



Baltic and North Sea Pilot Project (BANS)

Results so far

Tallinn, 13 October 2017

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Pilot Project 'Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing'
Baltic and North Sea
Agreement No. MARE/2014/04 – SI2.727556

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the European Union



POLICY WORK AND ADVISORY COUNCILS

Successes

- Influencing the decision-making for Baltic Sea fisheries management – 2017 and 2018 Fishing Opportunities
- **First BSAC ExCom seat**, for German LIFE Member, earned in May
- Strong involvement in the work of BSAC
- Elements of Regulation 2015/242 reflected within BSAC
- Key principle: work on the basis of our Members' views; internal negotiations often needed

Challenges

- Need more involvement in NSAC
- Interests of Region's small-scale fishers very poorly reflected in NSAC agenda
- Willingness from Region's small-scale fishers to participate in NSAC work limited



Next steps

- Hunting for more ExCom seats within BSAC
- More active involvement from some LIFE Members
- More emphasis on direct work with European Institutions – in particular European Parliament and Commission
- More activities vis-à-vis Regionalization bodies such as BALTFISH
- More involvement in HELCOM (LIFE gained observer status in June)

Solutions

- Some LIFE Members changing their views on options within NSAC, seeing the BSAC example

Relevant Project Indicators: small-scale fisher attendance

- Advisory Councils: **11 attained/6 declared** and more to come
- Brussels Events: **3 attained/4 declared** and more to come
- Member State level: **13 attained/3 declared**
- Other fora (incl. BALTFISH): **6 attained/3 declared** and more to come

EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICE, CAPACITY BUILDING



BANS Workshop, Warsaw, October 2016

- Focus on capacity building & networking
- Agenda: EU Institutions, CFP, ACs, EMFF, quota management systems, role of women, discards
- Good discussions and levels of question from participants



Seal-safe gears, Jarnavik, April 2017

- Focus on solving grey seal issue in a non-lethal way
- Swedish and Polish fishermen and scientists involved; Danes and Germans followed suit thanks to their scientific institutes
- 10 years worth of experience from SLU's experiments opened
- „teaser” for larger trial & awareness projects



ACs experience, Hamburg, October 2017

- Focus on lessons learned from intense ACs involvement from the project start
- Representatives from 5 nations; many interested in workshop documentation
- Looking towards the future of ACs in a wider CFP context
- The Hamburg Conclusions

Relevant Project Indicators

- Regional conferences/workshops: **1 attained/2 declared**
- Exch. of good practice meetings: **2 attained/3 declared**

Planned...

- Regional conference/workshop: **project summary**
- Exch. of good practice – **markets**

Context

- Project dedicated to **working fishers** – time management crucial
- Attending ACs, etc. **takes up a lot of fishers' time**

PUBLICATIONS



Articles

- 4 in 2016, 4 in 2017
- Covering many topics of importance to small-scale fishers in Baltic and North Sea regions: Fishing Opportunities, Landing Obligation, Advisory Councils, European Eel
- Prepared rigorously, in consultation with directly concerned fishers and with the help of their knowledge
- Available here: <http://lifeplatform.eu/news-media/>

Relevant Project Indicators

- Project publications per annum, wide dissemination: **4 attained/4 declared** with Articles only
- Production of **Best Practice Guide**: planned



Monthly Newsletter and Social Media

- Covering all the relevant meetings being part of the project
- Popularizing events lead by our Members
- Translated into 9 languages, mostly by LIFE staff
- Numerous Facebook entries, many on project-related matters
- Dozens of Tweets on matters relevant to Baltic and North Sea Members

5 Tutorials

- Several minutes' long movies financed from LIFE own funds
- Coverage: EU Institutions, CFP, ACs, EMFF, direct sales/marketing
- Meant to explain the complexities in a straightforward way
- Translated into 3 languages using Project funds (5 in total)
- Will form part of Best Practice Guide



LIFE MEMBERSHIP, DAILY WORK

5 new Member Organizations joining LIFE

- 1 from Finland: Kesalahti Fish Base Cooperative
- 1 from Sweden: Svenska Yrkefiskares Forening/SYEF
- 3 from Poland: Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Fishing Boat Owners; Association of Boat Fishers „Mierzeja”; Wolin Fishers’ Association
- Mapping activities towards Finland and Estonia
- LIFE Membership applications are scrupulously analysed for all the details

Challenges

- Dominant position of traditional „umbrella” organizations comprising both large- and small-scale fishers is jealously guarded
- Break-away action from such organizations faces many considerable risks
- Individualist approach of un-associated small-scale fishers
- Need for a local leader to emerge to create a new organization; top-down approach will not work



Next steps

- Analysing Sweden, looking into Lithuania, Latvia. Work with „mapped” countries continues
- Focus on tightening and activating the existing – and considerable – Members’ network



Solutions

- Small-scale fishers’ representation questions merit deeper analysis and policy response by decision-makers (politically delicate matter!)
- Look for partnerships with (genuinely!) small-scale fisheries-friendly umbrella organizations

Relevant Project Indicators

- New LIFE Members: **5 attained/6 declared**
- Creation of new organizations: **0 attained/4 declared**

LIFE serves as a daily “pit-stop” for all the matters of relevance and interest for our Member Organizations

EMERGING CONCLUSIONS

“Improved representation mix”

1. Start by winning back trust

- First – organize field trips
- Talk and listen to fishers, understand their situation and problems
- Avoid drawing premature or facile conclusions
- Understand the role of unpredictable factors in their work – weather, environment conditions, market difficulties

2. Tailor-made capacity building

- Use concrete situations and practical examples
- Simplify to avoid jargon but avoid simplicity
- Clarify why engaging pays off
- Help overcome fear of speaking in public (where present)

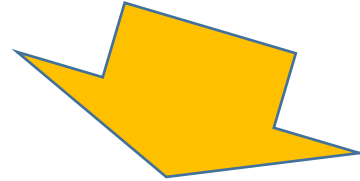
3. Promote and assist in self-representation

- Help in preparing for meetings
- Provide broader context – what the interlocutors seek
- Underscore the role of small-scale fishers’ practical knowledge
- Introduce basic negotiating techniques

“Different thinking about markets”

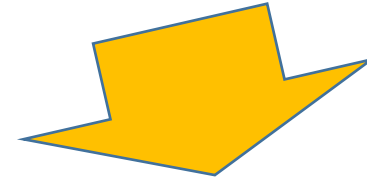
- Markets for small-scale fisheries are completely different from those of large-scale fisheries
- Still, too many small-scale fishers are forced to compete on quantity-based markets, to their detriment
- Regulators of all levels should pay more attention to low impact, sustainable, local fresh fish and best niche markets for it
- That’s the best way of strengthening small-scale fishing communities
- There are some good examples using modern communication technologies; they could become more widespread with EU financial support

HOW TO SUSTAIN INVOLVEMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERS IN THE CFP?



Management

- Small-scale fisheries' reality is predominantly local and regional (at Member State level)
- Many management solutions for this sector should come from local and regional level
- Revamped FLAGs could play a role here, if tasked with advising on management matters
- Many problems are similar across Europe, so a pan-European network is also needed
- At EU level: re-balancing act within ACs and other decision-making fora, to even out large-scale and small-scale interests



Financing

- Provision of fisheries management advice has been financed by the EU since ACs' creation
- Can comparable financial solutions be applied to more local bodies such as FLAGs?
- Functioning pan-European networks also need continuous financial support
- Can appropriate long-term financial solutions be applied to them?

THANK YOU



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