

LIFE'S WORK ON 2024: MAKING WAVES MEETING CHALLENGES

LIFE's General Assembly
Meeting
December 19th, 2024





MAIN “DOSSIERS” AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

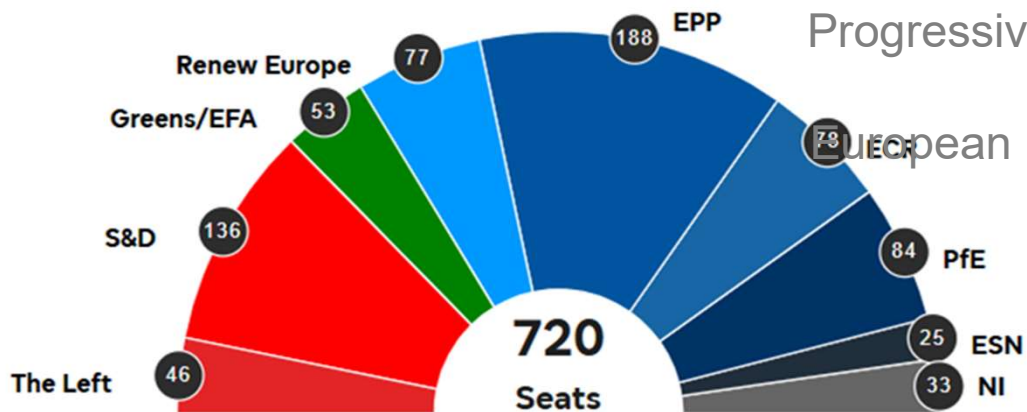
Through bilateral meetings, Public Hearings and Workshops on relevant themes; MEPs organized events;

Co-legislation and Own Initiative (INI) Reports

- Control regulation (entered into force in January)
- Nature Restoration Law (EP adopted it in Jan, Council in June)
- Targets for fixing Fishing opportunities
- **Elections in June.** New Parliament set in July

LIFE sent letter to Von der Leyen and published a Manifesto for the Xth Legislature that is now discussing widely

European Parliament 2024-2029



- European Peoples Party (EPP)- 18.89%
- Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) – 18.89%
- Patriots for Europe (PfE)- 11.67%
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)- 10.0083%
- Renew Europe – 10.69%
- Greens European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)- 7.36%
- The Left Group- 6.39%
- Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN) – 3.47%
- Non attached members (NI) – 4.58%

PECH Committee

27(-1) MEPs

- 14 PP (1 Chair, 2 vice chair)
- 9 S&D
- 6 Renew (1 vicechair)
- 6 ECR- (1 Vice-chair)

- 4 Greens

- 4 Left

- 2 ESN

- 6 Patriots for Europe

- 2 Non-attached

27 Med, 22 BANS, 22 Atl

ENVI Committee

90+2 MEPs

Antonio Decaro (S&D)





THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Through bilateral meetings, partnerships, public consultations and events

- “**European Blue Forum**” (Blue economy); EMD
Denmark

Stakeholder Position Papers 1 and 2

- “**Development of social indicators and “preparing a *vademecum* on the allocation of fishing opportunities”**”
- “**Energy Transition Partnership**”;
- “**Fishers of the Future**” Project
- “**Special Group on the Marine Action Plan**” to engage MS.
- **Marine Spatial Planning** (Off-shore wind farms)

Costas Kadis

COMMISSIONER (2024-2029) | Fisheries and Oceans



As Commissioner for Fisheries, Costas Kadis will develop and implement a long-term vision for a resilient, competitive, and sustainable European fisheries and aquaculture sector to help secure Europe's food sovereignty.

Fisheries

- **Implementing** the current Common Fisheries Policy; **evaluating** its economic, environmental, and social dimensions
- Preparing a **broader vision for the fisheries sector for 2040**
- Resolving issues that affect the fishing community and working to **support job creation** in the fisheries sector
- Protecting the European fisheries chain from **unfair global competition**, and ensuring stability of access to neighbouring waters
- Developing strategies for EU fisheries cooperation with the rest of the world by pursuing Europe's zero-tolerance approach to **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and working on a new **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements**

Costas Kadis

COMMISSIONER (2024-2029) | Fisheries and Oceans



Costas Kadis is also Commissioner for Oceans. His task is to ensure the EU leads global efforts to restore the health and security of the world's oceans and support coastal communities across Europe

Oceans

- Presenting a new **European Oceans Pact** that will ensure coherence across all policy areas linked to the oceans
- Strengthening the EU's approach to **maritime spatial planning** to help optimise the different uses of the sea, keeping in mind ocean health
- Developing an EU Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy, including exploring the feasibility of European **blue carbon reserves**
- Leading efforts to ratify and implement the Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Ensuring that Europe leads the way on **international ocean governance**
- Organising **Fisheries and Oceans Dialogues** to listen to the views of all stakeholders, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries



OWN INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS

Alone

- Event on Baltic Emergency: no fishers of the future without fish in the future (June)

Joining forces

“Rethinking Fisheries” (with Seas at Risk);

“Oceans week” participation- “Rethinking fisheries” event, Photoexhibition, OceanLab, event on OFW, etc.

“Make Fishing Fair” (with Blue Ventures)

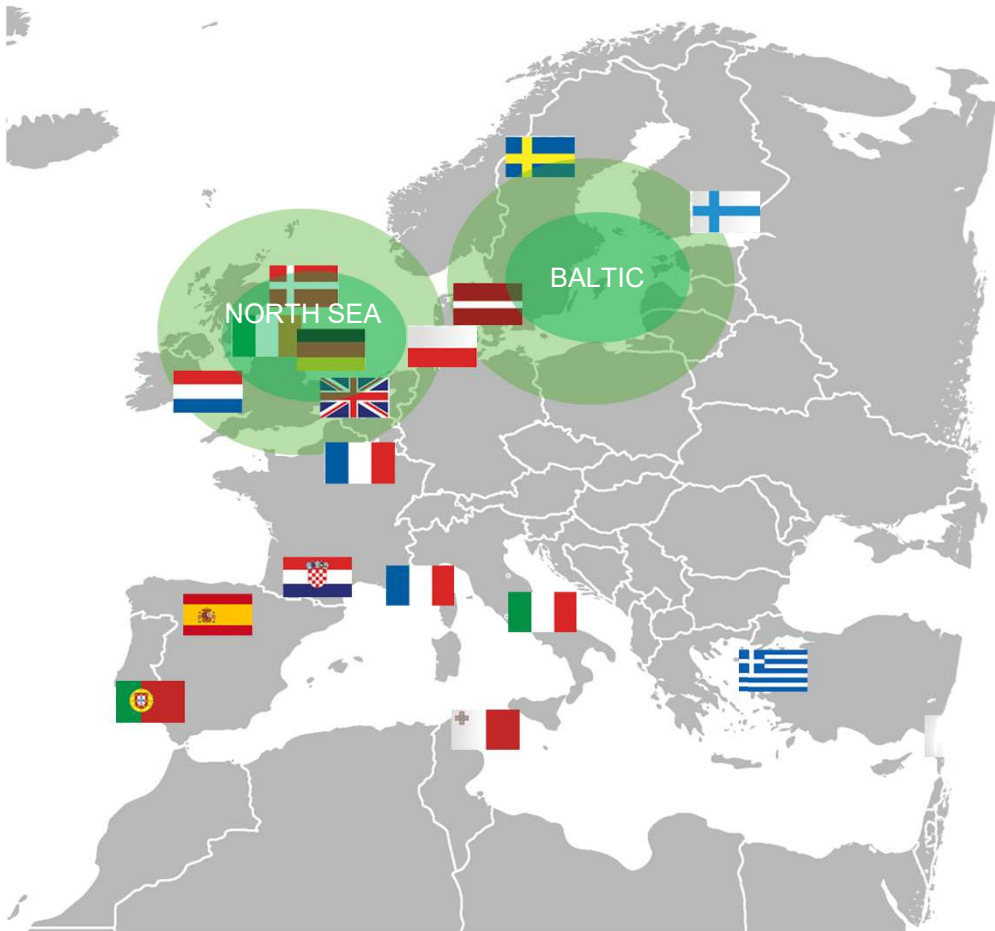
Rules of conduct for working with SSF and fishworkers to save our ocean (with SSF organisations across the Globe)



OWN INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS (continued)

- Roundtable discussions on fishing opportunities
- Decarbonise now (with Oceana and Client Earth)
- Started to collaborate with Food Policy Coalition in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Working Group – Blue Empire
- Collective action for stronger preventive measures against plastic pellet spills (Mulleres salgadas, Ecologistas en acción, Surfrider España, Good karma projects, Noia limpa and Pew charitable trusts)

AT REGIONAL LEVEL: BALTIC AND NORTH SEA



- ENGAGEMENT IN THE BALTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSAC)
- ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL FORA (HELCOM AND BALTFISH), STECF and ICES Baltic advice as observers
- RELEVANT MEETINGS IN THE REGION
- JOINT EFFORTS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS AT REGIONAL LEVEL
- OWN INITIATIVES AND SUPPORT TO MEMBERS



REGIONAL SCENARIO BANS

4

LIFE EVENT

5 years since the cod fishery was closed

5

INFLUENCE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Improved engagement with ICES



REGIONAL SCENARIO MED

6

MEDITERRANEAN

MEDAC (BOD Members)

GFCM- RPOA (FRIENDS OF SSF)-

SSF FORUM





4 NEW PROJECTS

(Besides Velux)

- Round Goby
- Seaglow
- Fish X
- Rethinking fisheries

RETHINKING FISHERIES

PATAGONIA

- **PROJECT TIMELINE:** (2024)
- **PARTNERS:** Seas at Risk
- **LIFE'S BUDGET:** 15.000 €

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

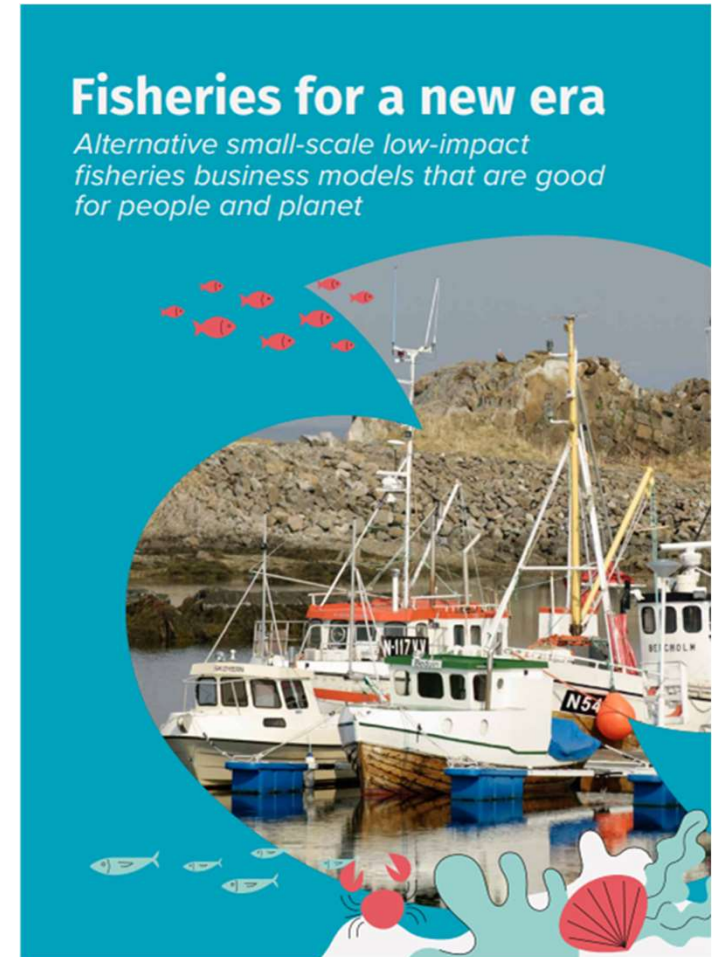
- Maintain the multi stakeholder dialogue Seas At Risk and Low Impact Fishers Europe have established in 2023 to increase awareness and build common understanding of the need for a just transition to low impact and fair fisheries.
- Develop a common vision for a just transition to low impact and fair fisheries through an inclusive process.
- Promote recommendations and practical examples of applied transitions to low impact fishing.



RETHINKING FISHERIES

DELIVERABLES:

- a. A common vision for a just transition to low impact fisheries is released.*
- b. A case study on alternative business models is released*
- c. A multi stakeholder group on a just transition to low impact fisheries – the Rethinking Fisheries Group (RFG) is empowered and involved with the promotion of the vision.*
- d. A public visual and event campaign.*



FISH X [HTTPS://FISH-X.EU/](https://fish-x.eu/)

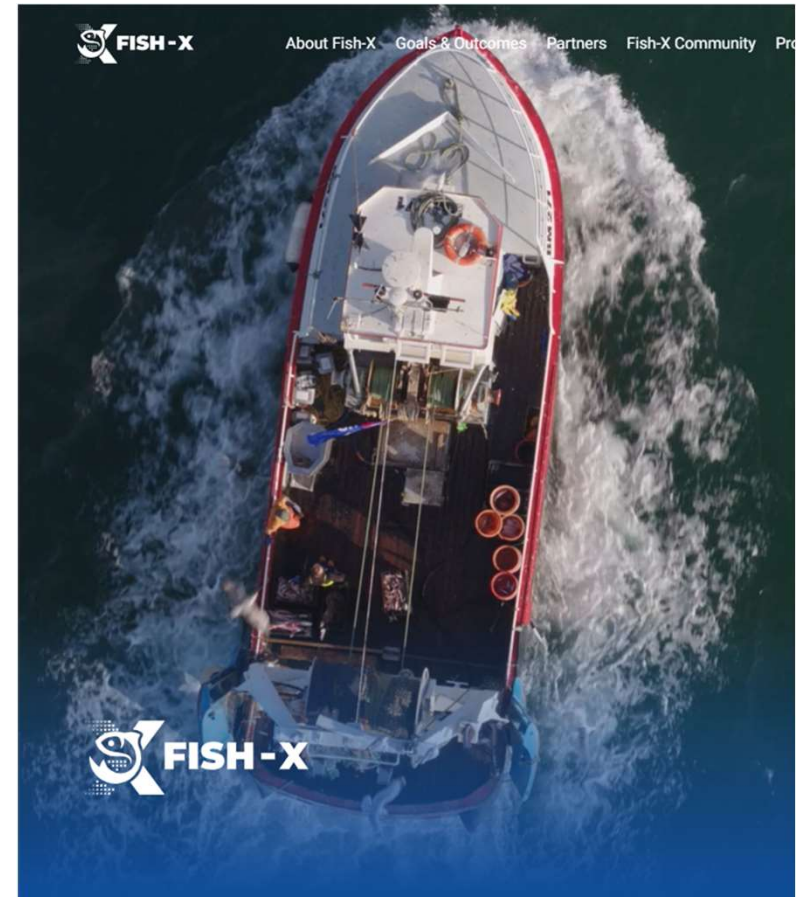
EU FUNDS- HORIZON EUROPE

- **PROJECT TIMELINE:** (Already started,2024-2025)
- **PARTNERS:** TransMarTech, EUTECH, CLS, North.io, WWF EPO, WWF ANP, WWF MMI, WWF ADRIA, OURZ, SCIAENA
- **LIFE'S BUDGET: 19.375 €**

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

- Drive digital innovation to enable the sustainable exploitation of common natural resources.
- Develop accessible technologies to empower small-scale fisheries and grow their credibility towards the customer.

Within the Fish-X project, we are therefore developing a **Fisheries Dataspace**, a **Traceability App**, and an **Insight Platform** – based on smart orchestrated architecture and open interoperable technology via Gaia-X.



FISH X

DELIVERABLES: Industry Roadmap for Digitisation

TIMELINE FOR 2024 (and beyond)

2024

Onboarding, by end of January

3 workshops we need to disseminate and facilitate engagement

Engage in the Roadmap:

- Jan- March: Questionnaire*
- April- July: analysis*
- Ago- Oct: Write report*

(2025)

- 1 workshop in January*
- 1 final workshop we need to disseminate and facilitate engagement*

PROMOTING COMMERCIAL FISHING OF ROUND GOBY IN THE BALTIC SEA

EU FUNDS- INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION

- **PROJECT TIMELINE:** (2024-2026, 3 years)
Started 01/11/2023
- **15 PARTNERS:** including Municipality of Simrishamn (leader) and FSKPO
- **LIFE'S BUDGET:** 285.469,44 €. **2024 budget:** - 72,826.08

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

Round Goby is an invasive species in the Baltic Sea, yet a market for such species can be created. The Round Goby project is led by a consortium of partners with the goal of developing a fishery for Round Goby in the Baltic

LIFE's responsibilities mainly concern the **assessment of existing fishing techniques to inform on the development of new innovative gear** for commercial fishing for Round Goby and the development of **recommendations of best practice** pursuing a dialogue with transnational organisations like the Baltic Sea Advisory Council or BaltFish



SEAGLOW PROJECT

EU FUNDS- HORIZON PROJECT

- **PROJECT TIMELINE:** (May 2024-2028)
- **16 PARTNERS** including NDEU (leader), SINTEF, AZTI, FSK, Thai Union, etc.
- **LIFE'S BUDGET:** 293.093 €

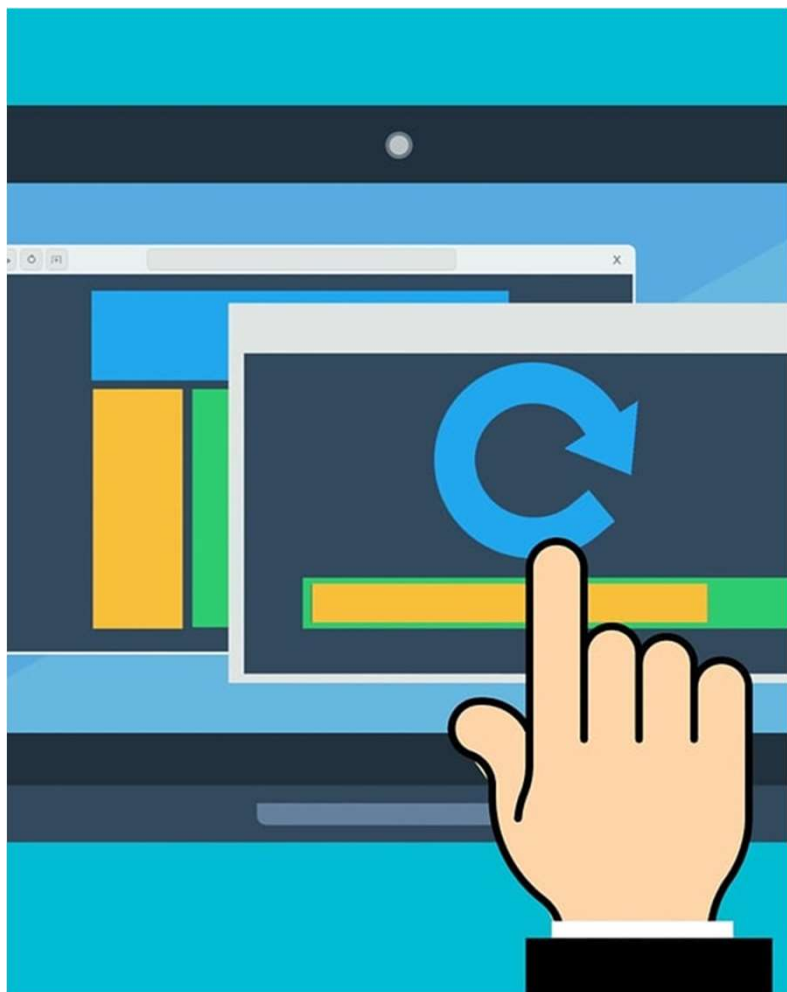
MAIN OBJECTIVE:

This initiative is part of an EU Horizon project on the decarbonization of the Baltic and North Sea small-scale fishing fleets.

The SEAGLOW consortium designs, constructs and operates five technology pilots, including the replacement of conventional diesel engines and use of E-coating and sensor technologies, on four vessels in Denmark, Estonia, Norway, and Sweden.

LIFE will lead the communications WP, organise a series of workshops and a final conference with project findings.





COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH UPDATES

- Restructuring and improvement of the website
- Newsletter available in 11 languages (10 issues/year disseminated via mailing list)
- Relaunching LIFE contribution to the FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform
- Regular contacts with fishing trade press and EU affairs press
- Promotion of LIFE Manifesto, both online, during events and meetings in the EP

UPDATE ON FINANCIALS

FUNDS FOR 2024 WERE COMING FROM

- *Velux Fonden 2022-2026*
- *Waterloo Foundation 2022-2024 (FINISHED)*
- *Round Goby Project (EU Funds)*
 - *Seaglow Project*
- *Patagonia 2023 (FINISHED)*
- *Fish X Project (EU funds)*
- *Membership fee (own funds)*

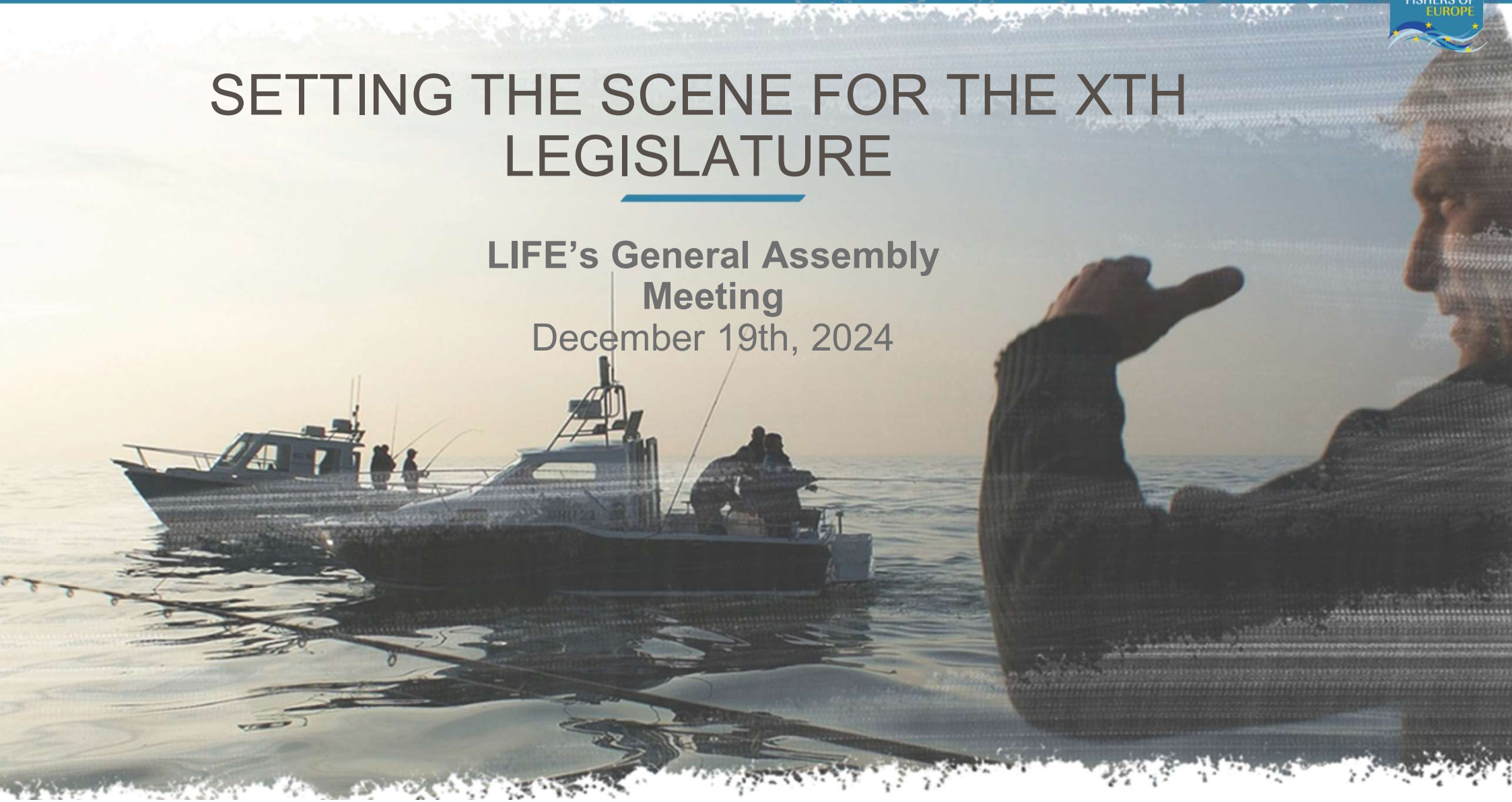
FUNDS FOR 2025 WILL COME FROM

- *Velux Fonden 2022-2026*
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- *Round Goby Project (EU Funds)*
 - *Seaglow Project*
 - *Fish X Project (EU funds)*
- *Membership fee (own funds)*
 - *Greenpeace (15000€- 1 year)*
- *Fonds Meyer Louis-Dreyfus (3 year, 125.000€)*
- *Only One (1 year, 47.000 €) + BV (travel)*
 - *Patagonia 2025 (TBC)*



SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE XTH LEGISLATURE

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WHATS COMING UP?

1

EVALUATION OF THE CFP
Potential Reform of the CFP



2

Vision of fisheries up to 2040 +
OCEAN PACT FOR FISHERIES AND
OCEANS
June - UNOC 2025

3

NEW EMFAF (2027/28-2033)

**European Maritime, Fisheries and
Aquaculture Fund
(EMFAF)**



4

MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING



5

“Make fishing fair”

Enlarged partnership- strategy

A hearing in the Parliament

“Vademecum on fishing opportunities”

6

ENERGY TRANSITION
PARTNERSHIP-
SSF WORKING GROUP



**WHATS COMING UP?
INTERNALLY....**

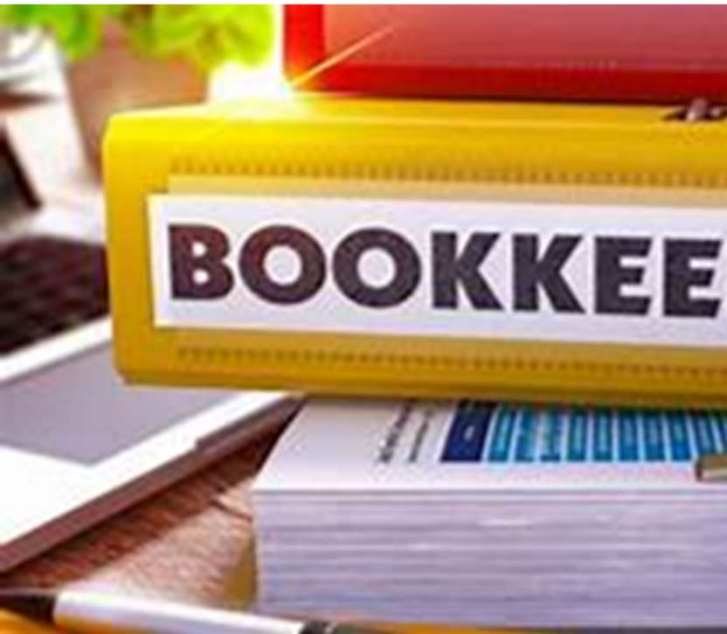
7

New staff/expertise joining



9

**SSF and low impact
Participative Guarantee System**



8

**LIFE Elective Assembly
How to approach new strategy for
LIFE?**





THANK YOU



For fair fisheries, healthy seas and vibrant communities