



Local action for biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture areas.

European Week of Regions and Cities, 22 October 2020 – online workshop

Preserving ecosystems and biodiversity does not have to come from the top. Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs) are local partnerships supported financially by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to implement local action for the development of the fisheries and aquaculture area in which they are active. We will discuss together how Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) can support biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture areas by exploring a series of local initiatives that shows how biodiversity protection and restoration can also be a local source of economic development.

Questions can be addressed to the speakers at any time through the “Chat” option. A selection of these will be discussed in the middle and at the end of the workshop.

Draft agenda:

11h30: The biodiversity strategy and its impact for fisheries and aquaculture.

Speaker: Ms Dovile Vaigauskaite, European Commission – DG MARE.

11h40: First lessons of the survey undertaken by the FARNET Support Unit to collect examples of how local action, through CLLD, successfully involves citizens in contributing to preserving and restoring eco-systems and biodiversity in fisheries areas. **Speaker:** Janne Posti, Senior Fisheries Expert, FARNET Support Unit.

11h50: Project presentation: The Pike Wetland. Stockholmsbygd FLAG, Sweden.

Speaker: tbc.

In recent years, over a quarter of Sweden’s natural wetlands have been lost through drainage as result of lake drawdown, increased cultivation, and agriculture. Such wetlands are important spawning grounds for pike, a key predator in the area. Due to the loss of such wetlands, pike numbers have been in sharp decline resulting in an imbalanced natural ecosystem. To combat this problem, the Stockholmsbygd FLAG has supported an initiative to reinstall pike spawning wetland on the Stockholm archipelago in an effort to increase their numbers.

12h05: First discussion based on questions and comments selected from the “Chat”.

Moderation by the FARNET Support Unit.

12h15: Project presentation: Preserving the bottlenose dolphin for touristic activity, Costa Brava FLAG, Spain.

Speaker: Mr Josep Lloret Romañach, Director de la Càtedra Oceans i Salut Humana de la Universitat de Girona.

The Costa Brava FLAG area is extremely popular with tourists, but also hosts a strong fisheries sector. The FLAG supports projects that require cooperation between fisheries and tourism. The underwater canyons of Cap de Creus is the area in Catalonia with the biggest population of bottlenose dolphin. Most sightings are linked to trawlers, on whose nets they feed. This is why the “Tramuntana Dolphins” project has been developed in cooperation with the local trawler fleet and fishmongers who helped undertaking a study for characterizing the population. On the basis of this better knowledge, the FLAG organised training courses for fishermen on the marketing of fishing-tourism and ecotourism products, as a complementary economic activity based on the observation of cetaceans.

12h30: Project presentation: ‘Tarta-Tur’: Protecting turtles and dolphin in the Northern Adriatic Coast, FLAG VeGAL, Veneto, Italy.

Speaker: Mr Paolo Valeri

*‘Tarta-Tur’, a combination of the Italian word for turtle (*Tartaruga*) and dolphin in Latin (*Tursiops*), is a conservation project involving four FLAGs across three Italian regions on the Northern Adriatic Coast. The FLAGs hope to foster a relationship between fishermen and researchers that benefits both the marine environment and the local fishing community. The project aims to explore the possible socio-economic impacts that the implementation of a marine Site of Community Importance (SCI) can have on fishing and aquaculture businesses.*

12h45: Discussion based on questions and comments selected from the “Chat”.

Moderation by the FARNET Support Unit.

13h: End of workshop.

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