

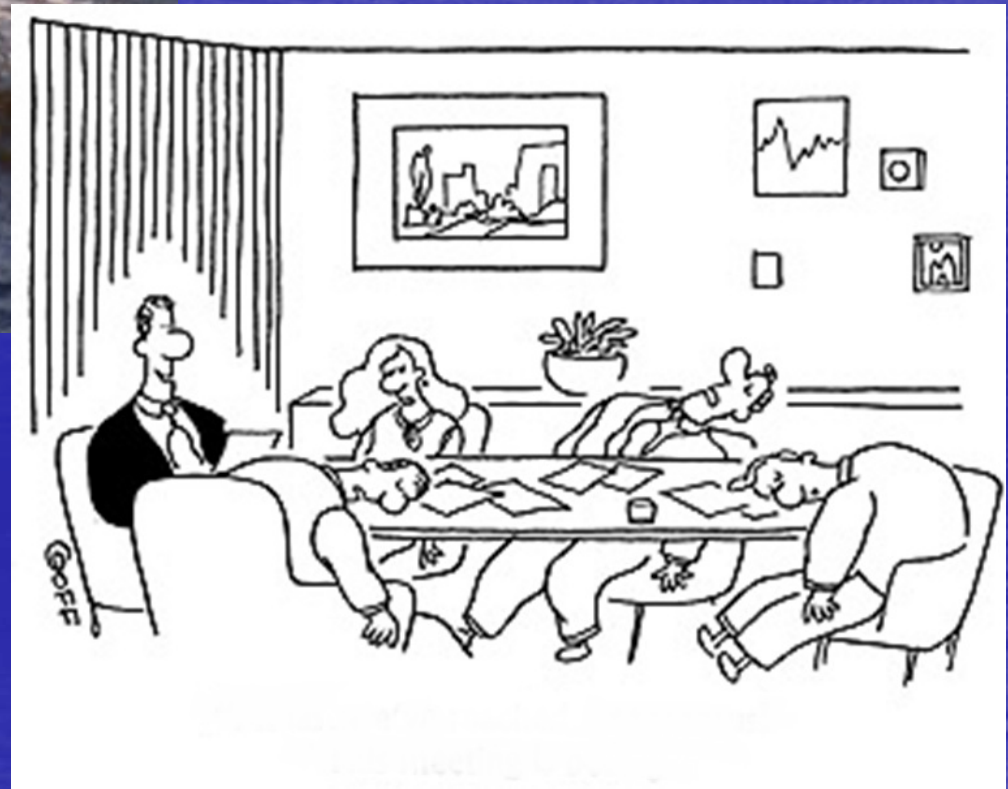
# Low Impact Fishers of Europe

**L.I.F.E.**

Where I used to work:



Where I work Now!



# Content:

- Introduction
- Small scale representation in England and Wales – NUTFA
- Small scale representation in Europe – LIFE
- Questions



# Background – How we got here!

- CFP – 1983
- Log Books for Over 10 metre vessels – 1984
- Rolling Track record created on “recorded” landings 1994-96
- Over ten metre = 96%. Under ten metres = 4%
- Producer Organisations for representation and marketing (withdrawal prices)
- Trading in quota established
- Government encouraged PO's to take over quota management
- Under ten metre fleet landings ignored
- Movement of effort and ethos from over ten to under ten fleet.....

# NUTFA's Foundation:

- <10m Sector is 77% of the fleet but has only 4% of national quota
- Public Resource under Magna Carta
- Effectively privatised under present rules
- Likely to be more so with introduction of full ITQ's
- Commodity Trading = loss of access
- Cod = £2000/ton
- Government can't give away public resources – but they have
- Access to fish should be based on wider (economic, environmental and social) criteria.....



## Background – where we were:

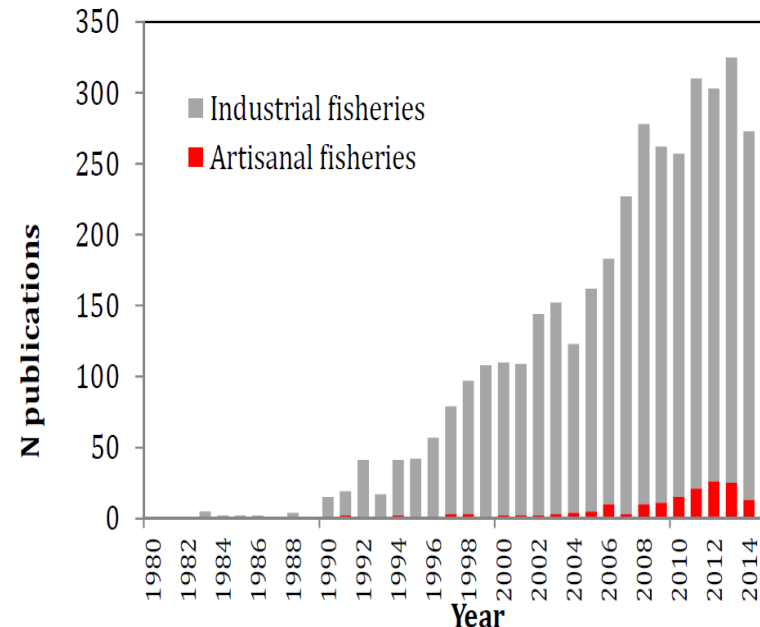
- Registration of Buyers and Sellers 2005
- Under ten metre catches revealed
- 77% of active England & Wales fleet – no effective or dedicated representation
- Quotas drastically reduced
- Serial mismanagement compounds the problem
- Pool quota managed by Government
- NUTFA created
- Up to date: Landings Obligation.....

# Consequence of oversight: Discarding and SSCF



- Implementing the landing obligation illustrates the consequence of SSCF oversight
- 3,924 scientific papers have been published on discards, of which 3,760 are related to industrial fisheries and only 164 papers focused on SSCF
- Just because there is less discarding in SSCF *does not* mean that SSCF are impacted less by the landing obligation
- Due to many issues SSCF are likely to be impacted more

Figure 2. Global number of publications related to discards for industrial and artisanal fisheries (1950-2014)



Villasante et al – Implications of the zero discard target for small scale fisheries









# About us





# Why 'Low Impact Fishers of Europe' – 'LIFE'?

- Definition of 'small scale' difficult [ $<10$ ?!]
- EU definition not much help
- Actual 'definition' varies across EU
- 'Low Impact' together with 'small scale' more appropriate

## The Need for LIFE:

- CFP Reform process brought smaller scale fishers together [for the first time]
- Growing dissatisfaction with lack of specific representation
- Commission highlighted lack of and need for dedicated 'voice'
- European Parliament members seeking views
- Increasing need to highlight importance and champion our sector

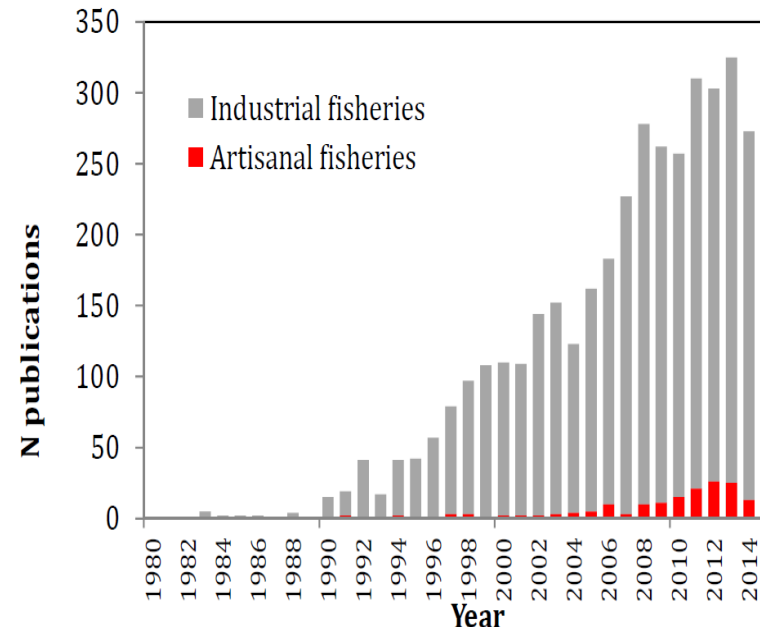


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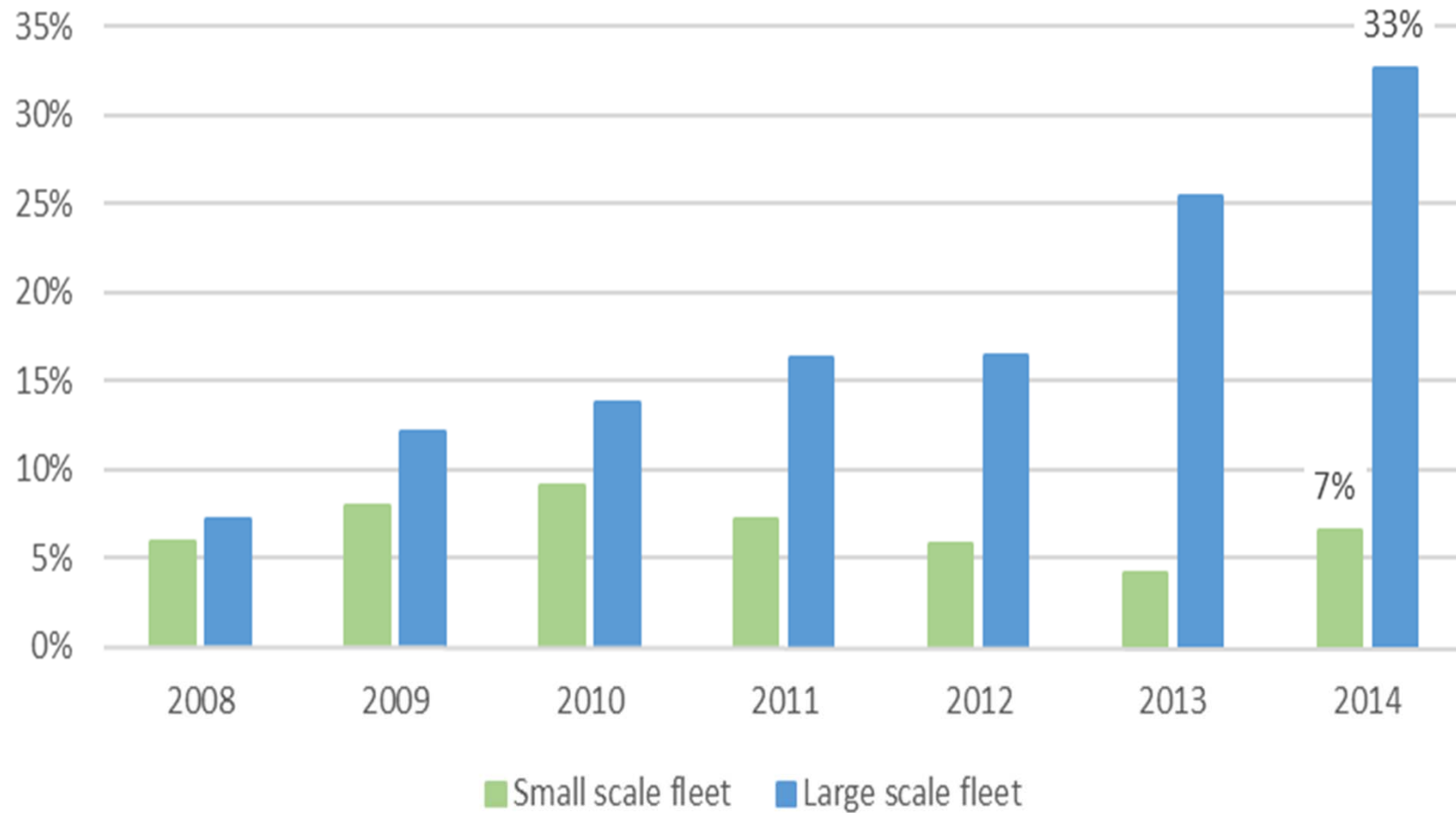
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## Net profit margin from the small and large scale fleets





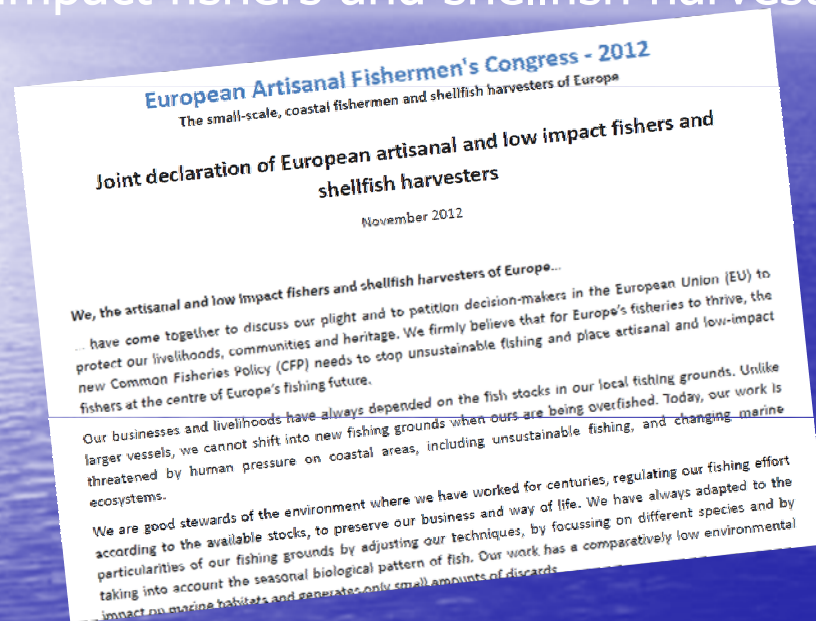
# First Congress – 18 November 2012

- ✓ 50 fishermen from 9 EU countries : Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Croatia.
- ✓ Sharing of experiences and challenges
- ✓ Discussions about how to improve the situation and representation of low-impact fishermen all around Europe and at EU level



# First Congress – 18 November 2012

- ✓ Adoption of the Joint declaration of European artisanal and low impact fishers and shellfish harvesters



- ✓ Mandate given to a core-team of fishermen to establish a European platform of low-impact fishermen
- ✓ Original Declaration signed by 88 organisations and individuals



- The LIFE platform was established as a **single, strong and inclusive voice** to represent the interests of small-scale low impact fishermen and women across Europe.
- Its **mission** is to achieve conditions in which fishing is performed in a sustainable manner and small-scale low impact fishermen and women in Europe can maximise their social and economic viability.
- LIFE enables European small-scale low impact fishermen and women to develop and communicate collective positions and to influence the development and implementation of policies and legislation, including the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- LIFE acts as a platform for and promotes the creation of regional and national low impact fishing organisations in EU Member States where representation is lacking.

# The Route:

- By Fishermen – for Fishermen.
- Cooperation not confrontation
- Agree to Disagree Agreeably
- If you're not in the room, you're wasting your time.
- Co-Decision Making
- We are part of the Solution – not the Problem



# Aims:

- CHANGE
- Challenge the Status Quo
- Build Alliances
  - Other Fishers [local, national and across EU]
  - NGO's
  - Public
  - Scientists
- Provide Solutions – not problems
- Positive Political Influence
- Members, Staff and Projects

## LIFE Criteria

- 1) Fishermen that use low impact gear and methods in terms of both selectivity and habitat.*
- 2) That the owner is aboard the vessel when fishing.*
- 3) Fishermen committed to ensure the sustainability of their activities by respecting the rules or in the event that such rules are absent or insufficient, they apply self-imposed measures to protect the fish resources and their habitats.*
- 4) Fishermen that have high socio-economic value in support of local communities and are an important part of the cultural identity of those communities.....*



# Objectives of the LIFE Platform

- 1) Create a single, strong and inclusive voice for low impact fishermen across Europe;
- 2) Enable European low impact fishermen to communicate publicly with one voice;
- 3) Underpin and encourage low impact fishing in Europe and the practical implementation of the reformed CFP according to the objectives as outlined in the Common Declaration;
- 4) Provide a specifically smaller scale, low impact viewpoint to the Commission and others with regard to European fisheries management and marine environmental issues;
- 5) Encourage and assist the creation of regional and national low impact fishermen's organisations in EU member states where they do not exist and support existing entities.

# Defra Fisheries 2027:

- “Access to fisheries continues to be available to small-scale fishing vessels, even if in some cases that is not the most economically efficient way of harvesting the resource. This is because the wider economic, social and environmental benefits of small-scale fishing can outweigh the comparative inefficiency in harvesting the resource and make a significant economic and social contribution to the lives of individuals and coastal communities, for example, by providing jobs, attracting tourists, providing high-quality fresh fish and maintaining the character and cultural identity of small ports throughout England.”



# CFP:

- ✓ a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector including small-scale fisheries
- ✓ preferential access for small-scale, artisanal or coastal fishermen
- ✓ in Member States where over 1 000 vessels can be considered small-scale coastal fishing vessels, an action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing;
- ✓ incentives, including those of an economic nature, such as fishing opportunities, to promote fishing methods that contribute to more selective fishing ..... and to fishing with low impact on the marine ecosystem and fishery resources;
- ✓ When allocating the fishing opportunities available to them..... Member States shall use transparent and objective criteria including those of an environmental, social and economic nature.....

# Threats & Opportunities:

- Policy – Co-Production
- MPA's – Co-Management
- New Commissioner for Fisheries & Environment
- New EU Parliament and PECH Committee
- Discard Ban
- Selectivity Improvements / Choke Species
- Fully Documented Fisheries
- Need for Science and Data Cooperation
- Consolidation and Privatisation
- Regionalisation & Advisory Councils
- Europe: In or Out?
- Bass {Spurdog / Porbeagle.....?}



And finally:





“Sustainable”!



“Threatened”!



Gracias

Dziękuję

Danke

Hvala

Thank you

Merci

Dank u  
wel

Grazie

ευχαριστώ