



WWF

NEWSLETTER

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MEDITERRANEAN ECHO

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Generate a sea change in Mediterranean marine management • Build a future for Mediterranean landscapes
• Secure Mediterranean water resources • Equip Mediterranean ecosystems to adapt to climate change

A REVOLUTIONARY INITIATIVE FOR MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

The first ever formal multi-stakeholder fisheries management committee in the Mediterranean and in Europe was established in Catalonia, Spain, in April 2012. Since then the Co-management Committee for the Management Plan of the Artisanal Sandeel Seine has gone from strength to strength. This innovative management scheme – originally a joint initiative of fishermen and civil society – was immediately supported by the Government of Catalonia and is now under the international spotlight. EU Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki recently referred to it as “revolutionary”. This form of co-management, involving fishermen, scientists, government and civil society in decisions on the management of fisheries resources, has the potential to bring about a sustainability revolution in Mediterranean fisheries. In the words of Mauricio Pulido Cazorro, Spanish Artisanal Fisherman: *“For the past year the whole Catalan sandeel fishing fleet has been involved in a management committee that has brought about important changes for all our lives. It has been a fantastic experience – we have reduced our fishing effort, both the quantity of fish caught and the amount of work. But we are not the only ones to decide how we fish, there are others involved in decision making: the public administration has to take part, as they have a direct mandate to manage public resources; there are researchers who, with their detailed knowledge of the marine environment, can advise us of the best times of year to fish more or fish less; and then there is civil society, represented by environmental NGOs. WWF and Greenpeace are part of the management committee – two major international organizations, involved in working out, with fishermen and the public administration how best to fish...and the results are great: we fish less and earn more!”*. The great work and results of the Co-management Committee were recognized with a WWF Conservation Merit Award in June.

WWF Conservation Merit Award

WWF Mediterranean takes immense pride in the Fisheries team. In June, the Head of the Fisheries Programme, Sergi Tudela, and the Co-management Committee for the Management Plan of the Artisanal Sandeel Seine in Catalonia were presented with a WWF Conservation Merit Award at WWF’s most important international awards ceremony. Awards acknowledge outstanding conservation contributions and successes both inside and outside the organization. In addition, Fisheries Officer, Dr Susana Sainz-Trapaga, was elected this year to the Vice-Presidency of the Mediterranean Regional Advisory Council for fisheries management, the stakeholder body created by the EU to bring together fisheries organizations, unions and NGOs to advise on fisheries management.

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Celebrating the Award, (L-R): Juan Carlos del Olmo, CEO, WWF-Spain; Paolo Lombardi, Director, WWF Mediterranean; Dr Sergi Tudela, Head of Fisheries, WWF Mediterranean; Mauricio Pulido Cazorro, Spanish Artisanal Fisherman; Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF International; Josep Maria Pelegrí Aixut, Catalan Fisheries Minister; Isabel Artim Garcia, Counsellor of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spanish Embassy Washington D.C.; Pedro Pablo Calderón Antun, Chairman, WWF-Spain.

FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT: A SUCCESS STORY FOR EUROPE

The Co-management Committee for the Management Plan of the Artisanal Sandeel Seine in Catalonia

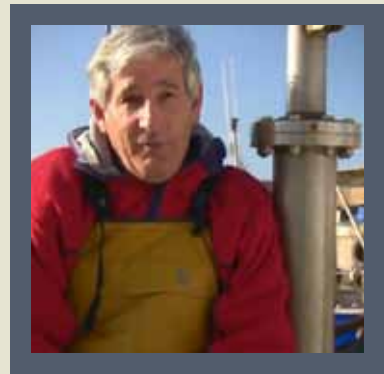


The issue

Mediterranean sandeels (*Gymnamodytes cicereus* and *G. semisquamatus*) are small, short-lived forage fish typically found in shallow sandy bottoms in the Mediterranean and adjacent East Atlantic waters. On the coast of Catalonia, sandeel (“sonso” in Catalan) fishing is carried out by 25 artisanal boats scattered in six fishing ports north of Barcelona. The species is thought to be very important for the functioning of the coastal marine ecosystem as it is a food source for many other species. In recent years, and under the fishermen’s initiative, the fishery has been subject to strict management rules including a closed number of fishing boats, daily catch limits and a non-subsidised ‘closed season’ in winter.

The fishermen

Mauricio Pulido Cazorro has been an artisanal fisherman for 30 years. He is a board member of the Catalan Association of Artisanal Fishermen (ADAMEC) and a founder member of the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers (Medartnet), which gathers artisanal fishermen from Italy, France, Spain and Greece. Representing the fishermen, Mauricio says: “It is important to introduce a new model of management for fisheries resources. We consider it necessary to create and implement area-based long-term management plans designed and run by co-management committees. If not, the future of fishing in the short-term will be impossible.”



Their solutions

The sandeel fishermen decided to turn a set of constraints to an advantage for their work. April 2012 constitutes a milestone in the history of this fishery, and also in that of fisheries management in the Mediterranean and in Europe as the first ever co-management committee was formally created. This new management scheme, which includes the participation of national and provincial administrations, the fishing sector, scientists and environmental NGOs, was fully supported by the respective governments and the EC.

The results

The 2012 fishing season – the first ever through co-management – was one of the most profitable on record for the fishermen, thanks to an innovative policy aimed at increasing the profit margins of the catch and redistributing the resulting benefits. Catalan, Spanish and European administrations are closely monitoring this successful case study as a potential model for replication in other areas. Co-management is a revolutionary step towards the rational management of fisheries in the Mediterranean, as EU Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki has pointed out: “Co-management of our fisheries resources is, one way or another, the future. So, really, there is a revolution around the management of our fisheries through this procedure.”



Watch the video Fisheries co-management: a success story for Europe
<http://vimeo.com/65467667>

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Update: Common Fisheries Policy reform

WWF has long worked towards a policy that effectively stops overfishing and allows fish stocks to recover in order to support fishermen in the long term. Earlier this year the European Parliament adopted a legislative proposal with an overwhelming majority that would end overfishing in Europe, voting for an ambitious Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that would restore fish stocks. Unfortunately, on 29 May, the European Parliament decided to accept the ‘compromise’ offered by the Council of Ministers, accepting a deal that will result in overfishing until 2020, and does little to support coastal communities. The CFP reform text ignores some key issues – chiefly, the decisive action badly needed to replenish seriously depleted fish stocks.

<http://bit.ly/11PF9Ot>

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“In the Mediterranean, with almost 90% of fish stock considered as overfished, the adopted text is completely inadequate to bring fish stock back to sustainable levels”.

Sergi Tudela, Head of Fisheries Programme, WWF Mediterranean.

GFCM: good and bad news for fisheries in the Mediterranean

WWF was both pleased and disappointed by the outcomes of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) which closed its annual meeting in Split, Croatia, on 17 May. The first substantial management plan for a Mediterranean fishery was adopted

by GFCM after 64 years of existence (for small pelagic fishery in the Adriatic Sea, most importantly anchovy and sardine, which represent 99% of the total catch of small pelagics in the Adriatic). However, the lack of support by most GFCM Contracting Parties for a general reduction in fishing effort in bottom trawling and net fisheries was most disheartening. The status of Mediterranean demersal stock targeted by these fisheries is catastrophic. “The management plan for the pelagic fishery in the Adriatic has to be seen as a first step. We need now to develop a new management framework for the entire region”, said Sergi Tudela.

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Stakeholder engagement: Participatory Approaches for the Planning and Development of MPAs

Recently published by WWF and NOAA, this guide includes practical case studies and lessons learned from the MedPAN South Project. It provides guidance to practitioners on steps and techniques for engaging stakeholders in MPA design and management.

Download at: <http://bit.ly/16BzyPh>

Connecting Mediterranean scientists and resource managers

Designing and implementing successful Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is a challenge. Science-based conservation and management of coastal and marine resources and biodiversity depends upon bridging the existing gaps between scientists and managers, enabling a two-way dialogue. While progress has been made, science and management in the Mediterranean are still largely disconnected. To address this, a workshop was hosted By WWF and MedPAN in March at Plemmirio MPA in Siracuse, Italy.

The workshop guided a network of managers and scientists to answer key questions on ecosystem health and socio-economic conditions, to achieve effective science-based management. Participants included representatives of MPAs and research institutes from Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, Italy, France, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Montenegro, and Greece.

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ANCIENT FORESTS IN THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN: NEGLECTED HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE AREAS

Ancient forests hold a wealth of biodiversity and key information on how forest biodiversity has resisted threats and the effects of climate change. They have specific economic and cultural values, they are part of our natural heritage and are a source of inspiration, yet they are not suitably valued and time is running out to secure their survival and recovery. A recent report from WWF France explores the state of play concerning ancient Mediterranean forests and defines future priorities for work. Interviews, questionnaires and a literature review were used to obtain a clear preliminary picture of ancient Mediterranean forests across 15 countries in the region. As a result of this research, a common desire to further the conservation of ancient forests in the Mediterranean has emerged, and the report makes concrete recommendations for work over the next five years.

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WWF stands up for Taksim Gezi Park

WWF-Turkey supports the demonstrations at Taksim Gezi Park and the people who want to protect Istanbul's natural heritage, calling on the government to respect and preserve Istanbul's natural habitat and avoid further uncontrolled and unsustainable development in the city, such as the shopping mall that is proposed for construction in the park. "Istanbul is running out of breath. We don't need more shopping malls but we do need more parks and green spaces in this city", said Tolga

Bastak, CEO of WWF-Turkey. "We need to defend the fundamental human need for natural spaces over the uncontrolled pursuit of unsustainable projects". WWF-Turkey is very concerned about the latest regulations and decisions made in Istanbul and all around the country, and it calls on the government to consider environmental and social impacts when planning and approving their projects and policies. WWF will continue to closely follow latest developments.

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Global Forest & Trade Network update

WWF GFTN has launched a new tool which allows any company, in any industry being helped by WWF to combat unsustainable forest management and illegal felling of trees to ensure good practices and defend the most valuable forests in the world. WWF is developing a purchasing policy for forest commodities in Portugal and Spain, to help companies make more responsible choices and progressively eliminate the purchase of forest products from unknown, illegal and questionable sources. Meanwhile, WWF has announced the GFTN membership of Altri, a Portuguese company and one of the largest European producers of eucalyptus pulp. Altri undertakes to give priority in timber purchase and production, to timber from responsibly managed forests, as certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

See: <http://bit.ly/1oncOS1>
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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE LYNX TO THE DINARIDES

The 40th anniversary of the reintroduction of the lynx in the Dinarides was celebrated recently. In March of 1973 three females and three males, caught in the Slovakian Carpathians, were released in Kočevski Rog in Slovenia, and after an absence of more than 70 years the lynx again became a resident of the Dinaric forests. The lynx disappeared across Western and Central Europe more than 100 years ago due to over-hunting and loss of habitat. In Dinarides it survived only in isolated areas of Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. Although the reintroduction of the lynx in the Dinarides was considered one of the most successful reintroductions of large carnivores, the lynx is again facing extinction. Due to the inability of natural connectivity with neighbouring populations and the natural migration of animals, the reintroduction of new individuals is proposed as the only possible solution for the restoration of genetic diversity and to ensure the survival of the population in the Dinarides.

www.discoverdinarides.com/en/

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Dinaric Arc Parks study tours

At the end of May more than 20 people from National and Nature Parks in the Dinaric Arc went on a study tour to Provence, France, to become more familiar with the management systems of parks under the Europarc charter for sustainable tourism. The three parks they visited – Luberon, Camargue and Verdon – were full of good advice on how to build sustainable tourism in protected areas. Now the Dinaric Arc team will begin preparations for introducing the European charter for sustainable tourism to selected parks of the region, aiming to submit nominations by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, in June, more than 30 participants visited national parks in Kosovo and Macedonia. At Sharri, the oldest national park in Kosovo, and then at three Macedonian parks, participants discussed the importance of good protected areas management and regional collaboration.

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How do we assess the value of protected areas?

How should we evaluate a protected area? It is one of the questions that interests all the employees of parks in the region. With the Dinaric Arc Parks regional workshops WWF is attempting to answer that question with the application of methodology for the assessment of the value of protected areas. The methodology was introduced at the first international conference of Dinaric Arc Parks held in Banja Luka at the end of 2012. So far, in 2013, six workshops for representatives of national parks, nature parks and their stakeholders in Croatia have been organized. The methodology has been designed to help the agencies, organizations and institutions for nature protection to collect and compare the data of total benefits of protected areas.

See: <http://bit.ly/139Yqzi>

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Croatian school wins European Schools for a Living Planet award

This year, the school environment initiative European Schools for a Living Planet was held for the fifth time. More than 4,000 pupils aged 12 to 17 from eleven European countries have put their individual eco-projects into action. One of the best projects in 2013 was from a Croatian school, with an awareness-raising initiative on an endangered species of butterflies (Maculinea).

See: <http://bit.ly/15MeDqz>



WWF REVEALS CROATIA'S SEVEN RIVER WONDERS

To celebrate Croatia's accession to the European Union, WWF has prepared a welcome gift for the public: the hidden treasures of Croatia's stunning river landscapes. A four-week campaign highlighting the rivers' unique and endangered habitats and species has been launched, with exhibitions, concerts, camps, lectures and workshops taking place on the Danube, Drava, Mura, Sava, Zrmanja, Neretva and Ombla – the seven river wonders of Croatia. The current campaign is part of an international project by WWF and EuroNatur to establish protection and the sustainable management of the trans-boundary river system of the Danube, Drava and Mura. In 2012 the Croatian and Hungarian part was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and WWF continues to work for the declaration of the reserve in all five countries (Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia).

See: <http://bit.ly/17EVQEp>

Sign the petition to include the rivers in the Natura 2000 network of the EU: www.amazon-of-europe.com

Ramsar City Accreditation

As part of a WWF-led project, the historic fortress of Ghar-el-Meleh has been converted into the first wetland education centre in Tunisia. It opened its doors to the public for the first time on April 25. WWF in Tunisia is working to demonstrate the importance of collaboration between WWF and Maghreb countries for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and to promote our goal of more than 100 registered sites (and about 4 million hectares) in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The Ghar-el-Meleh Lagoon is part of a pioneering initiative to promote Ramsar City accreditation, a concept created by the WWF Office Tunisia to encourage people to respect wetlands and be aware of the importance of this type of ecosystem, to enhance the presence of wetlands on an urban scale and to encourage decision makers to integrate Ramsar sites in urban planning.

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Plans for hydropower plants in Una National Park

A WWF team travelled to the Una river region, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, invited by the director of the newly formed Una National Park to provide scientific and advocacy support in the case of the planned Unac hydropower plant (the Unac is a tributary of the Una river), which threatens the whole Una river ecosystem. WWF discussed hydropower development in protected areas with Park managers, local NGOs and other local stakeholders, and presented their latest publication on hydropower "Sustainable hydropower: a brief guide for investors". NGOs and management of the National Park were very interested and will use the publication when advocating for sustainable hydropower approaches in their protected area.

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Celebrating and protecting Hutovo Blato

To celebrate Earth Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina WWF handed a petition with 25,517 signatures to the government, asking them to take urgent measures to preserve the Hutovo Blato Nature Park. The petition urges the government to commit to developing a spatial and management plan for Hutovo Blato and work with WWF in finding the best financing models for the Park.

Then, to mark Hutovo Blato Day in June (an annual event organised by WWF and local NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina) WWF ran a workshop on the economic and social benefits of protected areas. An analysis of Hutovo Blato shows that it is one of the most productive ecosystems in the country, distinguished from other areas by the quantity and quality of services it provides.

See: <http://bit.ly/111vgSJ>

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EU ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN THE DINARIC ARC

With WWF Mediterranean's Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative, water managers and others in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro are learning about EC decision-making processes and required EU environmental standards. At a workshop in Brussels in May participants studied EC decision-making processes related to environmental protection issues and how they are addressed in the context of EU enlargement. Particularly relevant is the role of EU institutions in adopting, implementing and enforcing legislation and policies, and how candidate countries should adopt or come closer to EU Acquis. Participants also learned of the required EU environmental standards regarding existing and new hydropower plants and other sources of energy.

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Shaping the future of the new Libyan democracy

In Libya, work has begun towards enabling Libyan NGOs to shape the future of the new Libyan Democracy. WWF Mediterranean is working to promote and strengthen a group of 15 NGOs in Libya, and to extend this project to incorporate other NGOs from North Africa.

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Invest in Haste, Repent at Leisure

A new report just published by civil society organisations CEE Bankwatch Network, SEE Change Net and WWF explains how heavy investments in fossil fuels by international financial institutions in the western Balkans are hindering these countries' compliance with EU accession requirements. Just as an example, Europe's development banks are spending 32 times more on fossil fuels than renewable energy sources not related to hydropower. This trend means that western Balkan countries are heading in the opposite direction to the EU goals on climate change for the years 2020, 2030 and 2050, an eventual requirement for these aspiring EU countries.

More at: <http://bit.ly/19EWUFE>

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Regional change to solar energy

WWF Mediterranean is leading eleven partner organizations to promote a regional change towards solar energy through national and regional solar energy workshops and education programmes. Priority countries are Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. The 3-year project, called SHAAMS - Strategic Hubs for the Analysis and Acceleration of the Mediterranean Solar Sector ("shams" is the Arabic word for "sun"), will focus on policy support activities throughout the region

and on fostering market support structures and new procedures for the development of a reliable market for solar energy.

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

mediterranean.panda.org

Stay tuned for our next newsletter

For more information
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