



Grupo de Acción Local  
do sector Pesqueiro  
Seo de Fisterra Ría de Muros-Noia:  
Costa Sostible



FUNDACIÓN  
**LONXANET**  
PARA LA PESCA SOSTIBLE

## SAVE THE DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018!

### Presenting a New System of Governance: Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries, Co-management of the Coastal Zone, and the Blue Economy.

*Local development, co-management of the coastal zone and the blue economy: the case of the co-managed marine reserve "Os Miñarzos-Fin da Terra" and the local pact within the Costa Sostible FLAG (Galicia)*

The Lonxanet Foundation in cooperation with the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE), Farnet, and the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Costa Sostible, and in association with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), would like to invite you to a presentation of the co-managed *Oz Miñarzos Fin da Terra* marine reserve project, and to participate in an exchange of views on *A New System of Governance for Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries, Co-management of the Coastal Zone and the Blue Economy*.

**7<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 – European Economic and Social Committee**  
**Rue de Trèves 74, 1040 Brussels**

09.00 – 09.30 *Arrival of participants, registration, reception, refreshments*

09.30 – 10.00 *Opening and welcome*

10.00 – 12.00 *Presentation of the Os Miñarzos - Fin da Terra Co-Managed Marine Reserve Project*

**Manuela Oviedo**, Manager of the Costa Sostible FLAG – *Towards a Social Pact to Link Local Communities, Fishers and the Authorities*

**Primitivo Pedrosa González**, Cofradía de Pescadores de Muros – *The Role of Small-scale Fishers in Fisheries Management*

**Luis Oujo Pouso**, Mayor of the Porto do Son Council – *The Importance of the Local Pact for the Development of the Blue Economy in the Costa Sostible FLAG Territory*

**Pablo Carrera**, Scientist from the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO) – *The importance of collaboration between scientists and fishers in the development and implementation of management plans*

**Antonio Garcia Allut**, Lonxanet Foundation – *The Os Miñarzos project and the Need for a New Form of Governance for Coastal Fisheries*

12.00 - 13.00 *Questions and Answers, general discussion*

Meeting language: English

Moderator: Brian O’Riordan, Deputy Director, LIFE

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, French and English will be provided.

## **Background**

Historically, the catching of fish is one of the oldest and most important productive activities in the coastal zone, especially within nearshore waters (out to 6 miles zone). This marine area provides the mainstay of Europe's majority fleet comprising small-scale coastal fishing (SSCF) vessels under 12 metres in length using non-towed gears. These vessels represent around 80% of the total fishing fleet by number and provide over 50% of the employment in fishing, 5% of the catch by weight, 12% of the landed value, contributing significantly to the economies and cultural heritage of coastal communities.

Over the last 2 to 3 decades, the perceived importance of SSCF has been diminished by the relentless rise of relatively new industries, including leisure and tourism, renewable energy, and aquaculture. These are often considered more competitive economically or are otherwise given priority over fishing.

As well as facing increasing competition to access coastal areas traditionally used for fishing, SSCF has also found itself increasingly at a disadvantage as regards availability of and access to commercial species, having to fall back on non-quota species. These circumstances have contributed to declining trends in SSCF catches, fleet size, employment, revenues, wages, profitability, and perhaps most worryingly, generational renewal.

Since its inception in 1983, and up to the most recent reform, Europe's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has not concerned itself with the fortunes of SSCF. Rather it has established regulations and management systems written very much with the interests of larger scale, mobile gear fishing (LSF) operations in mind, leaving Member States to deal with, or more often ignore SSCF. The commercialisation of quota management, including through Producer Organizations promoted under the CFP has created an unlevel playing field favouring larger scale interests. This has seriously undermined the ability of SSCF to access and influence decision making processes and thereby having their interests taken into account in the design and implementation of the CFP.

Finally, the downward spiral in terms of traditional commercial species and the increasing value of some species has encouraged illegal fishery activities (both organized crime and opportunistic poaching), making it more difficult for law abiding fishers to make an honest living. Furthermore, such rife Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing being carried out with impunity by a significant minority creates huge disincentives to other fishers to behave responsibly.

## **The Blue Economy and Blue Growth**

In the European Union, the blue economy and its development is being promoted under the Blue Growth Strategy. This is the EU's long-term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. However, the strategy proposes to develop only those sectors that are considered by it to have a high potential for sustainable jobs and growth. For food production from the sea, the strategy has selected aquaculture rather than capture fisheries for development, effectively excluding all segments of this traditional maritime food producing sector from the development of the blue economy in Europe. However, mass tourism and industrial scale aquaculture occupy relatively large sections of the coast to the detriment of other users and cause significant negative environmental impacts.

In order to survive and thrive in this competitive and hostile new environment, fisheries in general, and SSCF in particular need to develop new opportunities, including diversification of traditional livelihoods. They also need to engage in new forms of governance both to defend their interests against the encroachment of others, as well as to combine their experiential and local knowledge in the management of fisheries and in the shared use of the marine spaces where their activities take place.

The Oz Miñarzos project in Galicia provides an example of how small-scale fishers can organize themselves with dedicated assistance to engage in the governance of their fisheries to benefit the wider coastal community, to secure their futures and those of the wider coastal communities.

### **The Oz Miñarzos Fin da Terra Project**

Initiated in 2002 by the fishing community of Lira in Galicia, the Oz Miñarzos project seeks to combine the twin objectives of conservation and sustainable use in a designated coastal area, and to promote the active participation of SSCF organizations in the governance of the area concerned.

The success of the project in Lira, and its recognition at local, regional, national and international levels has encouraged fishers in the region to propose the expansion of the project to include a further 7 adjacent communities and to increase the area covered from 2,162 to 97,800 hectares, with 49,000 hectares of internal waters.

The Governance system is based on the equal participation of representatives of the fishers' organizations and the authorities, informed in taking management decisions by scientists.

In expanding the project from one organization to eight, the project seeks to garner the support of the Autonomous Regional Government in the monitoring, control and surveillance of the area and the active engagement of the local communes and Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) in cementing a "Local Pact" between the authorities, the fishing cofradias, and the wider coastal community.

The Oz Miñarzos Project provides the structure necessary to provide new opportunities for the fisheries sector, linking it to other economic and cultural segments. The "social pact" between the Cofradias, the FLAGs and the local authorities provide a mechanism through which the benefits of the project can be more widely shared amongst and sustained by the coastal communities.