, World Oceans Day, LIFE joined SeaWeb Europe at UNESCO in Paris to announce the winners of the Olivier Roellinger competition. Apprentices and young chefs from all over Europe showed that cooking can be as sustainable as tasty and that preserving the marine resources and choosing sustainable fish and seafood passes as well through the hands of chefs!
- ✚ The 15th LIFE's Executive Director met with Charles Redfern of Fish4Ever, a company that provides marketing solutions for organic and sustainable food, focusing in particular on supporting local family businesses and co-operatives. They discussed opportunities for partnership and possible supply chains for products from SSCFs at European level.
- ✚ That same day, LIFE's Executive Director had dinner with Prince Charles and the International Sustainability Unit of the Prince of Wales Foundation. The dinner and workshop was convened by the Prince of Wales with 125 global movers and shakers of the fishing industry; the latter had a series of robust debates. Following the event, a report is going to be produced looking back at what the Prince of Wales Sustainability has achieved until now and at the same time looking forward to how to put into practice the new ideas raised during the event.

- ✚ LIFE goes multi-lingual! In order to improve the communication with current and potential members, and to better inform the general public on the activities and mission of the Low Impact Fishers of Europe, LIFE's website is now available in French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, German, Croatian and Portuguese. LIFE staff will continue its efforts in this respect and other European languages will be made available soon.

- ✚ On the 16th and 17th June the Baltic Sea Centre, the Fisheries Secretariat and ICES hosted a workshop on *Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management* (EBFM) in Stockholm, Sweden. The productive workshop tackled three main topics: Ecosystem based fisheries management in the unique Baltic Sea context; development of advice towards ecosystem based fisheries management; bridging the gap between advice and decision makers in fisheries policy. A much appreciated presentation was given by the Swedish fisherman Bengt Larsson, who described the realities and challenges of small-scale fisherman, and his innovative ways to handle that by selling his catch directly to consumers using social media and phone text messages. More information, video and media is available here <http://balticeye.org/english/ebfm-workshop-june-2016/>

- ✚ The 21st Jerry Percy gave an interview at the BBC Radio Wales on Seabass management. He spoke of coastal fishing in general and the management of seabass in welsh waters specifically. The topic is of particular relevance with regard to the present management measures stock at EU level, a resource that is of vital importance for SSCFs in Wales, England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

- ✚ LIFE staff and the representative of LIFE NL attended the "Electric and Hybrid Marine World Exhibition" held from the 21nd to the 23rd in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Expo gathered a number of stands from different international companies presenting the latest novelties in this growing sector of the marine industry. The aim of the visit was to get more information on the latest hybrid and electric engines available on the market with the view of converting some of LIFE's members' engines. For the time being a case by case analysis is needed depending on the engine and gear used by each member. In fact, while some of these new engines, while already efficient for ferries or cruise ships, they are still too heavy or have a too short battery life for small-scale fishing activity, such as fishing bass with hand lines.

- ✚ On the 27th, Brian O'Riordan, LIFE's Deputy Director, took part in the "Debate on Small Fisheries in European Coastal Communities and Regions", organized by the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) of the Committee of the Regions, 27 June 2016. The well attended meeting emphasised the importance of the value added by SSCFs in every coastal town, and the need to keep SSCFs alive, where small-scale fishing is main or second job for many. Case study on the sector in the UK was presented by Barry Deas, NFFO. He highlighted the need to define SSCFs with reference to their activities. The Chair, Anthony Buchanan from Scotland, pointed out that a fair distribution of quotas is essential, and that local communities know best how to manage their own resources.

For more information: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Local-and-regional-leaders-call-for-special-provisions-to-support-small-scale-coastal-fisheries.aspx>

- ✚ From the 29th to the 1st of July, LIFE's Executive Director took part in the symposium on "European Small-Scale Fisheries and Global Linkages" organized in Tenerife, Spain, by the partnership Too Big To Ignore. The purpose of the symposium was to share and discuss issues affecting the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in Europe and explore linkages at global level, especially through markets and stewardship efforts. As one of the very few professional fishermen in the room, Jeremy Percy was able to bring his many years of experience as SSCF, auction and market manager, fish processor and fisheries manager to contribute to wide ranging debates on small-scale fisheries globally. This event provided a valuable opportunity for networking with SSCFs researchers from around the world and a significant outcome was a proposal to create a "Women in Fisheries" section within the LIFE platform.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

✚ LIFE NL exchange of best practices with the Association of the Liners of Brittany

The representative of LIFE NL, Ger De Ruiter, went to Brittany to spend a day at sea with the representative of Brittany's Liners, Gwen Pennarun. Being both specialized in fishing bass with lines, it was a great occasion to exchange on the techniques used in France and the Netherlands. In particular, Gwen fishes drifting above the rocks while Ger fishes at anchor. They caught pollock and bass. It has been a positive and convivial meeting, and Ger will host in its turn Gwen in October.

✚ Pescartes concludes its annual course with the children of Cabo de Gata



During this month of June, Spanish member organisation Pescartes led a series of activities with the children of the school Virgen del Mar Cabo de Gata as a closure of the academic year. During the past 12 months, the children had the opportunity to learn more on the work of artisanal fishers and to use some gears such as the "la lavá" (a traditional method used in the past to manually haul nets directly from the beach). They also visited an exhibition with fishing gears and instruments set up in the local conference venue.

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 or follow us on Facebook on Low Impact Fishers of Europe or on Twitter on @LIFEplatformEU