

Coastal governance and inshore fishing

GIFS Stakeholders conference
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Aims of Activity 1

- * **Activity 1:** to record and help to understand the different management frameworks and approaches that exist across the Channel and the Southern North Sea, and the way that inshore fishing is incorporated into these.
- * **Phase 1:** identification of the main approaches that are in place with reference to integrated management of the coastal & marine environment
- * **Phase 2:** to better understand the complex processes that make up different examples of IF governance structures in terms of stakeholder participation/ influence and their interaction with local regeneration planning (social & economic), tourism and marine/coastal planning. Emphasis has been placed on the implications of these findings for the sustainability of IF communities.

Case Study Methodology

- * **8 in-depth case studies sites** in Belgium, Netherlands, France & England
- * **Semi-structured interviews:** 6-15 sample size in each case study
- * Agreed **interview guide** across all case studies
- * **Range of stakeholders:** e.g. fishers, fish processors, councilors, economic development officers, restaurant owners, FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) managers, conservation bodies, fisheries management authority & tourism managers
- * **Qualitative thematic analysis** of interview data around an agreed framework of analysis

Focus of interview questions

“To understand HOW the fishing community interact with policy-making/shaping and key decision-makers at MULTIPLE scales of governance (locally, nationally and Europe wide) in terms of economic regeneration (including tourism), local community relations, and marine/ coastal governance. To this end the research highlights examples of BOTH successful governance practices and barriers to good governance in IF.”

Case study locations



French cases studies sample

- * Scallops fishery in Baie de Saint Brieuc: interviews planned: 10 (6 completed)
- * Lobster fishery in the Channel Islands (baie de Granville/jersey): interviews planned: 12 (10 completed)
- * Plus possible additional case study site

Includes: Fishers, producers, university representatives, marine scientists, fishermen organisations, local & regional government

Belgium & Netherlands sample

- * Nieuwpoort – 8 completed
- * Arnemuiden – 6 completed

Includes: local government / civil servants; fishers; restaurant owners; FLAG members; IF organisation; local councillors; tourism representative; shop owners; fish auction representative

English case studies sample

- * Hastings - 16 total completed (11 from 2012 pilot)
- * Nth Devon – 10 completed
- * Cornwall – 10 completed
- * Nth Norfolk – 7 completed (3 further planned)

Includes: Fishers, fish processors, FLAG manager/ animator, IFCA (Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority), MMO (Marine Management Organisation), local politicians, economic development managers in local councils, tourism representatives, Harbour Masters, multiple Fishing Association Chairs, fisheries training representatives, restaurateurs



Common themes – England case studies



English Case Studies: Emerging Themes [1]

[Need for political capacity development to overcome the alien nature of practices of co-management/partnership]

*“They want to go to sea and fish, they don’t want to be involved in the politics.”
[Fisherman]*

“Because the guys are out there at sea. I mean, they are out in the sea when the weather is right and when the tides are right. Stuff your meeting programme. That comes last in the list of priorities. To be fair, some of them have been very good and very consistent. Others have drifted off a bit. None of them are creatures of meetings to be honest. So that has been a struggle.” [FLAG Chair]

“They just think the whole of the fishing industry’s had it, and they can’t see which way to turn, and fair enough, a lot of these guys, same as me, left school with no qualifications and they are not very word-minded. I mean, I can’t put my story across very good at times, but I’ll try. There are a lot of people who just completely 100% shy away from that type of thing.” [Fisherman]

Emerging Themes [2]

[Absence of/ newly emerging collective voice in Inshore Fisheries]

“Fishermen are like farmers, but even worse. They are rugged individualists, all of them. Innately suspicious of bureaucracy, and rightly so, and even more suspicious of the European Community.” [FLAG Chair]

“They just plod along at their own pace and do their own thing. They are all independent. We may have a society ... We are the voice for all these independent-minded fishermen, as best as possible. It is a job keeping them all happy, to tell you the truth.” [Fisherman]

“...they do value collective approaches [via fishing associations]. It's just that they haven't been able to see the scale of what's possible if all those collective approaches are brought under one single roof which is the key.” [Economic Development –Local council]

Emerging Themes [3]

[(Re)connection of the community & visitors with the local fishing industry]

“... everything we do that links the industry, not just in isolation, but to something else to the town, to the classroom, to the schools, it strengthens their hold. ... we can become more than just a fishing fleet, more of the community.”
[Fisherman]

“These fishing people are out on the beach in the weather and the tourists see this and there’s something that gels I think with people who come to the seaside generally about that. But they don’t understand how deeply involved they are in the society of those communities and that their wellbeing actually has an absolute reflection on how well those communities are doing. To lose the presence of the fisherman would almost lose the character of a settlement without a doubt. ... The radical shift is knowing that the fishing community is operating within the broader public policy on economic development [now] and they’re valued because they are identified now as a component.” [Economic Development – Council]

Common themes – Nieuwpoort and Arnemuiden case studies



Nieuwpoort



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Extra themes: Nieuwpoort

- * The **local community** and fisheries
- * **Labels** for fisheries
- * **Marine Spatial Planning** and fisheries
- * **Interdependence** of fisheries and tourism: would fisheries be alive without tourism and visa versa?
- * **Governance structure**: strong involvement of the municipality
- * From **recreational** to **professional** fisheries.







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Theme 1: **Separate voice for Inshore Fisheries**

“The fleet is already that small, further fragmentation doesn’t make sense. But it does make sense to provide a voice for the small scale fisheries sector as a whole” (Local government)

Theme 2: **Education and involvement of the local community**

“They (adults) spend a fun day out, but the impact is rather limited” (Fishermen)

Theme 3: **connections between the local tourism sector and a sustainable local fishing industry**

“If you ask the shop when most of the fish is sold: in summer or in winter, in the end it will be the effect of numbers of tourists coming which will determine the success” (Politician)

Arnemuiden



Author Jack Dooms

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Theme 1: **Separate voice for Inshore Fisheries**

“Would one fisher be able to represent the others and how do you organise this?” (Fisher)



Theme 2: **Education and involvement of the local community**

“There are two separate worlds: the fishermen world in which the fisheries families live, and the rest of the community” (Local shop owner)

Theme 3: **Connections between the local tourism sector and a sustainable local fishing industry**

“Spending so much money for what?” (Fisher)

Introduction to afternoon workshop

Stakeholder Panel Members:

- * Monique van de Water (Stichting De Noordzee)
- * Kris Vandecasteele (stad Nieuwpoort)
- * Monica Burch (FARNET Support Unit)
- * Yasmin Ornsby (Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society)

Key themes for the panel

- * A collective voice for the inshore fisheries?
- * Education and involvement of the community
- * Innovative approaches toward tourism activities
- * From recreational to professional IF activities

Justification of Methodology

- * **Complex and dynamic engagement processes** make up the interactions between the IF in each case study and the other sector stakeholders, key governance structures and agendas within local regeneration planning, tourism, local community relations and marine/ coastal governance.
- * **Each IF is unique in their socio-political and economic context**, as is the history of their complex interactions between these different sectors. For this reason in-depth case studies with semi-structured interviews with a broad range of stakeholders provides the most appropriate methodological approach to take account of the influence of these variables and the wider context in which they have developed.