



MINOUW

Science, Technology, and Society Initiative to Minimize Unwanted Catches in European Fisheries

**WP6. Dissemination, Exploitation and
Communication**

**Deliverable 6.5 Outputs of fishers' exchange
program**

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Outputs of fishers' exchange program

1. Introduction

WP6 includes an exchange program for fishers coming from different countries in order to exchange experiences on discard-reducing procedures. Minouw partners, jointly to WWF, organized three fisher's exchanges, the first one in Italy focused on reducing discards with trammel nets (in Viareggio on July, 2015), the second one was organized in Norway (in Egersund in November, 2016) to see how Norwegians developed technologies to reduce discards in trawl fishery, and the third one in Portugal (in Faro on March, 2017) focused on slipping techniques to reduce discards in small scale purse seine fishery.

2. Fishers' exchange in Viareggio (Italy) – Trammel nets & selvages

CIBM, jointly to WWF, organized the first fishers' exchange in Viareggio to study the use of the selvedge in trammel net fisheries.

The Exchange took place from the 28th to 30th July, 2015.

Trammel nets are used throughout Europe to catch a wide variety of marine species that inhabit the seabed or live in close relation to it. They are used to catch a huge variety of high-value marine organisms, such as coastal finfish, cuttlefish, or prawns, a good source of income for fisherman. Unwanted by-catch is produced when the net is set for long periods. Crabs or other invertebrates climb the net to prey on the entangled catch, rendering it valueless. Fishermen in Viareggio have addressed this problem by the addition of a small piece of net, called 'the selvedge' to the bottom of their nets. The selvedge doesn't catch fish, but stops non-target species such as crabs climbing up to prey on fish that have already been caught. Studies show that using trammel nets with selvedge added reduces discards by 40%. It also increases the profitability of the fisheries because of reduced sorting time and less damage to the nets.

The objective of the exchange was to increase the knowledge of Mediterranean fishermen (from Italy, Portugal, and Spain) on the use of the selvedge to reduce discards in trammel net fisheries. WWF organised the contents (jointly to CSIC), promoted communications and covered logistics, including buying the tickets for everyone, accommodation and transfers).

A total of 10 small-scale fishermen from Italy, Spain and Portugal attended the exchange, as well as 6 scientists (from CCMAR, CIBM, CSIC), 3 WWF staff and 1 representative from fishermen associations:

- Sergi Tudela, WWF
- Claudio Viva, CIBM

- Paolo Sartor, CIBM
- Alessandro Ligas, CIBM
- Mario Sbrana, CIBM
- Andreu Julià, fisherman
- Chantal Ménard, WWF
- Emiliano Bechi, cameraman
- Evaristo Beltran, fisherman
- Mr Isidoro Costa, fisherman
- Jeroni Burló, fisherman
- José Rios, WWF
- Mafalda Rangel, UALG
- Mario Vizcarro, Federació catalana de confraries de pescadors
- Pilar Sánchez, CSIC

Local fishermen from Viareggio also participated to the exchange.

WWF managed the exchange filming with a local video maker and a professional photographer, including interviews. The exchange event was thoroughly documented (by video and pictures).

A professional video clip was produced for communication, dissemination and exploitation purposes: <http://minouw.icm.csic.es/?q=content/training-exchange-viareggio>

Selvedge has then become one of 5 techniques that the project aims to promote: <http://minouw-project.eu/the-selvedge-or-guarding-net-a-tried-and-trusted-technique-to-reduce-discards/>



3. Fishers' exchange in Egersund (Norway) – Trawls & Grids

For at least 20 years, fishermen in Norway have been using grids, positioned before the trawl codend, as an improved trawling technique to reduce discards.

Thanks to the MINOUW project, Norwegian researchers and fishers and their Southern European peers discussed how to adapt the Norwegian techniques, i.e. grids, in the Mediterranean fishery. In particular, the most advantageous exchange of views happened between Italian, Catalan and Norwegian fishermen and researchers. Experimental grids and selective panels have been in fact developed by CNR and CSIC researchers within the framework of the Minouw project.

The exchange took place from the 16th to 19th November, 2016.

The objective of the exchange was to increase the knowledge of Mediterranean fishermen (from Italy, Portugal, Greece and Spain) on the use of grids to reduce discards in bottom trawling fisheries.

WWF organised the contents (jointly with CSIC), promoted communications and covered logistics, including buying the tickets for everyone, accommodation and transfers.

In order to ensure the most successful outcome, WWF contracted John Willy Valdemarsen, a former researcher of the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. John Willy Valdemarsen has an extended knowledge on trawl net design and selectivity, including the reduction of seabed impacts. John Willy Valdemarsen helped in building the exchange programme, including the visits of Norwegian fishing vessels, of trawl manufacturers in southern Norway ([Egersund Group](#)) where fishers had demonstrations of a multipurpose trawl grid system that (1) can sort out from the catch in the water during fishing only the large high value target shrimp, (2) can almost completely reduce unwanted catches of finfish, and (3) can retain the high value finfish (such as cod and monkfish) in a second codend. The visit took place in Egersund, both to visit the “Egersund Group” factory and the landing site of the Norwegian shrimps-trawlers.

A total of 5 trawl fishermen (captains and boat owners) from Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece attended the exchange, plus researchers and WWF personnel:

- Claudio Viva (CIBM)
- Sergio Vitale (CNR)
- Francesc Maynou (CSIC)
- Paraskevi Karachle (Institute of Marine Science)
- Maria Aida Viana Da Silvia Campos (IPMA)
- Marco Costantini (WWF)
- Valentina Ventola (WWF)
- Salvatore Russo
- Roberto Olivieri
- Roberto Ingargiola
- Jose Antonio Guzman Correo
- Iannis Manios
- Sergio Paulo Henriques Domingos.

WWF managed the exchange filming with a local video maker/professional photographer, including interviews. The exchange event was thoroughly documented (with video and pictures). A professional video clip was produced for dissemination purposes. The technique of the grids has become part of a set of 5 specific techniques that the project aims to promote and share with fishermen: <http://minouw-project.eu/sorting-grids-can-norwegian-success-be-replicated-in-the-mediterranean/>

A local newspaper in Egersund also reported on the visit of Mediterranean fishermen.



4. Fishers' exchange in Faro (Portugal) – Purse seines

In March 2017, Greek purse seine fishermen went to meet their peers in Faro, Portugal, in order to share their know-how on purse seine methods and first-hand experiences on techniques used by both Portuguese and Greek fishermen to minimize unwanted catches. In this exchange, was very interesting the exchange of views and solutions amongst fishermen fishing in different areas, the Ocean Atlantic and the Mediterranean, where regulations of managing exceeding catches in management of fishing quota systems are different, e.g. slipping is avoided in the Atlantic and allowed in the Mediterranean.

The exchange took place from the 20th to 23rd March, 2017.

WWF, jointly with CCMAR-University of Algarve and CSIC, supervised the contents of the exchange, and covered the costs for the logistic aspects. WWF also contracted a local photographer to document the exchange.

This exchange was attended only by Greek and Portuguese fishermen because in the Minouw project, case studies focused on reducing discards and increasing survival rate of small pelagics caught with purse seine gears are only from Greece and Portugal.

The Greek delegation was composed by 2 fishermen and 3 WWF delegates:

- Valentina Ventola (WWF)
- Giorgios Paximadis (WWF)
- Antigoni Foutsis (WWF)
- Efstathios Vezirtzoglou
- Anastasios Tsourapas



The Greek delegation met 8 fishermen from Faro and researchers from CCMAR - University of Algarve (Karim Erzini, Mafalda Rangel, Jorge Gonçalves)

A report including the impressions from the Greek fishermen was posted on MINOUW project blog and disseminated through Twitter: <http://minouw-project.eu/minouw-fishermens-exchange-programme-faro-portugal-20th-to-23rd-march-2017/>

5. Outputs of fishers' exchange program

In the framework of the participatory process undertaken in the Minouw project, the fishers' exchanges have had the main role of coagulating the relationship between fishermen, researchers and WWF.

During these educational and social travels, fishermen have indeed felt to be part of a project with an international scope. And they actually learned and disseminated what they have observed to their peers. The ease with which we have observed how ideas passed and took root through direct peer-to-peer dialogue, suggests that this strategy should be increasingly adopted to promote solutions (to problems related to fishing) on a small and medium scale.

Networking actions, built through fishers' exchanges, can - in our opinion - be the effective means to promote technical solutions identified by researchers together with fishers and the civil society, here represented by WWF.

The MINOUW Consortium



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