



Promoting Sustainable Fishing Initiatives under the European Fisheries Fund



Smart Investments

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Foreword

WWF has long recognised the important role of public spending in the European fisheries sector, helping fishermen and fishing communities to adapt to a fast changing world.

This type of financial support, often targeted at small and remote coastal communities, is vital. But, at the same time, fisheries subsidies have greatly contributed to the expansion and modernisation of the European fishing fleet. Herein lies the problem. Rather than necessarily helping the communities they were designed to assist, an important part of the fisheries subsidies are perversely leading to overcapacity in the fleets and to an inevitable depletion of fish resources. Profits may rise in the short run, but in the medium and long term, the prospect is one of reduced profitability. In other words, badly conceived subsidies may be putting at risk the very economic basis of fishermen and coastal communities.

The newly adopted European Fisheries Fund (EFF). which will support the European fishing sector with about four billion Euros over the period 2007-2013, has an enormous potential to help fishing communities to work towards the regeneration of severely depleted fish stocks. This new regime has been gradually reformed to reduce adverse impacts on the environment and to open new opportunities for financing environmental priorities. Funding can be used for a wide range of activities. These include for instance protecting the environment within the framework of the EU Habitats Directive and the so-called "Natura 2000" network of protected areas. The EFF can also be used for promoting sustainable products using fishing methods with low environmental impact or for the certification of fish products caught using environmentally friendly methods.

However, it seems that limited funding has been allocated to these activities so far. In fact fishing communities, prime recipient of the new regime, might often not be aware of the existence of such funding opportunities. So, while the chance for a new era of subsidies is open to us, the danger is that business as usual will mean the over-exploitation of a declining resource.

To fill the lack of information, WWF is publishing this guide to help make the best use of European subsidies for fisheries. WWF has been working with many organisations in the fisheries sector to collect examples of actions that we believe could be eligible for EFF expenditure. We hope that these "Smart Investments" examples will inspire a wide range of stakeholders eligible for EFF funding as well as national and regional officials and other agencies drawing up and designing programmes for EFF support.

Please let WWF know if the guide meets these objectives. We would be pleased to learn how to improve future versions to make it more useful for all concerned with the long-term viability of the industry and the sustainability of the fish stocks on which it depends.



Tony Long
Director
WWF European Policy Office
Brussels, June 2007

2. Summary

This guide is directed towards the wide range of stakeholders and decision makers in the European fisheries sector. It clearly illustrates how public funding has been used in the past to protect the marine environment and promote sustainable fisheries. The aim of the guide is to raise awareness of the broad range of projects eligible for public funding, in particular those that fall under the new European Fisheries Fund (EFF). In addition, the guide shows the large number of different stakeholders that are eligible to benefit from EFF funding.

After explaining the key characteristics of the EFF, the report provides examples of a number of projects across Europe and beyond. These offer information relating to the objectives, the partnership, timeframe and lessons learned in the different projects. The report ends with generic conclusions and a list of EU Member State authorities managing EFF support.

3. Background and Objective

Fisheries subsidies and other structural assistance for the marine environment play an important role in the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources. If they are spent wisely, they can significantly contribute to the long term viability of the industry, while also contributing towards the protection of the marine environment and the recovery of fish stocks. However, in the past, subsidies have often been used for the expansion and modernisation of the European fishing fleet, resulting in overcapacity and subsequently the depletion of fish resources. The reality is that most European fish stocks are over-fished - approximately 81% of known resources1. Consequently, scientists are predicting the collapse of all commercial fish stocks before 2050².

This has led to a change in the direction of funding in recent years to address the environmental challenges facing the industry. The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), which ran until the end of 2006, included a number of positive financial incentives. This was succeeded by the new European Fisheries Fund (EFF)³, which was adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 2006. Due to run for the next seven years (i.e. until 2013), it increases the opportunities to finance projects that support the sustainable

development of the European fisheries sector. However, the EFF is subject to debate and contested. An important area of discussion is to whether or not the use of the EFF money to build new vessels and the purchase of new engines should be permitted. One of the major criticisms from environmental interests relates to how the European Commission and other stakeholders will be able to ensure that capacity does not increase as a result of engine replacements in the EU fleet⁴.

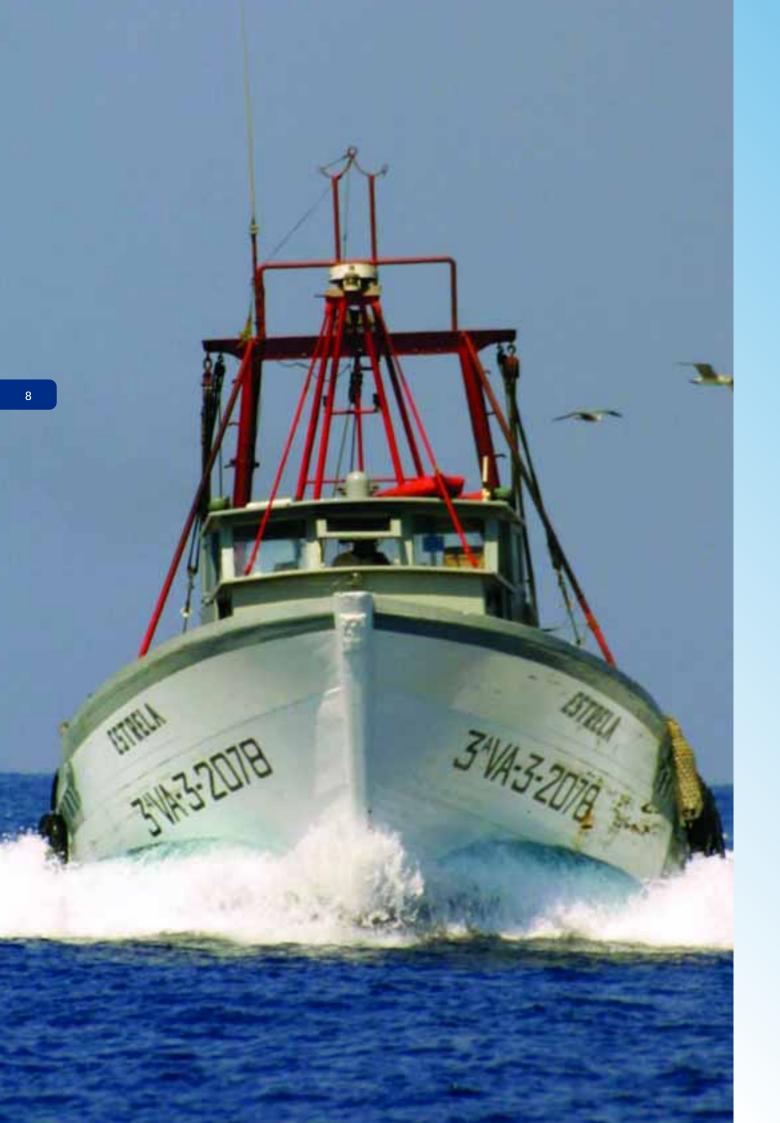
As none of the measures of the EFF are compulsory, each Member State is able to decide on its national priorities and on the measures to be funded. As a result, the impact of the EFF in its current form is mainly determined by the EU Member States, according to their national strategic plans and operational programmes, and by the project proposals from various fisheries stakeholders. Therefore it is critical that Member States and stakeholders, which are directly affected by the negative environmental and social consequences of over-fishing, act with the utmost of responsibility. This can only be achieved by ensuring that the opportunities offered by the EFF are used to implement meaningful projects that will promote responsible practices in fisheries.

European Commission: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/931&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en.

² Article 'Impact of Biodiversity Loss on Ocean Ecosystem Services' published in the journal "Science" (11/06).

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/L 223/L 22320060815en00010044.pdf.

See the joint NGOs position paper on the EFF Proposal (May 2006): http://assets.panda.org/downloads/20060515_ngo-position-eff.pdf.



4. The European Fisheries Fund in brief

4.1 Funds available

The EFF provides substantial opportunities to the European fisheries sector. Running for seven years, a budget of €3,849 billion was set in 2004 for the EFF⁵. Furthermore, EU Member States will provide cofunding to projects and this will significantly increase the amounts available for the fisheries sector. One of the guiding principles of the EFF is to concentrate the funding on the less developed EU regions – called the 'convergence regions'. To this end, approximately €2.6 billion has been allocated under the EFF to the convergence regions on an indicative basis. The table below highlights the allocation of funds between the Member States, breaking down the sums available to the convergence and non-convergence regions over the next seven years.

Table 1: Allocation of EFF aid from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 in 2004 prices (in Euros)

Member State	Convergence	Non-convergence	Total
Austria	167,228	4,500,253	4,667,481
Belgium		23,301,312	23,301,312
Bulgaria	70,406,354		70,406,358
Cyprus		17,500,989	17,500,989
Czech Republic	24,003,691		24,003,691
Denmark		118,606,682	118,606,682
Estonia	74,632,182		74,632,182
Finland		35,001,972	35,001,972
France	30,389,485	161,309,090	191,698,575
Germany	86,073,715	52,352,951	138,426,666
Greece	157,293,830	27,501,551	184,795,381
Hungary	30,399,339	496,000	30,895,339
Ireland		37,502,115	37,502,115
Italy	282,489,352	94,105,302	376,594,654
Latvia	110,369,814		110,369,814
Lithuania	48,418,135		48,418,135
Malta	7,435,476		7,435,476
Netherlands		43,102,430	43,102,430
Poland	651,791,012		651,791,012
Portugal	198,766,492	20,001,128	218,767,620
Romania	202,556,179		202,556,179
Slovakia	11,242,552	892,801	12,135,353
Slovenia	19,330,990		19,330,990
Spain	840,215,806	165,209,310	1,005,425,116
Sweden		48,502,732	48,502,732
United Kingdom	29,335,019	84,004,734	122,339,753
			20 701 002
Technical Assistance			30,791,993

 $^{^{\}rm 5}\,$ This is ${\leqslant}4.3$ billion taking inflation to the present date into account

4.2 EFF Priorities

According to the European Commission, the EFF will specifically focus on:

- Supporting the major objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), particularly those agreed during its reform in 2002. These include securing the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources and achieving a stable balance between these resources and the capacity of the EU fishing fleet.
- Strengthening the competitiveness and economic viability of operators in the sector.
- Promoting environmentally-friendly fishing and production methods.
- Providing adequate support to those employed by the sector.
- Facilitating the diversification of economic activities in fisheries areas.

To achieve these objectives, the EFF sets out the following five "Priority Axis":

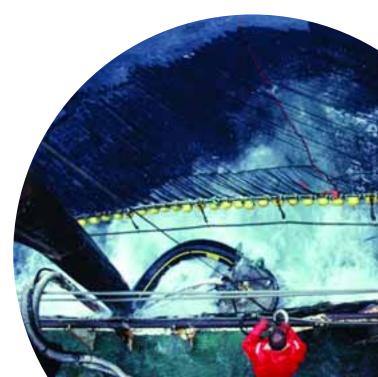
- 1. Adapting the Community fishing fleet to the available resources.
- 2. Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products.
- 3. Measures of common interest (e.g. sustainable management, conservation, market transparency, partnerships).
- 4. Sustainable development of fisheries areas.
- 5. Technical assistance to enable the delivery of EFF aid.

For each priority, a wide range of measures are eligible for funding.

Given the low fish stocks within EU waters, WWF considers that the measures under the Priority Axis 3 ('Measures of common interest') and the newly introduced Priority Axis 4 ('Sustainable development of fisheries areas') are of particular interest and could potentially promote more sustainable fisheries within the European Union.

This guide therefore focuses on activities that are possibly eligible for funding under these two Axis. This is also because there is often a lack of knowledge and awareness concerning the funding opportunities for these kinds of activities.

Under **Priority Axis 3**, aid will be made available for projects contributing to the sustainable management or conservation of fisheries resources, strengthening transparency in the market or promoting partnerships between scientists and players in the fisheries sector. Examples of such projects include the protection of the environment within the framework of Natura 2000; the promotion of products using fishing methods with low environmental impact; the labelling and certification of products caught or farmed using environmental friendly methods; pilot projects aiming to develop and test methods to improve selectivity and reduce by-catches, discards or damage to the environment.



Priority Axis 4 acknowledges that the European fisheries sector is characterised by the depletion of fish stocks, reduced catches, falling income and job losses. This has a considerable impact on the fisheries areas concerned which often have few alternative employment opportunities. Consequently, Priority Axis 4 will support the areas concerned to reduce their financial dependence on the catching sector. Similarly to the LEADER6 and PESCA⁷ Initiatives, driven by a territorial bottom-up approach, EFF funding can be used to promote the development of measures addressing the specific development needs of concerned fisheries areas. Projects could include the restructuring, redirecting and diversifying of economic activities. This could be achieved by promoting ecotourism, by protecting coastal and marine environments or by protecting the natural and architectural heritage in fisheries and coastal areas.

4.3 Who can benefit from the EFF

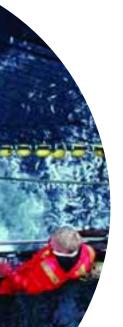
The EFF Regulation does not explicitly define those eligible for funding. EU Member States are however requested to inform potential beneficiaries of the possibilities offered by the programme and of the rules and methods governing access to financing. In this regard, the EFF Regulation specifically names organisations involved in the fisheries sector. These include all activities of production,

processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, professional organisations, economic and social partners, bodies involved in promoting gender equality and non-governmental organisations, including environmental organisations⁸. For specific measures only – like training or assistance in purchasing vessels - beneficiaries have to fulfil further criteria.

4.4 How to apply for funding

Further information on how to apply for funding is best obtained through liaison with national administrations responsible for the implementation of the EFF. These are usually the Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Fisheries. In some countries, such as Germany, the administration in charge is at the state or regional level⁹.

Prior to submitting any ideas and project proposals, fisheries stakeholders should consult the national strategic plan and operational programme to learn more about the national priorities and the funding available under each Priority Axis. This will also fully explain the steps required to complete the application process. Also recommended for a successful bid is entering into dialogue concerning the proposal with the national EFF administrator.



- The LEADER Initiative (now LEADER+) is financed by EU structural funds and is designed to help rural actors consider the long-term potential of their local region: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm.
- ⁷ The PESCA Community Initiative ran from 1994 to 1999, seeking to help the fisheries sector make a successful transition by diversifying fishermen's activities away from fishing and developing new employment opportunities.
- ⁸ EFF Regulation (1198/2006), Article 51.
- ⁹ See full listing at the end of the guide, Chapter 7, Page 54.



5. Examples of Smart Investments

The following section is a compilation of both past and present examples of Smart Investments realised in the fisheries sector. The first part of the section provides examples from Europe, while the second part details examples from other parts of the world.

Reading the examples, it should be considered that environmental, social and economic impacts of fisheries subsidies vary greatly according to their type and the context in which they are applied. In particular, different types of fisheries subsidies under various management and stock conditions have different impacts¹⁰. A detailed analysis on the environmental, social and economic impacts of the projects selected is clearly beyond the scope of this guide. The current section provides an overview of a number of initiatives that clearly did not contribute to any increase in fishing capacity or effort. Instead, they aim at a diversification of local employment, promoting labelling initiatives and improving fishing techniques.

5.1 Code of Conduct for Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries, Denmark

Main objective

To develop a code of conduct for a sustainable and responsible fishery – with the pelagic fishery as an example.

Country/Geographical area

Denmark

Duration

2006 - 2008

Partnership

The project brings together the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and different stakeholders, including fisheries management institutions, research institutes, fisheries and processing sectors, and NGOs.

Coordinating/Organisational body

The Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development (IFM).

Funding instrument

The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) and the Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business of the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Contact

Soeren Eliasen, <u>se@ifm.dk</u>, +45 98 94 28 55

| Background

While codes of conduct for sustainable fisheries already exist at international and European level, there was no such code in Denmark. The project is one of four projects which have been funded by the Sustainable Fisheries Development Programme¹¹ and aims at developing a code of conduct for sustainable and responsible fisheries in Denmark.

| Project aims

To integrate market and management interests in a process where fishermen formulate the specific code of conduct for their fishery.

The project will analyse the expectations and demands regarding sustainable and responsible fisheries from the public management and central market actors, such as large European supermarket chains. Consequently, the project will provide the fishermen with information on the importance of a code of conduct. The aim is to ascertain if the code could result in more responsible management by fishermen and support attempts to achieve a higher value from the catch. A general framework for codes of conduct and a specific code of conduct for the pelagic fishery will be formulated in discussions with the fishermen and their organisations. The project emphasizes fishermen's involvement and ownership in order to get a code, which relates directly with the daily practise and has a higher legitimacy because it is formulated by the fishermen themselves.

¹¹ see the Smart Investment "Sustainable Fisheries Development Programme", Page 30.

| Project description

The project comprises four phases:

- Analysing trends in demands and expectations of sustainable fishing from central market interests and the management system.
- Developing a general framework for codes of conduct within Danish fisheries. This will be discussed with representatives from the catch and processing sectors as well as management.
- Developing a specific code of conduct for sustainable and responsible fisheries within the Danish pelagic fishery. The project team will help fishermen from the sector and the Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation to formulate their own code of conduct.
- Communicating experiences from the project through a conference, articles and a folder providing guidelines on a framework for codes of conduct for sustainable and responsible fisheries and explaining how to involve the fishermen in the specific fishery.

| Future of the project

The project will possibly see a continued process of linking the fishermen's code of conduct to the processing industry. The fishermen can only profit from the code if it is communicated in the value-chain to the market.

Lessons learned

There appears to be increasing pressure from the market side to document sustainable behaviour in the catch of marketed fish. The fishermen's organisations tend to see the code of conduct as a tool to enhance their role in the discussions leading to a general understanding of 'sustainable fishing'.



5.2 Clyde Inshore Fishery, United Kingdom

Main objective

Building a sustainable future for the Clyde inshore fisheries.

Country/Geographical area

United Kingdom, Scotland

Duration

The project was launched by the Clyde Fisheries Development Project at the Fishing 2005 exhibition in Glasgow. Funding was initially received up to September 2007 and a recent application for further funding has been submitted.

Partnership

The project brings together representatives from WWF-Scotland, the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Seafish, Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation (NIFF), Clyde and South West Static Gear Association (CSWSGA), University Marine Biological Station Millport (UMBSM), Food and Drink Federation (FDF).

Coordinating/Organisational body

Seafish played a considerable role in initial coordination and was the employing body for a project officer. Once finances for the project had been secured, the project officer managed the project on behalf of the partners' steering group.

Funding instrument

The main funding instrument for the project was the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). £117,000 (approximately €170,000) were sought for the original project, allowing the critical appointment of a project officer to take things forward. This was successfully used to obtain match funding from other sources. FIFG money was also secured to support the Sustainable Supply Chain project, which currently employs two staff to look at the catch make up of the Clyde fisheries and represents £173,000 (approximately €253,000). FIFG money is also being sought to support the Nephrops fishery seeking pre-assessment and full assessment for potential Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. This represents a smaller amount of £26,000 (approximately €38,000).

Website

www.gla.ac.uk/Acad/Marine/CFDP

Contact

Helen McLachlan, Hmclachlan@wwfscotland.org.uk



Background

Historically, whitefish and pelagic stocks - particularly herring - were important for the Clyde fisheries. However, these have declined over the past 20 years, in part due to fishing. There remains a healthy fishery for *Nephrops norvegicus*, which is better known as Dublin Bay Prawn, Scottish Langoustine or simply 'prawn'. There was a desire to secure the long term future of the Nephrops fishery by delivering a sustainable, high quality product and to even consider the potential of restoring other fisheries in the area.

| Project aims

This is the first project of this kind in Scotland and the aim is to create a more positive future for the Clyde fisheries. This will be achieved by encouraging fishermen, scientists, and organisations concerned with the environment working together to develop the local fishery in a sustainable way.

| Project description

A multi-stakeholder project that intends to provide a blueprint for future fisheries management, placing sustainable stocks at the heart of a thriving industry. Through working together, the Clyde Fisheries Project can help to ensure a sustainable future for the Clyde fisheries, consequently benefiting both local communities and marine life. Throughout the course of the project, the cross-sector partnership comprises a number of key development and research activities. The main objectives of the partnership include:

- Reviewing local fisheries, fish stocks and the environmental effects of fisheries.
- Developing and promoting best practice in the operation and management of the Clyde fisheries, including a set of quality and environmental standards.
- Overseeing a development programme as agreed by the Group to improve sustainability and the long-term social and economic prospects of the fisheries and those who depend on it.

- Ascertaining how to improve sustainability targets on a year on year basis.
- Identifying research priorities and facilitating studies in connection with the agreed development programme.

| Future of the project

The current project funding ends in September 2007. However, the project's Steering Group is strongly supporting the continuation and expansion of the work that the project has initiated. A vote of support has been obtained to seek funding to continue the project and it is hoped that funding can be secured from a proposal to the Grants Scheme of Seafish in the UK. The proposal would be for a new three-year period, allowing the main project to oversee the assessment and hopefully the MSC certification of the Clyde Nephrops fishery. It would also allow work to be developed on the other main fishery in the Clyde, that of Scallops. Scotland is in the process of adopting a new inshore fisheries management regime and there is scope for the Clyde to play a possible advisory role in this new management structure. This can be developed during the next phase of the project.

Lessons learned

Clear communications regarding the project should be quickly released so that everyone remains informed. For example, developing a comprehensive website is highly important. Ideally, being able to deliver something tangible in a timely manner is desirable in supporting such communication, even though it is not always possible. Many of the Clyde project achievements are based around communication.

Regarding financial support, FIFG funding has been critical not only in providing funding but also in helping to secure further funding from other areas. Positive dialogue with your national FIFG administrator on any proposal will improve the chances of a successful bid.



5.3 Invest in Fish, United Kingdom

Main objective

To identify the best options for the sustainable management of fisheries in the South-West of England by using a stakeholder-centred approach.

Country/Geographical area

United Kingdom, Coastal areas off the South-West of England (Celtic Sea, English Channel and Western approaches)

Duration

2004 - 2007

Partnership

The project brings together stakeholders who have a direct interest in the future of fisheries in the South-West of England. Among these are processors, restaurateurs, the commercial fishing industry, retailers, environmental NGOs, statutory agencies and recreational sea anglers.

Coordinating/Organisational body

Invest in Fish is an original concept devised by Marks & Spencer, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations and WWF-UK. The project is run by a steering group made up of representatives from the full partnership.

Funding instrument

The total funding is £1.6 million (approximately €2.3 million), including EU co-financing through FIFG, other public sector and private sector funding as well as support from steering group partners.

Website

www.investinfish.org

Contact

Heather Squires, hsquires@investinfishsw.org.uk

Background

Fishing and fish-related industries represent an integral part of South-West England's economy, communities, and natural environment. The fishing industry in this region is worth £165 million (approximately e239 million) per year and directly accounts for 1,800 jobs (indirectly, it accounts for at least that same figure). However, the state of many fish stocks could be improved, which would further benefit the local economy and safeguard local jobs. Studies indicate that changes to fish management in the English Channel could result in more profitable fisheries, while also maintaining or increasing fish numbers.

Project aims

To maximise the potential of regional fish resources, the aim is to chart a course for sustainable fisheries in the South-West. This can be achieved by developing and testing options that safeguard the fishing industry, communities and the marine environment. The development and use of scientific modelling is an important tool in this exercise.

| Project description

Invest in Fish consists of the following stages:

 Listening – Detailed community and stakeholder consultation throughout the project has developed a genuine 'bottom-up' approach. This relates to generating fisheries advice, taking into



account diverse views from those with a stake in the management of fisheries and the marine environment. It includes fishermen, sea anglers, retailers, restaurants, processors, governments, and the general public living in the South-West.

- Technical information Expert social, economic and environmental information has been sought.
 This provides stakeholders with important scientific information enabling them to identify and prioritise options for improving fisheries in the South-West.
- Modelling Computer modelling is used to test options and construct packages of options which deliver maximum benefits. These option packages are evaluated against each other on the key criteria of sustainability.
- Consensus Decisions on which options provide the best results for the South-West will be made following transparent consultation via the sector steering group members with their constituencies.
- Implementation The project will develop a plan outlining the important steps in implementing the preferred options.
- Shared learning The knowledge gained will be widely shared. The scientific model created through the project can be extended to other parts of the European Union with modifications and its use will be promoted.

Future of the project

The project presents an innovative and unique 'bottom-up' approach to fisheries management. If the project succeeds, it will provide government decision makers with tested options agreed by the major interest groups for more sustainable fisheries. Furthermore, it will give an example of conflict resolution and decision making appropriate

to other EU settings, including the new Regional Advisory Councils, which now provides advice to the Commission on fisheries management. The model created may also be an effective tool to these groups as they explore and evaluate long term management options.

Lessons learned

- Working together towards a joint solution requires commitment, buy-in, and the development of trust amongst a diverse partnership. This means time and trust, even when energy levels are low. Continued external buy-in is also essential to ensure the implementation of the recommendations.
- Invest in Fish South-West has provided a
 platform for dialogue and debate between
 diverse sectors in a unique partnership
 approach that is based on bottom-up thinking
 towards fisheries management. This approach
 requires strong facilitation tools to promote
 dialogue and consensus making.
- The networking and discussions from the partnership have been important, leading to other spin-off alliances that will continue well beyond the project. These domestic and transnational links should be maintained and strengthened.
- For ambitious and large-scale projects, the timescale to realise objectives can be underestimated. This is especially the case when dealing with technical science such as modelling where new and uncharted territory is concerned. Both the science itself as well as its application – directed and used by stakeholders – is innovative but also time consuming. The project has extended its time to reflect this, but in an ideal situation there would be more time as well as more focused attention to the science-stakeholder interface.



5.4 Regional Fisheries Co-Management Halland, Sweden

Main objective

Regional co-management for increased economic, ecological and the social sustainability of fisheries through developing new ideas and creating added value.

Country/Geographical area

Sweden, County of Halland and the Kattegat

Duration

Ongoing (started 2005)

Partnership

For this project, the original steering committee and initiative takers are the Swedish fishermen's federation local branch, the regional development council of Halland (RDC Halland) and the County Board administration of Halland (CBA Halland). During the implementation phase, the steering committee was enlarged with representatives from anglers and subsistence fishers. Stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation phases working groups include professional fishermen, anglers, subsistence fishers, local trawl manufactures, fish wholesalers and retailers, municipalities, local development societies, harbour associations and nature conservation organisations.

Coordinating/Organisational body

The County Board administration of Halland and the Swedish Board of Fisheries

Funding instrument

The total funding for 2005-2006 was approximately €290,000. Half of this financing came through the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). Additional funding by the Swedish Board of Fisheries amounted to approximately €8,000.

Website

www.fiskeriverket.se

Contact

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Background

In general, central dominant fisheries management regimes and models have been ineffective in delivering sustainable outcomes. In Sweden, the specifics of the regional and local coastal ecosystems and communities have been neglected. In response, the Swedish Parliament adopted a policy statement emphasizing the sustainability aspects of coastal fisheries, the influence and consultation of stakeholders and the need for testing regional and local co-management. The Swedish fisheries co-management initiative started in 2005 under the coordination of the Swedish Board of Fisheries and has been operational in six pilot areas, one of which is Halland¹².

| Project aims

To develop and add value to fish products, consequently increasing the regional benefits from fisheries, integrating fisheries in regional development and relocating the management focus (from central to regional) to increase its legitimacy. In addition, to contribute to the national environmental quality objective 'Seas in balance and flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos'.

| Project description

SFI Halland has divided its work process into three phases: planning, implementation and evaluation.

The planning phase (2005-2006) included identification and stakeholder consultation regarding problems and goals. In addition, it involved identifying new partners, setting up the organisation, planning projects and fundraising. A steering committee with representatives from the initial partners has been established and supported by a project coordinator.

The implementation phase began in 2006 with participatory research and a number of projects were initiated including:

- Participatory research for the design of effort based management to quantify the efficiency of the fishing vessels when fishing without quota restrictions and to study possible changes in fishing patterns.
- Networking between researchers and local fishermen; applying for membership in regional advisory councils; elaborating on a reporting system of catches covering all types of fisheries, education and evaluation.
- Consumer-study as a basis for product development and added value, including local labelling to increase regional benefits from fisheries, networking, education and evaluation.

| Future of the project

SFI Halland intends to become a regional comanagement institution with a long lasting programme working as a platform for the coordination of Regional fishery co-management. Through new ideas and added value, economic, ecological and social sustainability will be increased. Future issues to be addressed include the image of fisheries and environmental protection.

Lessons learned

This is an example of a project partly funded by the FIFG. Co-management offers new ways of working – participatory fishery management based on local knowledge and experiences from stakeholders generate new opportunities for locally adapted solutions and initiatives, as well as local legitimisation of management rules. It is important to firstly embark on a few clear process and product orientated activities to show results with measurable goals before continuing with new activities. This will ensure that the focus and motivation of all those involved will be maintained. In general, co-management requires time and finances as well as legitimisation at various levels.

¹² For another example, see the next Smart Investment "Fisheries Co-Management Initiative for Northern Bohuslän", Page 22.

5.5 Fisheries Co-Management Initiative for Northern Bohuslän, Sweden

Main objective

To test co-management in an attempt to achieve a sustainable fishing industry and rural development to support the preservation of the fishing culture in Northern Bohuslän.

Country/Geographic area

Sweden, coastal waters of Strömstad and Tanums municipalities out to the four nautical miles limit

Duration

2005 - 2007

Partnership

The work is planned by a steering committee and undertaken in close cooperation with different parties. The members of the steering committee consist of the local branch of the Swedish Fishermen's Federation (SFR), the municipalities of Tanum and Strömstad, the County Board Administration, the Tjärnö Marine Biology Laboratory (TMBL) and the Swedish Board of Fisheries.

Coordinating/Organisational body

The Association of Municipalities Fyrbodal

Funding instrument

The total budget is around 5 million SEK (approximately €555,000) of which 50% are European funds (FIFG) and 50% national sources. The national contribution comes from a series of organisations including those not sitting on the steering committee – e.g. WWF and the Västra Götaland Region.

Website

www.fiskeriverket.se

Contact

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Background

The Northern Bohuslän area has the most diverse marine species in Sweden, including reef-building corals. The most commonly landed species and important fisheries in terms of volume and value are Norway lobster (Nephrops norvegius) and deep-sea prawn (Pandalus borealis). Managed locally and with very little state intervention, the species stocks are characterised as stable and falling within safe biological limits. The experiences of local fishermen in resolving problems collectively and sustaining the catch of prawns throughout the year have enabled cooperation on other issues, including identifying and protecting Natura 2000 sites. In 2004, the fishermen, who participated in the Natura 2000 process or 'Koster/Väderö Agreement', prepared an application together with scientists from Tjärnö Marine Biology Laboratory to initiate a pilot fisheries co-management initiative. This aims at co-managing all professional fisheries in the area and a national marine park is in the pipeline.

| Project aims

To develop a platform for co-management where local fishermen and other stakeholders develop the conditions required for sustainable fisheries. To create a vision on sustainable fisheries for the area, a participative management plan, selective gear, innovative sea food products, communication and marketing strategies.



| Project description

The project has been broken down into five different areas and the work is implemented in working groups. This is under the leadership of a few professional fishermen and supported by civil servants involved in fisheries and coastal development, as well as scientists. The areas are:

- Vision and management plan: This group is working on developing a common vision for sustainable fisheries in the area to be made operational through a management plan and other activities. The plan is to be continuously reviewed to adapt to changes.
- · Education and training: Three courses have already been implemented by TMBL for professional fishermen regarding the marine ecology of the area. Groups of fifteen fishermen have attended each course, which are held over two weekends. Courses also include an introduction to fisheries research and stock assessment and local fishermen have requested this and other planned courses to be a pre-requisite for fishing in this area in the future (e.g. product quality control). A course on fisheries for non-fishermen is also being designed by the fishermen to share knowledge and experience with staff adminstration, researchers and others working on issues of concern to the fishing industry. To share effectively, basic training in computer skills is also provided for approximately twenty fishermen involved in the co-management process.
- Fishing technology and gear development: This group is working on developing more environmentally friendly technology. The first activity to be implemented relates to the size selection in

- prawn fisheries. To achieve a common ground and motivation, the group attended a training week at Trawl Gear Technology Centre in Hull.
- 'Greenhouse', product quality and market development: The concept of 'greenhouse' provides
 a platform where the local fishermen can
 generate their own ideas, test them and experience the results. The focus is on market analysis
 and the development of sea food products,
 communication and marketing strategies.
- Self regulation: Within this group, in which the local coastguard office has been invited to participate, a self control folder for each fishing type has been developed. The folder consists of two sections - the first is an organiser for all of the documentation that the coastguards request during inspections and the second includes all rules regulating the specific fishery. In the organiser, there is a specific section to insert the diploma from the aforementioned course - this will become a pre-requisite to fish in the area.

| Future of the project

SFI Northern Bohuslän's aims to become a comanagement institution with a long lasting programme. To this end, the Priority Axis 4 of the EFF is considered a great opportunity.

Lessons learned

Collaboration around specific issues can generate good results from an economic and ecological viewpoint. This co-management project has developed networks from which relevant stakeholders trigger new processes and support common goals. Furthermore, dialogue between the partners has been improved.



5.6 Fishing Reserves, Spain

Main objective

Improving fishing sustainability in the artisanal sector in Galicia, supporting the creation of the first fishing reserve in Northern Spain and other Ecosystem Based Management tools.

Country/Geographical area

Spain, Lira-Carnota (A Coruña, North-West Spain)

Duration

2006 - 2009

Partnership

The project brings together local fishermen organisations, such as the Galician Fishermen Federation (Océano Vivo Foundation), the University of A Coruña and WWF-Spain.

Coordinating/Organisational body

WWF-Spain

Funding instrument

The project is financed by private funds (approximately €400,000 over 3 years). From 2007, the EFF will also be used by Xunta de Galicia (the regional government) to support the fishing reserve.

Website

Soon at <u>www.wwf.es</u> and <u>www.mardelira.net</u>

Contact

Raúl Garcia Rodriguez, pesca@wwf.es

Background

Costa da Morte is one of areas, which depends the most from fisheries in Europe (in some villages, up to 50% of the jobs depend on marine resources). Considerably affected by the Prestige oil spill in 2002, the area also suffers from over-fishing and poaching. In response, since 2000, Lira-Carnota fishermen have been seeking solutions to responsibly manage their marine resources and to improve commercialisation and fishermen's quality of life.

| Project aims

To support the efforts of fishermen in improving marine resources management and to make the fishing sector aware of the importance of sustainable fishing for the benefit of both the marine resources and themselves.



| Project description

- Change and improve the current management scheme, with a 'No Take Zone' network, management plans, increased fishing selectivity, addressing 'ghost fishing', controlling poaching, etc.
- Continued biological and sociological research.
- Internal and external workshops to facilitate the process with other stakeholders.
- Communication and links to other commercial, tourist and cultural initiatives.
- Biological data collection and enforcement by fishermen.
- Capacity building and awareness specifically relating to the management of the fishermen and the new possibilities offered by the EFF.
- Identification of candidate fisheries for MSC certification.

| Future of the project

The fishermen's organisations will have information and tools to monitor and control, as well as to carry out surveillance activities. The Galician government intends to use the EFF to cover the fishing reserve costs.

Lessons learned

To date, a number of important fishermen's organisations are beginning internal processes to create fishing reserves in their respective areas of influence in Galicia and Northern Spain. The project has been designed to seek a "domino effect" in the coastal areas.



5.7 Fishing Tourism Initiatives, Spain

Main objective

Diversification of fishermen income.

Country/Geographical area

Spain, Asturias, Andalusia and Canary Islands

Duration

2005 - 2007

Partnership

Participating bodies include fishermen's organisations, trade unions, local, regional and national administrations, NGOs, training centres and Tragsa (a public enterprise specialising in technical and training assessment). A decentralised structure was designed to guarantee the involvement of all participating bodies. Therefore, regional memberships are coordinated in each area by the Regional Monitoring Commission (RMC). There is also a Monitoring Committee (MC), composed of RMC representatives and national memberships.

Coordinating/Organisational body

Fundacion General (Universidad Politecnica de Madrid)

Funding instrument

EQUAL Community Initiative Programmes (CIP)

Website

http://www.sagital.org

Contact

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Background

The project SAGITAL focuses on areas that have been severely affected by the crisis of the fisheries sector, especially Andalusia and the Canary Islands (Lanzarote and La Palma). These regions were chosen as their different climatic, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural features maximise the possibilities to apply the project results to the entire Cantabrian and Mediterranean coasts as well as to the Balearic and Canary archipelagos.

| Project aims

To encourage and support fisheries enterprises and workers to adapt to undertaking new activities by developing viable initiatives of labour diversification for fishing tourism.



| Project description

The project in the Asturias addresses the development of fishing tourism initiatives based on transferring successes achieved in rural tourism. Innovative fishing tourism activities in Andalusia are developed by promoting areas where the exploitation of marine resources is regulated. In the Canary Islands, the project focuses on adapting fishing tourism initiatives to the management of sustainable marine reserves.

The project is structured into the following four programmes:

- Programme 1: Defining a model that identifies accurate diversification alternatives linking fishing activities to tourism. Developing a common action strategy for all the agents involved in the adaptation process to define the subsequent working lines.
- Programme 2: Promoting and raising the awareness of both enterprises and employers with regard to the possibilities offered by adapting to new fishing tourism activities.

- Programme 3: Developing supporting tools that will facilitate the adaptation of new fishing tourism activities. Adapting the level of employee knowledge and capabilities and developing technology and ICT resources within enterprises.
- Programme 4: Implementation and consolidation of the activities according to sustainability criteria. Promoting trans-national cooperation to exchange experiences, good practices and materials with other countries.

| Future of the project

To promote the development of fishing tourism as a diversification of the Spanish fishing sector and to transfer successful experiences learned from the SAGITAL project to other coastal Spanish communities



5.8 More Selective and Protective Fisheries (IMPSEL), Denmark

Main objective

To deliver concrete recommendations as to how selectivity and the use of environmentally friendly fishing methods can be increased in two Danish fisheries.

Country/Geographical area

North Sea, Kattegat, Skagerrak

Duration

2005 - 2007

Partnership

The project brings together the Food Economic Research Institute (FOI), Danish Fisheries Research Institute (DIFRES), South Danish University (SDU), Danish Fishermen Association (DFA), the Institute for Fisheries Management (IFM) and WWF-Denmark.

Coordinating/Organisational body

WWF-Denmark

Funding instrument

Funding is provided by the Danish Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business.

Contact

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| Background

Declining cod stocks and diminishing cod catches in most Danish fisheries make additional measures to strengthen the possibility of a rapid recovery of these stocks imperative. Further implementation of selective and environmentally friendly fishing measures is considered a key initiative to achieve sustainable fisheries. Therefore, funding is provided to several projects working with these issues. The IMPSEL project is relevant to existing research and commercial activities that also aim at selectivity or increasing the value of the landings so as to reduce the fishermen's economic dependence on cod as a by-catch.



| Project aims

To ensure that fishing gear - which in theory has selective qualities - will also lead to selective fishing in reality. Consequently, it is necessary to take into consideration the specific context of the fishing industry. This project does not just consider the discussion of selectivity and nature protection as a gear technological analysis. It also applies the gear technological knowledge to a fishery, economic, socio-economic, ecological, fishery policy and management perspective.

| Project description

An analysis of the causes that influence whether a fishery becomes more or less selective and protective in reality. The project will deliver a number of concrete recommendations regarding which incentives and disincentives are required to encourage targeted and selective fisheries.

| Future of the project

The project results will be delivered in June 2007. This will enable decision makers to implement the knowledge from IMPSEL into their meetings, negotiations and other political activities by autumn 2007. Currently, there are initiatives to follow up on IMPSEL, which collects the existing knowledge relating to selective fisheries, including the findings from IMPSEL and discussing what role technical measures will be able to play in the future fisheries management in the EU.

Lessons learned

The project will finish in June 2007 and the results are still being processed. Therefore, it is too early to assess the overall results and what has been learnt from the project.



5.9 Sustainable Fisheries Development Programme, Denmark

Main objective

Improved management and sustainability of the Danish fishing sector by reducing by-catch and discards to a minimum.

Country/Geographical area

Denmark

Duration

2004 - 2006

Partnership

Led by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, the project closely involves different stakeholders, including fisheries management institutions, research institutes, fisheries sectors and processing sectors and NGOs.

Coordinating/Organisational body

The Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Funding instrument

The total funding is of approximately €4 million, of which 50% is financed through the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Contact

Espen Nordberg, e.nordberg@wwf.dk

Background

Problems in the fisheries made it clear that more resources are needed to develop new initiatives to manage the Danish fisheries resources to optimise their utilisation. In combination with new fishing gear, the new management initiatives aim to improve the utilisation of the Danish fishing quota, including the reduction of discards. In order to develop new management initiatives (e.g. fishing days, real-time closure and reopening of hot spots) and enhance an optimal distribution of available fishing quotas, an improved basis of data and forecast tools are required. The forecast tools will predict the catch possibilities of the individual fishing fleets within a short timeframe - something necessary in situations of fluctuating stock sizes, changing patterns of fishing activity or the introduction of new technical conservation measures. The development of new management initiatives require a combined effort for the development of new catches and fishing methods, new prediction tools and more detailed and relevant information on the fishing industry in terms of time and space.



| Project aims

The aim of the programme is to develop a basis for fisheries where by-catch and discard of fish for consumption and ecological impact is documented and reduced to a minimum. This will be achieved by applying the best possible technology and management practice. The programme consists of four elements:

- Development of new catch and fishing methods.
 This will enable improved selectivity in terms of size and species.
- Development of new initiatives for fisheries management (e.g. as previously mentioned, fishing days, real-time closure and reopening of hot spots) to optimise the utilisation of the Danish fishing quota, including reduction of discard.
- Development of a code of conduct for sustainable fisheries. This will include defining what within the fishing sector is a sustainable fishery and acceptance by the sector of sustainable management.
- Definition and description of the ecological sustainability of the fishery. This includes quantification of the direct and fleet specific effect of the fisheries on target and by-catch species, as well as documentation of the effect of using new and selective fishing technologies.

| Project description

The Danish Fisheries Development Programme is a framework with a budget of €4 million. A steering committee consisting of stakeholders from the fishing, research, processing sector and WWF receives the applications, allocates the funds and evaluates the outcomes. The programme supports projects aimed at addressing problems that are significant to the Danish fishing sector by incorporating new technology and management methods. Projects should contribute to the objectives of the European Common Fisheries Policy, including implementing recovery plans for threatened fish stocks and fast-tracking the development of environmentally friendly fishing methods.

Future of the project

The programme was opened for first project funding applications on 1st November 2004. It continued for a three-year period until the end of the 2006 financing period.

Lessons learned

This is a good example of how EU Funds (in this case the FIFG) can be used to promote more sustainable practice. Furthermore, it demonstrates how NGOs can play an important role in programme and project development: WWF-Denmark was a major player in initiating and developing the programme and now sits on the programme steering committee. As a co-applicant with four other institutions for a €600,000 one year project to be funded through the programme, WWF-Denmark is also involved at the level of project implementation¹³.



¹³ see the Smart Investment "Code of Conduct for Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries", Page 14.

5.10 NECESSITY Research Project, Europe

Main objective

To develop effective and acceptable gear modifications and alternative fishing strategies in cooperation with the fishing industry. The aim is to reduce by-catch and mortality of fishing stocks, as well as to determine the biological effects and socio-economic repercussions of the changes.

Country/Geographical area

North Sea, North-East Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea

Duration

2004 - 2007

Partnership

Among the 23 project partners are Wageningen IMARES (Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies-NL), Lowestoft Laboratory, l'Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, le Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (Fødevareøkonomisk Institut), Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agária e das pescas (Portuguese Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research) and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research.

Coordinating/Organisational body

Wageningen IMARES B.V.

Funding instrument

EU STREP (Specific Targeted Research) under the 6th European Research Framework Programme.

Website

http://www.rivo.dlo.nl/sites/necessity

Contact

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Background

Depending on the fisheries, Nephrops are either targeted directly or form a valuable sub-component of the catch. The incidental capture of large numbers of young fish species is a common feature of all European Nephrops trawl fisheries.

Despite the varied regulations in force, high levels of discarding still prevail. The spawning stocks of these discarded fish are below biological safe limits and, in some cases, show a high risk of stock collapse.

Since the late 1980s, the annual stranding of large numbers of dead dolphins has been noted during the winter months on the French Atlantic and English Channel coasts. Forensic pathology suggests that a large proportion of these animals have died in fishing operations and pelagic trawlers have been implicated in many cases. The pelagic trawl fisheries in this region are complex and varied, with over twelve target species, six countries involved and at least three major gear types. It is clear that some of these fisheries have relatively low or non-existent cetacean by-catch rates, while one or two others clearly have higher by-catch rates. However, for the majority, there is insufficient information to assess by-catch rates.



| Project aims

This project seeks solutions for pelagic trawling in terms of gear modifications, alternative strategies and/or acoustic deterrents:

To develop new species-selective gear prototypes and alternative fishing strategies in co-operation with the fishing industry for use in the European Nephrops fisheries.

- To review the current status of knowledge of cetacean by-catches in pelagic fisheries using existing data sources and oncoming data collection programmes. Furthermore, to collect additional biological data (age, year of maturity, causes of death) of landed cetaceans.
- To develop new species-selective gear prototypes and alternative fishing strategies in cooperation with the fishing industry for pelagic trawl fisheries where cetaceans by-catch may occur.
- To compare the effectiveness of commercially available acoustic deterrents ('pingers') on cetaceans.
- To adapt or develop acoustic deterrents systems including an interactive acoustic 'pinger' in cooperation with a manufacturer.
- To evaluate the potential biological and economic impacts of the technologies and strategies developed above.
- To distribute the results to relevant sectors in the fishing industry and contribute to the implementation of the technologies and strategies developed above.

| Project description

NECESSITY is a very large project funded by the EU and involving more than 30 organisations. A variety of different gear modifications, such as escape windows and sorting grids, are being designed and tested to reduce by-catches, as well

as looking at possible changes in fishing strategies. In the case of pelagic fisheries, supplemental to gear modifications, consideration is being given to the use of acoustic deterrent devices designed to scare dolphins away from fishing gear. The biological effects of these solutions on stocks as well as the economic impact on the fishermen of adopting these new gears are also being studied. The project is being carried out in close cooperation with the fishing industry.

Future of the project

Ideas are under development to continue the work in the 7th European Research Framework Programme.

Lessons learned

These are preliminary. There exist effective gear modifications that can reduce by-catches in Nephrops trawling without affecting the target species catch. However, each sector requires a specific design. The introduction of such techniques is hampered when income losses of fishermen from by-catches that are now released at sea are not compensated and it is difficult to avoid the by-catch of cetaceans in pelagic trawls. Excluder devices in nets offer escape opportunities for these animals, but they do not always make use of these. The technical means of observing and recording the behaviour of animals in the net were produced and tested. Observations can be carried out both during the day and night in long hauls and video sequences then stored. No final conclusion can be drawn yet concerning the various experimental excluder devices inside the net as the testing phase was not concluded. Therefore, it is recommended that trials at sea be extended on commercial boats to obtain further information. Effective acoustic deterrents might be developed and some deterrent systems have been identified as being effective on dolphins in the wild. These are now being tested on trawls and observed accordingly.



5.11 Fishing for Litter Initiative, North Sea

Main objective

Reduce marine litter in the North Sea by changing the attitudes and behaviour of the people using the area.

Country/Geographical area

North Sea

Duration

2002 - 2004 (many activities continued after the project ended)

Partnership

The project brings together ALTERRA-Texel Marine and Coastal Zone Research, the Foundation for Environmental Education, the Danish Education Centre, Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and KIMO International (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation).

Coordinating/Organisational body

Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation and KIMO International

Funding instrument

EU Interreg North Sea Programme.

Website

http://www.savethenorthsea.com and www.kimointernational.org

Contact

Elin Svensson, <u>elin.svensson@hsr.se</u> or KIMO Secretariat, <u>kimo@zetnet.co.uk</u>

Background

Over 20,000 tons of marine litter is dumped into the North Sea each year, meaning marine litter is one of its worst environmental problems. Waste is a hazard to animals and vegetation in the sea and adversely affects the economies of coastal regions as well as the industries using the North Sea as their workplace. Waste that is washed ashore can be dangerous for both people and animals and reduces the aesthetic value of tourist sites.

| Project aims

To promote the responsible disposal of litter. Apart from collecting the litter, the project aims to highlight the problem of marine litter both within and outside the fishing industry. Furthermore, the project aims to reduce the risks of damages to fishing gear and contamination of catches.



| Project description

Fishing for Litter is an activity where fishing vessels bring ashore the litter gathered in their nets while fishing. Fifty-four vessels from nine harbours in Denmark, Sweden, Scotland and The Netherlands are participating on a voluntary basis and from 2002 - 2003 over 200 tons of litter was gathered. Marine litter is generated from a range of sources, including commercial shipping, dumping, tourism and fishing. Estimated costs to the fishing industry include an average of 1 - 2 hours each week of cleaning their nets of marine litter, and economic consequences include the spoiling of catch and damage to boat engines and propellers. A worse case scenario is that the costs of litter amount to approximately £30,000 per year for Shetland fishing boats. Furthermore, the impact on the wider environment is long lasting as plastics remain intact for hundreds of years and threaten wildlife through ingestion or entanglement. Apart from landing litter, the project also develops more awareness of the problem within the fishing industry and the public domain. The project was developed by KIMO International - an NGO representing coastal local authorities in the region. Co-funding from the EU Interreg North Sea Programme is used to cover the costs of waste collection and disposal at ports, as well as raising awareness, research and project coordination.

| Future of the project

The Fishing for Litter project has continued in various countries after the "Save the North Sea" project ended in 2004 and is currently still running in Scotland, Belgium and the Netherlands. Fishing for Litter Scotland aims to set up a network of ten harbours to allow the boats participating in the scheme the flexibility of dropping the marine litter they have collected wherever they land. In the long term, KIMO hopes to persuade National Governments to provide permanent funding for the scheme.

Since the "Save the North Sea" Project, KIMO Netherlands has expanded the project to the harbours of Stellendam, Breskens and Ijmuiden. The cooperation of the vessels and their crew comes without financial compensation. A positive, modern opinion about good operating practice is the motivation to participate.

Lessons learned

Marine litter is a problem for fishermen throughout the North Sea region. The litter caught that can destroy and contaminate the catch does not only come from the fishing sector but all kinds of activities taking place at sea, as well as from land based sources. As it causes the fishermen severe problems, the project has greatly motivated the sector to participate in solving the issue. Consequently, attitudes and behaviour have been influenced and changed and this has contributed to a sustainable development.



5.12 Litter Recycling Machine, North Sea

Main objective

To reduce marine litter by changing the attitudes and behaviour of those using the North Sea.

Country/Geographical area

North Sea

Duration

2002 - 2004 (many activities continued during 2005)

Partnership

The project brings together ALTERRA-Texel Marine and Coastal Zone Research, the Foundation for Environmental Education, the Danish Education Centre, Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and KIMO International (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation).

Coordinating/Organisational body

Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation and Skagen Education Center

Funding instrument

EU Interreg North Sea Programme

Website

<u>http://www.savethenorthsea.com</u> and www.sucska.dk

Contact

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Background

Marine litter is one of the main environmental problems in the North Sea¹⁴.

| Project aims

To promote the responsible disposal of used fishing gear and containers. Furthermore, to demonstrate that collecting old fishing nets and other plastic products can be a sustainable financial solution. The project also aims to highlight the problem of marine litter within the fishing industry.

| Project description

Skagen Education Centre conducted a pilot study within the "Save the North Sea" project which looked into the possibility of encouraging fishermen to bring back their old used nets to shore instead of dumping them overboard. This created the possibility of recycling fishing nets and other plastic materials originating from the fishing industry. Some of the products, such as floats collected, may also be re-used.



¹⁴ For more background, see the Smart Investment "Fishing for Litter Initiative", Page 34.

Fishing nets drifting in the water – the so called "ghost nets" - can be a deadly trap for fish, birds and other marine mammals. They may also get entangled in propellers and result in financial costs for boat owners.

A recycling machine was purchased and placed at Skagen Harbour. The machine, which weighs approximately six tons, is able to process a vast amount of plastic materials by cutting used plastic products into small fragments.

For example, this could be old netting, buoys, floats, and fish boxes - it can handle up to 1,400 plastic barrels per day.

The objective is to recycle this plastic material instead of burning it. The fine material that comes out of the machine can be melted and turned into new plastic products. Should at the end of the process the plastic still be burnt in an incinerator, it is better that the product is as fine as possible. If old netting is thrown into an incinerator without first being processed, there is a risk that the temperature will get too high. Finely chopped pieces of plastics can be burned in a more controlled way.

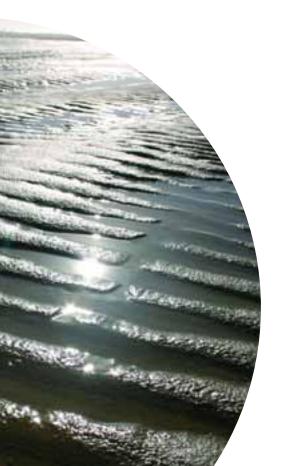
| Future of the project

Following the termination of the "Save the North Sea" project, the recycling machine has continued to work on a daily basis. Initially, nets were predominantly recycled and the final product was exported to China, but it later turned out to be cheaper to export the nets without the recycling, due to the transport costs. As the price of recycled plastic depends on the oil price and the US\$ rate of exchange, it is profitable to sell nets and trawls without classifying to China and Lithuania – and this is being done to a great extent.

This means that the machine is now primarily used to recycle plastic boxes and pallets as well as other plastic materials. As the re-collection of these materials has become a natural part of the work at Skagen Harbour and as it covers classified products, considerable money is saved from the transportation perspective.

Lessons learned

As environmental problems have an international character, the most important experience gained through this project is that all countries have to be represented in this kind of action. By collecting the different views of countries on the various issues, a great deal has been learnt on how to solve these problems.



5.13 Marine Stewardship Council Labelling Initiative, United Kingdom

Main objective

To help open and secure markets, generate publicity and improve prices by introducing eco-labelling.

Country/Geographical area

United Kingdom, Hastings

Duration

2003 - 2005

Coordinating/Organisational body

Hastings Fisheries Management Group

Funding instrument

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) together with funds from the South-East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Website

http://www.msc.org

Contact

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Background

Hastings is one of Britain's oldest fishing ports. Boats have worked from the beach in front of the ancient town for over one thousand years, supplying Hastings with its basic industry and main tourist attraction. Currently, there are approximately forty vessels, all under 10 metres in length. Further, approximately 100 people are employed directly on the boats or as shore hands and an additional 250 are employed in the local fish market and other associated service activities. As the food market is becoming increasingly competitive and global, consumers are increasingly interested in eco-friendly, fair trade, GM-free and healthy food. Therefore, fish is competing with initiatives such as organic food and farmers' markets. Furthermore, there is increased interest in product traceability. Consequently, product labelling is becoming important not only to make the product 'stand out' but also to inform consumers that the fish they are eating meets with their demands.

| Project aims

To take advantage of the new trends which are seeing eco-friendly, sustainable products become increasingly popular. It is hoped that applying and communicating more rigorous environmental standards will not only create an environmentally and economically viable fishery, but also open and secure markets generating publicity and improving prices.

| Project description | Fu

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a well established private eco-labelling scheme. Basically, gaining MSC status means fisheries have been able to meet strict requirements for sustainable fish stocks, a healthy marine environment and effective management. Hastings Fishing Fleet

Dover Sole Fishery and Hastings Fishing Fleet Pelagic Fishery were both undergoing full MSC assessment, carried out by independent certification bodies. The assessment process began in October 2003 and the fishery was certified in September 2005, when mackerel, herring and Dover sole fisheries were awarded Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) status.

Future of the project

The fisheries awarded the MSC accreditation are allowed to display the MSC logo on retail packaging or restaurant menus. The logo is an easy means for consumers to know that the fish they are buying is from a sustainable source.



5.14 Creation of an Internet Site to Monitor Fisheries Products, France

Main objective

To increase the value of fish by using new communication technologies.

Country/Geographical area

France, Brittany

Duration

Ongoing (started 2003)

Partnership

Association: Ouest Cornouaille Promotion (Groupement d'Action Local)

Coordinating/Organisational body:

L'Association des ligneurs de la pointe de Bretagne

Funding instrument

The total costs of the website were estimated to amount to €41,676. Through the LEADER+ scheme, the European Community funded approximately 40% of the project.

Website

http://www.pointe-de-bretagne.fr

Contact

Gilles Bernard, +33 298 70 70 80

| Project aims

The Breton Liners' Association aims to increase the value of its fish by enforcing the traceability of the product. The basis of this is a new communication strategy using new technologies. The intention is to create a website that works as an interface platform between consumers searching for information, fishmongers or restaurant owners and producers wanting to enhance fish quality.

| Project description

When catching a fish, the fisherman puts a label (with a number on it) on the fish. When consumers visit the website, the homepage will display all of the information relating to the fish they bought by inserting the number marked on the fish label. This information includes specific details regarding the fishing location, the vessel, its equipment and duration of fishing, as well as more general information relating to fishing techniques, Breton fishing, recipes, etc. Fishmongers and restaurant owners will be able to download images and information, consequently



reinforcing their link with producers. This project is interesting for the development of the area as it offers an innovative communication strategy that will bring fishermen together. Furthermore, it promotes sustainable coastal fishing (the line as fishing gear is highly selective and does not have significant impact on the habitats) and contributes to the modernisation of SMEs. Finally, it enhances the value of local products, especially from the area of West Cornouaille and increases links between fishing and tourism.

The project was implemented in three stages over a three-year period:

- Functional analysis and conception of website specifications; feasibility study.
- · Website building.
- · Website testing, final remarks and implementation.

The project was launched in 2003 and in its first year focused on the functional analysis and the conception of website specifications. In 2004, the website was created and it was finally tested during 2005. The cooperative society Audierne Port provided assistance to the Liners' Association with some of these technical tasks.

| Future of the project

It is anticipated that consumers, fishmongers and restaurant owners will check the website and that the image of Breton fisheries will be enhanced.

Lessons learned

This project is a collective one - each fisherman contributes to the site (by tagging the fish caught through taking photos). It is an approach that contributes towards building the identity of the local community liners. And by linking them to the wider public they better understand their identity and the service they bring to society.



5.15 Cardigan Bay Regional Marketing, United Kingdom

Main objective

To help small communities of fishermen to cooperate and work together to boost their local economy and employment and to secure their own future. This is through the promotion of regional marketing and allowing the Cardigan Bay Fisherman's Association to address sustainability issues within the inshore fishery.

Country/Geographical area

United Kingdom, Wales

Duration

Ongoing (started 2005)

Coordinating/Organisational body

Cardigan Bay Fisherman's Association Ltd (CBFA)

Funding instrument

FIFG funding was used to enable fishermen in Cardigan Bay (Wales) to market their own products rather than exporting them. Over the past two years, Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association has managed to secure over €200,000 in Objective One Funds to help protect the fishing industry around Cardigan Bay and to try to move the industry forward. The funds received were used to retain and create employment opportunities within the Welsh fishing industry by maximising existing potential and seeking new opportunities.

Website

http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk

Contact

Ben Fothergill, cbfaltd@btconnect.com

Background

Expressing concerns regarding the fragile nature of the marine ecosystem, stakeholders in the project aimed to reduce the impact of the fishery on the environment. This was done by considering technical measures such as boat length, number of pots allowed to fish, escape methods for undersized shellfish, etc. In the context of this wider project, the fact that almost every fish caught in the Cardigan Bay was exported live was considered. This means that only a very small part of the supply chain remained within the region.



| Project aims

To increase the added value produced in the region by expanding the inshore fishing industry towards processing and marketing.

| Project description

Through FIFG funding, the CBFA came together to pack local catches and sell them to local restaurants, hotels and farmers' markets, instead of exporting them abroad.

| Future of the project

To add even more value to the product rather than shipping it out raw is one of the CBFA's future objectives as well as setting up a Welsh Federation of Fisherman's Association. Furthermore, to help tackle the image of the fishing industry, something that has been causing recruitment problems nationally. Tackling the image of the job is less simple. However, raising the value of the produce is one way of helping to raise the profile as well as local wealth through jobs created.



5.16 Tasting Workshops, France

Main objective

Showing local fisheries to visitors.

Country/Geographical area

France, Brittany

Duration

Ongoing (started 2003)

Coordinating/Organisational body

Guilvinec Tourism Office

Funding instrument

60% of the projects were funded by the EU (LEADER+). The total cost was estimated at €7,850.

Contact

Le Guivinec Office du Tourisme, ot@leguilvinec.com, +33 02 9858 29 29

| Background

Guilvinec Council delegated tasks related to the running and promotion of Haliotika - a fisheries museum - to the local tourism office. Haliotika's mission is to show the world of local fisheries to visitors, through such diverse means of communication as exhibitions and guided tours to the fish market and port premises. The museum presents fishing as a culture and heritage and this in turn attracts tourist to Brittany.

| Project aims

The objectives of the project are:

- To reinforce the role of Haliotika in discovering the world of fishing and local products, especially seafood.
- To suggest new workshops characterised by a friendly and participative approach.
- To target the local audience as well as foreign tourism (both youngsters and adults).



| Project description

During 2003, three workshops were tested:

- Fish-seafood workshop: run by a guide, the aim is to know about different species, their biology and their nutritional qualities. It will enable the consumers to rediscover the different species of seafood and encourage small-scale and multispecific fisheries. At present, the trade of the seafood market (concentrated on very few species) leads to huge, mono-specific industrial exploitation (shrimp, tuna, salmon farming, etc).
- Cooking workshop: to recognise and taste local products from Cornouaille, as well as learn about their nutritional qualities and recipes. The workshop is run by a chef.
- Tasting meeting: a conference and debate with food professionals.

| Future of the project

This project was established in 2003 on an experimental basis but it could be the starting point for larger projects in conjunction with social and economic partners.

Lessons learned

This project is interesting for the development of the area as it aims to promote local agricultural and sea products from West Cornouaille. Furthermore, it reinforces links between fisheries, tourism and gastronomy by creating a partnership with different participants.



5.17 SeaNet - Combating by-catch, Australia

Main objective

Reducing by-catch and uptake of best practice by industry.

Country/Geographical area

Australia

Duration

Ongoing (started 1999)

Partnership

The project brings together OceanWatch Australia, the Australian professional fishing industry, researchers and the Australian Government.

Coordinating/Organisational body

OceanWatch Australia

Funding instrument

Australian Natural Heritage Trust \$620,000 (Australian) per annum (approximately €375,000).

Website

http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/snindex.htm

Contact

Anissa Lawrence, <u>anissa@oceanwatch.org.au</u>, +61 2 9660 2262

Background

For many years now, the agricultural sector has bridged the gap between farmers and research scientists by employing extension officers. These officers consulted farmers over new techniques or products to improve their practices and productivity. The concept of SeaNet is to bring this level of communication to the seafood industry, but with an environmental focus.

| Project aims

To work with the fishing industry to minimise the by-catch and encourage environmental best practices for the fishing industry.



| Project description

Through the provision of a professional extension service, SeaNet aims to facilitate change in the professional fishing industry by ensuring effective communication and network links between researchers and fishermen. However, extension is more than just a 'one way street', no research is perfect and local conditions may require a modification as to its application. SeaNet ensures a two way communication between fishermen researchers, helping to 'fine tune' research for local application. SeaNet officers are employed by OceanWatch Australia Ltd and are hosted by an industry organisation within their relevant state or fishery. In partnership with industry and fisheries researchers, SeaNet officers identify projects and work with professional fishermen to develop solutions for the continual improvement of professional fishing practices. For fishermen, involvement with SeaNet is voluntary (the project was initiated by the industry) and there is no charge. However the time, effort and expertise provided by fishermen are essential in developing new and practical ways to reduce by-catch, minimise interactions with protected species and improve their overall environmental sustainability.

| Future of the project

Ongoing

Lessons learned

- All communications should be face to face and the simple act of fishing with industry members not only raises the industry opinion of a SeaNet officer but is crucial to understanding the complexity of some fisheries and the management regimes that apply to them.
- It is critical that by-catch reduction techniques and more sustainable fishing techniques have also positive aspects for the fishermen, e.g. improved catches, fuel savings, improved public perception, etc.
- Work with the key players and leaders in the industry to encourage the changes that will improve business efficiency and also create positive environmental outcomes.
- The extension officer should remain in his/her position for a long time to gather sufficient background information and develop a trusted network.



5.18 From Tide to Table, Australia

Main objective

To restore fish habitats across coastal catchments for the benefit of marine life, the environment and the seafood industry.

Country/Geographical area

Australia, Sydney Metropolitan Region. 3 rural programmes also underway in the Hunter Central Rivers, Hawkesbury Nepean (New South Wales) and Burnett Mary Catchments, (Queensland).

Duration

16 months - 3 years

Partnership

The project brings together the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and OceanWatch Australia.

Coordinating/Organisational body

OceanWatch Australia Ltd.

Funding instrument

Australia's National Landcare Programme

Website

http://www.oceanwatch.org.au

Contact

Anissa Lawrence, anissa@oceanwatch.org.au, +61 2 9660 2262

Background

The commercial seafood industry relies on healthy catchments for healthy oceans to provide healthy fish and seafood products. Fish habitats on Australian coast and inland include the areas of an estuary or river important for fish breeding, nursery areas, food sources and shelter (such as underwater structures) around sea grasses, supportive nutrient rich environments (such as saltmarsh and mangroves) along river and creek banks. These areas and those that collect rainwater are equally important in providing clean water, food and shelter to many organisms in the complex food web. Through urban encroachment these types of environments are often degraded, segmented and under threat from further development. Without them, seafood cannot live and people cannot utilise this resource as a food source.



| Project aims

To work with community groups and other primary industry players to undertake on-site works and facilitate behavioural change to improve fish habitats and water quality, that in turn will support and build sustainable seafood resources and marine life within the Sydney region.

| Project description

Tide to Table is a programme operating at 29 sites across the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management region. Projects in 2007 range from small scale manual community Bushcare activities such as hand weeding to larger spider excavators craned into waterways to remove concrete weirs blocking fish passages. The sites currently being worked on in Sydney are addressing issues such as fish passages, storm water inputs such as nutrients and sediment, riparian bank side vegetation, exotic weed mitigation and ongoing damage to wetlands caused by 4WD access and dumping. A promotional campaign running alongside aims to inform the community, seafood industry and government about the importance of fish habitat and educate those that live and work in the catchment region, regarding positive steps to take care of it.

| Future of the project

For the current round of funding, the programme has restored 29 sites in Sydney. Another round is about to begin and the programme model is now being implemented in another three catchments of New South Wales and Queensland that incorporates partnerships with all primary producers in each region for the benefit of improved sustainability of fisheries productivity and also agricultural/pastoral land. This model of implementing funding to achieve natural resource outcomes with close primary industry participation can be applied in any other region of the world.

Lessons learned

- Project durations need to be approximately 15 months to effectively prioritise, set up, monitor and complete these sometimes complex projects.
- Sometimes in an urban environment around disturbed land the soil matrix often contains contaminates that require a very industrious local council to pursue the project rather than cap the site and plant on top.
- Saltmarsh restoration is a complex action requiring cross disciplinary inputs.
- Working with governments can require long term planning and patience.



5.19 WWF Smart Gear Competition, Global

Main objective

To inspire and reward practical, innovative fishing gear designs that reduce by-catch.

Country/Geographical area

Global

Duration

Ongoing (started in 2004)

Partnership

Fishing industry, research institutes, universities, government and civil society organisations.

Coordinating/Organisational body

WWF-US

Funding instrument

Foundation funding

Website

http://www.smartgear.org

Contact

Kimberly Davis, <u>kimberly.davis@wwfus.org</u> or Michael Osmond, <u>michael.osmond@wwfus.org</u>

Background

Billions of unwanted animals are caught every year by fishing boats and then discarded either dead or dying back into the ocean - dolphins, marine turtles, seabirds, sharks, juvenile fish, fish with little commercial value, corals, starfish. This is known as by-catch, the incidental capture of these so-called 'non-target species' is a major fisheries management problem, wasting the time of fishermen and many hundreds of millions of dollars in damaged gear and inefficient fishing methods. It is also one of the greatest threats to the marine environment, wasting a valuable natural resource and causing dramatic declines in populations of many marine species.

| Project aims

Smart Gear competition will help to catalyse the response to by-catch by encouraging creative thinkers everywhere to share their ideas.



| Project description

The Smart Gear Competition inspires people to seek creative new ways to solve by-catch problems. A critical examination by the world's leading experts highlights the best ideas in the world and will hopefully bring attention to the overall by-catch problem. The challenge for the Smart Gear judges is to recognise innovative ideas and their potential and find ways of promoting their development and implementation. The judges are quided by the following criteria:

- · Is the idea innovative and original?
- Does it reduce by-catch of non-target fish and other species, especially vulnerable and/or endangered species?
- Will it allow fishermen to maintain or increase profitability?
- Could the idea actually be developed?
- Is the idea practical and easy to use?
- Is the idea cost-effective?

One winner will be selected for the grand prize of \$30,000 (approx. €23,000), which is intended to be used for the design from the drawing-board stage to prototype development, testing and initial manufacture. Two runners-up will receive \$10,000 (approx. €7,500) each.

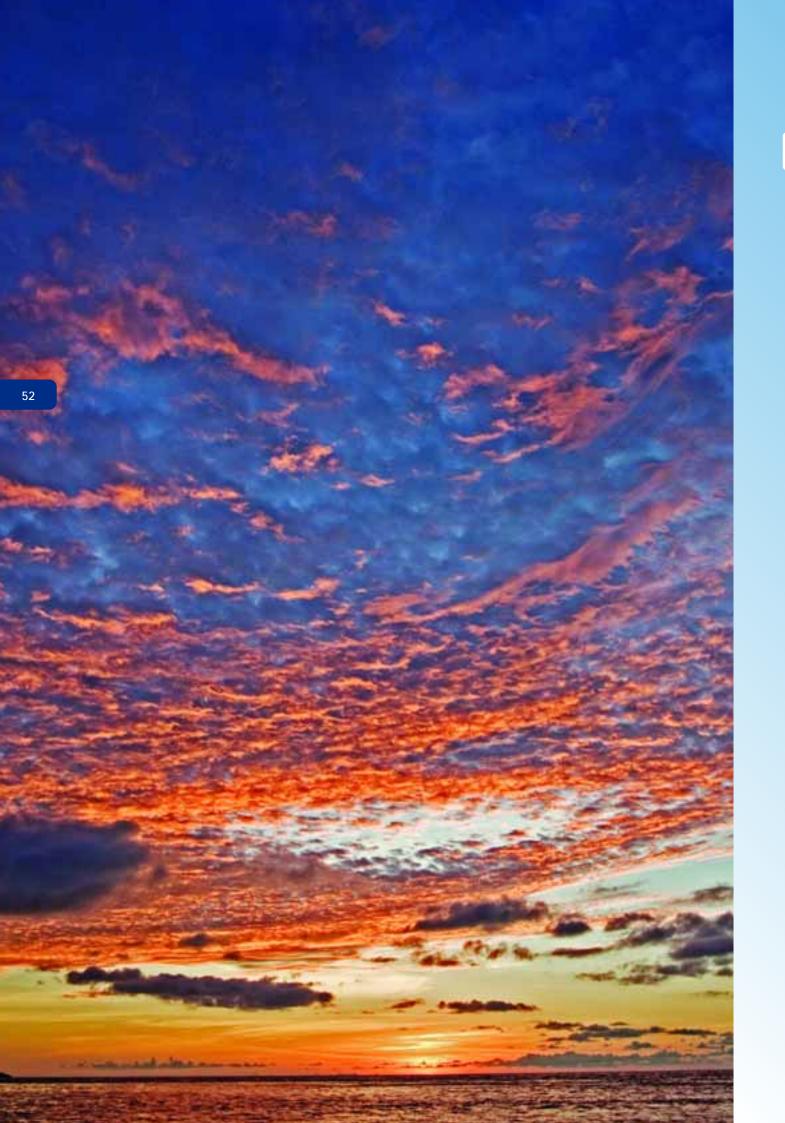
| Future of the project

Smart Gear 07 was launched in February 2007.

Lessons learned

During the first year of the competition, more than 50 entries have already been received from 16 countries. This demonstrates the great interest in reducing by-catch by developing and sharing expertise on innovative fishing gears.





6. Concluding Remarks

The 'Smart Investments' described in this guide represent varied and excellent examples of projects and activities which will contribute to more sustainable fisheries. These and similarly conceived projects within the European Union are also likely to be eligible for EFF funding in the next seven years.

Whilst a more detailed analysis of the individual projects and their impact goes beyond the scope of this report, several general observations can be made:

- Range of Activities: A very extensive range of activities might be eligible for funding under the EFF. Projects can vary from cross-sector partnerships to research and promotion of more selective gear to certification and labelling schemes. Others either support 'bottom up' management approaches, regional marketing initiatives, education and training or aim at improving fish habitats and water quality.
- Wide Range of Participants: A variety of participants are involved in the projects. These include fishermen, fishermen associations, processors, scientists and environmental organisations. As mentioned previously, all organisations involved in the fisheries sector - including all activities of production, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, professional organisations, economic, social and environmental organisations - are eligible for EFF funding.
- Multi-stakeholder processes: The majority of projects represents cross-sector partnerships encouraging improved cooperation among the different stakeholders. The projects clearly demonstrate that collaboration around specific issues can generate positive results from both an economic and ecological standpoint.

- Internal Communication: Several projects point to good internal communication as one of the most important factors for success. However, improved dialogue between partners can also represent an objective. Even though there might be differences among the different views of the participants, agreements are often possible if discussions are taken in a step-by-step manner. Having clear objectives from the outset of the project is essential.
- Timeframe: In particular, cross-sector partner-ships need time to build commitment and trust among all partners. Furthermore, they also need an adequate timescale to realise the objectives of larger projects timescales can often easily be underestimated. To maintain high levels of energy among partners, it can be helpful to achieve the initial tangible results in a shorter timeframe.

We, at WWF, are looking forward to receiving feedback on the development of the projects mentioned in this report as well as forthcoming projects. In addition, we would welcome the opportunity of providing you with advice relating to either the application process or to the EFF itself.

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7. List of Member State authorities managing EFF support

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BELGIUM

Landbouw- en Visserijbeleid Treurenberg 16 (3de verdieping)

B-1000 Brussels Tel.: +32 2 552 77 69

BULGARIA

National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture 17 Hristo Botev Blvd

Sofia 1606

Tel.: +359 2 805 1663 or 805 1666

CYPRUS

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Dept. of Fisheries and Maritime Research

Alolou 13 CY – Nicosia

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Ministry of Agriculture

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EE-15056-Tallin Tel.: +372 625 6265

FINLAND

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Department of Fisheries and Game

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IRELAND

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SLOVENIA

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Secretaría General de Pesca Director General de Estructuras y Mercados Ortega y Gasset n° 57 E-28008 Madrid Tel.: +34 91 347 50 00

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- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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