



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

April 2018

MAIN NEWS

From Edinburgh to Monaco: LIFE and AKTEA actively involved in the Monaco Ocean Week



8-9/4 - 11/4 Edinburgh (Scotland) and Monaco (Principality of Monaco) – The second week of April LIFE and AKTEA (the women in fisheries network) were involved in **the string of events organized by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in the framework of the Monaco Ocean Week**, an occasion for stakeholders to share their marine conservation findings and take action to preserve the oceans. On the 8th and 9th of April, **LIFE's Executive Director Jeremy Percy represented LIFE members during the opening ceremony and conference held at the National Museum and Old University of Edinburgh**, respectively. The forum proved to be an opportunity to liaise with a number of influencing parties and to underline the urgent need to include small-scale fisheries in global marine conservation policies. On the 11th, **LIFE and AKTEA**

presented small-scale fisheries to the general public during a conference organized by LIFE in cooperation with the research center of the University of Nice (France), Ecomers, at the Yacht Club of Monaco. The panel included various speakers and tackled the importance of short supply chains and inclusive governance. Among those, AKTEA's Chair Marja Bekendam gave an overview of the important role played by women working in fisheries, Christian Decugis, LIFE Director for the Med, explained the work carried out by small-scale fishers in the Marine Protected Area of Cap Roux in southern France and Antonio Garcia Allut of the Spanish Foundation Lonxanet presented the case of the "Os Miñarzos" marine reserve in the region of Galicia. LIFE hopes to further strengthen its contact with the Prince of Monaco Foundation in the months to come.

Seafood Expo Global: small-scale fisheries overshadowed by "sustainable" aquaculture

25/4 Brussels (Belgium) – The Brussels team of LIFE attended "**Food from the Oceans, a look into our future**", the event organised for the Seafood Expo Global by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the EU Commission in the presence of Commissioner **Karmenu Vella**. The conference focused on aquaculture as a primary means to feed the world and how to make it co-exist with wild fisheries, ignoring the opportunity to promote small-scale fisheries as part of the global fisheries management solution. A couple of good points came from the public as, amongst other things, NGOs underlined how aquaculture generates increased competition within maritime spatial planning, a planning from which wild fisheries are excluded. Marine litter and the impact of plastics on the quality of fish were also mentioned. The second part of the conference focused on social dialogue but unfortunately, while trade unions had dedicated space, no representative of the small-scale sector was on the panel. Overall, Commissioner Karmenu Vella encouraged all stakeholders to improve sustainability and to



commit to improvements in this direction, especially in the light of the Our Ocean Conference that will take place in Bali in autumn 2018. The large exhibition was also an opportunity to meet up with the **International Pole and Line Foundation** and explore cooperation in a number of areas, including the set-up of the new Outermost Regions Advisory Council.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

-  10-12/4 Pärnu and Tallinn (Estonia) – LIFE staff took part in the 3rd meeting of the NESUfish pilot project -led by MSC and dedicated to a **better understanding of the needs of small-scale fishers' communities in the Baltic Sea region**. The two intensive days served to get acquainted with the operations and situation of various fisheries players from the processing and catching sectors. The work of the Fisheries Information Centre of Pärnu, an organization working to help fishers make the most of regulatory and funding opportunities, was also presented. In the next stage of the project, **concrete ideas to support small-scale fishers' communities across the Baltic** will be discussed during the meeting to be held in Warsaw (Poland). Evalds Urtans from our Latvian Member Organization Federacija unfortunately could not participate as planned.
-  12-13/4 Zagreb (Croatia) - A delegation of LIFE members including Luis Rodriguez and Macarena Molina Hernández from Spain, Erwan Berton from France and 5 fishers from the recent member organization from Croatia, accompanied by LIFE's Mediterranean and Black Sea Coordinator, **attended the Mediterranean Advisory Council held in Zagreb**. It was an important meeting with relevant issues on the agenda, such as the Landing Obligation, the "Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea" (RPOA) and the Western Mediterranean Multiannual Management Plan. During the preceding weeks LIFE translated the RPOA document into six Mediterranean languages and sent it to all its Members in order to gather their comments. Subsequently, LIFE elaborated a proposal containing those contributions and transferred it to the MEDAC. Following long and difficult discussions on the RPOA document itself and the relating comments provided by the MEDAC members, participants managed to reach an agreement on the form and content of the RPOA. In parallel, LIFE sent a copy of its contribution to the GFCM to keep it informed on its position. If you are a member of LIFE and you did not receive the full report on the MEDAC meeting do not hesitate to contact us so that we can include you in the distribution list. It is a priority for LIFE that members get up-to-date information on the work carried out and engage with us in this respect.
-  19-20/4 London (United Kingdom) – LIFE's Executive Director, Deputy Director and Mediterranean & Black Sea Coordinator gathered in London to hold an internal meeting on LIFE's Mediterranean Programme. Later that day, the final selection interviews for 2 new **Project Consultants (one based in Malta and the other one Sicily)** took place. We are happy to confirm that LIFE will soon get 2 new members of the team that will work on the ground in support of LIFE's small-scale fishers.
-  20/4 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff work for a constant improvement of the Platform. In order to allow LIFE members from Cyprus, and potential members from Greece, to be fully involved with LIFE's activities, **the website is now available in Greek**. Thanks to this improvement, the monthly newsletter will also be made available on-line and not only upon private request as it had been the case until now. With this latest addition LIFE's website is now available in 11 languages.
-  25/4 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE's Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan participated in an exchange of views with MEP Linnea Engström organized by the Markets Advisory Council on the Green's "Own Initiative Report" (INI) on the **"Implementation of control measures for establishing the conformity of fisheries products with access criteria to the EU market"**, adopted by the PECH Committee of the European Parliament on 24 April. The report calls for imported and EU sourced fishery products to be treated equally <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180423IPR02333/imported-and-eu-fisheries-products-must-be-treated-equally>.

- ✚ 27/4 Barcelona (Spain) - LIFE's Mediterranean Coordinator attended, on behalf of LIFE's Baltic and North Sea Coordinator, the International Conference "**Indigenous people in cold climates: social realities, marine and land rights, relations to wildlife and the commons**", organized by the Arctic Research Centre of Barcelona University and other partners. The workshop presented different cases of communities living in cold climates and highlighted the daily challenges they face, such as climate change, pollution, uncontrolled tourism, lack of representation and conflicts on land rights. LIFE staff took the opportunity to present the work carried out by its members from Finland and the support provided by LIFE to them. It was also the occasion to invite participants to the "Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions" that will be held next Sept 6-9 in Tornio (Finland), an opportunity for direct exchanges among commercial fishers of different communities of the Arctic and Boreal areas on a number of different matters, including climate change, access rights and fisheries management.

- ✚ 30/4 Barcelona (Spain) – The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) is organizing a "High-level Meeting on Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea" that will be held in Malta on the 25-26 September 2018. On the first day of the event selected groups of fishers will have the opportunity to present to the participants of the fora examples of best practices that they carry out in their fishing communities. In the view of this selection, during the month of April, LIFE encouraged and helped its members and supporters to **send their best practices applications in time before the deadline that was on the 1st of May**. LIFE eventually sent two set of documents: the first one containing two templates explaining about the Mediterranean and Black Sea programmes carried out by LIFE and AKTEA, and the second dossier with 6 local best practices from LIFE members in Spain, France, Italy and Malta, that we hope will grab the interest of the GFCM.

- ✚ Helsinki (Finland) - Baltic small-scale coastal fisheries have to tackle a number of challenges such as rising costs, declining catches and competition with predators. 14 FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups) from Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Germany, in cooperation with Luke, the Natural Resources Institute of Finland, set up **the "Baltic Sea Seal and Cormorant TNC" project to investigate the impact of seal and cormorant populations on the livelihoods of coastal small-scale fisheries** in the area. The aim is to interview 280 fishermen from the participating FLAG units around the Baltic coastline during the spring and summer 2018. Preliminary results are expected in October 2018. More info here <https://balticfisheries.com>

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

✚ LIFE members from Germany Fischereischutzverband active of eel management

Lübeck (Germany) - Member organisation Fischereischutzverband dedicated the month of April on **tackling the challenges ahead in relations to eel management**. In particular, Wolfgang Albrecht, Chairman of the organisation and LIFE Director for Germany, provided the Minister of Schleswig-Holstein and competent administration in Berlin a written dossier to inform them about the position of low impact small-scale fishers on the matter. In addition, as LIFE representative in the ExCom of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), he placed eel management as an official point in the agenda of the next BSAC meeting that will take place in Copenhagen on 8th of May 2018. In this light, Mr Albrecht will advocate on behalf of LIFE members to avoid a total ban of eel fishing in the Baltic Sea as foreseen for next year and support instead a European-wide management solution that would allow to protect and rebuild the eel stock while guaranteeing the jobs of a number of small-scale fisheries business relying on these species to survive. In parallel, Mr Albrecht is also searching for potential sources of funding in support of LIFE's activities in the Baltic region.

✚ C-LIFE busy with seabass and national Administrations

Rotterdam (Netherlands) – The seabass season opened in the Dutch waters of the North Sea. C-LIFE reports that among the first catch (pictured right) there were some bass up to 4.8 kg. However, **this size is rather an exception than the rule and not really something to be happy with considering that a few years ago fishers regularly landed specimens of**



more than 8 kg. In fact, most of the time these days the catch is poor or non-existent. According to Mr de Ruiter, LIFE Director for the Netherlands, most probably this is due to the pressure on the stocks, illegal landings and fishing activities in spawning grounds which are still too high. It is also frustrating that some people of the sector do not follow any work ethic and do not make any effort to ensure the protection of the resource, thus generating negative impacts on the environment and the income of the rest of the fleet. Mr de Ruiter also laments that, after four months of waiting, he at last received feedback from the Member of the National Parliament Ms Carola Schouten on the possibility of holding a meeting. Unfortunately, the answer was negative as, she argues, the administration has already spent a lot of time with the sector and discussing the issue of electric pulse fishing. The truth is that the small-scale sector was not invited to these discussions thus preventing it from providing any objective information on the matter.

NetVISwerk's updates are available on-line

Netherlands – Arjan Heinen, contact person for the Dutch organisation NetVISwerk, got in touch with LIFE Brussels staff to flag that a number of informations relating to their activities are available on-line, including in the form of a newsletter. **News touches upon different matters**, including internal meetings, eel-management projects and the landing obligation. The content, in Dutch (but easy to understand by using “google translate” <https://translate.google.com/>), is available by following this link: <http://netviswerk.nl/category/nieuws/>

AKTEA member AmarCarril present Galician fisheries heritage to visitors

Carril (Spain) - AmarCarril, a network of women gathering shellfish and AKTEA member, took part in a project promoted by the local administration. The latter organised **free routes for visitors to discover the "Lower Rias"**, a series of four estuarine inlets located on the southwestern coast of Galicia where AmarCarril members are based. The visits were organised in two parts: during the first part visitors were provided with an overview of the history of the shellfish sector in the area, and the second part focused on a practical workshop where they could see the work carried out by the *mariscadoras*. More information here <http://diariodevigo.com/cuatro-rutas-gratuitas-para-descubrir-el-marisqueo-nas-rias-baixas-de-la-mano-de-la-diputacion/> and here <https://www.diariodepontevedra.es/articulo/comarcas/pontevedra-oferta-rutas-turisticas-gratuitas-vivir-experiencia-marisqueo/20180405120428973979.html>

PRESS REVIEW AND INTERESTING READING

LIFE BANS and MAVA project (French), April 2018

http://www.lemarin.fr/secteurs-activites/peche/31085-le-projet-bans-renforce-la-petite-peche-de-baltique-et-mer-du-nord?_id=1522826607886

Latest notice by the EU Commission and Brexit and fisheries policy (English)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/withdrawal-united-kingdom-and-eu-rules-fisheries-and-aquaculture_en

Wives of small-scale fishers in the island of La Réunion defend the sector (French)

https://www.clicanoo.re/Societe/Article/2018/04/15/Un-collectif-de-femmes-de-pecheurs-lance-un-SOS_525148

Irish fishers and the impacts of Brexit (French)

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/irlande-du-nord/reportage-les-pecheurs-d-irlande-dans-le-creux-du-brexit-5701361>

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

Interested to engage with women working in fisheries? Get in touch with AKTEA via contact@akteaplatform.eu or on Facebook on AKTEA women in fisheries and Twitter on @AKTEAwif