



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

September 2018

MAIN NEWS

Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions: celebrating indigenous fishing communities from across the world

6-9/9 Tornio (Finland) - LIFE has been honored to participate in the Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions, bringing together small-scale fishing communities from a number of countries worldwide, organized by its Finnish members, Snowchange Cooperative. Representatives from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Japan, Taiwan Island, New Zealand and many other regions **presented their maritime heritage and the approach of Indigenous People to fisheries management**. The challenges faced by small-scale and indigenous fishing communities are remarkably similar: climate change, insufficient recognition for traditional ecological knowledge, pressure on access to resources, transmission of the traditions to new generations. Fisheries managers have a lot to learn from small-scale and indigenous fishing communities. More info: <http://www.snowchange.org/2018/09/festival-of-northern-fishing-traditions-brings-global-small-scale-and-indigenous-fishermen-to-north/>



A LIFE and AKTEA delegation attend the High-Level Meeting that will shape the future of the sector in the Med



25-26/9 (Malta) - The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) organized a **“High-level Conference on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea”**. The meeting was held over two days, this first being dedicated to stakeholders’ discussions and the second one to the high-level event. The initiative stems from the work carried out in recent years, seeking to elicit political will and concrete actions to support small-scale fisheries in the Region. Approximately 240 participants from 30 countries gathered to discuss progress and solutions to support the small-scale fisheries sector. **Among them, a substantial delegation of LIFE and**

AKTEA staff and members from Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Malta attended. Day one, discussions focused on key topics such as the role small-scale fishers in scientific research, improving livelihoods and the value chain, promoting social development and decent work, supporting women, co-management and strengthening small-scale fishers’ organizations. Specifically, LIFE, AKTEA, the members of Pantelleria (Italy) and Croatia presented best practices to the audience and to a side-event organized by the MEDAC. In parallel, LIFE and AKTEA set up a stand where videos, pictures and information material from all member organisations were displayed. On day two, the regional platform “Friends of small-scale fishers” was officially launched, an initiative with LIFE as a founding member alongside GFCM-FAO, WWF, MEDAC, BISAC and

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CIHEAM aimed at promoting transnational cooperation and synergies. Most importantly, the high-level representatives from 18 Mediterranean and Black Sea countries as well as the European Union signed a Ministerial Declaration to implement a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF). This declaration is a historic step to ensure the long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability, with a focus on sustainable small-scale fisheries as part of the solution to the region's deep rooted problems. For more info:

- the programme of the event, including the signed RPOA: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssf2018/>
- the official GFCM press release: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1154586>
- the photo gallery: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssf2018/photos>
- the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij26_xSqAAo&feature=youtu.be
- on Twitter: #smallscalefisheriesfuture

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

4/9 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE staff and Director for the Mediterranean Christian Decugis went to the European Parliament to meet with MEPs Ms Aguilera and Mr Iturgaiz. **They presented LIFE's amendments to the Regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea (WestMed MAP)** that should be voted by the Parliament during this autumn. LIFE members agree that the main focus of the WestMed MAP should be the regulation of trawling activities but believe that all fleet segments, commercial as well as recreational, should be taken into account. The meeting with MEP Aguilera was particularly productive and they agreed to LIFE's proposal to hold a hearing on co-management in the EU Parliament in the months to come. LIFE argues that flexibility is needed by Member States in implementing a trawl free zone in the 50m to 100m depth contour, or in an appropriate distance from the shore – up to 8 miles, all year long, or applying “other types of temporal and spatial restrictions of an equivalent effect on fish stocks” based on the sea bottom topography and in line with the EU social policy. LIFE amendments are available here: <http://lifeplatform.eu/westmedmap-amendments/>

4/9 Copenhagen (Denmark) – LIFE's German Director Wolfgang Albrecht and LIFE staff participated in the BSAC Working Group on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management. The main topic of the discussions was **European eel** and how to manage this important stock in difficult state. Many of the points raised by LIFE Members in last year's discussions (summarized here <http://lifeplatform.eu/saving-european-eel-small-scale-fishermen/>) have been embraced by the meeting, including the idea of an **all-encompassing Catch Documentation Scheme for fisheries on all the eel life stages, in all waters. Seal-fisheries interactions** were also briefly discussed, with BSAC unanimously condemning, with strong words, the cases of illegal seal killings observed on some Baltic coasts this summer. LIFE will spare no effort to ensure that small-scale fishers and seals can coexist in a sustainable way.

5/9 Stockholm (Sweden) – LIFE staff took the views of its Members to a **Baltfish Forum meeting**, organized in a meeting room until recently used by the Swedish cabinet of ministers! Deliberations on the **2019 Fishing Opportunities for the Baltic Sea** dominated the agenda, with a number of points being discussed. Those included: Western Baltic herring and a high TAC decrease; Eastern Baltic cod stock – with particular attention to the Action Plan prepared by LIFE (<http://lifeplatform.eu/action-plan-for-eastern-baltic-cod/>) - and the suggestion to move at least a part of pelagic fishing effort to the Northern Baltic to leave more food for cod; the removal of a spawning closure for Western Baltic cod; Main Basin Salmon and apparent misreporting issues.



12-13/9 Szczecin (Poland) – Bengt Larsson from LIFE's Swedish Member Organization SYEF, Robert Suwała from Darłowska (Poland) and Marzena Dewor from Wolinska (Poland), along with LIFE staff, participated in a conference of the project NESUfish, an initiative lead by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The meeting was instrumental in reviewing the situation of small-scale fisheries in the Central Baltic with participants outlining the perspectives from Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden. The next steps foreseen by the project include a **mapping of the small-scale fishers' needs and actions**

aimed at adding value to their products. The meeting was usefully complemented by a study trip to a small-scale fishing port in Trzebież on the shores of Szczecin Lagoon.

13-14/9 Pantelleria (Italy) – LIFE’s Project Manager for Italy, Iuri Peri, went on the island of Pantelleria to meet LIFE members. The local association is a good example of a motivated and well-organized fishing community, committed to favor sustainability and identify new strategies to better market their products. **The island’s public authorities, upon request of the fishers’ association, started the administrative procedures to renew an old slaughter house, provide technical equipment for fish freezing and processing and give it to the fishers to manage.** The meeting with LIFE staff was also helpful to make a state of the art of the external causes generating negative impacts on small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean area (In the picture: fisherman Gianbattista Mannone and LIFE Project Manager Iuri Peri). The fishers of Pantelleria recently produced a video, with the support of LIFE, to explain their daily challenges and best practices as an island fishing community: <https://vimeo.com/290229007>



13-16/9 Fuengirola (Spain) - the "1st Forum of the Alboran Sea: meeting of seas, science and culture" took place. The ecological and scientific importance of the Alborán Sea for the culture and gastronomy of the Mediterranean was discussed. **The project "Pescados con Arte", an initiative by LIFE member Pescartes** in collaboration with the Asociación Columbares and funded by the Fundación Biodiversidad through the PLEAMAR call for EMFF funds was also presented. A demonstration of gastronomic cuisine was carried out with fish from artisanal sources, thus promoting small-scale low impact products.

14/9 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff attended the annual seminar on fisheries science organised by the European Commission, where the EU institution provided an overview on the health of certain stocks and future trends in different sea basins. Invited speakers highlighted the general optimism of the European Commission – DG Mare about progress on meeting the Maximum Sustainable Yield targets. **According to their data 69% of assessed stocks are fished sustainably (i.e. within MSY) and the EU fleet is making 1.3 billion EUR profits, but the Mediterranean and Black Sea are still a big cause for concern.** The main message was that EU fisheries should pursue in this direction. LIFE’s Deputy Director Brian O’Riordan raised the issue of spatial management and the importance of seasonal closures to protect stocks at vulnerable periods. DG Mare officials replied that “closures are not panaceas”. The presentations are available on: <https://en.xing-events.com/XIWWDYC.html?page=1587900>

18/9 Brussels (Belgium) – Mr Jim Pettipher, CEO of LIFE member organisation from the UK the Coastal PO, came to Brussels for a meeting with the European Commission - DG Mare Economic Analysis, Markets and Impact assessment. **The focus of the meeting was the set-up of Producer Organizations for small-scale fishers that would improve the access to fishing quota** and the drafting of Producer and Marketing Plans as detailed in the Common Organisation of the Markets, the EU policy for managing the market in fishery and aquaculture products. Jim was nominated as LIFE Director for the UK by the retiring Director, Dave Cuthbert. We wish Dave all the best for his retirement.

19/9 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE facilitated a meeting between the **Belgian fishbox scheme PintaFish, the restaurant Bia Mara and NGO Mundus Maris.** An opportunity to develop business contacts and discuss about sustainable fish products, short supply chains and small-scale producers’ networks!

19-20/9 Tunis (Tunisia) – LIFE’s Mediterranean coordinator attended the first **coordination meeting of all the “MAVA partners”** (organisations funded by the MAVA Foundation) focusing their work on the Strait of Sicily. The meeting allowed to coordinate efforts, promote synergies and identify the relevant targets and indicators that will serve in the next three years in this specific Sub-region.



20-23/09 Torino (Italy) – LIFE Communications Officer represented **LIFE and AKTEA in Terra Madre, the large-scale event organised by Slow Food to promote organic and sustainable products from around the world.** The first day she facilitated a session on women in fisheries with a panel composed of 9 fisherwomen from different non-EU countries. It was an opportunity to introduce Aktea and the International Congress on Women in fisheries that will take place in November in Santiago de Compostela. The second panel of the day focused on ocean grabbing. LIFE staff highlighted the issue of blue growth in EU policies, while others mentioned aquaculture and fishmeal. LIFE members from Denmark raised the issue of Individual Transferrable

Quota systems. The following day the discussion was on co-management and MPAs, an opportunity for the public to learn more on the project Oz Minarzos promoted in Galicia by Fundación Lonxanet.

20/9 Darłowo (Poland) – LIFE’s Baltic and North Sea coordinator was asked by the Darłowo FLAG to attend an annual conference focusing on the fisheries sector challenges and solutions and presenting the Polish small-scale fisheries perspective. The Conference gave much attention to seals-fisheries interactions and to the need to **add value to products offered by small-scale fishers.** The event was useful in underscoring the importance of LIFE as agent for positive change and in bringing examples of best practices to areas where they are badly needed as inspiration for locally-tailored solutions.

24/09 Brussels, Belgium – LIFE Administrative officer attended the PECH Committee in the European Parliament, where the **multi-annual plan for fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea** was discussed. The rapporteur, Ms Aguilera, clearly expressed her doubts regarding the achievement of the CFP objective towards reaching Maximum Sustainable Yield for all fish stocks by 2020. Several of LIFE amendments to the plan were reflected in the proposal, such as trawl free zones within 100 meters depth, the importance of an approach focusing on effort management rather than quota and co-management.

25/9 Warsaw (Poland) – LIFE has been invited by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to speak about small-scale fisheries at a conference marking the opening of MSC’s Central European office. A great opportunity to present LIFE and its role in European fisheries, the conference also served as **a good occasion to present LIFE and its role, to underscore the prohibitively high costs of MSC certification from the small-scale fisheries perspective and to discuss the different position of LIFE with respect to MSC on the best way to reach sustainable fisheries.** The high-level MSC representatives present informed the meeting that a 5-year review of the MSC standards has just started and that bringing the scheme closer to the interested small-scale fishers is one of the main objectives. Detailed meeting report here (in Polish): https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/po-files/konferencja-msc-prezentacje/podsumowanie-konferencji-msc---25-wrzesnia-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=360b005a_2

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Spanish members attend scientific forum organised by the University of Alicante

17/9 Alicante (Spain) – LIFE member Pescartes attended the “Scientific Forum on Spanish fisheries in the Mediterranean”, an initiative led by the University of Alicante (UA) and the Institute of Oceanographic Studies (IEO). Fundamental issues relating to environmental and fisheries sustainability were analysed in a scientific and management perspective. An opportunity for representatives of science, politics, society and fisheries to gather and find sustainable solutions to urgent problems. More info here (in Spanish): <http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/download/201>

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+ Dutch TV show invites LIFE Director to present sustainable bass

18/9 Netherlands – LIFE Director for the Netherlands Ger de Ruiter was invited to participate in a **television cooking show focusing on bass fished with handlines**. Ger and the show's Chef explained the importance of using low impact sustainable products and prepared a delicious bass recipe with fresh cherry tomatoes and olive oil. The full episode in Dutch is accessible here: <https://www.omroepzeeland.nl/tv/programma/370130925/Van-Zee/aflevering/370143778/Zeebaars>

+ LIFE members from Finland raise awareness on the importance of traditional ecological knowledge



September (Finland) – LIFE Finnish member Snowchange was invited to present Baltic fishing issues at the meeting of the “Coast4Us” project, an initiative to favor networking and develop a holistic approach to sustainable marine and coastal zone plans. The need to give more priority to Baltic small-scale fishers and their local and traditional knowledge was highlighted. A number of their testimonies were included in a report by IPBES. Volume 2 of such report is particularly relevant as it contains examples of improved dialogue between small-scale fishing communities. Of special interest are the cases of Puruvesi, Iceland, Greenland and Kvarken. Later in the week another meeting was held with the representatives of the Åland public authorities, where the LIFE video was shared, and the idea of our network further

disseminated. The IPBES report is available here: <http://www.snowchange.org/2018/06/nordic-wide-ipbes-like-report-features-several-snowchange-core-areas/>

+ Spanish members ADPAM attend a workshop to improve marine government strategies in the Natura 2000 Network

21/9 Valencia (Spain) – LIFE member ADPAM attended a workshop for the elaboration of governance strategies to be implemented in the marine areas of the Natura 2000 Network. Following a survey to identify the existing barriers for effective management, **the workshop focused on cooperation between managers and users to improve current results, benefit from the knowledge of participants and overcome hurdles to the development of this marine governance strategy**. The event was promoted by WWF-Spain, the University of Murcia and the Biodiversity Foundation. The latter coordinates the Life Ip Intemares project, the largest initiative for the conservation of the marine environment in Europe that aims to reinforce the Natura 2000 marine network. The survey will remain active until November 2018, therefore there is still time to participate should you wish to do so: (<https://encuestas.um.es/encuestas/MiA2NDY.c>)

+ New Cuttlefish Co-management Committee set up with the participation of LIFE Spanish members

21/9 L'Escala (Spain) - The Cuttlefish Co-management Committee for the bays of Pals and Roses was established. It is the first committee of its kind created under the “Governance Decree” on fisheries governance recently approved by the Government of Catalonia. The event, which took place at the Fishing Port of L'Escala, was attended by representatives of the administration including the General Director for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the region of Catalonia, Sergi Tudela, representatives of a number of fishers' organizations, representatives of the scientific institution ICM-CSIC and LIFE staff. The Committee was created upon initiative of the fishers of the areas of L'Escala, L'Estartit and Roses and paves the way to other future initiatives following the new fishing management plans of Catalonia. The Committee will have to approve a Management Plan including a number of technical measures applicable to both professional and recreational fisheries. For more information (in Spanish): http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres_fsvp/AppJava/notapremsavw/308055/ca/constitucio-comite-cogestio-gestio-sepia-badies-pals-roses.do - <http://www.viladeroses.cat/es-constitueix-el-comite-de-cogestio-del-pla-de-gestio-de-la-sepia-a-les-badies-de-roses-i-pals/> - <http://www.canal10.cat/video/16420-es-constitueix-el-comit-de-cogesti-del-pla-de-gesti-de-la-s-pia-a-les-badies-de-pals-i-roses>

This Newsletter is a simple snapshot of our external activities. In addition, the LIFE staff in the UK, Brussels, Poland, Spain and Italy 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.