

Annex 1: Examples of good practice from other programmes

The following good practice examples (from PESCA, EQUAL, INTERREG, Leader, FIGG, innovative actions etc.) are intended to provide ideas on the range and type of projects that could be funded under axis 4. The examples have been classified according to the measures eligible under axis 4 (measures a – h), as set out in the EFF regulation.

It is important to highlight that under axis 4 local groups will be able to combine - within the framework of the development strategy - a variety of actions covered by the measures presented below, to create initiatives unique for their own areas.

Every Member State is invited to propose interesting local initiatives, which would be of benefit to those involved in the future implementation of axis 4, in order to complete this draft.

- (a) Strengthening the competitiveness of the fisheries areas;
 - 1. Fishing port of Bremerhaven, Germany (**Flagship Case Study**)
 - 2. PESCA, Northern Ireland

- (b) Restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;
 - 3. The fishing museum at Urk, The Netherlands
 - 4. The «Seafont» in Zeebrugge, Belgium
 - 5. Sailing & Fishing in the Blasket Islands, Ireland

- (c) Diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of additional jobs outside the fisheries sector;
 - 6. SAGITAL, Spain
 - 7. Diversification towards tourism and communications, Denmark
 - 8. Restructuring possibilities in exploiting oil at sea, United Kingdom

- (d) Adding value to fisheries products;
 - 9. Creation of an internet site to monitor fisheries products, France
 - 10. Regional Marketing, United Kingdom
 - 11. Tasting Workshops. Guilvinec Tourism office, France
 - 12. Labelling Initiatives, United Kingdom

- (e) Supporting small fisheries and tourism-related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fishing communities;
 - 13. Day centre for elderly people, Portugal
 - 14. "Un'esperienza di successo: la diversificazione dei pescatori nello Stagno di Tortoli, Italy

- (f) Protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage;
 - 15. Invest in Fish – Sustainable Fisheries Management, United Kingdom
 - 16. Clyde inshore fishery, Scotland

- (g) Re-establishing the production potential in the fisheries sector when damaged by natural or industrial disasters;
 - 17. The Prestige Accident, Spain

- (h) Promoting inter-regional and trans-national co-operation among actors in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice;
 - 18. ATKEA Conference, Spain
 - 19. "Medas 21", Spain
 - 20. Network of fishing communities, Sweden
 - 21. AQUAREG, Norway/Ireland/Galicia
 - 22. MAREDUNET: training on the Net, France, Italy, Belgium & The Netherlands

(a) Strengthening the competitiveness of the fisheries areas;

- 1. Fishing port of Bremerhaven, Germany**
- 2. PESCA, Northern Ireland**

1. Fishing port of Bremerhaven, Germany

The fishing port of Bremerhaven and its fish-processing industry

At Bremerhaven, we find one of Germany's largest fishing ports (along with Cuxhaven, which is just fifty kilometres away and faces the same problems). We are concerned particularly with the following aspects:

- At Bremerhaven, most of the fish offloaded is frozen. The volume of fresh fish amounts to only about 20,000 tonnes a year, and is on a downward trend.

- The importance of Bremerhaven as a fishing port rests primarily in its capacity as a site for the fish-processing and marketing industry. Alongside some major players in the sector (especially "Nordsee" which forms part of the "Unilever" group with around 1300 staff, also "Schottge" with a thousand employees), we find numerous SMBs occupying specific niches.

- On the other hand, the port of Bremerhaven now has little importance as a home-base port. Most of the catches unloaded come from other countries' fishing vessels (especially from Iceland). This high level of dependence on imports from countries seeking to develop their own fish-processing industries and marketing networks, and to create added-value themselves, is putting the port in jeopardy. Thus, it is making efforts to diversify and attract other firms who value proximity to a port and its infrastructure.

- The fishing port of Bremerhaven is severely handicapped by the fact of being located fifty kilometres upstream from the Weser estuary. Due to the wide tidal variations in water levels, large fishing vessels are able to access the port only twice daily for one hour, when the river and port have the same water level (and even then only if the weather is suitable). A lock built before the war to alleviate this nuisance has long since become too small. When there is persistent poor weather, large ships have repeatedly had to wait outside, or have been trapped inside the port for several days. This situation, which threatened the very existence of the port, led the regional and port authorities to contemplate building a new lock with adequate capacity. A political decision on the project, whose total cost was estimated at around DEM250 millions, is said to be imminent.

- The State of Bremen owns not only port installations but also nearly all the commercial land; companies established at the port (with a few rare exceptions) have only a rental contract or a long-term lease. FBEG (the operating company and firm promoting the development of the fishing port), whose sole shareholder is the State, is charged with managing port services and fixed port assets (refer to chap. 3).

"Fishing port shop-window"

The starting-point

At the close of the 1980s, after processing operations at the fishing port of Bremerhaven for many decades, part of the port was abandoned and was at risk of falling into rack and ruin (refer to "Fishing port I" on the map appended): the port's docks, now too small, were no longer used; the infrastructure, notably rail links, had been abandoned; the old processing sheds were dilapidated.

Against this background, the idea came about of a novel rehabilitation of the area involving several public authorities and private investors in various sectors. This project, which was to be known as "Fishing port shop-window", adopted the approach of bringing in industries and businesses with links to the port, and exploiting the whole scheme for tourism purposes.

The project was implemented gradually, depending on the available budget and calling upon Structural Funds (Feder as part of the programme of objective 2 and community initiatives RENAVAL and PESCA, IFOP as part of "fisheries" Docup, and FSE as part of objective 2).

However, it is appropriate to emphasise that the project had already been worked out before IFOP and PESCA existed, and that community funds provided merely a source of extra finance, allowing the project to be achieved more quickly.

Project Description

The "Fisheries port shop-window" project includes several components; we may identify the following investments in particular:

-restoration of processing sheds

The former processing sheds that line the dockside and which date from the end of the last century have been restored or renovated by the owners (FBEG). Twenty firms have set up shop therein; this involves some SMBs in the fish-processing and marketing sector, businesses connected with fishing or the maritime world, fish-shops, restaurants and bistros. Within the limits of the qualifying criteria under the IFOP rule, some of these investments benefited from financial assistance by IFOP.

-training staff for the retail trade

The German association of the fish-processing and marketing industry has set up a training organisation which provides one year's training to marketing and retail staff, and runs its own fish-shop on the premises. The infrastructure was co-financed by PESCA/Feder. In the early stages, FSE takes on part of the running costs under the programme's objective 2; in due course, this training organisation will have to become self-financing.

-"Fishing-station Forum"

The former station at the fishing port (of which it was possible to save only the shell of the steel framework) now houses a museum, a demonstration kitchen and a multi-purpose room.

Under the "Atlanticum" name, a museum introduces the maritime world and the complete fisheries process. Inspired by Nausica/Boulogne, which also played a part in designing it, it attracts around 50,000 visitors a year.

A demonstration kitchen ("Seefischkochstudio") offers fish- and seafood-based cookery courses. This involves a half-day course, intended for private individuals or refresher courses for professionals. The company is close to becoming self-financing, and receives around 30,000 attendees a year.

A multiple-purpose room (conferences for veterinary doctors, corporate meetings, special events, etc.) with the main aim of drawing as many people from a wider public to the port as possible, completes the facilities.

Restoration of the building and its infrastructure has been co-financed by Feder as part of the programme of objective 2. IFOP has co-financed qualifying equipment to the tune of 50% under the "business promotion" measure, whose total cost comes to DEM 4.5 millions (out of around DEM 16 millions for the "Forum" as a whole).

-boat museum

A former fishing smack, converted into a boat museum, belonging to Bremerhaven maritime navigation, moored permanently inside the fishing port.

-landing-stage

PESCA/Feder has co-financed a landing-stage, whence boats depart on pleasure cruises around the port.

-hotel

A private investor has built a hotel with about 70 rooms.

-on-the-ground measures

Fish-processing firms are engaged in making their facilities accessible to the public; a company set up for this purpose is taking charge of arranging guided tours and advertising initiatives.

All the players in "Shop-window" have built up close co-operation with the tourist office and other tourist attractions in the town, also with travel companies. In this way, they can reckon on offering a full tourism programme to potential visitors.

Appraisal and prospects

"Shop-window" has created around 200 permanent jobs. Its firms are in good health and its tourist attractions have attracted pleasing numbers of people. All the same, it remains a vulnerable project, for two reasons:

Firstly, the project is striking for the high inter-dependence of its constituents; thus, any complication affecting one component could put the entire symbiosis in jeopardy.

Next, where we are dealing with voluntary job pacts, we must not lose sight of the fact that private investors have set up shop in order to reap benefits at least in the long run, and cannot allow themselves the luxury of accumulating losses – even for the sake of jobs.

Likewise, public authorities are unable to take on excessive running costs in these times of financial rigour, in relation to the economic repercussions for the town and the region.

While expecting that publicity measures will make the site better-known and stabilise attendances, also that expansion projects currently being looked at will come to fruition, the "Fishing port shop-window" remains a risky enterprise.

2. A series of wide-ranging Projects in Northern Ireland (Pesca)

The PESCA projects in Northern Ireland were launched in March 1996 with a budget of EURO 2.4 million. It covers Northern Ireland's four main fishing ports, i.e. Kilkeel, Annalong, Ardglass and Portavogie.

Project

- One of these projects, KITE, supported by the Kilkeel Development Association, focuses on professional retraining and advice aimed at meeting the needs of former workers in the fishing industry. The project will cost EURO 315,000, with EURO 204,000 provided by PESCA funds.
- At Ardglass, the local 'Viking' association has built the 'Black Swallow', a life-size Viking boat, with EURO 13,779 of PESCA aid. It will be the showpiece of the tourist industry on the coast of County Down.

Financing

PESCA has contributed more than euro 2 million towards 36 projects. These include assistance towards lobster notching in Strangford Lough, numerous projects for expanding SMEs, promotion of the seafood-product sector, tourist initiatives and a series of training programmes.

(b) *Restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco- tourism, provided these actions do not result in an increase in fishing effort;*

3. *The fishing museum at Urk, The Netherlands*

4. *The «Seafront» in Zeebrugge , Belgium*

5. *Sailing & Fishing in the Blasket Islands, Ireland*

3. The fishing museum at Urk, The Netherlands

Within the framework of the PESCA programme, a subsidy was granted to the province of Flevoland for its Fishing Museum at Urk.

Project

With this European contribution, the museum, located in the former town hall, was renovated in keeping with the site's historic character. The museum was also enlarged, however, to include an adjacent building in which a fisherman's house was reconstructed with furniture from the last century. The museum evokes the history of the island of Urk in various ways. The collections gathered here will enable the everyday life of the period to be relived in this fishing village, which houses The Netherlands' biggest fish market in terms of landed value.

Financing

The project cost approximately ECU 320,000. Out of this figure, PESCA contributed around ECU 150,000, while the municipality of Urk bore the remainder of the cost.

The project contributed towards strengthening and diversifying the local economy and, in particular, developing the town's tourist infrastructure. The museum was opened in 1998.

4. The «Seafront» in Zeebrugge, Belgium

The Seafront in Zeebrugge is a large marine museum development occupying the dock lined by the former fish market at Belgium's coast.

Project

The old «Minque» was still in ruins at the beginning of November 1996. Since then it has been transformed into a museum, alongside a light ship, submarine and old yachts in the dock. In its entirety it forms a veritable maritime amusement park under the name of «Seafront» and was opened at the end of June 1997. It includes games and cultural aspects with films and exhibitions, regrouped in the former "Minque" and renamed «AquaStrip».

There are also cafés and restaurants specialising in seafood products - one of them specialises in mussels - with the aim of creating a genuine «fish alley». They target amusement park visitors and other visitors to the Bruges region along with business customers.

Financing

This project cost ECU 2 200 000, one third of which was financed by Pesca, one third by the region and the remainder by private investors.

5. Sailing & Fishing in the Blasket Islands off County Kerry, Ireland

The Blasket Islands have developed into a significant tourist attraction, with an annual influx of around 10,000 tourists.

Project

To assist with this industry, two 13-m-long boats were launched in the summer of 1997 intended for passenger transport. This enabled seven full- and part-time jobs to be created. Former fishermen have been the ones to benefit. Both of these vessels were built in the neighbouring port of Dingle. This additional activity enabled another 20 people to be hired during the six months of work generated.

This project is the latest in a series of initiatives in County Kerry which PESCA has contributed to, involving not just tourism, but mollusc-farming, the management of lobster stocks, training and feasibility studies. Kerry is another example of Irish initiative when it comes to making use of PESCA funds.

Financing

The project owes its success to the participation (at 50%) of PESCA funds in financing the project, which totalled just over ECU 430,000.

- (c) ***Diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of additional jobs outside the fisheries sector;***

6. SAGITAL, Spain

7. Diversification towards tourism & communications, Denmark

8. Restructuring possibilities in exploiting oil at sea, United Kingdom

6. SAGITAL (Adaptation services to run Fishing Tourism initiatives in Coastal areas: Asturias, Andalusia & Canary Islands, Spain). EQUAL

Rationale

This project aims to encourage and support the adaptability of fisheries enterprises and workers into new activities, by developing viable initiatives of labour diversification into fishing tourism. It is carried out in three areas that have been severely affected by the crisis of the sector (Asturias, Andalusia [Cadiz Gulf] and Canary Islands [Lanzarote and La Palma]). These regions were chosen because their different climatic, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural features maximise the possibilities of transferring the project results to the whole Cantabrian and Mediterranean coasts as well as to the Balearic and Canary archipelagos. The project in Asturias addresses the development of fishing tourism initiatives based on the transference of successful experiences in rural tourism. In Andalusia innovative fishing tourism activities 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.

Project

The project is structured in four programmes, which are the following:

- Programme 1: Defining a model that identifies accurate diversification alternatives that link fishing activities to tourism. Developing a common action strategy among all the agents involved in the adaptation process, which defines the working lines to follow.
- Programme 2: Promoting and raising enterprises' and employers' awareness of their possibilities to adapt to new fishing tourism activities.
- Programme 3: Developing supporting tools that facilitate the adaptation of new fishing tourism activities. Adapting the level of workers' knowledge and capabilities and developing technology and ICT resources within enterprises.
- Programme 4: Implementation and consolidation of the activities, according to sustainability criteria. Promoting transnational cooperation to exchange experiences, good practices and material with other countries.

Composition

Participating bodies include fishermen organisations, trade unions, local, regional and national administrations, NGOs, training centres and Tragsa, a public enterprise specialised in technical and training assessment.

A decentralised structure was designed in order to guarantee the involvement of all participating bodies. Thus, 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 of national memberships.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries' participation in the development of the project is guaranteed by their representation through fishing organisations (shipbuilders and fishermen associations) in the three regions. This participation was considered when planning and designing the activities, so that sector interests are included in the project. Gender discrimination issues were also considered.

<https://equal.cec.eu.int/equal/jsp/dpComplete.jsp?national=ES20040323&lang=en&cip=ES>

7. Diversification towards tourism and communications, Denmark

According to the Danish Fisheries Directorate, three projects are being, partially financed by PESCA in Denmark.

Project

The most significant project involves the restoration of a harbour located on the eastern Jutland coast (Bønnerup harbour). Two sea walls have been extended to prevent silting-up of the basins and fitted with windmills. This has been done both to improve facilities for the arrival of fishing boats and to facilitate the reception of yachts previously deterred by access difficulties.

Financing

The proportion of the project, costing a total of ECU 2.6 million, which is eligible within the PESCA framework, is due to obtain up to 30% financial aid from PESCA.

8. Restructuring possibilities in exploiting oil at sea, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

The Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) put forward a support project for the retraining of fishermen and the restructuring of vessels. The project received backing from PESCA.

Project

The offshore oil industry offers opportunities for diversification/ restructuring to fishermen and their vessels. The requirements relate to recruiting seamen capable of ensuring communication between the oil industry and others involved in sea industries to prevent interference between users. Furthermore, fishing vessels can now be used for monitoring and protecting vessels left on a sea bed by the oil industry without protection of any kind.

As a result, the requirements of the oil industry can be fulfilled by fishermen from the region with a good knowledge both of the physical environment and other marine activities carried out in the sectors involved. Between 10 and 15 skippers could receive offers of employment in liaison with

other activities (marine liaison personnel) and a similar number of vessels could be used for surveillance.

(d) Adding value to fisheries products;

9. Creation of an Internet Site to Monitor Fisheries Products, France

10. Regional Marketing, United Kingdom

11. Tasting Workshops. Guilvinec tourism office, France

12. Labelling Initiatives, United Kingdom

9. Creation of an internet site to monitor fisheries products – Brittany (France). Leader+

Background

The Breton Liners' Association wants to increase the value of its fish by implementing a new communication strategy based on new technologies. The idea 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.

When consumers visit the website, on the homepage they can find out all the information related to the fish they bought by inserting the number marked on the fish label. This information includes specific details about the fishing place, the vessel, its equipment and duration of fishing, as well as more general information on fishing techniques, Breton fishing, recipes, etc. Fishmongers and restaurant owners will be able to download images and information, thus reinforcing their link with producers.

This project is interesting for the development of the area as it presents an innovative communication strategy to bring fishermen together. It also promotes sustainable coastal fishing 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.

Project

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

- 1 – Functional analysis and conception of website specifications; feasibility study.
- 2 – Website drafting.
- 3 – Website testing, final remarks and implementation.

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

Its expected results are that consumers, fishmongers and restaurant owners will check the website and that Breton fisheries' image will be enhanced.

Financing

40% of the project was funded by the Community (Leader+). Its total cost was estimated at 41 676€.

10. Regional Marketing, Cardigan Bay, Wales, United Kingdom

FIFG funding was used to enable fishermen in Cardigan Bay (Wales) to market their own produce rather than exporting it.

Project

The project was part of a plan by Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association (CBFA) to transform their inshore shell fishing industry. Members owning 44 vessels (<12m) at harbours along the coast of the Bay trawl for crabs, lobsters, prawns and whelks, which - before this project started - were mainly exported to France and Spain. With FIFG funding, the CBFA came together to

pack local catches and sell them to local restaurants, hotels and farmer's markets, instead of exporting them abroad.

The project helped small communities of fishermen to cooperate and work together to boost their local economy and employment and to secure their own future. Objective 1 EU money had helped the Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association (CBFA) employ a development officer, after which CBFA membership had risen by nearly 150%.

Financing

Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association has over the past 24 months managed to secure over 200k 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 for retaining and creating employment opportunities within the Welsh fishing industry by maximising existing potential and by seeking new opportunities

Net Benefits, Developing Fishing Policy For Cardigan Bay

The main objective was to create a sustainable future for the industry. With concerns over the fragility of the marine ecosystem, the project aimed to reduce the impact of the fishery on the environment by looking at technical measures, things like boat length, number of pots allowed to fish, escape methods for undersized shellfish etc...

There is plenty of room for expansion within the inshore fishing industry which need to be filled by processing and marketing, thereby getting a fairer deal for the fishermen. At the moment almost everything that is being caught is being exported live, so much of the potential value of our product is being lost. The product has to be kept locally and sold after adding value to it, for example rather than exporting the live product, cooking it adds value to it.

Adding value to the product rather than shipping it out raw is one of the future objectives of the CBFA as well as setting up a Welsh Federation of Fisherman's Associations and helping to tackle the image of the fishing industry which has been causing recruitment problems nationally. The fishing industry is one of the most dangerous industries to work in, but with the Objective 1 project "Safety Equipment Upgrade", the fishermen now can enjoy state of the art safety equipment such as GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems) equipment, including EPIRB, PLB, SART & GPS. The fishermen are also being trained to use the equipment, which could one day save their lives.

Website: <http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk>

11. Tasting Workshops. Guilvinec tourism office, Brittany (France). Leader+

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 diverse communication means such as exhibitions, guided tours to the fish market and port premises, etc.

Project

Three different types of workshops were tested during 2003, whose objectives were:

- Reinforce the role of Haliotika to discover the world of fishing and local products, especially fish food.
- Suggest new workshops characterised by a friendly and participative approach.
- Target local audience as well as foreign tourism (young people and adults).

During 2003, three workshops were tested:

- 1 – Fish-seafood workshop: knowing different species, their biology and their nutritious qualities; workshop run by a guide.
- 2 – Cooking workshop: recognising and tasting local products from Cornouaille, knowing their nutritious qualities as well as recipes where to use them; workshop run by a chef.
- 3 – Tasting meeting: conference-debate with food professionals.

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

Financing

60 % of the projects were funded by the Community (Leader+). Its total cost was estimated at 7 850€.

12. Labelling Initiatives, United Kingdom

Background

The food market is becoming increasingly competitive and global. Consumers are interested in eco-friendly, fair trade, GM-free and healthy food. Fish is therefore competing with initiatives such as organic food and farmers' markets. There is also increased interest in product traceability. Product labelling is therefore becoming important not only to make the product 'stand out' but to tell consumers that the fish they are eating meets their demands. EU labelling standards are used to demonstrate that fish is wild caught, organically farmed or sustainably harvested. In addition, there are various private labelling schemes, some of which have benefited from public funding.

Project

A well established private eco-labelling scheme is that of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), with more certified products originating from the UK than any other country. These are the Bury Inlet cockles, Loch Torridon nephrops, Thames herring and South West handline caught mackerel. Hastings Fishing Fleet Dover Sole Fishery and Hastings Fishing Fleet Pelagic Fishery are currently undergoing full MSC assessment. The Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society secured funding for this from DEFRA under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), together with funds from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). It is hoped that the MSC label will open and secure markets, generate publicity and improve prices. The South West Handline Fishermen's Association has more recently set up its own labelling scheme for line caught bass, demonstrating locally produced low-impact fish. The labels are attached to the gills. This is actually self-funded and self-enforced, with the Association buying the labels and selling them on to its members at 15 pence each, to cover running costs.

(e) *Supporting small fisheries and tourism-related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fishing communities;*

13. Day centre for elderly people, Portugal

14. "Un'esperienza di successo: la diversificazione dei pescatori nello Stagno di Tortoli, Italy

13. Day centre for elderly people, Portugal

Coastal areas suffer from an ageing population which presents individual needs, first insulation, loneliness and incapacity to cope with their own hygiene needs, for food and for occupation of the time. At the same time it is important that these people are not uprooted from their own physical environment, by being placed in *homes* in foreign environments.

Project

The project aims to create jobs for fishermen and for their spouses who often work in the fishing trade or in the cannery industry. It is proposed to create occupational centres for elderly people with the collaboration of the town halls. Those are composed of suitable buildings with game rooms, restaurant, libraries and open air spaces order to occupy the elderly people during the day. Ex-fishermen and their spouses deal with:

- transport of the elderly people towards the "day centre" in the morning and bring them back in the evening;
- delivering meals to the residence for those which do not want or cannot go to spend the day to the "centre";
- maintenance tasks in the facilities of the "centre" and in elderly people's home;
- Cooking and cleaning in the centre and with elderly people's households

14. “Un’esperienza di successo: la diversificazione dei pescatori nello Stagno di Tortoli”- Diversification of fishermen’s activities in the lake of Tortoli, Sardinia, Italy

Background

A fishermen’s cooperative, founded in 1944 and currently counting 50 members and 15 small vessels fishing in the lagoon of Tortoli – Sardinia, had problems selling their catches at a good price and started “ittiotourismo”:

Project

With an investment of 155.000 Euro they transformed a hut into an open-air restaurant and built various other infrastructures (bridges etc.) to make the lagoon accessible for visitors. The restaurant, in which fishermen prepare fresh local products (sea fish, lagoon fish, shellfish) for tourists to taste, has an annual average of 15.000 visitors.

The project led to the reduction of fishing effort by 40% (or: 70 days less at sea) in 2003 (with respect to the 13 fishermen participating). It resulted in the creation of new jobs by adding value to local products.

Financing

13 fishermen participated in the initiative and received diversification premia (total: 77.500 Euro) under the FIG (current period) socio-economic measures, which contributed to the investment costs.

- (f) ***Protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage;***

15. Invest in Fish – Sustainable Fisheries Management, UK

16. Clyde inshore fishery, Scotland

15. Invest in Fish – Sustainable Fisheries Management, England

Background

Fishing and fish-related industries form an integral part of the economy, communities, image and natural environment of southwest England. The fishing industry in South West England is worth £ 165 million (ca. € 239 million) per year and accounts directly for 1,800 jobs, and indirectly for a further 1,900. Yet the state of many fish stocks could be improved, and contribute to the local economy and safeguard local jobs. Studies have shown that by changing current approaches to fish management in the English Channel, fisheries could become more profitable, while fish numbers would actually increase.

The objective is to maximize the potential of the fish resources, Invest in fish aims to rebuild the English fishing industry, communities and the marine environment by investing in:

- People – bringing together those with an interest in management of fisheries and the marine environment, from fishermen to pressure groups, sea anglers to local communities, retailers to restaurants, and from government to processors.
- Knowledge – providing these stakeholders with the best scientific and economic information to identify opportunities for improving the management of fisheries in the South West.
- Best practice – identifying the management option that best balances economic, social and environmental benefits in a truly transparent and innovative way.

Project

The project duration is January 2004-October 2006, encompassing the following stages:

- Listening – Detailed community and stakeholder consultation throughout the project will develop a genuine “bottom up” approach to fisheries management, taking into account the views and aspirations of all.
- Technical information – Expert scientific, social, economic and environmental

information will be sought throughout the project. This will inform, but not replace, the decision-making process.

- Consensus – By drawing together stakeholder views to create an assessment tool, the project will test, evaluate and fine-tune the best option for the future management of the South West fisheries.
- Implementation – The project will develop a detailed cost plan to implement the preferred option.
- Shared learning – The knowledge gained while developing and implementing the project can then be shared with the rest of the UK, other countries, and the European Commission.

The project presents an innovative, “bottom-up” approach to fisheries management. The project could halt the fishing industry’s decline and set an example for fisheries management right across the EU.

Partners

Marks & Spencer, the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations, WWF-UK, a Japanese restaurant chain called Moshi Moshi and representatives of sea angling associations are among those involved.

Financing

Funding instrument: FIG: Total funding: £1.6 million (ca. € 2.3 million), including EU co-financing through FIG, other public sector support as well as private sector support from WWF-UK, the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations, and Marks & Spencer’s.

Main objective: Identify best option for sustainable management of fisheries involving all relevant stakeholders.

Website: www.investinfish.org

16. Clyde inshore fishery, Scotland

Project

The new cross-sector partnership aims at building a sustainable future for the Clyde inshore fishery. The first of its kind in Scotland, the project aims to facilitate a brighter future for Clyde fisheries by encouraging fishermen, scientists, and organisations concerned with the environment to work together to develop the local fishery in a sustainable way.

The multi-stakeholder project is a blueprint for future fisheries management, placing sustainable stocks at the heart of a thriving industry. By working together the Clyde Fisheries Project can ensure a sustainable future for the Clyde fisheries, with the resulting benefits for local communities and marine life. Throughout the course of the project, the Group will undertake a number of key development and research activities. The main objectives of the Group will include:

- a review of local fisheries, stocks, capture methods and a review of the environment in which the fisheries are carried out;
- promotion of a set of quality and environmental standards that the industry should work towards; and
- the development of a programme aimed at improving the sustainability and reward in the supply chain to help with the long-term social and economic prosperity of Clyde fisheries.

Partners

- 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); and
- the Food and Drink Federation (FDF).

It was launched by the Clyde Fisheries Development Project at the Fishing 2005 exhibition in Glasgow.

(g) *Re-establishing the production potential in the fisheries sector when damaged by natural or industrial disasters;*

17. The Prestige Accident, Spain

17. The Prestige Accident, Galicia, Spain

Background

In November 2002, the tanker Prestige, carrying 77,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, was shipwrecked off the coast of Galicia, causing oil spills to start arriving to the Spanish coast as from 16 November 2002.

The environmental consequences and impact on the fishing industry were disastrous: as a result of the oil pollution, fisheries have been closed for a coastline exceeding 900 km and the shellfish industry banned for some 800 km. These closures were affecting almost 7,000 vessels with over 16,000 fishermen, as well as more than 5,000 people engaged in the shellfish industry. In addition, some aquaculture sites located in this coastline have been damaged.

Project

Because of these suspensions of economic activities in the regions concerned, a great number of individuals and enterprises engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture sector have suffered considerable economic damage. In these circumstances, given that the regions in question have a high economic dependence on this sector, it has been necessary to foresee appropriate reparation of the damages which were not compensated by insurance.

Financing

For these purposes, the Community had make an appropriate contribution, alongside Spain as the Member State mostly concerned, and in line with the budgetary limits.

An amount of 132 M€ has been required to cope with the impact of the oil pollution on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Most of the expenditure foreseen (around 80 M€) has been covered by reprogramming the Spanish share of the Financial Instrument of Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

(h) *Promoting inter-regional and trans-national co-operation among actors in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice;*

18. ATKEA Conference , Spain

19. "Medas 21", Spain

20. Network of fishing communities, Sweden

21. AQUAREG, Norway/Ireland/Galicia

22. MAREDUNET: training on the Net, France, Italy, Belgium & The Netherlands

18. ATKEA Conference, Spain

Background

Despite their presence at all levels and in all areas of the sector, the role of women in fisheries has until recently remained largely unnoticed. Women work as crewmembers, vendors, workers in processing factories, researchers, and much more. Their contribution to the sector reaches far and wide yet this contribution has hardly been acknowledged.

In May 2003, the Commission issued a call for proposals for innovative actions specifically targeted at women involved in the fisheries sector. The main aim of this call for proposals is to promote the creation of networks, the exchange of experience and the development of training activities.

Project

One of the retained projects was the organisation of a Conference dedicated to women in fisheries and aquaculture, which was held in Santiago de Compostela in November 2004. For three days, female participants from 26 countries, including fishers, fisher's wives, shellfish gatherers, shellfish farmers, scientists exchanged information and reflections about past experiences, current development and changes needed for the future. The conference also aimed at supporting the women's associations network by strengthening the links between women's associations, research and different structures dedicated to the support to women's action. "The Agenda for research on women in fisheries and aquaculture in Europe" which addressed the main claims at European level was presented and adopted. The conference strengthened the links between scientists and NGOs working on this theme at international level.

While there was a significant diversity of experience represented at the conference, participants nonetheless reached broad consensus on a number of points. The most significant among them was that women must have a greater ability to voice their concerns, experiences and opinions, both within professional producers and union organisations as well as in policy-making bodies, if the problem of women's 'invisibility' in the sector is to be counteracted. Legislation affording women greater access to social benefits and improved legal status is also greatly needed. The ability of women to network in order to facilitate broad exchanges of experience and information was seen as essential to their advancement in the sector. Repeated calls were made for more training in many areas and for the mechanisms to be put in place to better inform women of training opportunities as well as of funding sources for their training projects.

Financing

The Commission financed 44 % of the total cost of the project

www.fishwomen.org

19. "Medas 21" Measures to combat social exclusion and unemployment in coastal areas (Project EQUAL 2002-2004 Galicia-Andalusia)

Background

This project involves areas that are severely affected by the crisis in fishing sector. In Andalusia, 83,000 people work in the fisheries sector, i.e. 4% of the economically-active population. That percentage is 14.3% in Galicia. At Barbate (Andalusia, pop. 22,000), 7,200 are fishermen or have fisheries-related jobs. 34 vessels out of 114 are affected by the ending of the fisheries agreement with Morocco, affecting 800 fishermen. The poor level of diversification in the local economy is producing serious unemployment problems.

Project

The project deals primarily with developing aquaculture (acuicultura) as a complementary activity to fishing, using high-quality products in production conditions that respect the environment, and compatible with conserving the sea's resources. It is also concerned with working out alternative methods of diversification, linked to sustainable coastal development.

The project is built around 4 programmes:

- identifying new job opportunities and working out pilot projects (in each of the areas concerned, Barbate in Andalusia, At Guarda in Galicia, the aim is to devise an aquaculture project, also set up firms engaged in tourism and leisure services).
- putting in place a facility supporting the founding of new companies. A manual for technical support of the creation of fish farms is planned, as well as a training-course for company-founding advisors (asesores empresariales)
- setting up integrated services to back up entrepreneurial initiatives.

Dissemination, information and awareness-raising initiatives. Specifically, a travelling exhibition has been planned and should be on the move throughout all Spanish coastal areas.

Partners

A consortium has been formed with participation, among others, of local fishing communities (cofradías), trade-unions, women's associations, community organisations, training centres, etc. The partnership is open to a French group and a Portuguese organisation.

20. Network of fishing communities, Bohuslän, Sweden

Seven fishing communities from Bohuslän on the west coast of Sweden have grouped together within the framework of a Pesca project (Fiskekommunerna).

Project

This procedure aims at setting up a communications network - among these communities and with the outside world - enabling the exploitation of their resources to be coordinated and to think about the perspectives for areas as diverse as quality improvement, seafood-product marketing or education. The project commenced on 1 August 1997 and was completed in three years at the end of July 2000.

Financing

The project cost ECU 91,300 per annum, of which ECU 45,700 was financed by Pesca and the remainder by local and regional governments.

(See Pesca Info No 9:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/magaz/pescainfo/en/issue9_en.html13)

21. AQUAREG (Interreg IIC, coastal areas in Norway/Ireland/Galicia): developing aquaculture

A three-pronged approach (AquaLing: networking of aquaculture, fishing and research companies; AquaEd: education and training; Aquaplan: development plans for coastal areas - coastal zone planning and management), this programme of co-operation facilitated the financing of ten innovative projects, such as:

- A database of aquaculture industries in three regions, the principal suppliers and main specialist advisors.
- Developing new technologies for the storage and shipping of live crustaceans
- New tanks with a water-recirculation system for cod-breeding from larva
- Packing fresh mussels in treated atmosphere for short- or long-distance transport
- Reducing the environmental impact of aquaculture on land using marine algae cultures
- Study into sustainable use of algae resources "carragenofitas" in Galicia and Ireland
- International aquaculture student exchange schemes
- Multisector network of coastal fishing and shellfish
- Exchanges between professionals in small-scale fishing and aquaculture
- Collating best practice in aquaculture, based on the experience of the three regions.

22. MAREDUNET: training on the Net

A transnational project involving training in fishing and aquaculture has been launched with part-financing from PESCA. The project is called MAREDUNET and brings together training organizations in France, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands. The ambitious aims of the project include the promotion of training in the Member States, the provision of extra teaching aids to teachers as well as stimulating the exchange of ideas between the different European and non-European training organizations.

Project

The project will achieve its objectives by making full use of the resources provided by the Internet worldwide network to allow schools to go on-line. The schools will be laid out and, accessible to Internet surfers, and will enable the user to find the training course that suits them. The pages will be laid out in English and in the language of the countries taking part.

The link-up is also aimed at training instructors. The MAREDUNET project plans to set up discussion forums for all involved to take part in. For instance, training instructors preparing a class can put any technical queries to the forum and download the latest available information, or even audio-visual aids, already prepared by others

Brussels, 20 June 2006