



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

July and August 2017

MAIN NEWS

Portugal at the core of LIFE's Atlantic strategy

With programmes in the Baltic, North Sea and Mediterranean up and running, during July and August LIFE devoted attention to Portugal and the South West Atlantic. Serge Gomes da Silva, Portuguese-speaking fisheries and FLAGs specialist, was hired by LIFE to follow up on leads in the area. In a first series of meetings around the country, **Mr. Gomes da Silva met with small-scale fishers' organisations to introduce LIFE and learn more about their challenges, projects and visions for the future, alongside**



administrations and NGOs. Meetings included: local fishers associations and producer organisations such as Associação de Armadores da Pesca Artesanal Centro e Sul (AAPACS – Association of Central and Southern Artisanal Boat Owners) and Associação Mariscadores da Terra do Vasco da Gama (Association of Goose barnacle pickers); Mútua dos Pescadores (fishers' national health fund), FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Group); fish box schemes

(like "Cabaz do Peixe" <http://www.cabazdopeixe.pt/> developed in partnership with Docapesca, the Portuguese auction organization). He also met with the Portuguese Secretary of State for Fisheries to understand how support to local fishing communities can be improved in the national agenda. The work on the ground proved to be extremely rich in discussions and ideas, and laid the foundations for a number of initiatives to be carried out this autumn.

LIFE member from Ireland "Heritage Bill" could pass first phase for official approval

27/07 (Árainn Mhór island – Ireland) - the Irish Islands Marine Resources Organization (IIMRO) hosted the launch of a new bill, Sinn Féin's Island Fisheries Bill, which aims to ensure that island-based fishing communities have their rights to practice long established traditional fishing methods and practices protected and recognized in law. More information in English on <https://www.donegalnow.com/news/sinn-fein-launch-islands-fisheries-bill-arranmore-island-today/176269> and <https://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2017-07-12a.421>



OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

✚ 01/07 (Niechorze, Poland) – LIFE staff actively participated in the **XVth Herring Fest and in a local fishers’ cooking contest**, organized by LIFE’s Polish member organization Wolin Fishermen Association. It was a **great opportunity to promote a variety of sustainable, fresh and locally sourced herring products, prepared by fishers and their spouses**, to a large public of tourists and locals. The event took place at Niechorze’s fisheries museum (<http://muzeumniechorze.pl>) which is actively involved in the activities carried out by local fishers. At LIFE, we very much hope that these delicious products will soon be available to an even greater number of clients!

✚ 11/07 (Brussels, Belgium) - Brian O’Riordan, LIFE Deputy Director, was a panellist at the “What’s the Catch?” workshop hosted by the NGO BirdLife in the European Parliament, on the theme of how to stop incidental catches of seabirds, marine mammals, and marine turtles in fishing gears. LIFE’s DD highlighted how low impact fishing is an ideal that we must all strive for, calling for **a differentiated approach to large scale and small-scale fisheries** to reward selective fishing with a low impact on the marine environment.

✚ 20/07 (Freest, Germany) – **LIFE staff visited the German member organization Fischerei Freest to discuss their situation and prospects for the future, which are particularly challenging.** The situation and outlook for Western Baltic herring is particularly important, both in the context of steep TAC reductions and in the light of a potential suspension of MSC certification. In fact, if the latter would happen, big operators could not sell to supermarkets anymore and would shift to niche markets where LIFE’s member organization sells its products, inundating it with their fish and depressing the price. The necessity to strengthen (or re-create) retail fresh fish markets in Germany was also acknowledged, especially to raise awareness among the younger generations who unfortunately tend to eat processed and prepared mass products.



✚ 21/07 (Stralsund, Germany) and 29/07 (Ronne, Denmark) – Upon request of a number of member organizations from the Baltic Sea Region, LIFE staff and a representative of the Polish member organization Darwloska participated in a series of **consultation meetings on the construction of the “Nord Stream II” pipeline.** The pipeline is of indirect but important interest to our fishers, as its construction may affect the fish stocks on which they depend – such as Western herring and Eastern cod. The projects’ plan to **build a part of the pipeline through the area of Bornholm Deep in Denmark during Eastern cod spawning time next year** is one example of such possible impacts. LIFE made low impact fishers’ concerns clear – both at meetings and later in writing – and will continue to work to make their voice heard and heeded by big business.

- 24/07 (Conference call) – The **Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco** contacted LIFE for advice and recommendations on the issue of securing access rights for small scale fishers and the compliance of Member States with Article 17. The Foundation is keen to incentivize low environmental impact fishing, and wanted to use the opportunity of a meeting with the EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella, to voice its concerns about **achieving a fair quota distribution between small and large-scale fisheries**. LIFE staff and the Foundation’s Marine Project Officer discussed the main challenges facing European small-scale fishers in securing access to resources, challenges which are at the center of LIFE’s activities. The Foundation is committed to making the voice of small-scale fishers heard, and assured LIFE that it will continue to support their cause.



- 29/07 (Barcelona, Spain) - 13 representatives of LIFE’s members organizations from the Mediterranean coast of Spain and Canary Islands gathered in Barcelona to hold a coordination meeting. The main item on the agenda was **Bluefin Tuna and how to define strategies on how to regain access to this vitally important resource for small scale fishers**. An equally important issue under discussion is what kind of organizational form is most appropriate

for small scale fishers to adopt to give them greater leverage and recognition in policy decision making, and stronger voice at national level.

- 31/08 (Copenhagen, Denmark) – Bengt Larsson from LIFE’s Swedish member organization SYEF, LIFE’s German Director Wolfgang Albrecht (who also participated in the Baltic Sea Advisory Council pre-meeting) and LIFE staff attended the **BALTFISH¹ Forum** meeting. The evening before, Mr. Albrecht and LIFE staff had a very friendly exchange of views with Iben Wiene Rathje, representing LIFE member from Denmark FSK. BALTFISH discussions proved to be an opportunity to present LIFE views expressed at the Baltic Sea Advisory Council on the Region’s fishing opportunities for 2018. On the latter, topics of interest for the Baltic LIFE members are cod stocks (namely keeping spawning closures in the West and the ensuring cod food availability in the East), as well as eel, on which the Commission proposed a total ban for sea fisheries². The discussions were at times heated, as the **Commission’s proposals this year touch the core of small-scale fisheries future in the Baltic**. LIFE will spare no effort to make sure its members’ views are considered when decisions will be made by the European Fisheries Council³ in early October.

¹ A regional body providing a platform for discussion on important fisheries issues in the Baltic Sea <http://helcom.fi/action-areas/fisheries/management/baltfish>

² EU Commission’s proposal on Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2018 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-2921_en.htm

³ Gathering Fisheries Ministers of EU Members States to set fishing opportunities for the following year.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

LIFE Spanish member Pescartes takes part in a solidarity race to support children affected by cancer

August (Cabo de Gata – Spain) - Member organisation Pescartes attended a sports race within the project "Mójate Por La Vida" ("Get wet for life"), an initiative by a charity network supporting scientific research on child cancer. **The race consisted in swimming for 60km along the coast of the Marine Protected Area of Cabo de Gata**, one of Andalucía's largest natural parks. It was divided in 5 stages of about 12km each covered by ten official swimmers from different parts of Spain and other participants who wished to be part of this unforgettable experience.



PRESS REVIEW

Handbook towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development by the FAO (English)

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7419e.pdf>

Concerns rise over electric pulse fishing (English)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/concerns-rise-electric-pulse-fishing/>

BBC film on electric pulse trawling (English)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/science-environment-40881793/electrofishing-saviour-of-the-sea-or-fracking-of-the-oceans>.

Small-scale and large-scale fleets could play complementary roles (Spanish and English)

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

http://www.industriaspesqueras.com/noticias/en_portada/56503/artesanal_e_industrial_dos_modelos_complementarios_en_un_marco_equilibrado.html

Launch of the Coastal Producers Organisation (English)

<http://fishingnews.co.uk/news/the-coastal-po/>

Article on FSK: fisheries in Denmark (Danish)

<https://www.b.dk/nationalt/kvoter-konger-og-kumpaner-en-fortaelling-om-en-ministers-dobbeltspil>

Danish Court of Auditors report highly of ITQs in Denmark, and Government quota management as „unprofessional and completely inadequate” (in Danish and English)

<http://www.rigsrevisionen.dk/media/2104617/sr2216.pdf>

<http://uk.rigsrevisionen.dk/media/2104653/22-2016.pdf>

The North Sea Plan approved by the PECH Committee (English)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170710IPR79402/north-sea-plan-ensuring-sustainable-stocks-and-security-for-fishermen>

Member organisation from Pantelleria (Italy) and the issue of Marine Protected Areas (Italian)

<http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2017/07/18/da-pantelleria-fino-a-maratea-le-aree-marine-protette-sono-previste-ma-inesistenti-e-la-fauna-e-dimezzata/3734983/2/#foto>

Press and video review of Projecte Sepia, conservation project carried out by Spanish member Arts Menors Costa Brava (Spanish)

Informatiu al minut 14'57": <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/linformatiu/linformatiu-01-08-2017/4144188/>

Telediario al 34'32": <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/telediario/telediario-21-horas-01-08-17/4144922/>

La Vanguardia <http://www.lavanguardia.com/local/girona/20170730/43126406692/visitar-sepiera-alternativa-turismo-masificado-costa-brava.html>

Diari de Girona <http://www.diaridegirona.cat/estiu/2017/07/19/reomplir-rebost/857502.html>

Xip/TV PaisKMO <http://www.xiptv.cat/pais-km-0/capitol/que-es-el-projecte-sepia>

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