

# FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

## 2016-2018

Pilot Project 'Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing' - Baltic and  
North Sea (Agreement Number MARE/2014/04 – SI2.727556)



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Co-funded by the  
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*April 2016 – March 2018 (24 months)*

### **1. Title of the project**

Pilot Project 'Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing' - Baltic and North Sea (Agreement Number MARE/2014/04 – SI2.727556) implemented by Low Impact Fishers of Europe

### **2. Objectives**

The intention of the project has been to build the capacity of European smaller scale, low impact fishers and their organisations to participate in the decision-making processes across the board that affect their livelihoods and will support the exchange of information and experience of good practice between them to achieve these aims.

To achieve this overall aim in the specific context of the Baltic and North Seas, particular attention has been given to and the project actions have been directed at the following areas:

- a) build capacity of L.I.F.E Members [NB: LIFE has both coastal and inland fisher organisations in membership] and other small scale fishers within and between Member States in the region to participate in the advisory and decision making process that affect their livelihoods, with a specific focus on enabling them to participate fully and effectively in the present Advisory Councils (ACs), be fully involved in the development of any new AC's and in other fora and platforms pursuing the objective of sustainable management of fisheries;
- b) enable and otherwise facilitate L.I.F.E Members and other small-scale fishers to share information, knowledge and experiences of good practices within and between all EU Member States within the Region with regard to the creation and development of representative bodies for low impact fishing, membership criteria, its socio economic and cultural value and how to disseminate their knowledge and experiences more widely.
- c) to facilitate the creation and development of networks of small scale fishers that promote local, cross border and regional projects and increase the sector's involvement in stakeholder organisations.

To provide meetings to provide guidance and training in support of the above.

### 3. Executive summary

With a total of 67 meetings attended or self-organized, several of which were dedicated to Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practice, the project has been successful in building the capacity of small-scale, low impact fishers in Baltic and North Sea Regions to self-represent themselves in the relevant advisory and decision-making fora, as summarized in the table below:

Table 1: summary of key project meetings and their results

<b>Forum</b>	<b>No. of meetings</b>	<b>Results</b>
Advisory Councils	14	2 small-scale fishers' organizations enrolled on General Assembly; 1 Executive Committee membership
Regionalization	3	Presenting small-scale fishers' positions and selected actions to a wide forum of key regional stakeholders
Environmental fora (HELCOM) and Spatial Planning processes	7	Contributing to policy and investment processes of direct or indirect relevance to small-scale fishers
National and regional level (excl. field work)	6	Understanding small-scale fishers' situation, positions and concerns in-depth. Presenting to wide fora of national and regional actors.
EU Institutions	3	Communicating key positions of small-scale fishers on selected policy processes to the relevant Institutions, in particular European Commission
Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practice (self-organized)	5	Comprehensive information on many relevant topics given to small-scale fishers in the project area

The main focus of the project has been on the Baltic Sea, given the high importance of small-scale fishers in that Region, and many possibilities to present small-scale fishers' views to influence policy decisions, in particular within BALTFISH and HELCOM fora. Almost all of the project's indicators (Expected Results and their Use) have been attained and in many cases exceeded. For a complete analysis see Table 2. under Section 4.3. Deliverables.

From the start, the project has intended to focus as many activities as possible on real policy processes and developments, and within them – on matters of genuine interest to small-scale fishers' communities in the project area. To make this approach viable, the project timeline was fine-tuned with the timing of milestone events in the Common Fisheries Policy decision-making and advisory cycle.

Following the initial phase of the project, consisting in particular of numerous activities aiming at in-depth understanding of the needs of project addressees, it has become clear that

subsequent project (and post-project) actions should be predominantly aimed at the following broad areas of fisheries management, on issues of direct relevance for small-scale fishers:

1. Regional policy actions discussed and (pre-)decided at sea-basin level, in particular: fishing opportunities and attached conditions, technical measures.
2. Interactions between fisheries and environment in an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) context, with particular attention to problems posed by interactions between certain predators (grey seals, black cormorants) and small-scale fishers.
3. Participation in and impact on Maritime Spatial Planning processes of relevance to small-scale fishers, where proper analysis of and response to underlying documents is often beyond the capacity of small-scale fishers' organizations (with a view to reducing inter-gear conflicts, building synergies with conservation, minimizing impact of blue growth projects on small scale fisheries).
4. Focusing the attention of decision-makers on the need to support small-scale fishers through help in placing their products in appropriate market niches, including through direct/short chain marketing channels, (e.g. by using novel marketing techniques, including web-based ones), and, where necessary, improving quality and handling of such products post-catch, at landing and post-landing.

The lion's share of project activities was realized at sea-basin, national and regional levels, as the project's design structure allowed to reach deeply into regional and local practicalities of small-scale fisheries in the Baltic and North Seas, in order to build the understanding of their situations. As a follow-up, the project assisted small-scale fishers in formulating the suggestions on how to address their problems and present them to the relevant advisory and decision-making bodies. Particular attention was given to sea-basin level matters, such as impact of seals on small-scale fishers. Brussels-level actions have been confined to communicating key specific points to the most relevant decision-makers, bearing in mind the timing determined by the policy-making and implementation cycle.

The capacity-building and informational aspects have been identified as very important elements of the project from the start, as it allows for meaningful participation in EU-level, sea-basin, national and regional decision-making and consultation processes. Therefore, capacity-building and information provision formed part of every major activity organized by the project.

The results in terms of self-representation are best summarized by obtaining a BSAC Executive Committee membership by one of the small-scale fishers' organizations participating in the project, and two organizations joining the BSAC General Assembly. The project implementation has shown that the key to positive developments in Europe's small-scale fisheries communities is to help them offer decent jobs, in order to i.a. address an intergenerational problem of renewing the labour force in the small-scale fisheries. This may be achieved by:

1. helping small-scale fishers to implement the *"class, not the mass"* philosophy, i.e. to extract, in a low-impact manner, the seafood of top freshness, best quality, local and traditional nature, and to place it firmly within high added-value market niches. Such products will by nature be limited in quantity, and the CFP should help in placing them in the market segments offering the highest added value per unit of fish sold. According to STECF's Annual Economic Report 2017, small-scale fisheries' (SSF) landings and income show declining trends EU wide, but performance indicators GVA

(67%) and profit margins (24%) are positive. Improved access to resources and access to markets is therefore vital for SSF to survive and thrive.

2. making an effort to understand small-scale fisheries' situations in depth. The CFP already has useful instrument in *the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing*, which forms part of EMFF programming toolbox. Its use could be broadened and prioritized to achieve this aim. Furthermore, the STECF and the data collection system could be more focused on obtaining economic data on small-scale segments, with métiers defined at a regional level (within Member State), to facilitate in-depth economic analyses.
3. improvements of the CFP delivery system, so that it can offer tailor-made solutions to problems identified at local and regional level (within Member State). The CFP already has a useful instrument in this regard in FLAGS, which could be given more tools to respond to management problems identified and to provide solutions at this level in a bottom-up process.
4. making an in-depth review of the current forms and the practice of sector organization and update the Common Market Organization system to truly recognize specific characteristics of the small-scale sector, and facilitate the implementation of "class, not the mass" philosophy. This should, in particular, take the form of facilitating the establishment of small-scale fishers' Producer Organizations.
5. strengthened and broadened operation of pan-European networks of small-scale fishers, including their dedicated local, regional and national-level organizations and representatives, as they are capable of providing the crucial Capacity-Building, Best Practice Exchange, self-representation assistance and advice on local small-scale fisheries management, including using co-management solutions where identified as relevant.

Low Impact Fishers of Europe have ensured a continuation of the main actions implemented under the project for 12 months after its completion, except cost-intensive capacity-building and training activities, with the use of non-EU funds available to it. This will help to ensure a longer lasting positive impact of the project on small-scale fishers and their communities in the project area, but in the longer term will depend on LIFE's ability to raise further funding in support of this work. In this regard, LIFE is committed to ensuring that the actions in the project area are properly continued in the longer run, as the need for continuous small-scale fishers' network expansion and management is very clear.

#### **4. Detailed description**

##### **4.1. Bodies involved**

The beneficiaries of the action have been the small-scale fishers and their organizations across the project area. In assisting them and ensuring that their voices are being heard, engagement has been established in and, where applicable, strengthened with:

- Advisory Councils relevant for the project area, in particular the Baltic Sea Advisory Council;
- European Institutions, in particular European Commission and European Parliament;
- Regional Intergovernmental organizations and decision-making bodies, in particular BALTFISH and HELCOM;
- National authorities (dedicated Ministries and Agencies of Member States from the project area and in particular the Baltic Sea Region, Regional authorities where relevant);



- Scientific institutions: NMFRI Gdynia/Poland, West-Pomeranian University of Technology/Poland SLU Aqua/Sweden, University of Lund/Sweden, University of Gothenburg/Sweden, New Economics Foundation (NEF)/United Kingdom;
- FLAGS and Farnet network;
- National and supranational gastronomic organizations, such as Culinary Heritage Europe, National Chamber of Catering and Gastronomy/Poland, Association of Polish Chefs/Poland;
- Private product certification schemes, such as Marine Stewardship Council
- Selected environmental Non-Governmental Organizations, eg. Coalition Clean Baltic, The Fisheries Secretariat, MARE Foundation, Ethic Ocean/Olivier Roellinger Concours

The successful implementation of the project has relied heavily on direct, strong and intensive interactions between LIFE Members and Staff involved, at both planning and execution phases. The list of LIFE Member Organizations directly involved in the project is provided below:

- Foreningen For Skånsomt Kystfiskeri (FSK), Denmark, <http://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk>
- Kesalahti Fish Base, Finland, <http://www.snowchange.org/domestic-work-in-finland/>
- Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, <http://www.fischereischutzverband.de>
- Fischereigenossenschaft Peenemündung Freest eG, Germany, <http://www.fischerei-freest.de>
- Latvijas Zvejnieku Federācija, Latvia, [federacija@apollo.lv](mailto:federacija@apollo.lv)
- C-LIFE, the Netherlands, [ruiter51@zeelandnet.nl](mailto:ruiter51@zeelandnet.nl)
- NetVisWerk, the Netherlands, <http://netviswerk.nl>
- Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka, Poland, [rybacki-ust26@o2.pl](mailto:rybacki-ust26@o2.pl)
- Darłowska Grupa Producentów Ryb i Armatorów Łodzi Rybackich, Poland, <http://www.darlowskagpr.pl>
- Stowarzyszenie Rybaków Łódziowych „Mierzeja”, Poland, [malgorzata.chinc@wp.pl](mailto:malgorzata.chinc@wp.pl)
- Wolińskie Stowarzyszenie Rybaków, Poland, [wsr@onet.eu](mailto:wsr@onet.eu)
- Sveriges Yrkesfiskares Ekonomiska Förening (SYEF), Sweden, [larssonsfiske@gmail.com](mailto:larssonsfiske@gmail.com)

#### **4.2 Activities carried out in relation to project components**

For a comprehensive list of all the actions performed under the project, both meetings, total number: **67**, and publications, total number: **14** (excluding project-relevant entries in a monthly LIFE newsletter), please consult Annex 1 – BANS Activities. The Annex does not mention:

- daily intensive coordination and consultation between LIFE Members and LIFE Staff, focused on preparations for meetings and publications enumerated in the Annex. This at times included internal negotiations between LIFE Members from different countries in the project area, having – quite naturally – diverse views on certain issues on the sea-basin or European-level agendas;
- advice and assistance on any issue relevant to project scope, provided to LIFE Members and other cooperating small-scale fishers' organizations;

- consultations between LIFE Staff, in particular allowing to: draw on the practical experience from areas other than project area, consult specific project activities, discuss the wider context and content of positions taken at meetings and in the publications, as well as communication aspects;
- preparatory work for major project events and other project actions incl. helping organize presence of fishers at meetings where needed;
- various analytical activities and translations by BANS Coordinator;



*Participants to the 1st „Baltic and North Sea Workshop“, Warsaw, Poland, October 2016*

#### 4.3 Deliverables

The attainment of the project results and their use, as provided for in the project proposal, is detailed in the table below:

Table 2: Expected Results and their use as provided for in the project proposal

Expected Results	Interim Report	Final Report
<b>1 Regional Coordinator employed and put in place by March 2016 for the duration of the project</b>	Given the deferred starting date of the project, Mr Marcin Rucinski was put in place on July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2016.	Regional Coordinator <b>shall remain in the post for the next 12 months post-project</b> (April 1 2018 to March 31 2019) thanks to financing received by LIFE from sources other than EU funds.
<b>Production of 4 project related publications per annum to be disseminated to all LIFE organisations and other small-scale fishers, LIFE website and other social media</b>	One article presenting the BANS Coordinator, Marcin Rucinski, 2 position articles (Western Cod and other Baltic stocks), Photo-video coverage of the Workshop (BANS Regional meeting) and interviews with the participants, as well as constant features in LIFE's	A total of <b>14</b> project-related publications has been published. See Annex I for details.

	Newsletters and on the Facebook Page (more information in Annex 7)	
<b>2 Regional Conferences/workshops organised and undertaken</b>	1 Regional conference was organised in October 2016. A second one to follow in fall 2017.	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Regional conference has been held in Brussels in March 2018 and served to summarize the project results
<b>Small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Councils (6 meetings)</b>	Small scale fishers' attendance at 4 AC Meetings (16.08.16 - Technical Working Group BSAC, Copenhagen; 9.11.2016 - Demersal Working Group NSAC, Copenhagen; 15.11.2016 - BSAC ExCom Meeting Copenhagen; 15/12/2016 – BSAC Technical Working Group, Copenhagen)	Small-scale fishers have attended <b>13 meetings</b> of Advisory Councils. 1 meeting was attended by LIFE staff only.
<b>Fisher attendance at key member state events (3)</b>	Attendance at 3 regional events. Given the proximity of the venue, the costs associated to the participation of the fishermen were not significant. Thus, LIFE will be able to facilitate the participation of fishers to other events as well.	A total of <b>7 key events</b> in Member States have been attended.
<b>Fisher attendance at Other Fora events (4)</b>	Attendance at 2 events – HELCOM Seminar/Baltic Sea Strategy (Stockholm) and Baltfish Forum (Frankfurt)	A total of <b>17 events</b> of this kind were attended. BALTFISH, HELCOM and events relating to consultation of marine investments' impact on fisheries, fish stocks and wider marine environment dominated.
<b>Fisher attendance at key Brussels events (4)</b>	2 meetings have been organised – one at the European Parliament, with MEP Ulrike Rodust, and one at the European Commission, with Mr Bernhard Friess	A total of <b>4 events</b> attended, including 2 bilateral meetings to present concerns and suggest solutions to the European Commission
<b>Inter Area 'Exchange of Good Practice meetings'</b>	To be pursued in the remaining time of the project.	<b>3 Exchange of Best Practice workshops</b> organized, covering the topics of highest relevance



		to small-scale fishers: non-lethal solutions to seal-fisheries interactions (Annex 1, meeting 31); attendance and activity within Advisory Councils (Annex 1, meeting 47); quota management/resilience of coastal communities and added value to small-scale fisheries products (Annex 1, meeting 60)
<b>Creation of 4 small scale fishers' organisations within the Region by the end of the action</b>	The creation of new small-scale associations has proven problematic in practice. After several field visits, the local reality has shown that many small-scale fishermen are already affiliated with "umbrella" associations/structures, comprising both small-scale and larger-scale fishers.	The creation of new small-scale associations has proven impossible in practice, either due to affiliation of small-scale fishers within "umbrella" organizations, comprising both small-scale and larger-scale fishers. Highly individualistic nature of many small-scale fishers also played a role. The process of creating a new organization must be a bottom-up approach, with a clear leadership of the directly concerned fishers themselves.
<b>Increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the LIFE Platform</b>	4 new organisations have joined LIFE from the Project Region (SYEF – Sweden, Kesalathi Fish Base Cooperative – Finland, Darłowska – Poland, Mierzeja – Poland)	2 new organizations from the project region have joined LIFE: Wolińskie Stowarzyszenie Rybaków (WSR) – Poland, Latvijas Zvejnieku Federacija (Latvian Fishermen Federation, Latvia).
<b>Creation of an effective small scale fishers network on a local, cross border and regional basis</b>	Active progress and intensive daily activities of different kinds, illustrated by the range of actions conducted so far by the BANS Coordinator and LIFE Team.	Active progress and intensive daily activities of different kinds, illustrated by the range and impact of actions conducted by fishers themselves, BANS Coordinator and LIFE Team.
<b>Production of Best Practice Guide</b>	(to be finalised in the remaining time of the project) For the moment, the LIFE Animation was translated in the languages of the Project Region, raising awareness about the cause of small-scale fishers and the	See Best Practice Guide provided for Annex 8, available in English, German and Polish language versions.

	<p>organization answering their needs.</p> <p>Furthermore, LIFE has produced a series of 5 tutorials, which explain simply and clearly key topics for fishers (CFP, ACs, decision-making processes, funding incl. EMFF, Use of social media in marketing products offered by small-scale fishers). We consider that the simple &amp; interactive format of tutorial video + written support is the best way to convey the message. Given that the concept costs for the tutorials surpassed the budget allocated under the BANS Project, LIFE has covered this expense from own funds. The Best Practice Guide budget line will be used to dub the tutorial videos and print the Best Practice guide in the languages of the Project.</p>	
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*Final event at the presence of LIFE members, DG Mare, Farnet and stakeholders, Brussels, Belgium, March 2018*

The capacity-building aspect has been identified as a very important element of the project from the start, as it allows for meaningful participation in EU-level, sea-basin, national and regional decision-making and consultation processes. Therefore, capacity-building formed part of every major project event organized by LIFE (marked green in Annex I). Most of the specific capacity-building topics have been covered, often using invited external experts, as shown in the table below:

Table 3: capacity-building topics covered as provided for in the project proposal

<b>Specific capacity-building topic</b>	<b>Meeting no. (Annex 1)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
The purpose of the Project, how LIFE aims and objectives fit with it, LIFE background, what the Project and LIFE can do for Small Scale interests in the Region and what they can do in turn to support of the Project and LIFE	10	Information about the project and LIFE network, as well as LIFE structure and relation with the small-scale fishers and practical examples of work has been presented at a number of other meetings (6, 14, 18, 25, 34, 55-57)
Practical examples and guidance relating to the creation of effective networking systems, locally, cross border and regionally	10	
What is the reformed CFP and what does it mean for SSF?	10	BANS Coordinator presentations, also defining and detailing relations between European Institutions in a specific fisheries policy context
Sustainability and the CFP - the potential of SSF to deliver CFP objectives	10	
The role of Advisory Councils, Producer Organizations and other such organisations in the reformed CFP and the Region and how small-scale fishers can exchange best practice and develop mutual support systems within the Project and L.I.F.E.	10, 47	All AC meetings in which small-scale fishers have taken part assisted by BANS Coordinator, have served to expand their practical knowledge and skills in operating with ACs and other similar fora. Reporting the main results of each AC meeting for the whole regional network has become a customary practice, increasing LIFE Members' interest in the work of ACs.
Organizational capacity, collective action and the development of representation of SSF within AC and other fora	47	
How can small scale fishers' associations ensure continuity of representation?	47	
What fishers can do to drive change for sustainable fisheries in the EU	31, 60	The need for small-scale fisheries to change their methods and approaches in order to remain sustainable and competitive was highlighted at both Järnavik and Thorupstrand Exchange of Best Practice events.
How do subsidies (including the EMFF) work within the reformed CFP?	10	An external expert from New Economics Foundation has been

How is quota set (how do ICES do stock assessments/what is the political process)	10, 60	contracted to ensure exhaustive information. National level practicalities of quota-setting have been provided in Thorupstrand Exchange of Best Practice event.
Fisheries economics - the basics: (MSY, MEY and OSY...)	10	
The Bio-Economic Model of European Fleets (BEMEF) and presentation of what modelled MSY and quota reallocation benefits are for SSF	10	
Access and allocation mechanisms, (TFCs, ITQs, Community Ownership...) and discussion of transferability, concentration and speculation within quota markets	10, 60	
What determines the price of fish - commodity markets and how to capture best value for primary producers and shorten supply chains	60	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of Thorupstrand Exchange of Best Practice event has been geared towards finding ways for the small-scale fishers to add value to their sustainable, low impact-caught products and how different market channels and tools may be helpful in attaining this objective.
Market trends (imports, exports, prices, trade, aquaculture, consumer demand in the EU / consumption in the EU...). Where next?	60	
Ecolabels/MSC/Social Labels/Geographic Indicators/Association Labels etc - barriers and opportunities to entry for SSF	60	



*Exchange of best practices: testing innovative seal-proof gears, Järnavik, Sweden, April 2017*

#### **4.4 Timeline: planning and next steps**

##### **Planning**

The initial planning for the project was made taking into consideration the starting date of 15 December 2015, as originally planned, for a period of 2 years, until December 2017. Due to a delay in granting the funds, the project could only be started on 4 April 2016. The Commission's consent to prolong the project by 3 months – until 31 March 2018 – helped to ensure that the initial delay has had no impact whatsoever on the attainment of project objectives and ensuring the deliverables are met.

From the start, the project has intended to focus as many activities as possible on real policy processes and developments, and within them – on matters of genuine interest to small-scale fishers' communities in the project area. To make this approach viable, the project timeline was fine-tuned with the timing of milestone events in the Common Fisheries Policy decision-making and advisory cycle, especially those organized by BSAC, BALTFISH and later HELCOM, as well as those pertaining to Fishing Opportunities Councils of EU Ministers. This methodology allowed to

- create a high level of interest in activities of advisory platforms (such as ACs) and decision-making bodies (such as BALTFISH, HELCOM where relevant) among small-scale fishers in the project area;
- facilitate the small-scale fishers in making a real and constructive contribution to policy processes of relevance to them (such as Fishing Opportunities or fishers-predators interactions);
- place the project's capacity-building activities in a practical context, highly relevant for the small-scale fishers.

##### **Next steps**

Low Impact Fishers of Europe have ensured a continuation of the main actions implemented under this project for 12 months after its completion, but not including the cost-intensive capacity-building and training activities, with the use of non-EU funds available to it. This will help to ensure a longer lasting positive impact of the project on small-scale fishers and their communities in the project area, but in the longer term this will depend on LIFE's ability to raise further funding in support of this work. In this regard, LIFE is committed to shall spare no effort ensuring that the actions in the project area are properly continued in the longer run, as the need for continuous small-scale fishers' network expansion and management is very clear.

The deliverables of the present project could usefully be supplied and enhanced through:

1. facilitating a more proactive contribution of small-scale fishers towards scientific underpinning of the Common Fisheries Policy, in particular through the establishment of a constructive working relations with STECF and ICES, as well as with various Ecosystem-Based Management contexts relevant to fisheries policy. An improved reporting of catches, based on modern electronic means and extensive testing with small-scale fishers during pilot phase, could add value to the knowledge possessed by scientific and management circles in relation to fish stocks and wider marine environment – mainly in coastal areas;
2. prioritization of innovative, local situation-based, bottom-up activities improving added value of products obtained by small-scale fishers, best summarized by their motto: *"class, not the mass"* (used courtesy of Mr Wolfgang Albrecht, Fischereischutzverband Schleswig Holstein). For certain areas and communities, this



extends to targeted investments, both in hardware and know-how, ensuring the highest possible product quality on board, at and post-landing. In this context, of particular importance is the correct use of the existing and the set-up of new EU funding possibilities;

3. a deeper, more regular and comprehensive collaboration with Farnet network and FLAGS on matters beyond their current remit, in particular: co-management of local resources, contribution to scientific knowledge, solving sea-basin-wide environmental and/or management issues (such as fishers-predators interactions), more proactive participation in Maritime Spatial Planning processes at national and regional level;
4. a number of concrete changes in EU law, which are enumerated in detail in points 6.2. and 6.3.

## **5. Evaluation**

### **5.1 Demonstrated results**

#### **Overview of actions delivered in 2016**

- i. Various meetings with small-scale fishers' organizations from the area of operation to understand their situation in-depth and support them as needed, both at meetings themselves and in subsequent contacts – with a view to creating a functioning regional network.
- ii. Active participation by fishers in most meetings and activities of Baltic Sea Advisory Council and in relevant meetings of North Sea Advisory Council.
- iii. Assistance in a successful bid for one LIFE Member Organization (Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein/Germany) to join Baltic Sea Advisory Council's General Assembly, with an initial acceptance of their ExCom candidature, to be confirmed at a later stage (see below).
- iv. Activating other LIFE Member Organizations (SYEF, Sveriges Yrkefiskares Ekonomiska Förening/Sweden, Darłowska Grupa Producentow Ryb/Poland, NetVISwerk/Netherlands) within the BSAC, NSAC and other important regional processes, such as BALTFISH.
- v. Facilitation of 3 Member Organizations joining LIFE.
- vi. Organization of a major Workshop in Warsaw, with invited SSF organizations, but open to all interested small-scale, low impact fishers, with the following aims:
  - Getting small-scale, low impact fishers acquainted with the EU Institutions and decision-making processes relating to fisheries policy;
  - the nature of Advisory Councils,
  - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund,
  - National quota management
  - Landing Obligation, including the information on Discardless project
- vii. Assistance and facilitation in elaboration by small-scale, low impact fishers concerned of Action Plans:
  - for Western Baltic cod stock in view of 2017 ICES advice for the stock;
  - for Seabass stocks, in view of 2017 ICES advice for the stock;

Following the elaboration of both Plans, intensive action was undertaken to popularize their content vis-à-vis the relevant addresses at all levels covered by the Project, with particular attention to decision-makers, other groups representing fisheries interests, as well as working to elevate the interest of wider public in the Plans through strong presence on the Internet, including Social Media;
- viii. Preparing the application for LIFE Observer Status within HELCOM

### **Overview of actions delivered in 2017-2018**

- i. Putting on the BSAC ExCom table a set of proposals facilitating the access of small-scale fishers to its work – starting a discussion about on-demand interpretation services (tabled in January 2017) and additional compensation to small-scale fishers for attending BSAC meetings (tabled in June 2017). These have resulted in a “pilot project” by BSAC offering the additional compensations and, more importantly, decision taken by BSAC to allocate substantial funds to fully-fledged cabin interpretation if requested by the fishers (January 2018)
- ii. Establishing initial contacts with market players and attending, together with fishers, events having the potential to add value to products obtained by small-scale fishers. Given the complexity of the matter, vast regional/national differences in the project area, and a number of innovative solutions already applied in Denmark and Germany (also by LIFE Member Organizations), the involvement of BANS Coordinator in this action was confined to Poland and, to a lesser extent, Germany, resulting in i.a. signing a Memorandum of Understanding between LIFE and National Chamber of Gastronomy and Catering operating in Poland.
- iii. The initial work mentioned in p. ii. above resulted in partially dedicating one of the Best Practice Exchange events to providing examples of best market approaches to adding value to fish products offered by small-scale fishers. Furthermore, the project served to strengthen an already established cooperation between LIFE and the organizers of Olivier Roellinger Concours (<https://www.ethic-ocean.org/fr/activites/produits-de-la-mer/chefs-cuisiniers-et-restaurateurs/concours-olivier-roellinger/?lang=fr>), by ensuring the presence of small-scale fishers at the jury of the Concours’ eliminations relevant for the project area.
- iv. Following numerous requests from small-scale fishers, devising a strategy to deal with fisheries-predator interactions in the Baltic, in particular – grey seals, based on using solutions non-lethal to seals themselves. The strategy consists in:
  - Initial outreach to scientific institutions (Sweden, Poland, Germany) and decision-making circles (BSAC, BALTFISH, HELCOM) in order to better understand options to solve the problem;
  - In April 2017 organizing a Best Practice Exchange event in Jarnavik, Sweden, in order to get fishers acquainted with technical progress and practicalities aimed at solving the problem from the fishing gear & fisheries technology standpoint;
  - Mainstreaming the seal-fisheries interactions matter, and the urgent need to seek real & constructive solutions at the relevant advisory and decision-making fora (BSAC, HELCOM, BALTFISH), including:
    - Assisting a Member Organization in preparing a request to discuss seal-fisheries interactions within BSAC sub-group on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (tabled March 2017)
    - Reporting on the Best Practice Exchange results to BALTFISH (April 2017) and major national conference in Poland (June 2017)
    - Ensuring a broad participation of stakeholders, small-scale fishers included, at a fully-fledged discussion on the matter at BSAC sub-group on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (October 2017)
    - Reporting the above sub-group results to HELCOM-FISH group (in the group’s chair stead) and calling on participants to find solutions to the issue within HELCOM

- Assisting and popularizing a Trans-National Cooperation project led by ESKO FLAG (<https://balticfisheries.com>), meant to i.a. increase awareness & offer constructive solutions fishers-predators interactions and focused on grey seals and back cormorants;
  - Facilitating the elaboration of projects aimed at mitigating the effects of predators interactions on small-scale fishers in their concrete regional/local contexts.
- v. Facilitation and assistance of a LIFE Member Organization (Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein, Germany) receiving a Baltic Sea Advisory Council Executive Committee seat in May 2017.
- vi. A Best Practice Exchange event to summarize the project-supported involvement into ACs among small-scale fishers and its results, encouraging fishers not yet active in ACs to get involved in their work. As a result, Foreningen for Skånsomt Kystfiskeri (FSK, Denmark) have received a Baltic Sea Advisory Council General Assembly membership in February 2018 and C-LIFE (the Netherlands) has pledged to be more active within NSAC.
- vii. Assistance and facilitation in elaboration by small-scale, low impact fishers concerned of written comments relating to 2018 ICES advice for Baltic fish stocks, including participation in relevant BSAC and BALTFISH meetings.
- viii. In response to requests from small-scale fishers in the project area, assistance in preparing and implementing a strategy to offer a constructive response to the proposal for a closure of European eel fisheries in the Baltic Sea, consisting of the following elements:
  - Receiving exhaustive information on the views and observations of small-scale fishers interested with regard to European eel stock management;
  - Drafting, consulting with interested small-scale fishers and publishing an article on European eel management;
  - Facilitating the self-presentation of small-scale fishers' views and observations to the relevant decision-makers at EU level;
  - Participation in a HELCOM meeting to offer constructive solutions in relation to improving European eel catch reporting & data collection, in turn facilitating the improvement of scientific advice;
- ix. Help in responding to small-scale fishers' concerns relating to various Maritime Spatial Planning actions – assistance, advising on opinions, analysis of documents, co-representation and representation where requested. Areas covered: plans to create marine offshore wind energy parks in German, Danish and Polish waters and concerns of local fishers about their fishing grounds; Nord Stream II pipeline and concerns of local fishers about fishing and spawning grounds.
- x. Actions aimed at presenting LIFE in Finland, Estonia, Lithuania in order to understand the small-scale fishers' situation in these countries and get in touch with small-scale fishers' organizations potentially interested in becoming LIFE Members. This has resulted in 3 organizations joining LIFE and others considering to join.
- xi. Popularizing among small-scale fishers in the project area the example of a fishing community that has successfully withstood the quota concentration pressure stemming from ITQ-type national quota management in Denmark (Thorupstrand) and is successful in its business operations, including a good recruitment of young generations to (small-scale) fisheries profession.

- xii. Undertaking various kinds of assistance activities, on request of fishers, showing the need to provide small-scale, low impact fishers with sufficient quota allocations, pursuant to Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy's Basic Regulation.
- xiii. Gaining HELCOM Observer in June 2017 and using it to assist small-scale fishers in the project area through participation in various HELCOM meetings.
- xiv. Organizing a final project conference in Brussels to ensure proper dissemination of project results vis-à-vis EU Institutions and other stakeholders.
- xv. Publishing and disseminating a Best Practice Guide, title: "Low Impact – Big Influence", based on the 5 Tutorial films financed outside of this project scope.



*Output: best practice guides made available in English, German and Polish*

## **5.2 Success factors**

### **a) Bottom-up approach**

The success of project activities has crucially depended on starting any action by reaching out to small-scale fishers, who are its ultimate addressees, or by responding to calls for action from them – at the same time keeping a strong focus on achieving the project deliverables as provided for in the project proposal and demonstrated in p. 4.3. of the present Report above. Only on the basis of identifying the problems and needs of small-scale fishers, at best in a direct interaction, can a successful strategy to address these problems be devised and implemented.

### **b) Assistance in self-representation of small-scale fishers rather than representing them**

Many small-scale fishers are disappointed by the actions of those organizations that purport to represent, at European or regional level, all the segments of the fisheries, small-scale included. More often than not, in practice they tend to represent the interests of those financially strongest, i.e. larger scale vessel owners, which often means that the real needs of small-scale fishers are neglected.

This has led to a wider disappointment with the consultation system underpinning the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), and consequently, loss of belief in the policy itself and their ability to influence its implementation by many small-scale fishers. To overcome this major

issue, it is necessary for the small-scale fishers themselves to be present at meetings and be active in representing their interests on their own.

#### c) Skillset and dedication

LIFE as an organization is structurally designed to suit the specific needs of small-scale fishers, matching their practical knowledge of and experience in local fishing grounds, marine environment, etc. with CFP and related policy and institutional knowledge, advocacy capabilities, communication tools and the relevant skills of LIFE Staff. At the heart of the multitude of project activities and results, lies the synchronization between the dedication and involvement of the small-scale fishers and their organizations on the one hand, and dedication of LIFE Staff to respond to matters raised by fishers with project actions on the other. This has put LIFE and its Member Organizations in a unique position to offer constructive, practice-based and CFP system-embedded solutions to fisheries management problems. This Report aims to encapsulate this in points 6.2 and 6.3.

### **5.3 Difficulties encountered**

a) Languages and public speaking: small-scale fishers representing their communities often have insufficient language capabilities and public speaking preparation to successfully make their points vis-à-vis the incumbent policy actors in key fora, such as Advisory Councils;

b) Time shortages, capacity limits and information overload: small-scale fishers representing their communities are, in most cases, working as fishers themselves. This makes their timelines highly unpredictable, dependent on the weather conditions and business environment for fish sales, with its inherent seasonality. This is a challenge to their availability at meetings and analysing the relevant (and often heavy) documents, which is necessary to successfully navigate the implementation of the CFP and related policy processes. Furthermore, the capacity of small-scale fishers' organizations is by nature restricted because of the lack of means available for their functioning, which compounds the problems mentioned above.

c) Lack of confidence in the system: the phenomenon described in p. 5.2. b) leads to diminishing confidence of many small-scale fishers in CFP's advisory and consultative system. Therefore, a set of activities directed at winning back their trust in the policy was organized in the starting phase of the project, as part of capacity building exercise. Activities at the level of Advisory Councils have followed but have not (yet) resulted in the activation of all the fishers from the project area – particularly in the North Sea region. As a result, the project's involvement in the work of NSAC could have been more pronounced, if there was more interest and engagement in its agenda from the relevant small-scale fishers (in particular, Dutch and Scottish organizations).

d) "policy tradition" of CFP design & implementation: the Common Fisheries Policy has tended to prioritize responding to resource conservation risks and, by and large, leaving the sector development matters to EMFF and Member States' choice, without offering them tools allowing an in-depth analysis of the practical situations of specific small-scale fisheries, which are by nature very diverse locally and regionally. This often leads to small-scale fishers' priorities and concerns staying "*under the regulatory radar*" of policy-makers, resulting in numerous cases of neglect, as long as the small-scale fishers do not pose resource conservation risks.

e) markets and (where relevant) product quality: small-scale fishers stand little chance of succeeding if they continue having to compete with big quantities-based, large retailers-



driven, advanced logistics-reliant, vertical integration-dominated and low-margins fish product markets. Still, a majority of them is forced to do so now, as the current construction of Common Market Organization Regulations and the corresponding national policies do not take account of “*class, not the mass*” philosophy in using the fish resource. The current actions undertaken particularly by FLAGS and usefully popularized by Farnet, although very important in their own local/regional context, have not yet reached a critical mass needed to genuinely help improve the economic standing of many small-scale fleets. This is highlighted by the STECF 2017 AER report which notes that despite the German, Estonian, Finnish and Latvian, SSCF making reasonable gross profits, “*after taking account of estimated capital costs, **only** the Latvian and Estonian (small-scale) fleets were still making net profits and generating resource rent in their fisheries*” (quote from STECF’s Annual Economic Report 2017, page 133, last paragraph).

This difficulty is considered the most important one of those encountered in the project and needs a special attention from decision-makers. For certain small-scale fishing communities, it is further compounded by the fact that the product quality too often remains sub-optimal, due to lack of sufficient infrastructure, both at sea and on land, as well as insufficient attention to fish handling practices post-catch.

f) organization of the sector: many small-scale fishermen are affiliated with highly hierarchical associations/structures, comprising both small-scale and larger-scale fishery operators, which often have a traditional nature and date back many decades, in most cases established as Producer Organizations. Although these bodies formally represent the interests of all their members, in practice many of them are focusing on prioritizing, advancing and defending the interests of their financially strongest members, who often dominate their functioning. These, in turn, often run contrary to the interests of small-scale fishers. This gap between the small-scale and larger-scale interests is in many cases further widened by vertical integration processes visible in parts of the larger-scale sector, which are, in turn, supported by quota concentration, i.a. resulting from ITQ-type national quota management systems.

To further compound the situation, the creation of new small-scale fishers’ associations is difficult due to the issues mentioned in p 5.3. b) above, as well as rife with risks to operational and economic repercussions of small-scale fishers leaving the “umbrella” structures, which often entails being cut off from e.g. the necessary supplies of inputs at good prices (ice, use of port facilities), established market channels (i.a. loss of access to MSC certification), established communication channels with administration, etc.



*Exchange of best practices: adding value to small-scale fisheries products, Thorupstrand, Denmark, February 2018*

## 6. Lessons learnt

### **6.1 Best Practices identified**

#### **Representation**

As regards supporting the small-scale fishers in effective representation of their interests at relevant fora, the project activities show that a balance needs to be struck and links established between the mix of:

- field trips carried out to listen to the ultimate project target group, the small-scale fishers. During the field trips, it is necessary to avoid drawing facile or premature conclusions, and focus on obtaining good understanding of small-scale fishers' problems in their often-unique local context;
- capacity building activities tailor-made to look into the solutions of the problems identified during field trips, prepared in a practical way;
- small-scale fishers' presence at key regional, national and EU fora, applying the principle of self-representation, with extensive assistance prior to and during the meetings, with a view to correct, contextually correct and meaningful articulation of small-scale fishers' interests and views.

The next step is to assist these emerging individuals with explaining the practicalities of CFP's consultative and advisory system, procedures, drafting of documents, etc. – for the actual policy processes and meetings. There are inherent limits to their capacity to act and analyse documents etc., as they usually are working small-scale fishermen and are already engaged in a number of activities relating to their local communities and beyond. It is therefore necessary to continue the assistance given to them, to ensure that they can represent their interests in the policy processes in a meaningful way.

This *“improved representation mix”* has brought about a genuine change of fishers' attitude towards the CFP's consultative and advisory system. The project has helped to activate a core group of small-scale fishers who are willing to engage deeply and intensively into a meaningful representation of their communities. This, in turn, has resulted in restoring small-scale fishers' will to engage in CFP's advisory processes, which is best documented by their increased presence within BSAC, at both technical and Executive Committee levels. They have also understood wider policy processes and context, in particular at HELCOM and BALTFISH, and are willing to engage in these.

#### **Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practice**

The Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practice activities have been centred around concrete matters of importance to small-scale fishers in the project area. The technical information has been condensed to make sure the main principles of EU decision-making system, Common Fisheries Policy, Advisory Councils, EMFF and market organization are well understood, without over-complicating matters. Emphasis was put on practical examples of successful projects and engagements, in order to document the added value stemming from using the opportunities provided by the CFP system.

The Exchange of Best Practice events have been conceptualized based on assessing the real needs and issues with which small-scale fishers have been grappling in the project area. The approach was, as for Capacity Building, to show examples of constructive reactions even to the most difficult problems in the project area, such as seal-fisheries interactions. To mark the importance of wide cooperation with institutions that may be of assistance in overcoming these problems, a rule was introduced to invite scientists working on specific topics to each of the Exchange of Best Practice events organized by the project. For cross-cutting matters, such

as markets, an effort was made to ensure a wide array of Best Practice examples, i.a. through liaising with Farnet network.

### **A periodic review of small-scale fishers' matters**

The elevated interest in and positive reception of the project's final conference in Brussels shows that there is high demand among EU-level decision-makers and CFP stakeholders to look more specifically into matters and outlook of small-scale fisheries communities across Europe. This "knowledge-gathering" exercise would certainly improve knowledge of EU-level decision-makers and CFP stakeholders of specific matters relating to small-scale fisheries, thus improving the likelihood of offering tailored solutions to these. A "small-scale fisheries review conference" could, for example, take place annually, with a number of more specific panels to discuss sea-basin level problems. The majority of European fishers deserve such a format to be properly heard and heeded.

### **6.2 Solutions to barriers identified**

The barriers/difficulties identified in **p. 5.3. a) to c)** can be overcome by applying the following methods:

- Transparent approach to cooperation with small-scale fishers, including sharing of information and careful internal negotiation of policy lines to be taken;
- Presenting policy issues using a somewhat simplified (but not simplistic) language, avoiding too many technicalities and jargon;
- Being available to listen to small-scale fishers' concerns at their convenience;
- Providing analytical capacity to help identify elements in policy processes, which need response from small-scale fishers;
- Building confidence through quality of daily work and level of activity;
- Applying the "improved representation mix" described in p. 6.1.

Furthermore, the difficulties:

- identified in **p. 5.3. a)** are overcome by ensuring that interpretation is provided at ACs' meetings, which should be budgeted as a separate sub-line available to ACs within the European Commission grant;
- identified in **p. 5.3. b)** may likely be overcome by using additional compensations to small-scale fishers attending ACs' meetings as made available in the Regulation 2015/242, as well as finding appropriate forms of support for small-scale fishers' organizations, which will not lead to disturbing competition rules.

The difficulty identified in **p. 5.3. d)**, although unavoidable to some extent because of the CFP's competence division, can be usefully overcome by prioritizing the small-scale fisheries development and "*class, not the mass*" philosophy in the CFP design in a more pronounced way. For example, *the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing*, already present within the current EMFF design (Article 18 paragraph 1.i) of the EMFF Regulation/508/2014) could be used in a much more pronounced way in the successor financial instrument for 2021-2027 programming period. It could be made obligatory for all the Member States having small-scale fisheries sector and be subject to periodic review by the Commission and European Parliament.

The difficulty identified in **p. 5.3. e)** can be overcome by revamping the programming instruments in the successor financial instrument for 2021-2027 programming period, in particular a strengthened and revamped *the action plan for the development, competitiveness*

*and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing* mentioned above. It could contain, for example:

- A detailed SWOT analysis at the level of specific small-scale fishing communities, at regional level within a Member State, particularly in terms of barriers for SSFs to enter high-margins, quality-based fish market segments;
- The relevant capacity-building actions;
- Programming the corresponding investments for EU support in the successor financial instrument for 2021-2027 programming period;
- Implementing the programmed investments.

This work could possibly be done in close cooperation and synchronization with FLAGs and further facilitated by the Farnet network.

It is hard to find a direct or universal remedy for the difficulty identified in **p. 5.3. f)** above. The project experience shows that it takes a local leader to emerge from within the small-scale fishing community concerned, with the capacity, courage and guts needed to take up the duties and risks related to establishing and successfully operating a new small-scale organization. The emergence of such local leaders may be facilitated by the continued capacity-building activities directed at small-scale fishing communities, possibly forming part of *the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing* mentioned above. The emergence of local leaders should be actively encouraged through leadership training targeted at younger fishers. Furthermore, the rules on establishing and operating Producer Organizations (POs), both at EU and national levels, could usefully be revised to facilitate and prioritize the POs' creation by small-scale fishers. The effective absence of appropriate and representative participation of small-scale fish producers in the POs needs to be evaluated and addressed.

### 6.3 Recommendations

Since the inception as a fully-fledged and independent policy in 1983, the CFP has been developed and reformed, by and large, in response to major developments in European and global fisheries, in particular those impinging, in one way or the other, on the conservation status of major fisheries resources in European waters and beyond. Driven by this responsive nature, the CFP has an in-built tendency to focus its processes on the issues and fleet segments that have the highest impact on these fisheries resources and the marine environment.

Whereas this focus is fundamental to ensuring the overall sustainability of marine living resources and should always be kept, it is at least as important, and very urgent given the precarious nature of many small-scale fisheries communities across Europe, to complement the current CFP with a dedicated package of support tools allowing a tailored approach to their problems. Far too many of them are struggling to survive economically in the short term whilst others have had to sell up and leave altogether.

The key to survive and thrive, on the basis of this project actions and findings, is to **help offer decent jobs in Europe's small-scale fisheries communities**, which is a must if they are to be really attractive to young generations. Only better profits and margins for small-scale fishers, and better working conditions can address an intergenerational problem of renewing the small-scale fisheries labour force. This, as the project activities show, may be achieved by:

1. helping small-scale fishers to implement the “class, not the mass” philosophy, i.e. to extract, in a low-impact manner, the seafood of top freshness, best quality, local and traditional nature, and to place it firmly within high added-value market niches. Such products will by nature be limited in quantity, and the CFP should help in placing them in the market segments offering the highest added value per unit of fish sold. According to STECF’s Annual Economic Report 2017, small-scale fisheries’ (SSF) landings and income show declining trends EU wide, but performance indicators GVA (67%) and profit margins (24%) are positive. Improved access to resources and access to markets is therefore vital for SSF to survive and thrive.
2. making an effort to understand small-scale fisheries’ situations in depth. The CFP already has useful instrument in *the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing*, which forms part of EMFF programming toolbox. Its use could be broadened and prioritized to achieve this aim. Furthermore, the STECF and the data collection system could be more focused on obtaining economic data on small-scale segments, with SSF métiers defined at a regional level (within Member State), to facilitate in-depth economic analyses.
3. improvements of the CFP delivery system, so that it can offer tailor-made solutions to problems identified at local and regional level (within Member State). The CFP already has a useful instrument in this regard in FLAGS, which could be given more tools to respond to management problems identified and to provide solutions at this level in a bottom-up process.
4. making an in-depth review of the current forms and the practice of sector organization and update the Common Market Organization system to truly recognize specific characteristics of the small-scale sector, and facilitate the implementation of “class, not the mass” philosophy. This should, in particular, take the form of facilitating the establishment of small-scale fishers’ Producer Organizations.
5. strengthened and broadened operation of pan-European networks of small-scale fishers, including their dedicated local, regional and national-level organizations and representatives, as they are capable of providing the crucial Capacity-Building, Best Practice Exchange, self-representation assistance and advice on local small-scale fisheries management, including using co-management solutions where identified as relevant.

## **7. Other information**

### **7.1 Website**

A dedicated section for the Baltic and North Sea Project has been created on LIFE’s website. It can be accessed at <http://lifeplatform.eu/eu-projects/>

### **7.2 Various documents (reports, presentations etc)**

For samples of project’s work, please see the Annexes





*The BANS project team, from left to right: Wolfgang Albrecht, LIFE Director for Germany; Ger De Ruiter, LIFE Director for the Netherlands; Katarzyna Wysocka, LIFE Director for Poland; Marcin Ruciński, LIFE Baltic and North Sea Coordinator; Claudia Orlandini, LIFE Communications Officer; Jeremy Percy, LIFE Executive Director; Evangelia Georgitsi, DG Mare CFP Team Leader; Manon Levrey, LIFE Administration Trainee; Brian O’Riordan, LIFE Deputy Director*

## **LIST OF ANNEXES**

1. Annex 1 – BANS Activities and Articles
2. Annex 2 – GANTT Reporting
3. Annex 3 – Selected materials from the Workshops, Best Practice Exchange events and Final Project Conference
4. Annex 4 – Selected public policy documents and presentations
5. Annex 5 – Selected documents officially submitted to Advisory Councils
6. Annex 6 – Actions within HELCOM
7. Annex 7 – Media & Communications
8. Annex 8 – Best Practice Guide

## Annex 1 - BANS Activities

BANS project meetings							
NO.	DATE & LOCATION	EVENT	ORGANISER	PARTICIPATION	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS & THEIR USE	BUDGET/EVENT CATEGORY
2016							
1	19-20.07.2016, Gdynia, Poland	LIFE Baltic Sea Regional meeting	LIFE	LIFE Members from Baltic Sea Region) and LIFE Staff	*Inform baltic members about BANS project *hear their thoughts on Baltic Sea fisheries *Inform LIFE members of the latest relevant developments in EU, regional (BSAC, BALTFISH) and national contexts, as well as encourage them to participate in the upcoming meetings of BSAC and BALTFISH *Finalize the work on draft LIFE Action Plan on Western Baltic Sea cod, which has been initiated as an answer to LIFE Members' initiative/requests * Advance the work on LIFE Comments on other Baltic Sea stocks in relation to Baltic Fishing Opportunities 2017 negotiation	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.2.
2	16.08.2016, Copenhagen, Denmark	Technical Working Group of BSAC	BSAC	w/LIFE Member Organization Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka)	Advance the elaboration of a BSAC position on new Technical Measures framework proposal published in April	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's	5.1.
3	30.08.2016, Frankfurt, Germany	BALTFISH Forum Meeting	German BALTFISH Presidency	w/ Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein (represented by Wolfgang Albrecht) & SYEF (represented by Bengt Larsson)	German BALTFISH Presidency to consult with stakeholders on main issues relating to Baltic Sea Fisheries, with a particular focus on Fishing Opportunities for Baltic for 2017. From LIFE perspective, it was a good opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get the Members acquainted with the work of BALTFISH in general</li> <li>• Provide views of LIFE Members on certain technical rules of Baltic Sea fisheries, such as summer ban for Eastern Baltic cod (SYEF);</li> <li>• Present and shortly discuss the LIFE Action Plan for Western Baltic cod (by BANS coordinator)</li> <li>• Interact with ICES representative (ACOM chair Eskild Kirkegaard) in discussion on ICES advice for Baltic Sea stocks</li> </ul>	fisher attendance at Other Fora events/engaging with various actors in the BANS region	5.3.
4	06.09.2016, Brussels, Belgium	Meeting with DG MARE (Mr Friess & team)	At LIFE Initiative	w/LIFE Member Organisation Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein (represented by Wolfgang Albrecht), SYEF (represented by Olle Schuschel) & Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka); LIFE Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan, BANS Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed discussion of LIFE Action Plan for Western Baltic cod</li> <li>• Providing information on fishers' concerns as regards other stocks, such as Eastern Baltic cod and herring</li> <li>• Exchange of views on the level of by-catches in large pelagic industrial fisheries</li> <li>• Informing the Commission of experience of LIFE Member from Finland (Kesalahti Fish Base) as regards impact of climate change on ice fishing on lakes</li> </ul>	develop networks of small scale fishers and facilitate the presence of small scale fishers in key meetings at both Member State and Brussels levels.	6.1.

5	05.10.2016, Gdynia, Poland	Scientific Conference: “Baltic Sea – a small sea with big management problems”	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI/MIR), Gdynia	w/ LIFE Member Organization Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka)	A (mostly) scientific event outlined a good part of troubles around the ecosystem and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea, including an accurate description of issues facing SSCFs in the Region. Responding to two presentations on ITQs in the Baltic Sea, LIFE representatives underlined that fisheries activities have stopped in no less than 49 small Danish ports as a consequence of excessive concentration of quota in the hands of a few operators since 2007. The data have been kindly provided by LIFE’s Danish Member Organization FSK. In the margins of the conference, LIFE Team has held fruitful discussions with prospective Member organizations: Association of Boat Fishers “Mierzeja” and Wolińskie Fishers’	fisher attendance at key member state events/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers’ organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.3.
6	06.10.2016, Władysławowo, Poland	LIFE meeting with Association of Fishermen of the Sea-Producer Organization (Zrzeszenie Rybaków Morskich – Organizacja Producentów, ZRM-OP)	ZRM-OP	w/LIFE Member Organization Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka)	The meeting served to present LIFE as organization, its objectives and actions, to a new prospective Member Organization	increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers’ organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.
7	12.10.2016, Brussels, Belgium	Meeting with Ulrike Rodust MEP (S&D, Germany)	Ulrike Rodust	LIFE Staff	present the organization, its development and discuss relevant topics, such as implementation of LIFE Western cod Action Plan and measures for seabass fishery.	representation of small scale fishers at the level of the European institutions	6.1.
8	20.10.2016, Warsaw, Poland	Conference on damage to catches caused by predators (grey seals)	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Poland	BANS Coordinator	From LIFE perspective, the main message of the conference was to make sure that the detailed financial and technical solutions are elaborated with the closest possible cooperation with the most concerned ones – the small-scale, low impact fishers. An interest from other LIFE Members (FSK Denmark) is also notable.	engaging with various actors in the BANS region	7.3.

9	25.10.2016, Gdynia, Poland	Baltic Fisheries Forum	MARE Foundation	w/LIFE Member Organization Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka), as well as 3 prospective Member Organizations from Poland: Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners, Wolin Fishers Association, Association of Sea Fishermen-Producer Organization (ZRM-OP)	The meeting was devoted to improving the understanding of recently adopted Multiannual Plan for fisheries for Baltic cod and pelagic species. LIFE was entrusted with presenting a small-scale fishers' perspective on the Plan.	fisher attendance at key member state events/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.3.
10	28.10.2016, Warsaw, Poland	BANS Project Workshop	LIFE	all LIFE Member Organizations and other small-scale fishers organizations from the project area	a comprehensive and exhaustive agenda aimed at capacity building and explaining key elements of the Common Fisheries Policy from small-scale, low impact fishers' standpoint, in particular: *EU Institutions and decision-making processes relating to fisheries policy, *CFP elements and set-up, *the nature of Advisory Councils, *European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, *National quota management, *Landing Obligation, including the information on Discardless project. See Annex 3 of Final Report for details	regional conference/workshop	4.1.-4.5.
11	07-08.11.2016, Stockholm, Sweden	Finding motivation - how to boost cross- sectoral action to save the Baltic Sea	HELCOM	BANS Coordinator	The multi-sectoral seminar was one of the opening events of a very large (1500+ attendants) and high level (keynote speeches from i.a. Prime Ministers of Sweden and Finland) event, attracting more than 100 participants and key figures from maritime industries on the discussion panel.	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis/engaging with various actors in the BANS region/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale	5.3.
12	09.11.2016, Copenhagen, Denmark	Demersal Working Group of North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)	NSAC	w/LIFE Member Organisation netVISwerk	Discuss the consequences of Landing Obligation for demersal mobile gear sector, the questions of Fishing Opportunities setting process, technical measures and further work on the proposed North Sea Multiannual Plan for demersal species, views on seabass management	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's	5.1.
13	15.11.2016, Copenhagen, Denmark	Executive Committee of Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC ExCom)	BSAC	w/LIFE Member Organization Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein (represented by Wolfgang Albrecht)	The ExCom meeting served to discuss most of the key matters relevant for Baltic fisheries, and was an opportunity to warmly welcome Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein as new BSAC General Assembly Member.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's	5.1.

14	17.11.2016, Ustka, Poland	Invasive species in the Baltic Sea	Silute Fisheries Local Action Group/FLAG (Lithuania)	w/LIFE Members Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka (represented by Katarzyna Wysocka) & Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners (represented by Rafał Bocheński)	30 fishers from Lithuania and Poland, who took the time to exchange information about their common problems, fishing practices used and features of their respective markets. LIFE has been offered time to make a short self-presentation during the event. There was elevated interest from some of the Lithuanian fishers present, which may result in LIFE Membership applications in the future.	inter-area 'Exchange of Good Practice meetings' /increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform/creation of an effective small scale fishers; network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
15	23.11.2016, Olsztyn, Poland	Conference "Management of Inland Waters' resources in the Warmia & Mazury Region"	Warmińsko- Mazurski University, Olsztyn, Poland	BANS Coordinator	From LIFE perspective, the most important aspect was to establish informal contacts with freshwater professional fishers and scientists cooperating with them (from Inland Fisheries Institute, Olsztyn, <a href="http://www.infish.com.pl/en">http://www.infish.com.pl/en</a> ). Both groups were quite receptive towards what LIFE can offer as regards exchange of experience with Members from other countries, novel ways of marketing the fishers' produce, as well as LIFE Members' experience in gaining EU-level recognition for their products. The contacts may be continued through LIFE presence in more freshwater fisheries-oriented events in the near future.	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis/engaging with various actors in the BANS region/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.3.
16	05.12.2016, Brussels, Belgium	InterACs meeting	European Commission	BANS Coordinator	Understand the Commission's intentions towards ACs for the BANS project duration, in particular those relating to Commission Regulation 2015/242 and gather advance information on planned work to better direct project activities	representation of small scale fishers at the level of the European institutions	6.1.
17	15.12.2016, Copenhagen, Denmark	BSAC Working Group on Technical Measures	BSAC	w/Wolfgang Albrecht, President, Fischereischutzverband, Germany	The meeting served to advance the discussion on BSAC opinion on the proposed Technical Measures Regulation. It allowed to convey the position of LIFE Members to BSAC, including: minimum conservation reference size for cod, closed areas for cod spawning and flatfish, as well as the use of pingers. The meeting also allowed for informal strengthening some important alliances with other like- minded organizations.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's	5.1.
18	20.12.2016, Władysławowo & Kuźnica, Poland	Management Board of Association of Fishermen of the Sea (ZRM-OP) & unassociated fishers from	Mirosław Daniluk, member of ZRM-OP	w/with Mirosław Daniluk, member of ZRM-OP	The first meeting served to present LIFE to the management of Association of Sea Fishermen. It was positively received, albeit with no decision to join, since the ZRM-OP encompasses both small-scale coastal fishers and large-scale trawlers (including RSW pelagic trawlers) in one organization.	Increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.



19	10.01.2017, Warsaw, Poland	meeting the managers of <a href="http://www.targrybnywarszawa.pl">http://www.targrybnywarszawa.pl</a>	LIFE	w/LIFE Member Organizations Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka and Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners, as well as 2 prospective Member Organizations from Poland: , Wolin Fishers Association, Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja"	to identify potential for cooperation with a local high added value fish market in Warsaw, in order to boost income for small-scale fishers based on delivering top quality fish & fish products to the affluent consumers	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
20	11.01.2017, Warsaw, Poland	participation in the Poland's EMFF Operational Programme's Monitoring Committee	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Poland	w/LIFE Member Organizations Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka, Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners, Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja" as well as prospective Member Organization: Wolin Fishers Association	Understand the needs of small-scale fishers from the EMFF Operational Programme in Poland	fisher attendance at key member state events/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.3.
21	13.01.2017, Brussels,	LIFE Staff Meeting	LIFE	BANS Coordinator	sum up BANS project progress to date & discuss further directions of implementation	n/a - project management mtg	9.2.
22	23.01.2017, Darłowo, Poland	meeting PL fishers' organizations	fishers organizations' initiative	w/LIFE Member Organizations Śródkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka, Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners, Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja" as well as a prospective Member Organization from Poland: Wolin Fishers Association. Other fishermen's organizations	Understand the needs of small-scale fishers in Poland, present LIFE and inform of LIFE Membership benefits & conditions. Exchange views on issues of relevance to SSFs	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.
23	04.02.2017, Trzęsacz, Poland	meeting with Wolin Fishers Association	fishers organization's initiative	BANS Coordinator	Understand the needs of small-scale fishers in Poland, present LIFE and inform of LIFE Membership benefits & conditions	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.
24	30.01.2017, Warsaw, Poland	BSAC ExCom	BSAC	w/LIFE Directors Kasia Wysocka, Wolfgang Albrecht, BANS Coordinator	follow the discussions at ExCom, especially on matters of direct and indirect relevance to SSFs; start the debate on the need for interpretation at BSAC meetings	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's	5.1.

25	08-10.02.2017, Turku, Finland (ferry cruise) and Kuressaare, Estonia	meetings with Finnish and Estonian fishers' associations	Finnish FLAG's & Estonian Organization's initiative	LIFE Executive Director, BANS Coordinator, Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners (Rafał Bochenski),	1. Attending an annual meeting of Finnish fishers and administration to present LIFE and explore the situation of small-scale fishers in the country. 2. Attending a meeting of Estonian fishermen organization to present LIFE and explore the situation of small-scale fishers in the country	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.
26	09.03.2017, Hamburg, Germany	BSAC-EFCA-BALTFISH meeting on Landing Obligation	BSAC	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, BANS Coordinator	Confirming that small-scale, low impact fisheries have minimal discard rates. Establishing working relations with EFCA officers, including Executive Director Pascal Savouret	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
27	14.03.2017, Gdynia, Poland	meeting PL fishers' organizations	fishers organizations' initiative	w/LIFE Member Organizations Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka, Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners (Darłowska), Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja" as well as a prospective Member Organization from Poland: Wolin Fishers Association. Other fishermen's organizations also participated	Continued exploration of Targ Rybny Warszawa cooperation option, in order to boost income for small-scale fishers based on delivering top quality fish & fish products to the affluent consumers	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
28	24.03.2017 (and other dates), Warsaw, Poland	cooperation agreement with National Chamber of Gastronomy and Catering	fishers organizations' initiative	BANS coordinator lead in consultation with fishers from LIFE's PL Member Organizations	drafting , signing and looking for options to implement a cooperation agreement with National Chamber of Gastronomy and Catering, in order to boost income for small-scale fishers (SSFs) based on delivering top quality fish & fish products to the affluent consumers	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
29	28.03.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management	BSAC	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, Bengt Larsson (SYEF), Hanne Lyng Winter (FSK), BANS Coordinator	mtg dominated by discussions on how to deal with increased seal populations in the Baltic and consequences for SSFs, i.a. based on the paper drafted by SYEF in cooperation with BANS Coordinator. Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) defined and explained as a concept.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
30	06.04.2017, Somonino, Poland	Olivier Roellinger Concours - eliminations for Central & Eastern Europe	Ethic Ocean in cooperation with LIFE	w/Aleksandra Budner-Wachowiak (Wolinska), BANS Coordinator	participation in the jury of the Concours allowed to give the sustainability pursued by it a specific small-scale and low impact context. Getting acquainted with other jury members resulted in further project actions aimed at boosting income for small-scale fishers based on delivering top quality fish & fish products to the	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora/creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.

31	11-14.04.2017, Järnavik, Sweden	Exchange of Best Practice - Low Impact gears resistant to the damage to catches by grey seals	LIFE	Swedish fishers members of SYEF, Polish fishers of Darłowska, Mierzeja, Środkowopomorska, ZRM-OP. Scientists from NMFRI Gdynia/Poland and SLU Aqua/Sweden. Net-making expert. BANS Coordinator	The event was devoted to in-depth and practical understanding of the last decade of gear development in Sweden to constructively respond to increasing pressure from grey seals on SSFs by means other than compensations - for both fishers and selected scientists. It was meant as an example of best practice exchange format to be used by fishers from other countries in the Central Baltic (Denmark, Germany), as well as a "though-provoker" for larger-scale projects to be financed from national EMFF Operational Programmes. See	Inter-area 'Exchange of Good Practice meetings' /creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.4.
32	26.04.2017, Berlin, Germany	BALTFISH Forum Meeting	BALTFISH	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, BANS Coordinator	LIFE representation was admitted to BSAC pre-meeting, traditionally taking part ahead of BALTFISH Forum. Both participants successfully inserted AOB points into the agenda to present work on acoustic deterrent devices in Germany (Wolfgang Albrecht) and results of seal-resistant gear trials in Järnavik (BANS Coordinator)	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.3.
33	11.05.2017, Stockholm, Sweden	BSAC General Assembly & ExCom	BSAC	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, BANS Coordinator	Wolfgang Albrecht elected BSAC ExCom member for Fischereischutzverband. Request to grant on-demand whispered interpretation at meetings accepted. A push on additional compensation to be granted to working SSFs attending BSAC meetings	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
34	31.05.2017, Jastrzębia Góra, Poland	Conference of freshwater lake users	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator	The conference served to get further acquainted with Poland's freshwater fisheries circles, present LIFE and screen a film about winter under-ice seining in the lake Puruvesi, Finland. The planned participation of Finnish LIFE Member Tero Mustonen did not materialize due to unforeseen events.	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora/engaging with various actors in the BANS region/increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform	7.1.
35	06-07.06.2017, Gdynia, Poland	Conference on damage to catches caused by predators (grey seals)	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Poland	w/LIFE Member Organizations Środkowopomorska Grupa Rybacka, Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Boat Owners (Darłowska), Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja", Wolin Fishers Association. Other fishermen's organizations, scientists, NGOs and administration (including high-level representatives) also participated. BANS Coordinator presented results of Järnavik trials together with NMFRI deputy	The meeting served as a platform to popularize the relevant LIFE actions relating to increased grey seal population and its consequences for SSFs and constructively contribute to looking for solutions.	fisher attendance at key member state events	7.3.

36	07-09.06.2017, Klaipeda, Lithuania	BSAC Joint Working Group	BSAC	w/LIFE Directors Kasia Wysocka & Wolfgang Albrecht, SYEF representative Olle Schuschel. BANS Coordinator	The meeting was dominated by 2018 TAC advice for the Baltic; LIFE Members' views have formed part of officially recorded minority opinions.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
37	13.06.2017, Łeba and 14.06.2017, Ustka, Poland	public consultations with offshore windparks' investor PGE	fishers organizations' initiative	w/LIFE Director Kasia Wysocka. BANS Coordinator	The public consultation meetings served to i) gather information on the investment status in a wider Maritime Spatial Planning context, ii) provide comments on the importance of marine areas where construction is planned as SSFs' fishing grounds (not always properly reflected in the available science), in order to defend SSFs' interests.	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora	5.3.
38	29.06.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	BSAC ExCom	BSAC	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht. BANS Coordinator	The meeting has been devoted to finalizing the BSAC advice on Baltic Fishing Opportunities for 2018. Amid some controversy, a "pilot project" relating to extra compensation for working SSFs was agreed.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
39	30.06.2017, Gniew castle, Poland	XIVth "cod harvest" contest	organizers' invitation	w/LIFE Director Kasia Wysocka, Rafal Bochenski/Darlowska, Mirosław Daniluk/ZRM-OP. BANS Coordinator	The contest has been an important opportunity for LIFE Member Organizations to present Baltic cod caught by local fishers to top chefs from across Poland, as well as address a number of catering professionals during the fair. A strong working relationship has been established with the organizers - Association of Polish Chefs	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
40	01.07.2017, Niechorze, Poland	XVI herring fest	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator. Event organized by LIFE Member Wolin Fishers Association	The contest has been an important opportunity for LIFE Member Wolinska to present Western Baltic herring caught by local fishers to tourists during high season, as well as recognize best meals in a local contest.	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
41	04.07.2017, Brussels, Belgium	LIFE Board of Directors & Staff Meeting	LIFE	w/LIFE Directors Kasia Wysocka, Wolfgang Albrecht, Ger de Ruiter. BANS Coordinator	sum up BANS project progress & achievements to date & discuss further directions of implementation, as well as place them in a wider LIFE strategy	n/a - project management mtg	9.2.
42	21.07.2017, Stralsund, Germany	Consultation meeting on Nord Stream II construction	fishers organizations' initiative	w/Rafał Cholewinski, Darlowska, BANS Coordinator	The meeting served as a platform to voice the concerns of small-scale fishers from Poland, Denmark and Sweden relating to the investment's impact on fish stocks and wider marine environment	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora	5.3.
43	29.08.2017, Ronne, Denmark	Consultation meeting on Nord Stream II construction	fishers organizations' initiative	BANS Coordinator	The meeting served as a platform to voice the concerns of small-scale fishers from Poland, Denmark and Sweden relating to the investment's impact on fish stocks and wider marine environment, in particular those planned in Bornholm Deep during Eastern cod peak spawning time. The plan for Rafał Cholewiński to attend could not happen due to unforeseen developments	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora	5.3.

44	31.08.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	BALTFISH Forum Meeting	BALTFISH	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, Bengt Larsson (SYEF), BANS Coordinator	continuation of 2018 Baltic Fishing Opportunities negotiations, with repeating all the points made and not attained within BSAC negotiations. The meeting was dominated by Commission's proposal to ban European eel fishing in the Baltic, touching many SSFs	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora	5.3.
45	06.09.2017, Kadyny, Poland	meeting with Association of Boat Fishers "Mierzeja"	fishers organizations' initiative	BANS Coordinator	discussions on 2018 Baltic Fishing Opportunities negotiations, with particular attention to proposal to ban European eel fishing in the Baltic	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
46	15.09.2017, Brussels, Belgium	meeting with Maja Kirchner, European Commission and the team	At LIFE Initiative	w/LIFE Directors Kasia Wysocka, Wolfgang Albrecht, LIFE Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan, BANS Coordinator	focus on 2018 Baltic Fishing Opportunities negotiations, with particular attention to proposal to ban European eel fishing in the Baltic; other negotiation subjects also discussed. Grey seal impacts also touched upon.	representation of small scale fishers at the level of the European institutions	6.1.
47	02.10.2017, Hamburg, Germany	Exchange of Best Practice Workshop - involvement in the work of Advisory Councils	LIFE	LIFE Directors and Members from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden. Moderation by LIFE Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan. BANS Coordinator. External guests	The Workshop served to: detail the fishers' knowledge with regard to ACs' role in the CFP and their internal functioning/administration, share practical experience of the fisherman most involved in the project with others (Wolfgang Albrecht); inform of Commission's needs from the ACs, and discuss the outlook for ACs. A set of Workshop Conclusions was put together following the discussions, and presented at the conference on the future of CFP financing in Tallinn (see Action 49). See Annex 3 for details	Inter-area 'Exchange of Good Practice meetings' /creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross- border and regional basis/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	7.4.
48	03.10.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management	BSAC	w/LIFE Directors Kasia Wysocka, Wolfgang Albrecht, LIFE Members FSK, Fischerei Freest, Darlowska, Mierzeja, SYEF, BANS Coordinator	Particularly valuable and constructive discussions on the impact of grey seal population on fish stocks and the situation of SSFs, with some emerging conclusions for further elaboration. A discussion on salmon management plan proposal was also held on the basis of a paper prepared by BALTFISH. An on-demand whispered interpretation into Polish was provided by BANS Coordinator as a courtesy (and his accomodation paid for by BSAC funds).	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
49	11-12.10.2017, Tallinn, Estonia	Conference "Beyond 2020: supporting Europe's Coastal Communities"	European Commission	BANS Coordinator	The presence at the conference had a main goal to understand the directions of travel for EU's support for fisheries sector and policy post-2020. A special occasion to present BANS project results to date was offered by the Roundtable on small-scale fisheries, organized back-to-back with the conference.	fisher attendance at key member state events	7.3.
50	18-19.10.2017, Kołobrzeg, Poland	MARELITT project conference	organizers' invitation	w/Maciej Kiełpiński (Darlowska), Henryka Palusińska (Wolinska), BANS Coordinator	The conference allowed to present initial results of a large ghost- nets retrieval project financed by Polish EMFF. BANS Coordinator was asked to moderate the discussions at the 2nd day of the conference. The networking at the conference allowed to discuss & plan high added value project actions	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.



51	19.10.2017, Brussels, Belgium	NSAC Demersal Working Group	NSAC	LIFE Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan, covering up for BANS Coordinator	The meeting was, as usual, dominated by large-scale fisheries agenda, in particular the implementation of the Landing Obligation. LIFE's suggestion to revive seabass working group, made in sync with Dutch Member Organizations, has not received sufficient support to be proceeded further.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
52	07.11.2017, Gdynia, Poland	BSAC ExCom and workshop on trawl selectivity	BSAC	w/Hans Jacob Jensen, FSK, Rafał Bocheński/Darłowska, BANS Coordinator	The discussions on trawl selectivity have served as a platform to start discussing the question of real level of discards in Baltic cod trawl fisheries (especially Eastern stock). An on-demand whispered interpretation into Polish was provided.	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
53	14.11.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	Oceana event on fisheries economics	organizers' invitation	w/Iben Wiene Rathje, FSK, BANS Coordinator	The event marked a publication of Oceana report on the benefits of fishing within MSY in general. From the project perspective, it was a good occasion to present and briefly discuss the economic situation of Danish small-scale fishing communities, many of which have been hit by the consequences of quota concentration stemming from the Danish ITQ system. The words of Lasse Gustafson, Oceana's European Director, summarized the workshop well: "if you want high profit margins, support large-scale fleets; if you want more jobs, support small-scale fishing".	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
54	14-15.11.2017, Copenhagen, Denmark	HELCOM-FISH 7	HELCOM	w/Hans Jacob Jensen, FSK, BANS Coordinator	The meeting was the first occasion to use the HELCOM observer status gained by LIFE in June 2017. BANS Coordinator has had an opportunity to present the results of BSAC work on the seals issue, and FSK representative was able to i.a. present local and practical concerns relating to allowing certain aquaculture sites in coastal zones.	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
55	16-17.11.2017, Simrishamn, Sweden	ÖF2020 conference	organizers' invitation	w/Bengt Larsson, SYEF, Glenn Fridh, SFPO, BANS Coordinator	The conference is organized by the alliance of 17 Swedish coastal communes with high importance of fisheries sector, and has a particular focus on SSFs needs. Many positive examples of adding value to SSF products through innovative channels and approaches were presented. The other topics covered ranged from the seals issue, stocks' status and possible solutions (in particular Eastern Baltic cod) to discussions on national quota arrangements. BANS Coordinator has had the opportunity to present LIFE and its mid-	fisher attendance at key member state events; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross- border and regional basis	5.3.

56	07-08.12.2017, Ustka, Poland	Conference on rational use of living marine resources	organizers' invitation	w/Kasia Wysocka, Polish LIFE Director, BANS Coordinator	the conference was devoted to explaining the main stock assessment science concepts, incl. MSY and MEY. Food safety aspects have also been thoroughly presented and discussed, as well as work towards improving market prospects of small-scale fisheries products. BANS Coordinator was tasked with presenting the concept and definition of Low Impact Fishing Concept and used a scientific paper prepared i.a. in cooperation with small-scale fishers from FSK	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
57	12-13.12.2017, Klaipeda, Lithuania	meeting with local fishers	organized with the help of Robertas Staponkus from a local eNGO	BANS Coordinator	Presenting LIFE, discussing issues of relevance to Lithuanian fishers, establishing contacts for future cooperation	increase of at least 6 new and existing small scale fishers' organisations joining the L.I.F.E. Platform/creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
2018							
58	09-10.01.2018, Brussels, Belgium	LIFE Staff Meeting, project reporting discussions with Commission	LIFE	LIFE Executive Director, BANS Coordinator, LIFE Financial Officer	sum up BANS project progress to date & discuss final stages of implementation. Consult the Commission regarding reporting requirements.	n/a - project management mtg	9.3.
59	28-29.01.2018	BSAC ExCom and BSAC-BALTFISH workshop on recreational fishing	BSAC	w/LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht, BANS Coordinator	Discussions on BSAC 2018-2019 work plan dominated the ExCom meeting. A number of positive decisions were taken, i.a. large allocation for on-demand cabin interpretation at BSAC meetings. Discussions on ICES advice in the context of recreational fishing served as a vehicle to put forward the issue of illegal discards in cod	small scale fisher attendance at Advisory Council/to build the capacity of L.I.F.E. Members and other small scale fishers to participate in the AC's and beyond	5.1.
60	06-07.02.2018, Thorupstrand, Denmark	Exchange of Best Practice Workshop - quota management matters and added value to SSF products	LIFE	LIFE Directors and Members from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia Netherlands, Poland, Sweden. Moderation by LIFE Executive Director Jeremy Percy. Broad range of external speakers and invitees, incl. Head of Farnet	The 1st day of the Workshop was meant as a platform to popularize the strong example of Thorupstrand small-scale fishing community achievements in a very demanding national quota management context of Danish ITQ system, in operation for about a decade. The Thorupstrand community have withstood the strong concentration drive by pooling resources (Community Ownership model) and very close cooperation by fishermen using low impact gears and techniques, as well as finding lucrative market niches for their products - in national markets and beyond. The 2nd day was devoted to discussing the EU Common Market Organization and the numerous examples of novel ways of marketing fish caught by	Inter-area 'Exchange of Good Practice meetings' /creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross- border and regional basis	7.4.

61	13.02.2018, Stockholm, Sweden	ESKO FLAG TNC project on seals & cormorants' impact on SSFs - Steering Group meeting	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator	The 2nd Steering Group meeting was devoted to discussing the Trans-National Cooperation (TNC) project strategy, in particular the contents of a survey on economic damage suffered by SSF communities from the increased populations of seals and cormorants, prepared by the Finnish scientific institute LUKE. BANS Coordinator was invited as an external strategic advisor and facilitator to the Steering Group, i.a. helping to popularize the survey	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
62	14-16.02.2018, Gothenburg, Sweden	HELCOM-FISH PRO meeting	HELCOM	w/Hans Jacob Jensen, FSK, BANS Coordinator	The meeting served as a tool to get acquainted with the work of the group, dealing with coastal fish stocks important for SSFs. The links with recreational fisheries were also discussed at length, with a particular focus on local issues faced by Swedish LIFE Members (pike fisheries in Blekinge area and projected management measures for it)	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora; creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
63	16-17.02.2018, Eckernförde, Germany	Annual Meeting of Fischereischutzverband Schleswig-Holstein/FSV	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator; meeting chaired by LIFE Director Wolfgang Albrecht. Land and Federal administration representatives and MEP Ulrike Rodust also present	A comprehensive and exhaustive agenda, dealing with both statutory & organizational matters, such as chair's (re-)election & clearance of accounts. Exchanges of views on matters important to local SSFs, such as introduction of the new electronic reporting system MOFI - apparently without suitable pilot project & feedback phase in cooperation with the fishers, which negatively affects the implementation. A detailed exchange of views on EU-level matters with MEP Ulrike Rodust, present at the whole meeting. A subsequent visit to a number of fishing ports and harbors for BANS Coordinator to get an in-depth understanding of the local situation.	creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	7.1.
64	21.02.2018, Brussels, Belgium	Pew conference "Countdown to 2020: how far has the EU gone in ending overfishing?"	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator, LIFE staff	The conference discussions have been used to place certain concerns of SSFs in the Region - in particular on the state of both Baltic cod stocks, their causes and prospects. It was also argued that the EU decision-makers, having dealt with many of the issues relating to overfishing, should pay more attention to the concerns and problems of SSF communities across Europe, many of which are under severe economic strain.	representation of small scale fishers at the level of the European institutions	6.1.
65	12-13.03.2018, Budapest, Hungary	Olivier Roellinger Concours - eliminations for Central & Eastern, Northern Europe	Ethic Ocean in cooperation with LIFE	w/Aleksandra Budner-Wachowiak (Wolinska), BANS Coordinator	participation in the jury of the Concours allowed to give the sustainability pursued by it a specific small-scale and low impact context. Getting acquainted with other jury members resulted in further project actions aimed at boosting income for small-scale fishers based on delivering top quality fish & fish products to the	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora/creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.

66	22-23.03.2018, Brussels, Belgium	Intergroup on Nord Stream II, Committee of the Regions; preparation of BANS final event	organizers' invitation	BANS Coordinator	The meeting served as a platform to voice the concerns of small-scale fishers from Poland, Denmark and Sweden relating to the investment's impact on fish stocks and wider marine environment, in particular those planned in Bornholm Deep during Eastern cod peak spawning time.	small scale fisher attendance at Other Fora/creation of an effective small scale fishers' network on a local, cross-border and regional basis	5.3.
67	26.03.2018, Brussels, Belgium	BANS Regional Conference/Final project event	LIFE	LIFE Directors and Members from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland. Moderation by LIFE Executive Director Jeremy Percy. External speakers and numerous invitees from EU Institutions and Brussels-based	The BANS Final Event served as a way to present project achievements in a general way and have a discussion on the ways of supporting SSF communities going forward.		4.1.-4.5.

BANS project publications					
No.	Title	Subject-matter	Date	Place of publication	Link
1	Meet Marcin Ruciński, LIFE's new Baltic and North Sea Coordinator!	general	12-07-16	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/meet-marcin-rucinski-lifes-new-baltic-north-coordinator/">http://lifeplatform.eu/meet-marcin-rucinski-lifes-new-baltic-north-coordinator/</a>
2	LIFE's Baltic Members launch an Action Plan	Western Baltic cod	25-07-16	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/lifes-baltic-member-launch-action-plan/">http://lifeplatform.eu/lifes-baltic-member-launch-action-plan/</a>
3	Baltic stocks - comments and highlights	Baltic stocks other than Western cod	25-07-16	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/baltic-stocks-comments-highlights/">http://lifeplatform.eu/baltic-stocks-comments-highlights/</a>
4	LIFE changes European Fisheries (Polish)	general	August 2016	Wiadomości Rybackie (NMFRI's bi-monthly), page 19	<a href="http://www.rybackie.mir.gdynia.pl/files/2016/WR-lipiec_sierpień-2016.pdf">http://www.rybackie.mir.gdynia.pl/files/2016/WR-lipiec_sierpień-2016.pdf</a>
5	Council gives cod and fishers a chance, but leaves fate of small-scale sector in the hands of Member States	Western Baltic cod	12-10-16	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Cod-Statement_Council_LIFE-1.pdf">http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Cod-Statement_Council_LIFE-1.pdf</a>
6	Hope from the North in changing times	co-management in fisheries governance	March 2017	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/hope-north-changing-times/">http://lifeplatform.eu/hope-north-changing-times/</a>
7	Taking stock of the implementation of the Landing Obligation: lessons from the Baltic Sea	Landing Obligation implementation in the Baltic Sea	March/April 2017	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Landing-Obligation-article_April2017-1.pdf">http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Landing-Obligation-article_April2017-1.pdf</a>
8	German members help saving harbor porpoises from entanglement	Interactions between small-scale fisheries and marine environment	April 2017	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/german-members-save-porpoises-entanglement/">http://lifeplatform.eu/german-members-save-porpoises-entanglement/</a>
9	A glimmer of hope for Baltic cod, overshadowed by discards and food scarcity in the East. Baltic Sea Fishing Opportunities 2018: LIFE views	Fishing Opportunities 2018	10-07-17	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-2018-life-views/">http://lifeplatform.eu/baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-2018-life-views/</a>
10	Saving European Eel AND small-scale fishermen	Fishing Opportunities 2018 - eel regulations	14-09-17	LIFE website & social media	<a href="http://lifeplatform.eu/saving-european-eel-small-scale-fishermen/">http://lifeplatform.eu/saving-european-eel-small-scale-fishermen/</a>



## Annex 2 - GANTT Reporting

### Support Measures for Small scale fishing. Baltic and North Sea Region

**Project Name:** LIFE / EU Support for SSF  
**Project Manager:** Jeremy Percy

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Support Measures for Small scale fishing Baltic and North Sea Region

**Project Name:** LIFE / EU Support for SSF  
**Project Manager:** Jeremy Percy

[illegible]