



FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS VIGO (GALICIA), SPAIN 13-15 MARCH 2018

FLAGS and local resource management

Market of Inspiration

1. Vakava: a network for marketing unwanted catch

Central Finland FLAG, Finland

In Finland, a local network was established to connect the different stakeholders interested in improving the marketing of unwanted fish catch and underutilised fish species thanks to the FLAG's financial support. Before becoming a network, these different organisations were working in parallel without sharing any information or results with other interested stakeholders such as producers and processors, authorities, developers and researchers in the field. With this project, the results and experiences of previous projects and studies will be brought together for the first time in Finland and will contribute to improving the food chain delivery in fisheries marketing projects as well as the economic viability of marketing fish that has been poorly exploited until now.

2. Monitoring activities for biodiversity conservation

Northern Kurzeme FLAG, Latvia

In Ventspils, a local fish anglers' association, renowned for its work on the biodiversity conservation of the region's water resources, has developed a system to monitor the fisheries activities in the area and to improve its resource management. With the help of the local FLAG and in collaboration with a fishermen's association for inland waters, they have set up different activities including the monitoring of both recreational and commercial fishing activities in the area (e.g. angling and fishing activities of the trout from the river with trail cameras) and the repopulation of juvenile fish in the Ventspils County forage. The project has also carried out trainings and certifications for public fisheries inspectors. The association was able to acquire equipment for night vision and nature cameras and to organise workshops for local fishermen on environmental issues and on advising national fisheries legislation.

3. How to set up a Marine Protected Area

Litoral Cadiz Estrecho FLAG, Spain

The fishing sector of Conil has been active since the late 80s in the protection its natural resources. It created homemade artificial reefs to protect the coast from illegal trawling and adopted self-regulating measures with closed fishing seasons, increased hook sizes, minimum landing sizes etc. Over the past few years, the local fisheries association and the FLAG have been working on the legal and administrative requirements to create a marine protected area in the Cabo Roche area and carrying out investigative research in collaboration with the local university. The FLAG expects an official response from the public authorities this year when a budget is made available for the creation of marine protected areas.

4. Implementing discard management

Ria de Pontevedra FLAG, Spain

The Ria de Pontevedra FLAG in Galicia has developed a project that will provide an overview of the discards generated by the artisanal fleet in the Pontevedra estuary. This is to determine the consequences of the management of discards as required by the Common Fisheries Policy. The project will clarify the challenges that artisanal fisheries face when implementing such a system, the impacts it can have aboard fishing vessels and the management of the discards once landed. The study will be carried out in three phases: the initial research and gathering of data, followed by the analysis of the obtained information and the dissemination of information to the concerned small-scale fisheries associations.

5. Inshore Fisheries Forum

West FLAG, Ireland

Prior to the development of the Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFFs), the inshore fishing sector didn't have a formal say on decisions that impacted their sector. With the help of the FLAGs, these RIFFs were created using a bottom-up approach, with local representatives and other relevant marine users taking part in their respective forums. The RIFFs can make proposals for management and technical conservation measures to the National Inshore Fisheries Forum on which each RIFF has two seats. The proposal from the West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum to establish a minimum conservation reference size for velvet crab, which subsequently became national legislation, is a good example of the type of conservation initiatives that have been successfully progressed.

6. Sea urchin co-management

Pyrénées-Méditerranée FLAG, France

The aim of the Marine Natural Park of the Gulf of Lion is to ensure the sustainable development of marine uses and the protection of the marine environment. The management board of the Park has set up a working group to organise an initial experience with the co-management of sea urchin fishery. Professional fishermen, recreational fishermen, scientists and local administration services have worked together to create a monitoring system for sea urchin populations, coupled with different scenarios for fisheries management. The establishment of daily catch limits for recreational and professional fishermen, a unique fishing open season for both and a limit to the number of professional operators allows for the sustainable management of this resource. The local FLAG is closely cooperating with the Park to promote these management measures and to implement this type of approach for other local iconic species (for example, octopus).

7. Fishery Improvement Project: brown crab fishery

Orkney FLAG, UK

The Orkney Fisheries Research project is supporting the bottom-up delivery of a management plan and providing the evidence base for MSC accreditation for the brown crab fishery and other species in local waters. The project aims to formalise management principles for the local crab and lobster fisheries over a 15-month period and establish Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP) for local scallop and whelk fisheries, while building knowledge and a management framework for local inshore fishery stock generally. The FLAG was fundamental in fostering links between local fishermen, scientists and processors, allowing them to understand how their different roles fit together in rendering the project successful.

8. MSC certification for local octopus fishery

Bajo Nalon FLAG, Spain

In Asturias, to differentiate their product from the others and to draw attention to the sustainability of their fishery, four small-scale fishing organisations (*cofradías*) representing the fleet of the Bajo Nalon FLAG area teamed up to explore the possibility of applying for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, a globally recognized certification scheme promoting seafood sustainability. With the support of the FLAG, the octopus fishery was the first in the world to receive the MSC certification. This has allowed the local fleet to open up to new market opportunities

9. EU-wide lobster stock restoration

Cornouaille FLAG, France

The *common spiny lobster* is emblematic of Western Europe and the Mediterranean. The stock has gone from several thousand tonnes in France to a few tens of tonnes in the past 60 years however. Since 2015, the Finisterian fishermen have been coordinating "Langouste Rouge Reconquête", a project aimed at restoring France's stock within ten years thanks to a bottom-up management system based on the knowledge and experience of fishermen. The Local Fishing and Marine Aquaculture Committee of Finistère (CDPMEM 29), a member of the Cornouaille FLAG, wishes to create links and cooperate with other FLAGs in the Atlantic and Western Channel to implement the conditions for a European-wide restoration plan for the *common spiny lobster*.

10. New structure for interactive dialogue

Noroeste de Cadiz FLAG, Spain

In the Guadalquivir Mouth Reserve, the FLAG helped set up a working group to monitor the local fishing activity. The objective was to create an interactive and permanent structure of dialogue between fishermen, scientists, administrations and NGOs. During these regular meetings, a common methodology was established, including activities and action points to be carried out for the monitoring of the Fishing Reserve of the mouth of the Guadalquivir. The project was put in place in collaboration with the fishing sector (ports of Sanlúcar, Chipiona and Rota), the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), the Agency for Agrarian and Fisheries Management of Andalusia (AGAPA), NGOs (WWF Spain and Soldecocos) and the Noroeste de Cádiz FLAG.

11. AL Percebe: co-management of the goose barnacle

Litoral Alentejano FLAG, Portugal

“AL Percebe” is a joint project currently being carried out by the University of Évora, the Litoral Alentejano FLAG, a local fishermen’s association and a regional one. The main goal of this project is to evaluate and ameliorate the state of the goose barnacle *Pollicipes pollicipes* (“percebe”) at Cabo de Sines and its management through knowledge exchange between scientists and fishermen. The project foresees six activities: creating and implementing an experimental system of co-management of this fishery at Cabo de Sines; monitoring the state of the resource and of its fishery in Alentejo; the experimental recovery of exploited areas; the economic valorisation of *P. pollicipes* in Alentejo; increasing the scientific capacity and involvement of fisher associations in the management process; and disseminating good co-management practices and the results of the project.

12. Telecapêche: an e-technology monitoring system

Pays d’Auray FLAG, France

French fishermen and shellfish gatherers are required to declare their catch on a monthly basis to the maritime affairs administration. Because of this infrequent reporting, and the associated administrative procedures, data is not processed and available to local fisheries and aquaculture committees quickly enough to allow for rapid responses to sensitive stock management issues. Telecapêche is an e-technology system that provides real-time data to local fisheries and aquaculture committees, helping them to monitor fish stocks and adopt suitable management measures. Launched with Axis 4 support from the Pays d’Auray FLAG, the system’s creators are now looking at some big developments using CLLD under the EMFF. The tool is being used by professionals in the areas of Finistères, Morbihan and Poitou Charentes as their main catch reporting system. By demonstrating its capacity to provide reliable data, the tool has become an official data source for fisheries management at regional level in Brittany. It will soon be used by fishermen along the entire French Atlantic coast.