



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

March 2018

MAIN NEWS

The Mediterranean team pursues with the preparation works in the view of Malta in September.

02/03 Rome (Italy) – A consultation for the preparation of the **“High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea”** (that will take place on 25-26 September 2018 in Malta) was held at the FAO headquarters in Rome. In this regard, a draft of the **“Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea” (RPOA)** was presented to participants, who exchanged views on its content. **The draft has subsequently been translated by LIFE in Spanish, French, Italian, Greek and Croatian, and circulated among its members and AKTEA representatives so that they could provide comments and ensure that it includes their needs and priorities.** During the consultation in Rome it was also agreed that the High Level meeting taking place in Malta in September will be articulated over two days: a day of technical discussions dedicated to stakeholders (25/9) and a day of high-level discussions for Ministers (26/9). The first day will be an occasion to share best practices and success stories to a wide and high-level audience, therefore LIFE encourages its members to get in touch with its staff to already start working on how to best present their communities to the forum. More information: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/info/en/c/1094745/>

The BANS project celebrates its closure with well-attended event in Brussels

26/3 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE members from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Poland gathered in the heart of the EU **to draw the conclusions of LIFE’s EU-funded project “Support measures for small-scale fishing in the Baltic and North Sea”** that over the past two years (2016-2018) allowed them to drastically improve their representation within European decision-making process. A number of guests attended, including representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, Farnet, national and regional



representations, non-governmental organisations and journalists. Attendees underlined how small-scale fisheries are the backbone of the fisheries sector and **that it is vital to provide them with adequate support in order to enable European coastal communities to thrive in the long run.** The potential of SSF to contribute solutions was highlighted, through inter alia the cooperation with European structures such as Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), as well as the importance of including fishers’ knowledge on traditional and sustainable fishing techniques in European fisheries management, and the need to apply Article 17, was also highlighted. LIFE members thanked Marcin Rucinski, LIFE’s Baltic and North Sea

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Coordinator, for his support throughout the project and welcomed the news that he is going to be able to continue to work for LIFE. Access here the:

- Press Release, <http://lifeplatform.eu/bans-final-event-26-3/>
- Photos: <https://myalbum.com/album/O16mWXjLPChN>
- Official video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S6cZPM52Fw&feature=youtu.be>

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

✚ March - Brussels (Belgium) – Ahead of the triologue process (that involves talks between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council) on the Technical Measures for Conservation Regulation, and to prepare the next phase of the campaign against electric pulse fishing, the NGO Bloom and LIFE undertook a number of meetings with the Fisheries Attachés of the national Permanent Representations based in Brussels. Over the month of March, they met with those of **Greece, Denmark, Sweden, France, UK, and Bulgaria**. A new approach to challenging the opponents of pulse is to claim that they are anti-innovation. More information on each specific meeting are available upon request.

✚ 5/3 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE is a member of both the General Assembly and Executive Committee of the Market Advisory Council (MAC). Like other ACs, **the Market AC was invited by the European Commission to give an opinion on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) post 2020**. One of the questions put to the MAC was on "Support to Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries". LIFE's Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan ensured that a wording mentioning the specific characteristics of small-scale fishers' products and the need for appropriately tailored support and marketing measures were embedded in the final opinion.

✚ 7/3 Barcelona (Spain) - LIFE staff attended a "**Workshop to discuss the training strategies in the marine areas of the Natura 2000 network of Spain**", organized by the EU-funded project IP INTEMARES and its



partners. **IP INTEMARES is the largest marine conservation project in Europe** and aims to consolidate and improve the management of the marine spaces part of the Natura 2000 Network through the active participation of stakeholders and specific scientific research. The workshop aimed to detect the needs, priorities and weaknesses in terms of training and capacity-building. LIFE, together with other key stakeholders, provided its input on the existing

barriers and potential solutions that could improve the management overall. In particular, **it stressed the need to improve governance through dedicated training on co-management**, a proposal welcomed by attendees and included in the priorities list. More information on IP Intemares: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=6101

✚ 9/3, Brussels – 09-03, Brussels – LIFE Brussels-based team met with Marja Bekendam and Katia Frangoudes, representatives of AKTEA, the European network of fisherwomen's organisations in Europe. The objective was to discuss **AKTEA's activities to revitalize its action over the Mediterranean**, as part of the MAVA Project "Mainstreaming Small Scale Low Impact Fisheries in the Mediterranean". The previous day, **8th of March, was the International Women's Day 2018** and as AKTEA representative Katia Frangoudes also participated in a meeting organised by DG MARE where she delivered a speech about EU women in fisheries.

- 13/3 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE Brussels Office met with the Sustainable Eel Group (SEG), which is working to re-establish healthy eel populations throughout Europe. Their particular focus is **on halting the illegal capture and trade in glass eels**. In the EU, there is a large percentage of “missing” stock. About 40% of the European eels caught seem to be lost in the black market. This trafficking is presented as Europe’s own ivory trade, as European eels are illegally exported to Asia where they are valued higher than gold! More information on www.sustainableeelgroup.org .

- 20/3 Madrid (Spain) – The Spanish Fisheries Ministry recently drafted a Royal Decree to regulate bottom trawling in Mediterranean fisheries and subsequently to establish a **“Comprehensive Management Plan for the conservation of fishery resources affected by purse seines, trawls and passive gears in the Mediterranean coast of Spain”**. The draft has been subject to consultation during a **meeting organized by the Secretary of the Fisheries Ministry in Madrid and attended by LIFE**. LIFE welcomed the initiative of the Spanish Government both orally and within its written contribution. Spain is a key country in the Mediterranean and the work carried out to design a number of urgent measures is significant. However, with a view to improve the text proposed by the public authorities, LIFE provided the comments of its members in the form of a number of amendments. In particular, LIFE members believe that in most areas, except for zone 4 and 5 (corresponding to the waters of the Valencia area), the 50m bathymetry is insufficient and should be increased up to 100m, in line with the suggestion of the European Commission’s “Proposal for a multi-annual plan in the western Mediterranean”. This measure would ensure the conservation of sensitive habitats, a better recruitment of fish stocks (while contributing to the goal of eliminating discards as required by the Common Fisheries Policy) and ensuring preferential access to the low impact fishing fleet, as urged by article 17 of the CFP and within the framework of the Malta Ministerial Declaration MedFish4Ever when distributing access to resources. More information: <http://lifeplatform.eu/input-members-spain-management-plan-med-eng-es/>



- 21/3 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Brussels team attended a Public Hearing on "Encounters" between science and management in Fisheries in the European Parliament. Centred on the fixation of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) on fish stocks, this event **allowed a thorough presentation of the whole TACs setting process, from the requests for scientific advice (to ICES and STECF) to the final Council decisions**. Stock assessment was described as an inexact, probability-based science. More info On the European Parliament website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/events-hearings.html?id=20180312CHE03621>

- 23/03 Brussels (Belgium) – Nord Stream II is a large-scale project for the expansion of an offshore pipeline that will transport natural gas into the European Union by connecting Russia and Germany through the Baltic Sea. Worried by the impact of such a project on fishing grounds, in past months LIFE has been involved in talks with a number of stakeholders of the project. In this respect, upon invitation of the “Intergroup on Nord Stream II” which met in the Committee of the Regions, LIFE’s **Baltic and North Sea coordinator presented the concerns of LIFE Members about the impact of laying this pipeline in the last functioning spawning ground of Eastern Baltic cod – the Bornholm Deep**. Not taking any



Photo: Current Events Poland

position on the investment as such, LIFE is concerned that laying the pipeline during the peak spawning time of Eastern cod (July-August this year) as planned by the project would unnecessarily add risks to this crucial fish stock in the Baltic ecosystem, which already suffers from many other pressures and problems. As ever, LIFE works to ensure its members concerns will be heard & heeded.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

✚ LIFE NL develops into C-LIFE and hits the ground running with a string of meetings

March (Netherlands) – The past month **LIFE-NL registered as a new organisation, C-LIFE**. The new organisation relies on a strong national and European network of contacts and has as a mission to unite all the Dutch small-scale fishers who use low impact fishing gears and who want their voice to be heard within decision-making processes. **Applications for membership are now open, therefore do not hesitate to get in touch for additional information** (Secretary WR. de Waal - GSM 0623818406; dewaal.overschie@gmail.com / Chairman G. de Ruiter - Gsm 0651601758; ruiter51@zeelandnet.nl). It has been a busy first month of activity for C-LIFE. On 9-10/3 a workshop focusing on solutions to minimize unwanted by-catch and gathering a number of stakeholders of the fishing sector was held. A special prize for the most valuable scientific research on the matter was awarded to the team of fisheries scientist Pieke Molenaar from the Marine Research Centre of the University of Wageningen. Mr. Molenaar is also **studying the survival of seabass in the hand-line fishery, and in the past went on board with LIFE members for which he observed a 99% survival rate**. On 14/3 C-LIFE met with a representative of the NGO Ourfish and agreed to reinforce cooperation against undesirable fishing practices. C-LIFE will provide photos, videos and fishers' testimonies to Ourfish which will rely on it for its advocacy activities. On 16/3 two meetings were attended. The first one, held at the National Authorities Service for Entrepreneurs, was meant to **clarify a number of new regulations for the seabass fishery**; however uncertain aspects still remain, in particular on regulations for the retention of the catch on board in the different zones and for the authorizations in the increase of engine power. According to C-LIFE, public authorities would have produced more appropriate regulations if they had consulted the operators of the sector beforehand. The second meeting focused on pulse fishing. A number of Dutch sector organisation attended (including WMR, LNV, Visned, Vissersbond), the aim of the meeting being to discuss some controversial aspects on the impact of such a gear, including technical details highlighted by C-LIFE. Unfortunately, the meeting was only partially helpful as **a number of these questions remain unanswered and the different parts of the sector stand their ground thus preventing any type of collective agreement**. On 28/3 C-LIFE attended LIFE's final BANS event in Brussels alongside two new members of the organisation who were particularly impressed by the event and the work carried out by LIFE.

✚ LIFE members from Poland and Spain participate as members of the jury in "Olivier Roellinger" gastronomic competitions in different parts of Europe

12-14/3 Budapest (Hungary) and 27/03 Valencia (Spain) - For some years LIFE has been cooperating with this unique culinary event organized with the support of Ethic Ocean (<https://www.ethic-ocean.org/>) to promote the use of sustainable resources and increase awareness among young chefs on marine conservation matters. **Aleksandra Budner-Wachowiak from Wolinska, a member organization of LIFE from Poland, alongside LIFE staff, attended the competition in Budapest, while Vicente Olivares and Eva Fores from ADPAM, a member organization of LIFE from Spain attended the one in Valencia**. As members of the jury they evaluated the sustainability and taste of different dishes, asked specific questions on the fish chosen by the candidates, including if they knew how it was fished and where, raising



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the value of small-scale fishery products. Eventually three finalists from each competition were selected and will compete in Paris on the 8th of June. More information here (in French): <https://www.ethic-ocean.org/fr/activites/produits-de-la-mer/chefs-cuisiniers-et-restaurateurs/concours-olivier-roellinger/?lang=fr>

Arts Menors Costa Brava involved in cephalopods management

21/03 L'Escala (Spain) - LIFE member association from Spain Arts Menors Costa Brava, together with other fishing representatives of the region, held a meeting with the fisheries department of Catalonia with a view **to establish a management plan for cephalopods in the area under a co-management scheme**. Arts Menors Costa Brava is looking to reach agreements within the fishing sector to improve the management of the fishery, guarantee the sustainability of this species and ensure the economic viability of the fishing sector.

Pescartes pursues with its project dedicated to “Art and Fisheries”

26/03 Almería (Spain) – Pescartes, a member association of LIFE from Spain, organized a workshop held at the local food market **to raise awareness among the general public on the use of sustainable fisheries resources and the need to carefully choose local and fresh products when shopping**. The workshop is part of a wider project that the association is developing with the support of a number of partners including local organization Asociación Columbares, the port and university of Almería, LIFE and others, and which aims to involve, in addition to the general public, a number of stakeholders from the sector including retailers, fishmongers and restaurants.



PRESS REVIEW AND INTERESTING READING

LIFE Director Gwen Pennarun on French national representation and fishing rights (French)

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/bretagne/pont-labbe-29120/peche-au-bar-il-faut-preserver-les-frayeres-5616184>

UK fisheries and Brexit (English)

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/23/we-have-been-hijacked-fishermen-feel-used-over-brexit>

The work of LIFE on pulse (English)

<http://climateandcapitalism.com/2018/03/06/electrical-pulse-fishing-switch-it-off-now/>

Critical situation in the Med (French)

<https://www.publicsenat.fr/article/societe/peche-en-mediterranee-une-mer-sinistree-83989#.WrU3yLCLdis.facebook>

Video: Is sustainable fishing achievable? (French)

<https://www.goodplanet.info/video/2018/03/28/debat-peche-durable-possible/>

The hopes and fears of Lowestoft's fishing industry laid bare at conference (English)

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/business/hopes-and-fears-for-the-future-of-lowestoft-and-east-anglia-s-fishing-industry-tied-to-brex-it-1-5436976>

This Newsletter is a simple snapshot of our external activities. In addition, the LIFE staff in the UK, Brussels, Poland and Spain respond to a vast range of queries related to our sector and continuously develop and promulgate policies related to small scale, low impact fishing and fisheries.

Our Regional Directors, all working small scale fishers, also promote the values and benefits of coastal fishing.

Would you like additional information on a specific event, project or initiative? Don't hesitate to contact us at communications@lifeplatform.eu or follow us on Facebook on Low Impact Fishers of Europe or on Twitter on @LIFEplatformEU

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