

LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Uniting European Small-Scale
Fishers to Achieve Fair
Fisheries, Healthy Seas and
Vibrant Communities



1. INTRODUCTION

Just when it looked like we were getting back to normal after the pandemic, Russia invaded Ukraine and sparked another global crisis, impacting our food systems, energy supplies, and household economies. This has created a great deal of uncertainty and hardship, which has overshadowed 2022. Somehow, small-scale low impact fishers continue to survive against all odds, anchoring our coastal communities, providing livelihoods and socio-economic opportunities where few alternatives exist.

2022 was the UN's International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), which provided an important opportunity for LIFE to engage with coastal communities from around the world who depend on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods and food security. Whilst their situation is rather different to that of Europe, small-scale fishers around the world do share much in common. There is more that unites than divides us, particularly as regards access to resources and access to markets, as encompassed in SDG target 14b. LIFE is proud to have been one of the initiators of the "[Global Call to Action](#)" made ahead of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon (UNOC). Together with coastal community associations from across 6 continents, LIFE was present in Lisbon to make the voices of small-scale fishers heard.

At European level, it has been a scene-setting year for the implementation report on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), in which LIFE had a say and which is reflected in the results. A key aspect for LIFE and for small-scale fishers across Europe is the lack of any progress made with the implementation of Article 17 as a tool to redistribute fishing opportunities and to encourage low impact fishing. LIFE has therefore been raising awareness about the transformative potential of Article 17 at all levels. The totality of LIFE's CFP efforts is brought together in our [European Call to Action](#) for a differentiated approach to the management of small and large scale fisheries, with 11 demands for changes that we would like to see taken on board in the CFP Implementation Report and taken forward starting in 2023.

LIFE has been very active also at the waterface over the period, achieving impact on the ground at a regional, national and local level. LIFE was able to revive its Baltic and North Sea (BANS) programme, and over the period, LIFE's BANS team has made some good progress, notably building strategic alliances, and engaging as a new member of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) and other regional bodies. The BANS Team has pushed for a cod recovery plan, for more effective eel conservation and management measures, and for greater protection to be given to small-scale fishing livelihoods. For LIFE's Mediterranean Programme the focus of 2022 has been on pushing ahead with co-management schemes and promoting sustainable and fair food systems. Some satisfactory results have been achieved, as detailed in section 4 of this report.

2. INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES, KEY IN 2022.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 the **International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)**, and this has provided an important opportunity to LIFE to raise awareness about small-scale fisheries in Europe.

Leading up to the **United Nations Conference on the Ocean (UNOC)**, taking place in Lisbon, Portugal from June 27 to July 1 2022, [LIFE joined a coalition of coastal community associations](#) from the Pacific, Asia, Africa and Latin America to draft a “[Global Call to Action](#)”. 16 coastal associations have subsequently joined the Call to Action, which is also supported by 25 NGOs from around the world. We subsequently drafted “rules of engagement”, setting how as fishers associations we want to engage with wider civil society and to structure our relationship with NGOs, Foundations and other such bodies. These rules now form the basis of discussions with the “Rise up for the Oceans” initiative which calls on governments and businesses to take the bold, fair actions required to set the ocean on a course to recovery. It is important that LIFE engages in such networks, forums and processes because emerging international maritime conservation and economic policies are likely to have far reaching effects on our access to fishing spaces and fishery resources here in Europe.



LIFE was also on the organising committee of the *Too Big To Ignore* European Regional sessions of the **4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (4WFSC)** held in Malta from 12 to 14 September. LIFE

played a central role in organising 2 of the 6 thematic plenary sessions, and in organising several side events on co-management. There was a strong LIFE presence, with 16 LIFE staff and members taking part. The event was one of 5 regional events, including Asia (Japan), Africa (South Africa), Latin America (Mexico) and North America (Canada), celebrating small-scale fisheries under the banner of IYAFAs. For LIFE it was a great networking and policy advocacy opportunity, in particular for influencing the academic research agenda in the coming period.

LIFE took part in the **Terra Madre Salone del Gusto** event in Turin, joining with the SlowFish network to promote space for small-scale fisheries as a central part of sustainable and fair food systems.



3. EUROPEAN POLICIES: PROCESS TOWARDS THE REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CFP

The 2013 Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) legally obliges the **European Commission (EC) to report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the functioning of the CFP** by 31 December 2022, 10 years after its adoption in 2013. The EC's report was finally published in February 2023, along with a number of other non-binding communications (on Energy Transition and on an Action Plan), described by the Commission as a "Pact for Fisheries and Oceans".

To start the year, LIFE contributed to the Public Hearing on the Implementation of the CFP. The Consultation Report included a separate section on the views of small-scale fisheries (SSF). It is a healthy sign that the Commission sees the need for differentiated treatment for small and larger scale fisheries.

Key issues for LIFE in the implementation of the CFP include the lack of progress made towards fully implementing Article 17, the lack of support for SSF to form their own Producer Organisations (POs), and adopting a differentiated approach to the management of small-scale and large-scale fisheries, among others.

During the year, LIFE engaged with the NGO OurFish to promote the **recommendations of our report on Article 17**, and with processes in the Pech Committee of the European Parliament. LIFE also participated in several events organised by DG Mare, the Pech Committee and NGOs to highlight the potential of SSF as part of the solution to the problems of Europe's overfished seas.

In October, LIFE launched a [European Call to Action](#) **calling on legislators to adopt a differentiated approach** to the management of small and large scale fisheries, based on the following themes: inclusive blue economy, fair access to resources, fair access to restored and co-managed fishing grounds, reduce environmental impacts of fishing and end discards, fair access to markets and sustainable food systems, invest in appropriate infrastructure and climate change resilience, public monies for the common good, improved EU Governance, inclusive policies for present and future fishing communities, dedicated research, align CFP with global frameworks and international obligations.

Some initiatives in which LIFE participated in:

- Public consultation on the implementation of the CFP ([link](#))
- *Quel avenir pour la pêche artisanale durable* (What is the future for sustainable small-scale

- fishing)? Webinar organised by the French network *Mouvement Agricole Rural et Solidaire* ([link](#))
- Panellist at the EAFRO/ MARE webinar on management aspects of large and small-scale fisheries in Europe, April 22 ([link](#)).
- Invited speaker at the Client Earth event on “The Future of Business and Our Seas”, June 9 ([link](#)).
- Panellist at the DG Mare Science Seminar, June 24 ([link](#) and [link](#));
- Organised a workshop at the “Food Other Conference” at Wageningen University, June 10 and 11 – Fisheries and Europe’s Fragile Food Security: time for a paradigm shift? ([link](#))
- Panellist at the BirdLife event in Brussels, “Fishing without Bycatch – mitigation measures to protect marine sensitive species”, June 14 ([link](#)):
- Invited panellist at the DG Mare “Policy Day” in Vigo, Spain ahead of the IIFET 20th Biennial Conference, July 18 ([link](#), and [link](#))
- LIFE Plenary Workshop on Small-scale Fisheries in Europe “Imagining Low Impact Fishing” at the 4th World Congress on Small Scale Fisheries in Malta, September 12 to 14 2022 ([link](#))

4. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: LIFE AT THE WATERFACE

MEDITERRANEAN

October 2022 saw the end of MAVA supported projects, which were the main components of LIFE’s Mediterranean Programme. “[Together for the Med](#)”, a partnership of organisations committed to continuing the work started with MAVA, was established to fill the void left by MAVA’s withdrawal. The overall results of this collective work with MAVA have been published in the following [Report](#), to which LIFE significantly contributed.

Co-management continues to be a central plank of LIFE’s work. Good governance is essential to achieve fair fisheries and healthy seas, and co-management is an **important tool for improving governance by bringing fishers from the periphery to the centre of decision taking**, bringing different local and regional realities together and building on the experience and skills of people who directly depend on the fishery. LIFE and its members are engaged in co-management schemes in Catalunya (Spain) and have **worked to implement co-management schemes in 5 other different sites in the Mediterranean**. In 2022, LIFE’s work was key for the achievement of the following outcomes:

- ▶ Creation of **3 formal co-management committees** in Cap de Creus (Catalonia, Spain), Pitiusas islands (Balearic Islands, Spain) and in North East MPA in the Maltese islands. The Maltese Government took the case of NE MPA as a successful pilot case and expects to upscale it at a national level in the next few years.
- ▶ In Cyprus there is an agreement with all relevant stakeholders to establish an informal co-

management committee, which we expect to see the light in 2023.

- ▶ In Cabo de Gata (Spain) 1 **informal working group** of multi-stakeholders has discussed and agreed on a **management plan proposal** to make the Cabo de Gata's Marine Reserve more effective.
- ▶ Legal publication of 2 **management plans for SSF** in the Pitiusas islands and another one in Cap de Creus Natural Park (Spain)
- ▶ Creation of 1 **No-Take Zone in Cyprus** (endorsed by Law)
- ▶ **Publication and submission to relevant authorities of 2 scientific reports** recommending the declaration of NTZ/MPAs in the future in Cyprus and Italy
- ▶ **A map and lessons learned from the co-management schemes in the Mediterranean Sea** have been collected in a dedicated report and published (see the [report here](#)), making them available to key stakeholders who want to learn further on the topic. The report highlighted the need to scale-up co-management, whilst the establishment of a focus group gathering the various stakeholders and practitioners from both the MPA and the fisheries worlds could be a game changer.
- ▶ LIFE has engaged in the Own Initiative Report from MEP Clara Aguilera on Co-management, which should be adopted as a Resolution by the Plenary of the European Parliament later in 2023
- ▶ LIFE is engaged with the FAO on the framework of the publication of the "[FAO Guidebook for evaluating fisheries co-management effectiveness](#)" at a global level.



The [Foodnected Project](#) aimed to address shortcomings in the prevailing food system and is an attempt to reverse the unfair situation faced by small- scale food producers. The project was centred in the Balearic Islands and Costa Brava in Spain, and Gulf of Catania in Italy. The main outcomes are as

follows:

- ▶ **2 direct marketing schemes** were launched ([Empesca't](#)) or strengthened ([Peix Nostrum](#)) and **3 local communities of practice** were developed to support the transformation of food systems at a local level in the three sites. The actors of the 3 communities of practice engaged to **develop a roadmap towards sustainable and fair food systems**
- ▶ **1 new organisation of small-scale fishers** is created in the Gulf of Catania
- ▶ **1 training on “ikejime”** was developed in l’Estartit and the organisation is now in the process of being certified with this technique that delivers improved animal welfare and better-quality products.



- ▶ **A monitoring questionnaire for fish producers** has been developed and tested in all three sites. This will serve as a self-evaluation tool, providing baseline information on the progress of small-scale fishers towards the achievement of 10 core values of Foodnetted, promoting peer review and providing a vehicle to communicate their contributions to these values more systematically.

- ▶ A report on the “**Ecological footprint of fish products from small-scale fisheries in Catalunya (Spain), Sicily (Italy) and Ibiza (Spain)**” was published ([see the report here](#)).

The **Mitigation of Dolphin Depredation** project aimed to strengthen cetacean conservation and sustainable fisheries by reducing depredation and expanding the regional network of expertise on the subject. LIFE partnered the initiative, which built on LIFE’s [previous assessments](#) and work in the past on the subject and, this time, tested different potential technical mitigation measures.

LIFE has **continued its involvement with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (GFCM)**, particularly with regard to the implementation of the **Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries** (RPOA SSF) and the work of the working group “**Friends of SSF**”. LIFE has also been active in the **GFCM Small-scale Fishers Forum (SSF Forum) initiative**. In 2022 LIFE was the co-organizer of some important SSF Forum webinars – notably on “Technological innovations to facilitate efficient value chains and fishing business management” (July, online), and on “Innovation to facilitate efficient SSF value chains: the Foodnetted model” (October, in Turin).

BALTIC AND NORTH SEAS

In the Baltic and North Seas, LIFE member organisations have continued to be a positive presence in the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council and at the regional management forum, Baltfish, where their input has highlighted the deficiencies in management. LIFE’s new BANS Coordinator has ensured good coordination amongst LIFE members, building of important strategic alliances and communicating on the issues facing SSF in the region on LIFE’s website and in social media.

LIFE members, together with small-scale fishers from across the region, are facing a difficult situation because of the poor state of fish stocks, the consequent lack of access and the quota allocation system. This has been especially difficult with the main cod fishery being closed since 2019 and the western herring fishery also being closed.



While acknowledging the poor state of the eel stock, weak implementation of national eel management plans and a slow recovery, we maintain that a commercial fishery for yellow and silver eels can and should be part of the solution. However, despite our efforts in December 2022 the EU Council decided to close all eel fisheries for 6 months of the year in light of ICES advice that recommends all mortality is reduced as close as possible to zero. Stopping fishing on yellow and silver eels is a low hanging fruit with minimal conservation impact. The main threats to eel survival such as habitat degradation, water abstraction and blocked migration paths, remain poorly addressed.

Herring is the most important species in the Baltic for transferring energy to other species and we have seen more than 1 million tonnes “disappear” from scientific models in recent years after the stocks were reassessed. In line with other pelagic stocks in the Baltic, we have therefore recommended quotas be set with a precautionary buffer (in scientific terminology setting quotas for these stocks at 0.5 Fmsy rather than Fmsy).

Baltic Sea Advisory Council:

LIFE members have been active, contributing to advice and recommendations on a wide range of issues. This year a new Chair and working group chairs have been appointed. LIFE has been participating in Focus Groups to help draft initiatives and we have been working together with anglers, recreational fishers and environmental organisations as well as other fishery organisations to develop joint positions.

Science and management:

The Baltic management plan adopted in 2016 aims to extract the maximum sustainable yield for all stocks every year. More than 500,000 tonnes of fish are landed every year from the Baltic and less than 10% of this is for human consumption.

Therefore, we have had a “fish as food” focus stressing the need for biomass growth with the need for a healthy stock structure being prioritised ahead of maximised yields. We have participated in the quota process from ICES advice through to the EU Council. For decisions to benefit the small-scale fishery, we are working on predator/prey interactions being better accounted for and for prey species to have a lower target fishing mortality. In addition, there are a number of quota mismatches and gaps in the science which we have highlighted.

Plaice discard exemption:

LIFE registered as an observer to Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF) after a proposal was made by Baltfish for an exemption for plaice from the landing obligation. If this exemption were granted it would mean that, in effect, there will be no management or reliable data for plaice, flounder or cod catches. LIFE members warned that this should not be adopted as a delegated act by the European Commission.

STECF subsequently published its [report](#) and acknowledged the concerns raised by LIFE and other organisations and underlined that “*in the Baltic, the main motivation is to mitigate against the economic costs of landing high volumes of unwanted plaice*”, and that in the North Sea where an exemption is in place the discard rate is in excess of 70%. In light of the STECF’s criticism we were pleased that the proposal was rejected by the Commission.

5. INTERNAL PROCESSES

Changes in LIFE Staff and LIFE's

The year started welcoming **Christian Tsangarides** as **Baltic and North Sea (BANS) Coordinator** in January 2022 and **Barbara della Rovere** in July 2022, who joined LIFE as the new **Marketing and Communications Officer**, replacing Sarah Namann and Charlène Jouanneau. In the Balearic Islands, Anna Masdeu left early on the year for personal reasons and Annya Crane, Marga Serra and Macarena Molina came in forming a great team to achieve impact on the ground in these islands. At the end of 2022, LIFE had to sadly downsize its staff team on the ground given the end of the MAVA projects in the Mediterranean.

Everything has a beginning and an end, and **Brian O' Riordan's** tenure as Executive Secretary of LIFE came to an end in December 2022, clearing the way for **Marta Cavallé** to take on the task of running the platform and giving a voice to small-scale fishers as **new Executive Secretary**. However, early retirement is never a good idea for such strong collaborators as Brian, and he remains with LIFE in a new and important role as **Policy Advisor**. From LIFE's Brussels Office, he will continue to closely follow policy and legislative developments within the European institutions, notably with the European Commission and Pech Committee of the European Parliament, advising SSF as necessary.

Communications and fundraising

As decided at the 2021 General Assembly, LIFE introduced and began collecting an annual membership fee and launched its first "individual donor campaign" at the end of the year to enlist the support of individuals under #JoinTheWaveOfChange. This coincided with the production of an [animated video](#) designed to raise awareness about LIFE and the need to support our activities.

Also, 2022 allowed us to strengthen our communications. As part of developing a new communications strategy, we re-launched a monthly newsletter with interviews, news and articles around SSF in Europe, the members of LIFE and the issues facing them.

As part of its strategy, LIFE has focussed on storytelling, producing several videos of LIFE's members and their initiatives. In this regard: LIFE member Isaac Moya is featured in a 30-minute documentary "[Sentinels of the Mediterranean: acting for Marine Biodiversity](#)" as an agent of change in the Mediterranean Sea, serving as a source of inspiration for the role of small-scale fishers in managing the sea. From this we produced a 5-minute video for Empescat and LIFE, to be used in support of our marketing and awareness raising activities. Other examples are the videos about co-management in Malta and in Cyprus.

As part of the conclusion of the *Foodnected* project, we created an [animated video](#) to explain the

importance of the initiative and the forming of communities of practice to the wider public.

Strategic Alliances

LIFE has established a **new 5-year partnership with the Velux Fonden**, which will support **LIFE's work in the Baltic and North Sea region up to 2027**. In addition, the **Waterloo Foundation** has provided LIFE with a two-year grant (2022/2023) to support the work of our Brussels Office. Our partnership with the **Marilles Foundation** in the Balearic Islands continues satisfactorily through the project "Stewards of the Sea", promoting sustainable fisheries in the Balearic Islands using small scale fishers as a driving force, that will see its end in 2023. Sadly, the **MAVA Foundation**, which was an important partner for LIFE since 2018 closed its doors at the end of the year, leaving an important gap in the whole Mediterranean basin. MAVA has been a great support to LIFE in the past years. Not only did they demonstrate faith in us at critical times and by supporting LIFE's work in the Mediterranean, but also supported our organisational and personnel development, enabling us to grow and develop to become who we are today. LIFE continues to be committed in the region, to build on the strong alliances developed over the years, and to look for ways to continue this work we have started into the future.

To achieve impact, LIFE seeks to form strategic alliances with like-minded organisations and to build synergies around issues of common interest. In Brussels, LIFE has cordial relations with a number of environmental NGOs, including WWF, Client Earth, Oceana, and Seas at Risk, contributing to joint statements and positions on legislative and policy processes affecting fisheries. In particular LIFE linked up with **Our Fish** to **highlight the potential of Article 17 to transform European fisheries** into a low impact, low carbon and socially just sector. Several events, including workshops with DG Mare, Parliamentarians, national authorities and NGOs have been organised. LIFE continues to be a partner of **Client Earth** in **legal action taken against the Dutch fisheries inspectorate for failing to provide adequate checks on fish landings**. The court case continues, reported on [here](#).

In the **Mediterranean**, LIFE has established a strategic alliance with the coalition [Together for the Med](#), a group of NGOs, International Organisations, research centres and networks that work in the Region committed to reducing the pressures on Mediterranean biodiversity by promote sustainable fishing, engage the Mediterranean community, improve legal and policy frameworks and valorise sustainable seafood and foster financial transition.

In the **Baltic**, LIFE has been working to build an alliance with environmental organisations and recreational fishers that are also members of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council. The EU Multi-Annual Management Plan for the Baltic Sea, in place since 2016, has not delivered on its objectives and we now have smaller fish stocks in worse condition and lower quotas. We are working together to agree on a way forward with regards to the ICES advice. There must be a scientific basis for management but the current system/interpretation does not work, in particular for the small-scale.

6. LOOKING FORWARD

Key themes for 2023 are “change” and “transition”. In Europe the stage is set for a transformation of the fisheries sector in line with conservation (Action Plan on Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries and EC proposal for a Regulation on Nature Restoration), climate change mitigation (Energy Transition to zero emissions by 2050), the rise of the blue economy and transformation of food systems (Blue Economy and Sustainable Food Systems Initiative) objectives, which all constitute important drivers of change.

Also, in 2024, the 5-year term of the European Commission will come to an end, and over the coming period, Commissioner Sinkevicius will be intent on his legacy. Environmental concerns are likely to feature strongly.

Importantly, under the European Green Deal, by 2050 Europe is set to achieve climate neutrality. This means that EU fisheries and aquaculture must become a zero (carbon) emission sector. This will be a huge challenge given fishing’s high dependency on fossil fuels. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, overall fuel costs have risen from 13 to 35% of the total operating costs. Whilst there have been commensurate increases in wholesale fish prices to offset these increases, many people and businesses are suffering from the “cost of living crisis”, and these high costs are not sustainable.

Therefore, a number of interrelated transition processes will start to take shape in 2023. LIFE will need to keep abreast of these, engaging in discussions and policy making processes, and ensuring that nothing is decided about us, without us. Change and transition may pose both threats and opportunities, and LIFE is there to make sure small-scale fisheries actors have the appropriate space to co-design future scenarios, and grasp this opportunity to make a transition towards our vision of fair fisheries, healthy seas and vibrant communities while raising awareness and demonstrating that small-scale fisheries are a key part of the solution.

We are very grateful to **LIFE’s staff and Board of Directors** for the essential role they play in sustaining LIFE and keeping Europe’s small-scale fishers at the decision-making tables and in the public eye. A special thanks is due to **LIFE’s 32 Member Organizations** and to the thousands of **small-scale fishers** for their work at the waterfront, for their courage against difficult odds, and for putting delicious, wholesome and healthy food on our tables. We are also extremely grateful to the support we receive from our partners, notably the **MAVA Foundation, Marilles Foundation, Velux Foundation and Waterloo Foundation**, without whom we would not be able to reach such an impact.

ANNEX

Call to Action: Better Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy through a Differentiated Approach

In Europe, fishing provides an important source of food, social cohesion, livelihoods and economic activity in coastal areas. Fishing thus provides a socio-economic and cultural anchor for communities with few alternative options. Fishing and fishing communities also contribute to our collective cultural maritime heritage, to biocultural diversity and to our knowledge of the seas and natural phenomena.

There are two very different approaches to fishing, based on very different social, economic and environmental logics. Larger scale industrial operations using towed gears, catch tonnes of fish per day, spend several days at sea, provide fish for mass markets, and generate hundreds of thousands or millions of Euros per year. However, these operations cause significant damage to seabed ecosystems and through their use of non-selective gears impact negatively on the reproductive capacity of fish stocks. Smaller scale, low impact artisanal operations use passive gears, catch tens of kilograms of fish per day, providing a high-quality value-added product to a different market segment, generating on average a few tens of thousands of Euros per year. Their use of selective gears results in significantly fewer discards.

Through targeted support and a favourable regulatory framework, successive Common Fisheries Policies have incentivised larger scale fishing at the expense of the smaller-scale sector. This has created distorted seas across Europe, with most of the fishing opportunities concentrated in few hands, with markets dominated by relatively few high-volume commodity species.

9 years after the adoption of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 2013 and its implementation in 2014, the intended improvement in sustainability outcomes for the small-scale low impact fleets across the EU are not being delivered; the opportunity to harness their potential to achieve wider social, environmental and economic sustainability goals is being squandered. Measures intended to support small-scale fisheries in Regulations (EU) 1380/2013 (notably Article 17), 1379/2013 (notably Producer Organisations), and 508/2014 (notably under Article 18 concerning the elaboration and implementation of action plans for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing) are not being applied.

Small-scale coastal fisheries represent 76% of the fishing fleet by vessel numbers, and provide 50% of the jobs at sea. Small-scale low impact fishers fish in the least environmentally damaging ways to provide the greatest benefits to society. Yet they are restricted to landing 5.8% of the catch[1]. Evidence indicates that if small scale fishers were provided with the enabling policy environment intended by the CFP and the political will to implement it[2], small scale low impact fisheries could make all the difference between success and failure in the implementation of the 2014 CFP and the Marine Spatial Planning Framework Directive; achieving the targets set by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for Good Environmental Status by 2020, meeting the goals of the European Green Deal, associated Biodiversity Strategy (including the Nature Restoration Law); and its international obligations adopted as part of the Rio + 20 (UNCED) process, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notably SDG target 14b).

We therefore call on the European Commission and EU Member States to adopt a differentiated approach to fisheries management based on:

- **Inclusive Blue Economy.** Place small-scale fisheries at the heart of Blue Economy and protect it from displacement and spatial squeezing by competing or incompatible activities. Do not allow or support any new ocean use that may negatively impact marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them for their livelihoods; and invest in long-term fisheries management, resource conservation, ecosystems restoration and innovations introduced by women and men from fishing communities.
- **Fair access to fishery resources.** An equitable allocation of fishing opportunities to small-scale low impact fishers, using Article 17 to reallocate fishing rights to smaller scale, environmentally compatible, economically viable and socially responsible fishery activities, rewarding a positive history of compliance and ending the sole use of track records as the tool for allocating fishing opportunities by member states, and putting an end to the privatisation of fishery resource access.
- **Fair access to restored and co-managed fishing grounds.** Secure wider inshore fishing areas reserved for small-scale low impact fishing, effectively managed through adaptive local co-management regimes in which small-scale fishers are supported to participate effectively;
- **Reduce environmental impacts of fishing and end discards.** Legislate for more diversified, polyvalent, seasonally sound and selective fishing (right gear, right time, right place) to end discards; phase out those high impact gears that have unacceptably high by-catch rates of uneconomic and vulnerable species and of fish below minimum size, and which cause the most damage to seabed, habitats and marine ecology.
- **Fair access to markets and sustainable food systems.** Differentiation of small-scale fishery products in the market through traceability, Community Supported Fisheries and direct, short chain, marketing schemes, empowering fishing organisations to become price makers. Establish an enabling policy framework for establishing small-scale Producer Organisations, based on value not on volume.
- **Invest in appropriate infrastructure and climate change resilience.** Provide for specific small scale fisher infrastructure investment to improve facilities in landing areas, strengthen short supply chains and food security, and prioritise decarbonisation of the small-scale fleet. Fastrack research and investment into fossil fuel alternatives for the small-scale fleet and associated supply chains; and support fishing communities to mitigate impacts of, and adapt to climate change.
- **Public monies for the common good.** Develop a code of practice for financing sustainable small-scale low impact fisheries. Establish a level playing field by ending inequitable subsidies and other incentives which disadvantage the small-scale sector. Public monies should be used for public good not individual gain, to promote fishing better (quality) not more (quantity), through collective projects.
- **Improved EU Governance.** Full implementation of the CFP regulation objectives. End ambiguity between the responsibilities of the European Commission and those of member states in the implementation of the CFP to ensure accountability. Full transparency must be adopted in the implementation of the CFP to ensure that public fishery resources are being used for the public good. Ensure coherence between fishery and environmental regulations so they work in harmony to achieve their respective objectives while maintaining biocultural diversity, cultural heritage, equity and social cohesion.
- **Inclusive policies for present and future fishing communities.** Recognise and respect the role of women and support fishers of the future through affirmative action initiatives to promote gender equity and inclusion of youth towards equitable generational renewal.
- **Dedicated Research.** Specific small-scale fisheries research and development to be promoted and resourced through EU and national research programmes, prioritising good cooperation with the SSF sector and the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
- **Align CFP with global frameworks and international obligations.** Ensure that the CFP, the CMO and associated fishery and environmental regulations fully comply with the letter and spirit of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

LIFE PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS 2022

Balances carried forward from 2021	-208.396,07	
2022	INCOME	EXPENSE
MAVA Foodneted	-84.772,00	
MAVA Co-managed MPA	-54.924,00	
Velux Fonden	-55.000,81	
Waterloo Foundation	-28.400,00	
Fundació Marilles	-50.000,00	
Membership Fees	-4.249,00	
	Subtotal	-485.741,88
Staff core salaries		217.227,96
Fieldwork, Associates, Consultants and Studies		94.241,69
Baltic and North Sea		15.500,66
Mediterranean and Black Sea		31.511,93
Communications		16.552,60
	Subtotal	375.034,84 €
Running costs- overheads		37.544,93
Total, Income and Expenditure	-485.741,88	412.579,77
Balance carried forward to 2022		-73.162,11