



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

August and September 2016

MAIN NEWS OF THE MONTH

- ✚ **LIFE presents its contribution to the “Extraordinary Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Spanish coast” for 2017-2019 to the Spanish Ministry**

LIFE staff and member organization Pescartes met on the 27 of July with the authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Spain. The meeting allowed LIFE to present its contributions to the future **“Emergency Plan” for the Mediterranean fishing grounds**. Other points in the agenda were the reallocation of tuna quota, the landing obligation and the lack of implementation of Article 17. Besides the difficulties, LIFE will continue working very hard and with even more enthusiasm on the matter. The official contribution is available here: <http://lifeplatform.eu/contribuciones-al-plan-de-gestion-extraordinario/>



- ✚ **The Low Impact Fishers of Baltic Countries present their Action Plan to the EU Commission.**



On the 6th of September the Low Impact Fishers of Germany, Poland and Sweden, in representation of the SSFs of the Baltic Region, met with EU Commission Officials in DG Mare.

With the support of LIFE staff, they presented their **Action Plan for the management of western cod** (<http://lifeplatform.eu/lifes-baltic-member-launch-action-plan/>), a key stock for the SS fleet and a hot topic in the fisheries agenda in the light of the latest stages of Baltic TAC discussions, to be decided at the Council of Ministers’ meeting on October 10.

The discussion was quite detailed and covered each point of the Action Plan. Other topics addressed during the meeting included the situation of other key fish stocks in the Baltic Sea, in particular the Eastern cod stock. DG Mare services welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with LIFE, and are keen to continue with this and other engagements to ensure that issues of concern to small scale fishers are taken account of in decision taking processes.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- ✚ On the 16th of August, LIFE member from Poland and LIFE staff attended the meeting of the **BSAC Technical Working Group in Copenhagen, Denmark**, on the Technical Measures Regulation. The discussion centred around general objectives of the Regulation, the need to keep checks and balances for innovative designs of (mainly towed) gears, as well as the added value of closed areas designed to protect spawning. In addition, LIFE's Action Plan on Western Baltic cod stock drew some considerable attention from participants. More information available in the BSAC newsletter [http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Home/BSACMessage11-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Home/BSACMessage11-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)
- ✚ The busy summer in the Baltic Sea continued with LIFE Members from Germany, Sweden and LIFE staff taking part in the **BALTFISH Forum meeting in Frankfurt, Germany** on 30 August. The meeting focused on the TAC levels for Baltic Sea for 2017, which are to be decided early October. It has also been the occasion to present the LIFE Action Plan to the attendees. Bengt Larsson, LIFE member from Sweden, welcomed the decision of lifting the summer ban on the Eastern cod stock, and engaged in a direct exchange of views with Reine Johansson, the chair of the BSAC Executive Committee.
- ✚ LIFE helped to create a new organization of SSF in Girona province of Catalunya, Spain. The organization, called **Arts Menors Costa Brava**, aims to promote and defend the sustainable and responsible small scale fishing sector in the area. LIFE supported the process by providing information on the steps to settle an organization and by facilitating the reflection among the founders on the objectives of the Constitution. The new organization will join the rest of the LIFE network.⁷
- ✚ Before the summer, The European Commission launched a **public consultation on “Fishing opportunities for 2017”**. On the 5th of September the Low Impact Fishers of Europe published their contribution, including inputs on how the levels of fishing effort and quotas should be set according to the new Common Fisheries Policy. They urged the European and national institutions not to turn a blind eye on the complex situation affecting coastal communities throughout Europe. The full document is available here: <http://lifeplatform.eu/fishing-opportunities-2017/>
- ✚ On the 14 of September, LIFE's Brussels staff met with **Flemish filmmaker Filip De Bodt**. Mr De Bodt has a particular interest in human rights and climate change, and looking at small-scale fisheries in this context. He has already produced two films on fisheries focusing, inter alia, on the manipulation of fish auctions and supply chains. He is planning to produce a third film and would be interested in interviewing LIFE members, in particular on the topic of sea bass.
- ✚ That same day LIFE staff attended the event “Actions for Nature” organized at the Committee of Regions by the European Environmental Bureau. LIFE's Deputy Director, Brian O'Riordan, spoke in the panel on **“Addressing pressures from fisheries and energy on marine biodiversity”**. Asked what he would do if Commissioner for Maritime and Fisheries for a day with executive powers, Mr O'Riordan replied he would create an exclusive 12-mile artisanal fishing zone, scrap quotas and institute a “days at sea scheme”, with a weekend tie up.
- ✚ On the 16, following the inputs provided by the Mediterranean Member organizations, LIFE sent its contribution to the DG Mare consultation on the **“Multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea”**. LIFE contribution is available here <http://lifeplatform.eu/lifes-contribution-multiannual-plan-western-mediterranean-sea/>

✚ Upon initiative of LIFE's Executive Director Jeremy Percy, LIFE members from the UK, France and the Netherlands **met in Lille on 19-20 September for a meeting focusing on bass**. The first day they explored how mobile technology could be used to generate and process information in order to improve their activities, with inputs from Tom Rossiter from Succorfish (<http://succorfish.com/catch-app/>), who presented the CatchApp, which responds to the needs of data collection aboard fishing vessels. The second day the discussions focused on the ICES advice for bass, and members made a series of recommendations in terms of measures that would allow both the stock and small scale fishers to survive. The meeting was attended by a DG Mare representative. The final paper containing the official recommendations for bass is available here <http://lifeplatform.eu/bass-management-measures-2017-recommendations-life/>

✚ For the second year in a row, **LIFE partners with SeaWeb** to support the Olivier Roellinger competition for the conservation of marine resources. This culinary contest for young chefs and future professionals focuses on recipes using sustainable fish and seafood and aims to valorize as well the species less known to the public. The future of the oceans and seas passes through our plates! More info on <http://www.seaweb-europe.org/>

✚ On the 22 LIFE's Brussels staff met with Koert Verkerk, Dutch Organisation for Agriculture and Horticulture (LTO Nederland), and **Mr Albert Jan Maat, new President of NetViswerk**, LIFE's member organisation from the Netherlands. Discussions centred on areas of mutual interest, specifically regarding getting the voice of small scale fishers heard in Brussels.

✚ That same day LIFE staff attended **the GFCM Intersessional meeting on the "Mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries"** in Rome. The aim of the meeting was to agree among the GFCM contracting parties the way to implement such strategy, settle specific thresholds and priorities. LIFE presence was important to underline the priorities for its members, with a special focus on targets 2 (Support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small scale fisheries), and 4 (Minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment).

✚ From the 23 to the 26 of September LIFE staff and members from France (**Union des Communautés de Prud'hommes Pêcheurs de Méditerranée**), the Netherlands (**NetVISwerk**) and Denmark (**FSK**) gathered with fishers and stakeholders from all around the world at the event **"Terra Madre Salone del Gusto" organized by Slow Food in Turin, Italy**. The international fair has been a great occasion to share best practices and discuss the way forward for a sustainable, inclusive and collective management of fisheries. Eco-labelling and direct marketing have also been subjects of debate, and benefited from important contribution from Sole of Discretion (Facebook: @SoleofDiscretion) and Pintafish (Facebook: @Pintafish) companies.



✚ On the 27 LIFE's Deputy Director attended the Committee of the Regions Natural Resources (NAT) Commission vote on amendments to the **DG Mare Proposal for a Regulation on Technical Conservation Measures** as technical expert to the rapporteur for the CoR Opinion, Cllr. Emily Westley from Hastings. More info on <http://www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/eu-fisheries-policy>.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

✚ The Low Impact Fishers of Denmark make a splash with their Sunday Fish Market!

On August 28, 7 artisanal boats of the Danish association **Foreningen for Skånsomt Kystfiskeri (FSK)** gathered **in the port of Helsingør, 40 km north of Copenhagen**, to sell their product and raise awareness on the importance of sustainable fishing. The initiative attracted more than 1000 visitors who had the opportunity to buy fresh fish, speak with the fishers and learn how to fillet a fish. Local chefs got involved as well by preparing delicious dishes served to the public! Well done FSK!

✚ The Low Impact Fishers of Finland attend the *Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions* in Siberia



From the 1st to the 5th of September the fishers of the **Kesälahti Fish Base Cooperative (Finland)**, took part in the **Festival** that took place on the Lena river of the community of Zhigansk (Siberia, Russia) with cooperatives and local communities from Finland, USA and Russia. Among the activities: best practice exchange, roundtable and fishing competitions. For more info and pictures: <http://lifeplatform.eu/6151/>

✚ Irish Islands Marine Resources Organisation (IIMRO) invited as speaker at the European Parliament

On the 7th John O'Brien from LIFE's **Irish member IIMRO** spoke at the conference "**Defense and protection of small-scale, artisanal and coastal fishing**" organized at the European Parliament by the Group GUE/NGL. Mr O'Brien spoke about the difficult socio-economic situation in Irish islands stemming from the closure of the salmon fishery, the unjust legislative crack downs and the 'David against Goliath' daily battle that local communities have been carrying out relentlessly against the industry and institutions in the past 7 years to get their right to fish back.

✚ The French fishers of the Med raise their voice on the catastrophic status in the Region

Privatisation of the resource to the benefit of the industrial sector, investments in unselective gears, overfishing, inappropriate legislative measures and unfair competition within the global market: a number of fishers in the Med raise the alarm on the dramatic situation affecting their Region. This month, **L'Union des Communautés de Prud'hommes Pêcheurs de Méditerranée** explained the reasons behind the Med crisis in an article published on the newspaper Le Marin <http://www.lemarin.fr/secteurs-activites/environnement/26420-tribune-la-poule-aux-oeufs-dor-tuee-en-mediterranee>. On the other hand, the Syndicat Petits Métiers Languedoc-Roussillon, member of LIFE and of the French platform PPPAF, took part in a documentary broadcasted on the French Channel 3 where it highlighted the problems stemming from water pollution, the need for appropriate plans that allow the traditional polyvalence of the metiers and the importance of labelling projects to give value to the product. Fulll documentary: <http://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/languedoc-roussillon/emissions/enquetes-de-regions-1>

✚ **The French Platform PPPAF invites EU officials to Brittany to discuss on bass and embark them on a fishing trip**

On Friday the 23rd LIFE members of the **French Platform PPPAF met with representatives of the EU Commission and of the EU Parliament** to discuss the urgent measures needed to ensure the protection of the bass stock and of their jobs in the year to come. Following the meeting, two officials of DG Mare switched their suits for wellies and went fishing with one of the hook & liner fisher of the **Association des Ligneurs de la Pointe de Bretagne** to better understand what it entails to be a small-scale fisherman. Full report is available here <http://www.plateforme-petite-peche.fr/?p=444>

This Newsletter is a simple snapshot of our external activities. In addition, the LIFE staff in the UK, Brussels, Poland 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