



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

October 2017

MAIN NEWS

Our Ocean Conference 2017: an unmissable showcase for low impact fishers

The Our Ocean Conference is a high-level international event that brings together public and private actors willing to cooperate for a better ocean governance. This year the Conference was hosted in Malta by the European Union and launched by a speech of EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, welcoming guests to his own home country. LIFE members were represented by LIFE's Executive Director Jeremy Percy and Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan, **who attended this invaluable opportunity to raise LIFE's profile and to network.**

In addition to the main conference, LIFE participated as panellist in a side event on Blue Growth in the presence of the Head of the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. Commitments will be tracked and reported in the next Our Ocean Conference in Indonesia in 2018. More information in the European Commission's PR: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-3603_en.htm and LIFE's PR: <http://lifeplatform.eu/life-calls-inclusive-blue-growth/>



LIFE organizes a workshop to encourage the attendance of small-scale fishers in the Advisory Councils



LIFE Members from across the Baltic and North Sea Regions attended a **Workshop on Advisory Councils (ACs)** organized by LIFE and held in Hamburg (Germany) on the 2nd of October. Meant as an opportunity to exchange views, identify best ACs' engagement practices and future plans, it resulted in good discussions and pledges of increased engagement of our Members and friends in the activities of both the North Sea and Baltic

AC's. A few broader issues relevant to European fisheries management, such as **cooperation with local/regional authorities and the importance of being proactive on fish markets**, were also highlighted. Based on these fruitful debates, the Workshop produced a series of recommendations which have subsequently been made available to the Conference on financial support for Coastal Communities post-2020 that took place on 12-13 October in Tallin (<http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu/documents/FULL/RoundTable/2.%20M.%20Rucinski.pdf>). The press release on the Workshop is available here <http://lifeplatform.eu/life-advisory-councils/>.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- ✚ 03/10 Copenhagen (Denmark) – A number of the participants of the Hamburg Workshop have also been proactive within the **BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based fisheries management**. The questions of **interactions between seals, cormorants and small-scale fisheries, as well as the revival of the work on the draft long-term plan for salmon**, dominated the agenda. The point on seals was discussed with presentations of leading scientists on the subject, and concluded with a set of sensible and balanced compromise conclusions from the Chair (the report containing the conclusions from the meeting is available here: <http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-and-sub-group-on-ecosystem-bas/BSACreportEBMsubgroup031017EXCEPTSALMONFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>). Discussions on salmon resulted in the set-up of a drafting group, including LIFE staff, which has quickly elaborated a draft BSAC position to be accepted by its Executive Committee (ExCom) in November.
- ✚ 9/10 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE’s Deputy Director Brian O’Riordan participated as panellist in a Public Hearing in the European Parliament on **“Supertrawlers: Destructive or Sustainable”**. His presentation highlighted how, as a model of fishing, supertrawlers are a game changer, concentrating economic and political power in a few hands and marginalising coastal communities that depend on inshore fisheries and fish processing opportunities. More information on the event are available here : <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/events-hearings.html?id=20171002CHE02521>
- ✚ 11-12 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE’s Deputy Director Brian O’Riordan attended an event organised by DG Mare on **“Maritime Spatial Planning for Blue Growth: How to Plan for Sustainability”**. Brian was asked to moderate a thematic round table on fisheries. More info: <http://msp-platform.eu/conference-documents-msp-blue-growth-conference>
- ✚ 12-13/10 Tallinn (Estonia) – LIFE’s Baltic and North Sea Coordinator and our Atlantic Consultant have taken part in the event "Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities." organized by the Estonian Presidency of the European Union and European Commission DG MARE. The event focused on the **post-2020 financing and implementation of European fisheries**. Two messages from Commissioner Vella that have particularly caught LIFE’s staff’s ears are: **1) whilst the fishing sector is making good profits overall, 53 out of 135 small-scale fleets across Europe are in the red and 2) the uptake of current Fund is low and the most should be made out of currently available monies, as EMFF’s future post-2020, at least in its current size and form, is uncertain**; crucially, it was complemented by a key pledge from Mr Cadec, Chair of the European Parliament’s PECH Committee, of **continued support for the small-scale fisheries sector**. As an important complement to the conference, a workshop was held on supporting small-scale fisheries across Europe through a series of regional pilot projects, with LIFE staff presenting “results so far” of our Baltic and North Sea (aka BANS) project, as the first presentation after the introductory words of Mr Cadec (available here http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BANS-presentation-Tallinn_finalR.pdf). There is no doubt that the event will significantly influence the Commission’s approach to fisheries funding post-2020. We thus recommend a good look at its website at <http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu> .
- 17-18/10, Kołobrzeg (Poland) – Representatives of Polish LIFE Members Darłowska and Wolinska, together with LIFE staff, actively participated in a conference highlighting the results of MARELITT, a project designed to deal with ghost fishing in the Baltic Sea. Presentations focused on detection, retrieval and utilization of ghost nets, as well as methods of preventing gear losses. **LIFE Members skillfully used the opportunity provided by lively discussions to present the emerging results of their large ghost-nets’ retrieval project in Poland’s coastal waters**, focusing much positive attention on their good work. More information available here <https://www.marelittbaltic.eu/news/2017/10/25/many-thanks-to-all-participants> and here (in Polish) <http://www.portalmorski.pl/rybolowstwo/37235-niewidoczne-pulapki-na-dnie-baltyku>

- ✚ 19/10 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE’s Deputy Director Brian O’Riordan attended the Demersal Working Group of the North Sea AC. Issues under discussion included the landing obligation, selectivity, the North Sea Multiannual Plan, and the Technical Measures Regulation. As within other ACs, **there is a noticeable absence of organizations representing small scale fisheries.** <http://nsrac.org/forthcoming-meetings/demersal-working-group-19th-october-2017-brussels/>

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

- ✚ **LIFE Spanish members attend the 1st International Congress on Small-Scale Fisheries**

5-6/10 Conil (Spain) – LIFE Spanish members from Canary Islands, Cabo de Gata and two members of the staff attended the 1st International Congress on Small-Scale Fisheries organised by the consultancy Soldecocos. The two days event has been an opportunity to reflect collectively on the future of small-scale fisheries and share best practices. **Participants unanimously approved the "Declaration of Conil"**, an official statement by the sector to underline its engagement to work together for sustainable fisheries (full text available here: <https://www.slideshare.net/inmamine/declaracin-de-conil>) .



- ✚ **Representative of Members in South Western France invited by DG Environment to Croatia**

10/11 Zadar (Croatia) – A workshop on fisheries management **measures in Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean Sea** was organised by the European Commission’s DG Environment in Croatia. Mr Bertrand Cazalet, representative of LIFE members SPMLR, made a presentation on small-scale fisheries management within the context of those sites, highlighting the differences between Malta, where fishers are excluded from the set up and use, and France which is relying on a positive model, the so-called “Blue Coast Marine Park”. Additional information is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/fisheries_management_measures_in_natura2000_mediterranean_sea_en.htm

- ✚ **LIFE members from Cyprus protest against trawlers’ lobby**

30/10 Larnaca (Cyprus) –Around 200 members of the national small-scale fishers’ organisation gathered in the commercial port of Larnaca **to protest against a permission granted by the National Ministry for an additional large-scale trawler to work in the area.** The demonstration was led “on board” with 30 boats blocking the entrance of the port. LIFE members, Zygi Fishermen Association, actively contributed to the protest with more than 40 fishers attending. The strike was also attended by other people of the local community supporting their cause, and covered by national media and press. Thanks to this action, the Minister eventually withdraw the authorisation. The small-scale fishers of Cyprus will never leave their island in the hands of industrial trawlers and are determined to set up new actions if other similar cases are to happen again in the near future. More information available in the Press Review at the bottom of the newsletter.

✚ Traditional Finnish seining on the way to international recognition



Puruvesi (Finland) - LIFE members from Finland, Snowchange Cooperative, report one of the worst fishing seasons ever this year due to extreme weather conditions. On a more positive note, following a proposal by national experts in culture and heritage, the winter seining technique carried out on lake Puruvesi by LIFE members **has been included in the list of “Living Heritage of Finland”**; a first step towards a potential international recognition by UNESCO (More information in Finnish are available here

https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/Puruveden_talvinuottaus). In parallel, preparations are already under way for the third Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions that will be held in Tornio, Finland, from 6th to the 9th of September 2018. The event, strongly supported by LIFE, will be an occasion to gather commercial fishers from Siberia, Scandinavia and other parts of Europe for fruitful exchanges on small-scale fisheries. A unique gathering to which everyone is invited!

WELCOME ON BOARD

In addition to the members who joined since the beginning of 2017, the following organisation officially became part of LIFE this month:

✚ Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts – Small-scale fishers network



The network of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts dedicated to small-scale fishers joined LIFE this month. **It comprises 2500 members, all coastal fishers working on vessels between 4 and 12 meters.** They mainly fish with hook & line, gillnets and pots. They joined LIFE to work on promoting sustainable fishing, as well as to reinforce their contacts with national and European decision-makers and to take part in EU-funded projects. **Welcome Croatia!**

PRESS REVIEW

Marsaxlokk Artisanal Fishers, a newly established small-scale fishers organization from Malta, has gained an important victory by securing official approval for the supply of tax-free fuel for its members (English)

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171029/local/traditional-fishermen-win-fight-for-tax-free-diesel.661622>

Press and Video review of the protest by LIFE Members from Cyprus (Greek)

<http://www.philenews.com/koinonia/eidiseis/article/448051/ekleisan-to-limani-larnakas-oi-psarades>

<http://politis.com.cy/article/tp-psarolimano-larnakas-eklisan-gia-dio-ores-i-psarades>

<http://cyprustimes.com/2017/10/30/vinteo-400-psarades-tis-varkes-tous-eklisan-limani-larnakas-endixi-diamartyrias/>

<http://www.sigmalive.com/news/local/467672/ta-vrikan-gia-tin-akyrosi-tis-tratas-kougialispsarades>

Supertrawlers: Destructive or sustainable? (English)

<http://blog.through-the-gaps.co.uk/2017/10/super-trawlers-case-of-too-much-fish-in.html>

<https://maramedia.ie/latest-news-skipper/768-supertrawlers-the-debate>

Dutch industrial fisheries defend supertrawlers (Dutch)

<https://www.visserijnieuws.nl/nieuws/reders-verbaasd-over-aanvallen-groene-ngo-s>

Bloom NGO puts pressure on the EP against pulse fishing (French)

<https://reporterre.net/La-peche-electrique-tente-de-faire-son-retour-en-Europe>

Irish MEP asks investigation on pulse fishing (English)

<http://www.inshore-ireland.com/News/mep-calls-for-investigation-into-pulse-trawling.html>

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 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