



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

November 2016

MAIN NEWS OF THE MONTH

✚ LIFE and Commissioner Vella exchange on a ring-fenced Bluefin tuna quota for SSFs

In the course of the month of November LIFE and Commissioner Vella had an **exchange of letters** concerning the allocation of a dedicated, non-transferable Bluefin tuna quota for small scale hook and line fishers, just prior to and post the ICCAT Annual meeting in Vilamoura, Portugal, from November 14th to 21st. Commissioner Vella explained that ICCAT decides on Bluefin quota allocations amongst the Contracting Parties (CPCs), not on the allocation of these quotas between the various sectors within a given CPC. Responsibility therefore lies with EU Member States to implement the provisions of the recent Bluefin tuna regulation 2016/1627 about a fair distribution of quota, and giving consideration to traditional and artisanal fisheries. However, Commissioner Vella assured LIFE that **“the Commission will continue to address this (quota issue) regularly with Member States to ensure that these provisions are correctly applied”**. Official letters are available here <http://lifeplatform.eu/correspondence-vella-tuna-quota/>

✚ The Low Impact Fishers of Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) become members of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council

15/11 Copenhagen (Denmark) – The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) welcomed **the new General Assembly Member Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein**, represented by LIFE’s Founding Member and Board Director Wolfgang Albrecht. LIFE staff attended the meeting to provide support and to take part in numerous threads of discussion, including an exchange of views on Article 17, the role and management of recreational fisheries and progress towards creating a working group on ecosystem matters. Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein is the third LIFE member organisation to join the BSAC, alongside Srodkowopomorka (Poland) and SYEF (Sweden).



Wolfgang Albrecht and Reine Johansson, Chair of the BSAC’s ExCom since it was founded in 2005.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- ✚ 3/11 Wales (United Kingdom) - Jerry Percy, Executive Director of the LIFE, was interviewed by radio BBC Wales to comment on safety on board following the tragedy that took place off the Pembrokeshire coast(UK) where an inshore fishing boat was lost together with its father and son crew. **He underlined the risks stemming from not wearing lifejackets** as not only are many fishers lives are

lost needlessly but also often the bodies are not recovered for the families to grieve over. Full audio interview: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-37864197>

- ✚ 8/11 Stockholm (Sweden) – LIFE’s Baltic and North Sea Coordinator moderated a multi-sectoral seminar organized by HELCOM (The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) geared to improve the status of the Baltic Sea ecosystem. The seminar was a **kick-off to the 7th EU Baltic Sea Strategy Forum, a very large and high-level event** (1500+ attendants, keynote speeches, including Prime Ministers of Sweden and Finland), and was widely greeted as a good opportunity to improve the dialogue among maritime sectors. It provided LIFE with an occasion to increase its visibility in the Baltic. More information here: <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/Debate-about-sectors'-role-in-reducing-pollution-in-the-Baltic-8-November-2016.aspx>

- ✚ 9/11 Copenhagen (Denmark) – The day following the seminar in Stockholm, Albert Jan Maat, President of NetVISwerk (LIFE’s Member organization from the Netherlands), and LIFE staff presented to the North Sea Advisory Council’s Demersal Working Group **LIFE’s position on the measures for the Seabass fishery proposed by the European Commission**. The 1% by-catch principle to be endorsed by the December Council, including for gill- and drift netters, was defended, in opposition to the 5% by-catch increase proposed the mobile sector. In addition, LIFE representatives strongly requested that more space be given to matters of interest to the small-scale fleet, the meeting being clearly focused on the consequences of Landing Obligation for the trawl fisheries.

- ✚ 10/11 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Brussels’ staff met with Nicolas Derudder and Frankwin van Winsen, two researchers from the **Belgian Institute for Agricultural, Fisheries and Food Research (ILVO)** to discuss the promotion of low impact fishing in Belgium, research on low impact gears and how to link this up with LIFE.

- ✚ 10/11 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE’s Deputy Director attended the hearing in the European Parliament on **“What future for Fisheries in the European Outermost Regions?”**. The main topics discussed included Canary Islands and the Azores, but the focus was on the Indian Ocean and Caribbean overseas territories. These territories wish to be fully integrated into the CFP.

- ✚ 10/11 Barcelona (Spain) – LIFE staff met with the Fisheries Director of the Catalan Regional Government, Mr Sergi Tudela. Among the issues on the agenda there were local matters such as the involvement of LIFE’s members in local FLAGS and a new decree to apply co-management in fisheries management operations. In addition, in the light of the ICCAT meeting (International Commission for the Conservation of Tunas) taking place the following week in Portugal, **the opportunities for SSFs in the Mediterranean coast of Spain to regain access to Bluefin Tuna were discussed**. Mr Tudela shared LIFE’s concern for the future of SSFs for this fishery and welcomed LIFE’s proposals and strategy. The public position of the Catalan Government on the Bluefin Tuna issue is available here: http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres_fsvp/AppJava/notapremsavw/295646/ca/govern-catala-reclama-quota-98-tones-anuals-onyina-restablir-pesquera-flota-artesanal-costanera.do

- ✚ 10/11 Barcelona (Spain) – Following the meeting with the Catalan administration, LIFE staff met with “Ecoalf”, a new Spanish brand that promotes “sustainable fashion” by designing clothes using several recycled materials. Their project **“Upcycling the oceans”** aims at cleaning the oceans with the help of fishermen by transforming the plastic debris into thread to make fabric and then nice clothes. SSFS contribution could be vital to such an initiative and LIFE is open to strengthen its relationship with the brand. See more information on: <http://ecoalf.com/upcycling-the-oceans> .

- ✚ 17/11 Ustka (Poland) - A **meeting between Lithuanian fishers and LIFE** was organized by Zuvinynekystesasociacija (www.fishingbaltic.eu), a Lithuanian organization which implements an EU co-financed project directed at small-scale fishers. LIFE was represented by Board Director Kasia Wysocka and our Baltic and North Sea Coordinator, who had the opportunity to briefly present LIFE to participants. The meeting also sought to identify areas of cooperation and common problems that Lithuanian and Polish small-scale fishers face daily.

- ✚ 17/11 London (UK) - LIFE's Executive Director Jerry Percy attended the launch of the New Economics Foundation's 'Blue New Deal' to which LIFE contributed with ideas and comments. This initiative seeks to highlight the urgent need for a more joined up approach to coastal regeneration, including fisheries, than is presently the case. More information on www.bluenewdeal.org

- ✚ 23/11, Olsztyn (Poland) - LIFE staff are currently focusing on the potential of freshwater fisheries in the wider Baltic land area and attended a conference on the potential of inland waters in the Warmia and Mazury Region. Whilst going somewhat beyond the fisheries matters, the conference was a good opportunity **to present LIFE to freshwater fishers**, underline the importance of exchanging best practice and adding value to their products.

- ✚ 25/11, Barcelona (Spain) – LIFE member organizations Arts Menors Costa Brava, Medartanet Spain, ADPAM and LIFE staff attended the Blue Eco Forum, an initiative including a number of activities such as **round tables, workshops and debates focusing on sustainability in the Mediterranean Sea**. The Forum was an excellent networking opportunity and LIFE's Deputy Director spoke as panelist in the "Fisheries Round Table", introducing LIFE and explaining the challenges ahead in the Mediterranean fisheries. Official website: <http://ent.cat/participa-al-primer-forum-i-festival-per-la-mar-mediterrania-blueef/?lang=en>

- ✚ 29/11 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Brussels' staff attended the Hearing in the European Parliament on "**Technical Measures: what future for the regionalization of fisheries in Europe**", hosted by Blue Fish. The hugely complex nature of the proposal was highlighted, especially on getting the balance right between common standards/ baseline measures, and including regional considerations. DG Mare's response to concerns on pulse trawling was that it is the "most studied gear" and less harmful than the alternative (beam trawling).

- ✚ 29/11 – Paris (France) - Gwen Pennarun, Member of LIFE's Board of Directors, joined the panel organised by SeaWeb Europe, WWF and Carrefour to mark the publication of a **guide meant to inform stakeholders in the fight against illegal fishing**. The event brought together a range of stakeholders within four round tables to tackle the issues of sustainable fisheries and water quality, on the following topics: "Where do we stand?", "What obstacles are we still facing?", "How to create a responsible sector?", "Which are the consequences of ocean acidification?".

- ✚ 30/11 Tangier (Morocco) - Christian Decugis, Director of LIFE for the Mediterranean Region, attended the Forum on Marine Protected Areas organized by MedPan and partners. He represented LIFE on the panel "**Small-scale fisheries and Marine Protected Areas: how to achieve successful management and sustainable livelihoods**" where he explained the importance of involving small-scale fishers as guardians of the sea to co-manage resources and design and manage MPAs. Official website: <http://www.medmpaforum.org/en/node/5391>



*Christian Decugis representing LIFE in the panel.
Credits: Medpan*

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

✚ LIFE members of Associazione Pescatori di Pantelleria (Italy) obtain funds to develop a local project via the EMFF

31/10 Palermo (Italy) - The project of LIFE's Italian member organisation, which is part of the wider Sicilian Islands FLAG network, has had its application selected and will be granted funds via the EMFF. The aim is for the local administration to provide the fishers with a dedicated space equipped with **specific machinery (ice machine, refrigerator etc..)** for the storage and transformation of their products. The project will provide improvements for both the landing conditions and the marketing.

✚ The Professional Fisheries Association of Zygi (Cyprus) take part in a seminar on SSFs in the Med organized by AP Marine Consultancy

2/11 Nicosia (Cyprus) - A seminar was organized in the framework of the EU-funded project "Measures to support small-scale fisheries in the EU Mediterranean waters" (MARE 2014/04 – SI2.723876). The objective was to present the project **to fishers associations in Cyprus and explain the role of Advisory Councils to participants**. Organizers also took time to present LIFE, its main goals and objectives, and the fishers of Zygi could provide their testimony as recent official members..

✚ ADPAM in the parliament of the Corts Valencianes

7/11 Valencia (Spain) – ADPAM organisation representatives appeared in the parliament of the "Corts Valencianes" (the main legislative body of the Valencian Community, an autonomous region of Spain) to express the view on a **new fishing bill** for fisheries management in internal waters that is currently in a consultation process. ADPAM provided its input to underline the importance of small-scale fisheries and the role of LIFE and left satisfied as it seems that its considerations and proposals have been taken into account by the parliamentarians.

✚ SPMLR (France) and Cofradia El Hierro (Spain) attend the ICCAT meeting in Portugal

14-21 Vilamoura (Portugal) –The ICCAT Commission, composed of 51 contracting parties including the EU, convened to evaluate the results of the 2016 working plan, the current status of the application of the regulatory measures in force and to establish the management measures for the future. The meeting approved 19 new Recommendations and 5 Resolutions, covering a number of relevant issues related to species such as bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas, as well as swordfish, sharks and sailfish stocks. **LIFE member organizations attended the important meeting as part of the EU delegation**. Mr Bertrand Cazalet, representative of SPMLR, underlined the importance for SSFs to establish their own Producer Organizations and apply for quota, while Mr Fernando Gutierrez, from Cofradia el Hierro, highlighted the plight of SSFs to the Director General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Union, Mr Aguiar Machado and to the EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Karmenu Vella. As part of its lobbying campaign on Bluefin Tuna, LIFE published a

series of documents, including two official press releases and a LIFE position paper shared on the website and via public press. The next annual meeting of ICCAT will be held in November 2017. In the meantime, LIFE will apply for Observer status and will work with its members over the next 12 months to prepare the case for a separate small scale Bluefin tuna Total Allowable Catch [TAC]. Official LIFE links: <http://lifeplatform.eu/life-icaat-bluefin-tuna-eng-esp/> and <http://lifeplatform.eu/outcome-icaat-eng-fra-esp/> and ICCAT PR http://www.iccat.org/Documents/Commission/Press_release_2016_ENG_final.pdf

✚ **The Association Arts Menors Costa Brava (Spain) and LIFE staff attend the seminar “Land Stewardship, a new paradigm for nature conservation”**

17/11 Barcelona (Spain). The land stewardship principle aims at reinforcing accountability among owners and users for a better use of natural and cultural resources through voluntary agreements. The seminar, organized by the Regional Government of Catalunya and Xarxa de Custodia del Territori (a network of organizations engaged on the matter) met to discuss the marine stewardship philosophy, introduce LIFE and member organisations to stakeholders and identify potential synergies. In particular, a presentation by small-scale farmers showed how much in common there is with small-scale fishers, both groups being victims of “**land grabbing**” and “**ocean grabbing**” respectively.

✚ **The Low Impact Fishers of SYEF (Sweden) working on the issue of ITQs**

18/11 Simrishamn (Sweden) - LIFE's member organisation from Sweden attended the conference "Östersjöfiske 2020", an event focusing on fisheries in the Baltic, in the presence of stakeholders of the sector such as fishermen, public officers, producers organizations, NGO's and researchers. SYEF **representatives expressed their views on the future survival of coastal fishing, especially in the light of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs)** that have been recently adopted by Sweden as its main quota allocation system. Among the speakers was Professor Thomas Højrup, from Copenhagen's University, who made a relevant presentation on the consequences of ITQs in Denmark and how this may affect Swedish fisheries and coastal communities.

✚ **FSK (Denmark) publishes its own report on extra Quotas allocation to the SSF.**

In a new report FSK concludes that in Danish fisheries **the rate of employment per landed ton of fish is higher in the small scale low impact sector**. Years of bad management has concentrated quotas in the hands of a few large vessels: 119 vessels catch 90% of the Danish quotas. The latter mainly land in a few large harbours on the west coast, while small fishing harbours across the country are forced to close. This tendency is negative for local employment and sustainable fishing and counterproductive with respect to the governments' political agenda aiming at fostering socio-economic growth in Denmark. With the support of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), FSK calculated that the small-scale sector urgently needs a reallocation of quotas for a total value of 5,4 million euros. Official report in Danish here: http://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Rapport_layout-FINAL.pdf

✚ **The organic-oriented magazine « Nature et Progrès » interviews the french Platform PPPAF**

Ken Kawahara, representative of member organisation Plateforme Française Petite Pêche, has been interviewed in the framework of a **special reportage on artisanal fisheries** entitled “For the Sea:

questions on fisheries". Among the topics included in the dossier was the vital role played by fishers for local communities, the example of Prud'homies for collective management, the differences among fishing techniques and the importance of maintaining polyvalence. Mr Kawahara explained the main challenges faced by the sector in terms of representation as well as the priorities ahead for the management of and access to the resources.

NEW MEMBERS ON BOARD

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

Darłowska (Poland)

A longtime LIFE supporter and friend, Darłowska comprises 26 small fishing boats operating from the port of Darłowo and landing on the beaches nearby. Most of their boats are between 7 and 12 m length. Fishing mainly for cod, flounder and to a lesser extent salmonids, Darłowska also has the status of Producer Organization and operates some port facilities, helping its Members in marketing their fresh products caught with gillnets and hooks & lines. Darłowska cooperates very closely with the Środkowopomorska Fishing Group, a Founding Member of LIFE. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.darlowskagpr.pl/index.php?id=1>



Plasepes (Spain)



The "Plasepes" (Plataforma por el sector pesquero de Gran Canaria) is an organization based in Gran Canaria of 9 fishers and 9 vessels of 8-15m length, using hooks and lines (especially handline) to fish Bluefin tuna and other tuna-like and demersal species.

It is part of the Regional Federation of Cofradías of the Canary Islands and very active in the fight for a reallocation of Bluefin Tuna quota to the small-scale sector.

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