



NEWS FROM THE DECK

The monthly newsletter of the

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

December 2018 and January 2019

MAIN NEWS

✚ LabMAF: a labelling project for Mediterranean Small-Scale Fisheries

December (Slovenia) – LIFE is pleased to be a partner in the LabMAF initiative, a project which aims to develop a labelling scheme for Mediterranean small-scale fisheries products. It is one of the successful project bids selected by the BlueMed initiative (<http://www.blued-med-initiative.eu/>) to receive support for start-up actions. The project **will be carried out over a period of 18-months and will develop a feasibility study for a labelling and/or other market schemes for Mediterranean small-scale fisheries products.** The study will identify and recognize small-scale fishers' products that adhere to and



LabMAF
DEVELOPING A LABELLING SCHEME
FOR MEDITERRANEAN SMALL-SCALE
AND ARTISANAL FISH PRODUCTS

implement sound region-specific ecological and socioeconomic principles. The partners of the project are from Italy, Slovenia, Spain, France, Lebanon and Malta. They include 4 research institutes and university departments, along with LIFE and the French consultants Marepolis. The kick off meeting of LabMAF will take place in the coming months in order to gather all partners and

start to work on the feasibility study. More information is available here: <https://www.emuni.si/en/projects/labmaf>

✚ Cod in Crisis: concerns on Eastern Baltic Cod in latest BSAC meeting

28-29/01 Copenhagen (Denmark) – LIFE Members (pictured right) from Sweden (Bengt Larsson, SYEF), Denmark (Hans Jacob Jensen, FSK), Poland (Rafal Bochenski, Darlowska), Germany (Wolfgang Albrecht, FSU) and LIFE staff spent two busy days in the **Working Group on Control and in the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), which included a special session on Eastern Baltic cod.** LIFE Members made various points relating to the Control Regulation, stressing among others: the need to ensure a bottom-up approach to electronic monitoring and catch reporting, and to ensure that stronger requirements for traceability do not stymie SSF direct marketing initiatives. LIFE was admitted to the Focus Group on Western Baltic herring, and through LIFE's Baltic and North Sea Coordinator (BANS) as the representative within the Focus Group on BSAC Statutes, vigorously defended LIFE's role within and positive contribution to the BSAC. In relation to Eastern Baltic cod, **the session ended on a grim note, with the leading scientists presenting a negative outlook** based on their latest research activities. In a short response, a united BSAC said that "All possible management measures must be explored in establishing an emergency plan". LIFE will spare no effort to make sure this happens, as stated in its Action Plan of last autumn <http://lifeplatform.eu/action-plan-for-eastern-baltic-cod/>.



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OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE EU

- 03/12 Warsaw (Poland) – Thanks to points raised by Baltic LIFE Members, LIFE’s BANS Coordinator had a useful and productive **teleconference with the MSC assessment team working on providing a certification of Danish, Estonian, German and Swedish pelagic fisheries in the Central Baltic Sea** (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/denmark-estonia-germany-sweden-baltic-herring-and-sprat/@@assessments>). The need for the MSC, when assessing the alarming status of the Eastern Baltic cod stocks, to take into account the ecosystem impacts of the intensive industrial pelagic fishing effort in Baltic subdivisions 25-26 on pelagic stocks (food species of the cod), in particular sprat, is a burning issue for LIFE Members. Following the teleconference, throughout December, LIFE’s BANS Coordinator has taken numerous contacts with scientists, administrators, fishers and market players to **obtain a clearer picture on the status of the Eastern Baltic cod stock ahead of scientific advice**. Unfortunately, the information gathered unequivocally points towards a significant worsening of the stock status. In parallel, LIFE engaged in the discussions on **European eel** ahead of the December Council, with further cuts to small-scale marine fisheries thankfully avoided, thanks to the efforts of LIFE Members and staff.
 - 4/12 Brussels (Belgium) - LIFE Director from Germany Wolfgang Albrecht and LIFE staff met with the **Member of the European Parliament Ulrike Rodust**. Mrs Rodust will not stand for re-election in May 2019. Our friendly and wide-ranging discussions dealt with the Control Regulation and the new EMFF proposal. Mrs Rodust agreed with the focus of the EMFF on small-scale fisheries, and that a single EU wide definition is needed – as is currently the case.
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- 4-5/12 Brussels (Belgium) – The European Commission - DG Mare organized a Workshop on **“Digital Tools for small-scale fisheries” to discuss electronic monitoring and reporting under the Control Regulation**. LIFE’s Executive Secretary Brian O’Riordan attended on behalf of LIFE, and was rapporteur for Session 2 on Digital Catch Reporting. DG Mare emphasised the need for replacing paper with digital reporting methods. Small-scale fisheries will be subject to new electronic controls and reporting requirements once amendments to the Control Regulation are adopted. For more details, see https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/outcomes-workshop-digital-tools-small-scale-fisheries-brussels-4-5-december-2018_en
 - 4/12 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff attended an event on co-management at the Catalan Representation. Mr Sergi Tudela, Catalan Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, presented co-management as the new governance model for Catalonia and **the first example where a legally binding commitment to co-management is included in fisheries legislation (alongside MSY, control and enforcement etc.)**. He then focused on the 2018-2021 Marine Strategy of Catalonia, underlying how they plan to extend the participatory approach to other sectors of the Blue Economy.
 - 4/12 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff attended an event organized at the European Parliament by **WWF on the state of the art of the CFP implementation**. A number of MEPs (Aguilera, Affronte, Rodust, Mato) as well as Commission (Ms Roller) and stakeholders (Oceana, Birdlife, Bloom, ClientEarth, MAC members) attended. The main focus of the event was a presentation by WWF which showed that Member States are lagging far behind with CFP implementation; only 1 out of 46 CFP actions assessed by WWF was accomplished by all Member States (http://www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=339815). This led to an interesting debate. On one side some MEPs and the Commission supported the results achieved, such as in attaining MSY for a number of fish stocks and other progress on fisheries sustainability, namely in the Baltic. On the other hand, NGOs complained about the lack of respect of scientific advice and the state of stocks in the Mediterranean. Fishers on the panel highlighted the need to reduce red tape to access the EMFF and the urgent need to regulate recreational fisheries to protect small-scale commercial ones.
 - 10/12 Rome (Italy). LIFE staff attended the **MedAC meetings** where Working Group 1 (on the implementation of the CFP) was the only point of the agenda. Participants reviewed the state of art of several regulations (Western

Mediterranean Multiannual Plan, the Multiannual Plan on small pelagics in the Adriatic, etc) and a MedAC joint position was agreed on the proposal for the Control Regulation. For more information see: http://en.med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2018/12/339_medac_opinion_revision_control_reg.pdf

✚ 11/12 – 14/12 Rome (Italy) - The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) organised the Fish Forum 2018 event on fisheries science in the Mediterranean and Black Sea at the FAO headquarters. The initiative brought together over 450 experts working on fisheries and marine science to discuss **advancements in research, the integration of scientific knowledge in support of decision-making and priorities for the coming decade**. Moreover, it hosted a number of side events organized by different organizations and launched its latest report “the State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries” (SOMFI 2018 <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/publications/somfi/2018>). LIFE was an official partner and its staff attended as panellists, speaking about co-management and innovative governance in small-scale fisheries. In addition, LIFE members Pescartes and AKTEA – the women in European fisheries network – took part in the panel organised by the MedAC, presenting the project “Pescado con Arte” and the advocacy work carried out for gender equality, respectively. Presentations and conclusions are available here: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/fishforum2018/presentations> and <http://www.fao.org/news/detail/en/c/1175296/>

✚ 12/12 Catania (Italy) - The Board of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Environment of the University of Catania, gave its approval for the **formalization of a Memorandum of Understanding with LIFE**. It is the first step for a more practical cooperation, including in the framework of the project “Diverso”, an initiative on the diversification of fisheries-related activities led by the Sicilian Regional Fisheries Department touching upon the valorisation of seafood products and cooperation between researchers and the industry for the protection of marine resources and cultural heritage. More information in Italian on the dedicated website <http://www.pescadiverso.com/>

✚ 18/12 Almeria (Spain) - In the framework of its three years project “Mainstreaming small-scale low impact fisheries in the Mediterranean” funded by the MAVA Foundation, LIFE is reinforcing its presence on the ground in order to provide increased support to small-scale fishing communities in the region. Macarena Molina was selected to help LIFE in this important task as **new Project Manager for the Alboran Sea**. Meet Macarena in our welcome interview: <http://lifeplatform.eu/meet-macarena-molina-lifes-project-manager-for-the-alboran-sea/>



✚ 8/1 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Executive Secretary Brian O’Riordan, alongside LIFE and Bloom staff, met with Konstantin Petrov, Fisheries Attaché at **the Bulgarian Permanent Representation**. Mr Petrov will return to Bulgaria to work for the public administration and is keen to keep in contact with LIFE with a view to organizing a workshop on small-scale fisheries in the Black Sea.

✚ 09/1 Gdansk (Poland) – Bengt Larsson from Swedish LIFE Member Organization SYEF and LIFE staff, in consultation with our Members from the Baltic Sea region, participated in a meeting to **elaborate a project concept for fishing and marketing round gobies** – an invasive species from the Caspian Sea present in coastal waters across the Central and Eastern Baltic. A busy working day progressed proposals to tap potential sources of seed money for projects and highlighted the willingness to cooperate amongst prospective partners representing small-scale fisheries, science and local authorities. A start-up project is being submitted to the Swedish Institute.

✚ 15/1 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE Executive Secretary met with Barbara Roegiers, Fisheries Attaché of **the Belgium Permanent Representation** to discuss developments with electric pulse trawling. She dismissed the idea that banning pulse would mean having to revert to traditional beam trawling. She highlighted how the Belgian fleet operated profitably thanks to gear innovations over the last 20 years, without needing to use electricity.

✚ 17-18/1 Stockholm (Sweden) – **NESUfish project partners**, among them Evalds Urtans, LIFE Member from Latvia and LIFE staff, gathered for a wrap-up meeting of the MSC-led initiative, to sum-up the progress made, and to identify options to continue cooperation. By April, a final project report will be elaborated, including a mapping of small-scale fisheries

communities across the Baltic Sea. A special importance was attached by the project partners to activities enhancing added value of fish products obtained by small-scale fishers, with different local initiatives in this direction encouraged.

- ✚ 21-22/1 Boulogne-sur-Mer (France) and Brussels (Belgium) – **Two busy days during which LIFE staff and members met with fishers from across Europe to focus on the issue of electric pulse fishing.** on day 1 LIFE Executive Secretary attended an event held at the fish auction of Boulogne-sur-Mer organized by Bloom. The initiative included a press conference, debate, and workshop at the presence of fishers, including LIFE members, from Spain, Italy, France, UK, and Belgium. The most important output from the meeting was a proposal to develop an agenda for upcoming European Parliamentary elections. The following day participants attended meetings in Brussels with a number of Members of the European Parliament, including Gabriel Mato (rapporteur for the Technical Measures regulation and for the EMFF post 2020), Alain Cadec, Izascun Bilbao Barandica, and Marisa Sevilla Andrada (Assistant to Clara Aguilera). It was a chance for fishers to meet MEPs and to quiz them on electric pulse trawling and other issues of concern.



- ✚ 23/1 Brussels (Belgium) – LIFE staff attended a **Public Hearing on the “Future of Small-Scale Fisheries in the EU”** held at the European Parliament. This proved an opportunity for the DG Mare to re-iterate its commitment to supporting small-scale fisheries in the next EMFF. There were presentations from the Azores, Ireland, Germany, Spain and Italy. The issues of access to quota and access to markets were highlighted. Ken Kawahara of LIFE French member organisation PPPAF did a good write up (in French) <http://www.pplateforme-petite-peche.fr/?p=683>.

- ✚ 28/1 Sitges (Spain) - LIFE assisted its Member organisation Cofradia de Sitges to draft a **project proposal presented to the local public administration for the “Promotion of the economic development of artisanal fisheries”**. The project, approved by the plenary of the City Hall and to be made public soon, will be carried out over 4 years and will allow to improve the economic situation of the organisation by promoting diversified fishing activities including on “pesca-turismo” (including visits, didactic and gastronomic activities).

- ✚ 30/1 Roses (Spain) - The second meeting of the **“Co-management committee of Cuttlefish in the Roses and Pals Bays”** took place. The agenda of the meeting included: 1) Presentation of the results obtained from the cuttlefish tracking study 2) Short presentation by the Regional Government of the cuttlefish (sepia) catches by the fishing fleet for the three fishers’ organisations included in the plan and 3) Presentation carried out by each organisation on the future “Sepia Management Plan”. LIFE, as member of the Co-management committee, did preparatory work with the fishers from L’Estartit and l’Escala (which are also LIFE members) to get ready for the meeting and find consensus.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

- ✚ **LIFE member FSK investigates on carbon footprint**

3/12 Denmark - Impact on the climate is an important issue for fishers and consumers alike across the EU. **Many consumers are aware that beef has a major carbon footprint. But what about fish?** LIFE members from Denmark, FSK, have asked Friederike Ziegler from the RISE Research Institutes, about the carbon footprint of fish. *“There will always be differences between fisheries. It also matters how the stock is doing, and how easy the fish are to catch. But overall, we can conclude that carbon footprint of a cod or flatfish caught with passive gear such as set nets and hooks has a lower carbon footprint*

LIFE supports AKTEA, the women in fisheries network
www.akteaplatform.eu

than if the same fish from the same stock is caught by active gears – for instance bottom trawl” , Friederike Ziegler concluded. The full article (in Danish) is available here <http://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/klimapaavirkning-stor-forskel-paa-fiskemetoder/>

Arts Menors Costa Brava active on marketing and on TV

18/12 and 10/1 L’Escala (Spain) – LIFE members from Arts Menors Costa Brava were interviewed for the Spanish TV show “Las Rutas de Veronica” on TVE2. Isaac, a fisher of the association, explained **the importance of the cuttlefish fishery** for local fishing communities and techniques to ensure a sustainable management of the resource, especially in relation to spawning. The full interview is available here, starting minute 42:00 (in Spanish) <http://www.rtve.es/m/alcarta/videos/las-rutas-de-veronica/rutas-veronica-alt-emporda/4893939/?media=tve>. The following month they met LIFE staff to work on the Synepesca Project, funded by the Carasso Foundation. The initiative aims to foster French-Spanish synergies and share with the Spanish group the expertise acquired by LIFE French members SPMLR in the development of their label Golion. Synepesca is moving forward and **Arts Menors Costa Brava has undertaken important steps to improve the marketing and labelling of its products**. LIFE supported the fishers by providing capacity-building in project management and planning the activities for 2019, which will include the launching of the label and a second Exchange of best practices.

Pescartes attends event organised by Greenpeace and renews its project

26/12 Santiago de Compostela (Spain) – LIFE Spanish member Pescartes attended a workshop called “Pesca Justa” (Fair Fishing) where **Greenpeace presented its “Roadmap for fair and sustainable fisheries”**. A number of stakeholders involved with small-scale fisheries attended and the main topic on the agenda was the marketing of sustainable small-scale fisheries products. More information here <https://es.greenpeace.org/es/sala-de-prensa/comunicados/santiago-acoge-las-jornadas-tejiendo-redes-dando-valor-a-la-pesca-sostenible/> . Pescartes also renewed its project “Pescados con Arte” (pictured right) and will continue to carry out initiatives to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries products in the course of the year. The Project is supported by the Foundation Biodiversidad through the EMFF’s Pleamar programme.



PRESS REVIEW AND INTERESTING READING

LIFE position on Eel

<http://lifeplatform.eu/life-position-on-eel-for-2019/>

Expertengruppe Fischereikontrolle (German)

<http://lifeplatform.eu/expertengruppe-fischereikontrolle/>

Christmas Council

<http://lifeplatform.eu/christmas-council-annual-quota-carve-up-getting-the-balance-right/>

Vote on the WestMedMAP

<http://lifeplatform.eu/vote-on-the-westmed-map/>

Vote on the EMFF

<http://lifeplatform.eu/vote-on-the-2021-2027-emff/>

<http://fiskerforum.dk/en/news/b/emff-must-maintain-support-for-small-scale-fishing-says-life>

Interview to LIFE's Executive Secretary Brian O'Riordan

https://mag.hookandnet.com/2018/12/17/2018-12life1/pugpig_index.html

Portal Morski on the small-scale fisheries definition (Polish)

<https://www.portalmorski.pl/rybolowstwo/41604-projekt-nowego-funduszu-rybackiego-rozszerza-rybolowstwo-malokalowe-z-12-az-do-24-metrow>

Portal Morski on the irregularities in fisheries management in Denmark (Polish)

<https://www.portalmorski.pl/rybolowstwo/41628-dunscy-rybacy-maja-problemy-z-powodu-blednego-raportowania-polowow>

Scottish members on the three-mile limit

<http://www.scottishcreelfishermensfederation.co.uk/threemilelimit.htm>

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