



## NEWS FROM THE DECK

*The monthly newsletter of the*

*Low Impact Fishers of Europe*

April 2017

### MAIN NEWS

#### ✚ The European Parliament assesses the state of play of the Landing Obligation



LIFE staff attended the hearing on the “Implementation of the landing obligation and allocation of quotas” organized on the 24 of April by the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament. Ahead of this event, and to mark 3 years into the implementation of the landing obligation (LO) in the Baltic Sea, LIFE published an article on the lessons learned: <http://lifeplatform.eu/landing-obligation-lessons-baltic-sea/>. LIFE’s experience in the Baltic and the Parliamentary hearing both highlight how little progress has been made towards implementing the LO, and **how far apart are the perceptions of the industry, civil society, and the Commission**. This has as much to do with the technical and economic problems posed by the LO, as the lack of vision and political will to address them. The full programme of the event and speakers’ presentations are available here: <http://linkis.com/europarl.europa.eu/o3QQQ>

#### ✚ LIFE represents small-scale fishers at the Blue Initiative at the presence of Prince Albert II of Monaco

LIFE attended the **8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI)**, a high-level event organized by the Oceanographic Institute and the Foundations of Prince Albert I and Prince Albert II to discuss global challenges relating to ocean management and conservation. This year’s edition, that took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, focused on the complex coexistence of Aquaculture and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the development of sustainable aquaculture and fisheries and the impact of climate change on MPAs. **LIFE’s interventions explained the vital role played by small-scale fishers in achieving sustainability;** with adequate support, access to resources and co-management schemes they can be part of the solution to the benefit of the environment and coastal communities. Fishers’ observations on the changes stemming from climate change could be of good use for scientists and MPAs managers. More info: <http://www.fpa2.org/article.php?idarticle=64#sthash.vSG5naxZ.dpuf>.



## OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

29/03 Luqa (Malta)– LIFE staff met with small-scale fishers from Malta and Gozo to exchange ideas and discuss ways through which LIFE can assist Maltese SSF. Plans for future collaborations are underway.

08/4, Vinaròs (Spain) - **LIFE member from Spain ADPAM** (*Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales del Mediterráneo*) **held its General Assembly** at the presence of LIFE staff. The members joined from different areas of Mediterranean-Spain to discuss internal administrative matters, recent achievements and future objectives. Bluefin Tuna continues to be a key concern, but other issues were also highlighted, such as the need to reduce the impact of trammel nets for lobsters in Catalunya (as previously discussed with the Region's authorities), the impact of **pollution generated by a local chemical plant** on fisheries, the consequences of artificial reefs set up in the 90s, FLAGs membership and co-management.

06/04, Somonino (Poland) – The Vice-President of Wolin Fishers' Association, LIFE's latest member from Poland, the representative of the Polish National Chamber of Gastronomy & Catering and LIFE staff, have been **Jury members of the Olivier Roellinger Concours for Eastern Europe**. A day spent with young chefs and delicious seafood artwork served as an important opportunity to raise the participants' awareness about the sustainability and traceability of fish, as well as the benefits of using local products, caught by low impact, small-scale fishers. The three Laureates will make it to the final stage of the Concours in Paris in June. Good luck to them! More info here: [goo.gl/oCEGqF](http://goo.gl/oCEGqF)



11-13/04, Järnavik (Sweden) - LIFE Members from Poland and Sweden, along with the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU Aqua), scientists from the National Marine Research Institute in Gdynia and LIFE staff, spent two exciting and inspiring days during an exchange of best practice, **analyzing and testing low impact fishing gears, which resist the predation by grey seals – at sea and on land**. LIFE co-financed this event in the framework of the pilot project “Support measures for small-scale fishing in the Baltic and North Sea” granted by the European Commission, as part of our bid to help small-scale, low impact fishers bear the heavy consequences of the increase of grey seal population across the Baltic Sea – **without harming the seals themselves**. The project is trialing innovative gears that are seal-proof and catch fish alive in perfectly fresh condition for consumers.



21/04 Birgu (Malta) – Alicia Said, LIFE's Project Manager for Malta, attended the event “**Sea of Skills**” and gave a talk on the “Ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management”. Her presentation underlined how holistic management must consider the wellbeing of both nature and people, and explained the challenges that Maltese small-scale fishers have to face due to the **bluefin tuna policy implemented since 2009**. Calling for better governance, Alicia noted the need for increased fishers' participation both in decision-making and the implementation of fisheries management. She explained how LIFE provides the necessary capacity-building tools for fishers to enable them to have a more proactive role through co-management strategies.

25-27/4, Brussels (Belgium)- Brussels Seafood Expo Global, the biggest fair for seafood products worldwide, provided an important networking opportunity for LIFE. LIFE staff attended the European Commission's stand where the event "**Getting Consumers on Board**" was organised at the presence of the Director General of DG Mare, Mr Aguiar Machado, who highlighted that, according to a recent survey, consumers prefer fresh fish caught from wild resources to aquaculture products, something Europe's small scale fishing fleet is in a strong position to provide.

25/4, Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE met with **the International Pole and Line Foundation** (IPNLF <http://ipnlf.org/>). The meeting highlighted how much IPNL and LIFE have in common, notably our aspirations to achieve environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically viable fisheries, summed up by LIFE as "right gear, right place, right time", and by IPNLF as "one-by-one fishing" - using one line to catch one fish at a time (pole-and-line/handline) – something that requires great strength, skill and persistence by the fisher.

26/4, Berlin (Germany) – Wolfgang Albrecht, LIFE's Director for Germany and Marcin Ruciński, LIFE Baltic & North Sea coordinator, participated in the **BALTFISH Forum** and the related Baltic Sea Advisory Council pre-meeting. The focus was on the Baltic Sea elements of the **Technical Measures Regulation**, now entering a key phase of negotiations in Brussels, as well as the draft Joint Recommendation on Landing Obligation rules, which i.a. includes a **de minimis exemption for up to 5% discards for small-scale fleets using passive gears**. Wolfgang and Marcin both introduced "Any Other Business" points to the meeting, informing participants, respectively, of **new kind of pingers** now tested by the fishers of LIFE German member organisation Fischereischutzverband, which proves to be effective in scaring off harbor porpoises without attracting seals, and **seal-proof gear trials in Jarnavik** (see the separate Newsletter entry above).

29/4, Barcelona (Spain) - LIFE's Med coordinator Marta Cavallé participated at a round table called "**La pesca frente a los desafíos del cambio global**", in the framework of the "week of Anthropology", organized by the Catalan Institute of Anthropology (ICA). The round table highlighted the impact of the most recent environmental fisheries policies in the context of the economic and ecological crisis and LIFE concretely explained about the impact of ITQs (Individual Transferable Quotas) on small-scale fisheries and communities, a topic addressed in the paper published in December 2016 and available here in several languages: <http://lifepatform.eu/itqs-road-no-return/>

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### **Pescartes push for the creation of a Fishing Council in the public administration of the City of Almería receives unanimous approval.**

Almeria (Spain) – Pescartes, a LIFE member from Spain, has engaged in an initiative to create a local Fishing Council with the public administration, to give fishing the social visibility it deserves. The City Council of Almería unanimously approved setting up this new organ and the Councillor for Fisheries underlined how this will "facilitate the participation of people representing the fishing activity of the city of Almeria in the municipal policy". The Local Fisheries Council will be an important organ for consultation and debate.

#### **LIFE member elected in the Council of the National Association (Pancyprian) of Professional Fishermen**

Like every 5 years the elections for the Council of the National Association (Pancyprian) of Professional Fishermen took place in Larnaca. Mr. Giannos Stylianou, President of LIFE member from Cyprus, Zygi Fishermen Association, **was elected as one of the National Representatives**. With this election, Zygi will be able to promote small-scale fisheries issues at national level and make the voice of the sector heard in official and institutional settings.

#### **Fischereischutzverband helps saving the harbor porpoise in Western Baltic**

LIFE's German members from Fischereischutzverband, together with scientists from the Thunen Institute and acoustic experts, are now using new kind of pingers designed for small-scale netting operations that have been tested for over two years in German and Danish waters. The results are promising: new devices are much better at scaring off harbor porpoises than those used until now, allowing to **reduce the incidental catch rate by up to 70%**. The main novelty is that the „PAL” device, optimized for use in fishing, mimics the specific warnings of porpoises using their own ultrasonic orientation and communication frequencies. In other words, the **gillnets equipped with PAL devices “speak the harbor porpoises’ language” to save them from entanglement**. Fishers intend to participate in further developments of the pingers and support their use around German Baltic Sea waters. More information here (in English and German): <http://lifeplatform.eu/german-members-save-porpoises-entanglement/>

#### **Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation (SSCF) launches a brand-new initiative to minimise the risk of marine mammals’ entanglement in the North Sea**

Aberdeen (Scotland) - Sadly fishers sometimes encounter other animals entangled in fishing gears, such as whales, sharks, birds and turtles. To minimise the risk of this happening and allowing immediate action in case of emergencies, LIFE's Scottish members from SSCF met with **a number of organisations throughout Scotland and internationally** and launched a wide-ranging initiative to raise awareness, identify practical solutions, produce information material and share best practices among the stakeholders of the sector. More information:

<http://www.scottishcreelfishermensfederation.co.uk/entanglement.htm>



## **PRESS REVIEW**

Please find below a selection of news and publications:

DG Mare evaluation of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Despite being considered “sufficiently satisfactory”, the evaluation of the Fisheries Control Regulation highlights significant room for improvement, raising some serious concerns, including on the lack of reporting provisions for recreational fisheries, the exemption of small scale fisheries from reporting requirements by MS, and an uneven playing field, with different approaches being taken by MS on infringements, sanctions, control at first sale, and

so on. (English) [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/respect-fishing-rules-has-improved-past-years-more-needs-be-done-achieve-full-compliance-reveals\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/respect-fishing-rules-has-improved-past-years-more-needs-be-done-achieve-full-compliance-reveals_en)

Report on Small-scale fisheries and Blue Growth in the EU by the European Parliament, which calls for fishing to be included in Blue Growth strategies. (English) [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/573450/IPOL\\_STU\(2017\)573450\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/573450/IPOL_STU(2017)573450_EN.pdf).

Article on the Danish parliamentary package to revive coastal fishing (English) <http://eurofishmagazine.com/magazine/magazine-archive/461-eurofish-magazine-issue-2-2017-march-april>

Interview to Fisheries Consultant Benoît Guérin on fishing opportunities (French) <http://www.lemarin.fr/secteurs-activites/defense/28406-les-fregates-fti-taillees-pour-lexport-la-une-du-marin-de-la>

*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](mailto:communications@lifeplatform.eu) or follow us on Facebook on Low Impact Fishers of Europe or on Twitter on @LIFEplatformEU*