

The Low Impact Fishers of Europe

From Ideas to Reality

2010 - 2015

Low Impact Fishers of Europe



The Very Beginning:

- 2009 – 2010: Brian at the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers [ICSF] received a grant from the Oak Foundation to bring SSF representatives together to lobby the CFP reform process
- The Pew Foundation created “Ocean 2012”, a coalition of NGO’s and the SSF platform developed by ICSF
- The Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers joined the group
- Greenpeace launched a campaign in 2011 that brought all these groups together, calling for the reallocation of fishing rights from larger to smaller scale fishers.
- Greenpeace again provided support and facilitation for both the first European Artisanal Congress in Brussels in 2012 and the second in Santiago de Compostella in 2013.

- ✓ We first had the idea to have a European SSF platform during the 1st Congress, where you asked us to discuss ways of making this happen within the core-team.
- ✓ Jerry suggested the name **LIFE** -Low Impact Fishers of Europe
- ✓ The core-team had 3 face-to-face meetings: in December 2012 and June and October 2013.



- ✓ We also communicated between meetings through a google mail list.

First Congress – 18 November 2012

[God Bless Greenpeace UK]

- ✓ 50 fishermen from 9 EU countries : Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Spain, France, the United United-Kingdom, Germany and Croatia.
- ✓ Sharing of experiences and challenges
- ✓ Discussions about how to improve the situation and representation of low-impact fishermen all around Europe and at EU level
- ✓ Adoption of the Joint declaration of European artisanal and low impact fishers and shellfish harvesters



Signatories to LIFE's Mission Statement



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- ✓ We also handed over the declaration to Commissioner Damanaki



European ship tour

- ✓ Greenpeace and small-scale low-impact fishermen organised a 3-month European ship tour in support of low-impact fishing.
- ✓ The ship visited more than 20 ports in 9 countries, with fishermen traveling from one country to another. Joint flotillas and other activities took place.
- ✓ Many politicians and thousands of citizens visited the ship and more than 100,000 people signed the paper boat petition.



Aims of the LIFE Platform

- 1) Grant the right to fish to those who fish sustainably;
- 2) Reduce fleet overcapacity where it exists, while preserving jobs in artisanal, low impact fisheries;
- 3) End harmful subsidies and unsustainable and destructive practices;
- 4) Restore the health of our seas in Europe and the rest of the world.

Objectives of the LIFE Platform

- 1) Create a single, strong and inclusive voice for low impact fishermen across Europe;
- 2) Enable European low impact fishermen to communicate publicly with one voice;
- 3) Underpin and encourage low impact fishing in Europe and a strong implementation of the reformed CFP according to the objectives as outlined in the Common Declaration;
- 4) Provide an alternative viewpoint to the Commission and others with regard to European fisheries management and marine environmental issues;
- 5) Support the creation of regional and national low impact fishermen organisations in EU member states where they do not exist yet.

Gracias

Dziękuję

Danke

Hvala

Thank you

Merci

Dank u wel

Grazie

ευχαριστώ