



## NEWS FROM THE DECK

*The monthly newsletter of the*

*Low Impact Fishers of Europe*

June 2017

### MAIN NEWS

#### ✚ LIFE lands on the beautiful island of Cyprus

26-29/6 (Cyprus) - LIFE's Mediterranean Coordinator, Marta Cavallé, travelled to Cyprus to get an overview of the situation on the island and set up a strategy for LIFE to better support the local small-scale fishers.

**Hosted by LIFE's member organization "Fishers Association of Zygi"**, she had the opportunity to better understand local challenges including the status of stocks, co-existence with dolphins, sea turtles by-catch, invasive species and competition with recreational fishers and other marine activities. Accompanied by Antonis Petrou, Director of AP Marine Environmental Consultancy Ltd, Ms Cavallé met with Christos Charalambos, President of the **Pancyprian Association of Coastal Fisheries**, a national organization of small scale fishers, to present LIFE and discuss potential cooperation.



#### ✚ Top Chefs Association from Poland strengthens cooperation with LIFE

29/6 Gniew (Poland) – LIFE Director from Poland together with our Baltic and North Sea Coordinator attended the **14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Cod Harvest**, a contest involving 8 professional Chefs' teams, overseen by no less than 24 jury members from Poland's top restaurants.

**Cod fillets for the contest were proudly provided by LIFE Members Darłowska and Środkowopomska.** LIFE members informed participants of the benefits of low impact, locally caught and perfectly fresh fish, gaining a lot of attention. LIFE looks forward to further cooperation with the Association of Polish Chefs, who organized the contest. More info here (in Polish) : <http://www.kucharze.pl/xiv-dorszowe-zniwa/>



## OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- ✚ 1/6 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE’s Deputy Director attended an event on **“Restoring Fish Abundance by Protecting Essential Fish Habitats”** organized by the NGO Oceana in the European Parliament. The debate, chaired by Portuguese MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos, focused on the protection of “Essential Fish Habitats” under Article 8 of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, aiming to rebuild fish stocks by 2020. The implementation of an Ecosystem-based approach for the delivery of multiannual plans, alongside its potential and challenges, was discussed.
- ✚ 6-7/6 Gdynia (Poland) – LIFE Polish Members Darłowska, Środkowopomorska and Mierzeja, along with LIFE’s ally Mirek Daniluk and LIFE staff, participated in an **international conference dealing with the impact of seals and cormorants on Baltic fish stocks and fisheries**. Among many presentations, Prof. Iwona Psuty and LIFE staff exhaustively presented the information on the seal-proof gears’ tests conducted by them in Jarnavik, Sweden (see April’s newsletter for details). Mirek Daniluk explained his hands-on experience as a small-scale fisherman, highlighting the negative impact of seals and cormorants on coastal fisheries. The participant’s views on the issue were varied and not surprisingly generated frank and heated discussions.
- ✚ 6-7/6 Rome (Italy) – LIFE’s Director for the Mediterranean Christian Decugis and LIFE staff attended a series of meetings within the **Mediterranean Advisory Council** focusing mainly on the landing obligation, the assessment of the socioeconomic impact of the CFP Reform and the Western Mediterranean Management plan. LIFE also attended the meeting of the Executive Committee as observer. LIFE was significantly proactive and **provided two written contributions**: one on the “Draft opinion on the socioeconomic situation of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean” and another one on the working document for the “Multiannual Management Plan for the demersal fisheries in western EU waters in the Mediterranean”. The latter is particularly interesting to LIFE as, if properly developed and endorsed by members and institutions, it can represent an **alternative to the TAC and Quota management system** that the European Commission is pushing in the Mediterranean.
- ✚ 08/06 Rome (Italy) - Christian Decugis and LIFE staff took advantage of their stay in Rome to hold a **formal meeting with the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)** to better understand the work of each organization and explore potential opportunities for cooperation. The meeting was very positive, friendly and productive. The GFCM **recognized the value of LIFE and the complementary role** it can provide in advocating for the rights of small-scale fishers and helping to reinforce the capacity of their local and national organizations. It is interesting to note that the GFCM is developing its **mid-term strategy (2017-2020)** where objective number 2 is to “support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small-scale fisheries”, and number 4 to “minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment”, objectives where LIFE can provide a valuable contribution. We agreed that the best way to cooperate in a more formal way would be by agreeing upon **a Memorandum of Understanding**.
- ✚ 7-8/6, Klaipeda (Lithuania) – LIFE Members from Germany, Poland and Sweden, along with LIFE staff, took part in the meeting of the Joint Working Groups of the Baltic Advisory Council (BSAC), mostly focusing on **ICES advice on the Baltic fishing opportunities for 2018**. LIFE members provided their input on the matter via **written submissions** sent to the BSAC Secretariat. Discussions were centered around the western and the eastern cod stock; especially on how to approach the recovery of the western one based on the strong year class of 2016, and how to respond to the further decline of the eastern one, an issue still very much present despite heavy reductions in the fishing pressure over the

last years. A desire to reap all the possible benefits now, regardless of longer-term prospects, was quite explicit from the large-scale fleets' representatives – for both demersal and pelagic stocks.

- ✚ 8/6 Paris (France) - For the second year in a row, LIFE partnered with **Ethic Ocean to support the Olivier Roellinger contest**. Our small-scale fishermen were part of the jury during each stage of the competition (namely in France, Poland and Spain) and gave their advised opinions on the sustainability of the fish used. Chefs are becoming more and more aware of their crucial role in ensuring a better consumption of marine resources!



- ✚ 12/6 and 14/6, Łeba and Ustka (Poland) – LIFE Board Director Kasia Wysocka and LIFE staff took part in two consultation meetings on the **construction of marine windfarms on some fishing grounds that are very important for local small-scale fishers**. The meetings took place at an early stage of the project, and it appeared cleared that for the time being at least there is a lack of data on the small-scale fisheries activity in the area and that it is currently impossible to predict if the fish will return to the grounds after the construction of the plant. The meeting in Ustka was particularly emotional, i.a. due to the importance of fisheries in the municipality's development plans. The process is bound to continue with LIFE's full involvement, based on advice and guidance from other member organisations who have been through a similar process elsewhere.
- ✚ 21/06, Brussels (Belgium) – The Heads of Delegation of HELCOM, a body established about four decades ago to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, granted to **LIFE the status of Observer**. LIFE is delighted at the prospect of working together with HELCOM for the benefit of small-scale, low impact fishers, and particularly with a view to engaging in the work of the Group for “Sustainable and ecosystem-based fisheries” and other groups of relevance to LIFE.
- ✚ 21/6 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE's Deputy Director participated as a panelist in a **workshop on electric pulse fishing held at the European Parliament**. The policy supported by the Dutch lobbies, with the blessing of the European Commission, is promoting electric pulse fishing as a more sustainable alternative for traditional beam trawling. LIFE underlined the lack of meaningful research on the impact of electric pulses on the fish and other marine life and the urgent need for effective control and management mechanisms to counter potential long-term negative consequences. More information on LIFE's position here (English) : <http://lifeplatform.eu/electric-pulse-trawling-highly-charged-issue/>
- ✚ 21/6 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE staff were invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the 'Eurogroup for Animals'. The platform, lobbying for animal welfare, recently set up a fisheries programme. They contacted LIFE because they were keen to engage with us **to learn more on the sustainable fishing methods and gears** used by member organizations, with real examples of responsible fishing.
- ✚ 29/6, Copenhagen (Denmark) – LIFE Director from Germany Wolfgang Albrecht and LIFE staff attended the meeting of the **Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)**. Intensive negotiations and heated debates on BSAC's **2018 Recommendations for Fishing Opportunities** dominated the meeting, with Mr Albrecht supporting the fishing levels considered safe by the ICES advice, especially for Western cod. Despite LIFE's effort to find a compromise, finally priority was given to the position of the representatives of the large-scale fleet, the majority in the room, focusing on

short-term benefits rather than on long-term sustainability. Upon intervention of the Chair, the BSAC ExCom allowed a minimal recognition regarding **additional compensation for small-scale fishers**; details of this decision are still to transpire. For a second time in a row, and at the presence of a high-level Commission representative, **ExCom failed to elect its vice chair**, following a particularly unconstructive debate surrounding the candidate put forward by the “Other Interests” Group. Overall, a bitter day in Copenhagen...

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### 🚣 LIFE Spanish members from “Arts Menors Costa Brava” promoting sustainability through management plans and conservation projects

02/6 (Roses, L’Escala and L’Estartit, Spain) - Arts Menors Costa Brava participated, with other *cofradías* (Spanish fishers organizations) and the scientific institute CSIC (High Council for Scientific Investigations), to a meeting with the representatives of the Natural Park of “Aiguamolls de l’Empordà” to discuss the possibility of **setting up a management plan in the marine area of the park**. Despite contrasting opinions within the fisheries sector on the matter, LIFE members from Arts Menors Costa Brava are working to reach a consensus among the small-scale sector and draft a proposal that could significantly improve resource management in the area. In addition, they are also pursuing with Projecte Sepia, an initiative supported by LIFE to improve the reproduction of cuttlefish. Thanks to the progress made from a biological, economic and marketing point of view, the fishers have been able **to market cuttlefish produced by the project**, generating significant revenues. They also promoted the initiative in the framework of a gastronomic festival in l’Escala, involving local restaurants to serve a special menu with their cuttlefish, which was a real success. From a production point of view, they have incubated more than 600.000 cuttlefish and squid eggs, which now swim in the bays of Roses and Pals and who hopefully will return next year as adult breeders.

### 🚣 LIFE Members from Sweden organize the traditional herring fair “Sillarodden”

17/06, Ronneby (Sweden) – “Sillarodden” is a unique annual cultural event organized by local fishers associations, some of which are part of SYEF, LIFE member organization from Sweden. The event revives a centuries-old fishing tradition and **celebrates the crucial role of women, who traditionally rowed the 3-km long distance from the Ronneby harbor up**



**to the city’s main square**. Their boats carried the night catch of herring fished by their men for sale at the city’s market. We can only imagine the importance of coming first to sell the fish to the customers. To celebrate their hard work, a competition is organized in Sillarodden every year. Winners have to be successful in the rowing part, but also be the first to sell all the fish brought by boat to the city marketplace! Check out the event here: <https://vimeo.com/68449830>

✚ **Wolin Fishermen’s Association from Poland provide their input to a survey on FLAGs**

20/06, Wolin (Poland) – Representatives of LIFE member from Poland, Wolin Fishers’ Association contributed to a **pan-European survey on the level of cooperation between Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) and fishers’ associations**. They underlined the generally positive experience of working together with FLAGs, but also highlighted it is still a challenge for fishers’ associations to raise funds necessary for investments to be carried out with the practical support of FLAGs on appropriate financial conditions. They encourage LIFE and Farnet to work together on the issue in the light of the discussions on fisheries funding support for the next 2021-2028 period.

✚ **Pescartes, LIFE member from Spain, provides solutions to counter irregular anchoring on seagrass.**

Cabo de Gata (Spain) - LIFE member from Spain “Pescartes” took part in a workshop to find solutions to irregular mooring in protected areas. The lack of infrastructures and increase in nautical activities (recreational diving, sailing, kayaking, etc.) are causing **a deterioration of the Posidonia oceanica**, a seagrass species endemic to the Mediterranean Sea that forms underwater meadows playing a vital role for the ecosystem balance. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of the Andalusian Government and other public administrations with competence in maritime affairs. The involvement of Pescartes demonstrated the **valuable contribution artisanal fishers can provide for the sustainable management of the coastal environment**, for instance by explaining how to anchor boats safely while minimizing the impact on the seabed.



## PRESS REVIEW

Scottish Creel Fishermen’s Federation and Brexit, June 2017 (English)

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15359894.Beyond Brexit case study Skipper worried about EU tariffs says its wrong to think every worker in fleet enthusiastically favours Brexit/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15359894.Beyond_Brexit_case_study_Skipper_worried_about_EU_tariffs_says_its_wrong_to_think_every_worker_in_fleet_enthusiastically_favours_Brexit/)

Bluefin tuna in the dock: French small scale fishers take collective action to challenge unfair, non-transparent allocation system. (English and French)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/bluefin-tuna-dock/>

Electric Pulse Trawling: a highly charged issue (English)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/electric-pulse-trawling-highly-charged-issue/>

Shocking the fish off the seabed (English)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/shocking-the-fish/>

A Question of Balance (English)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/a-question-of-balance/>

*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*