

# newsletter

Issue 1, Winter 2012



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the GIFS newsletter. GIFS is an exciting interdisciplinary project funded by Interreg IVa 2 Seas programme and involves six project partners in the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The focus of GIFS is to explore and understand the socio-economic and cultural importance of inshore fishing. By looking at governance, culture and the economy GIFS hopes to provide a snapshot of inshore fishing at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and help policy makers and the broader general public to recognise barriers and opportunities that are facing fishing communities.



GIFS was launched in January 2012 and runs until September 2014. It has been a busy first 11 months. There have been three meetings between all the project partners (in Medway, Middelburg and Brest) and fieldwork and data collection is now underway. There have been numerous meetings with stakeholders from across the whole study area and the first public meeting is being organised for January 2013 in Rennes, France. An important part of the project is the development of a fishing heritage regeneration project in the village of Arnemuiden in the Netherlands. Work has started on this and progress is being rapidly made. This newsletter gives you a flavour of some of the work being carried out within the GIFS project. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

Dr Tim Acott. GIFS Project Leader

## About the Project

Fishing communities along the Channel and southern North Sea are facing challenges and changes at a time of strict regulation and measures to address the 'crisis' in fisheries. GIFS aims to understand the socio-economic and cultural importance of inshore fishing to better inform fisheries policy, coastal regeneration strategies and sustainable community development by:

- Identifying best practice in coastal zone governance and marine fishing
- Exploring the social and cultural values of fishing places and communities
- Valuing the economic benefits of inshore fishing
- Understanding grassroots perspectives on inshore fishing through the 'voice' of communities
- Creating a 'snapshot' of fishing life at the start of the 21st century



# Project Themes

## Coastal Zone Governance and Marine Fishing

### Inshore Fishing and Coastal Zone Governance

Inshore fishing makes a considerable contribution to the social-economic wellbeing of coastal communities as they contribute to local development, job creation and preservation, supplies of fresh fish and the preservation of traditional local cultures. The aim is to complete a regional analysis of the different approaches to inshore fisheries in relation to coastal management in the southern North Sea and the English Channel. Case studies in the four partner countries will be selected to explore local governance structures. Best practice in coastal zone governance and inshore fishing will be identified by placing emphasis on understanding the role of inshore fishing in a place-based management context, to achieve an ecosystem approach, ICZM, local development plans, marine spatial planning, regeneration and protected area management.

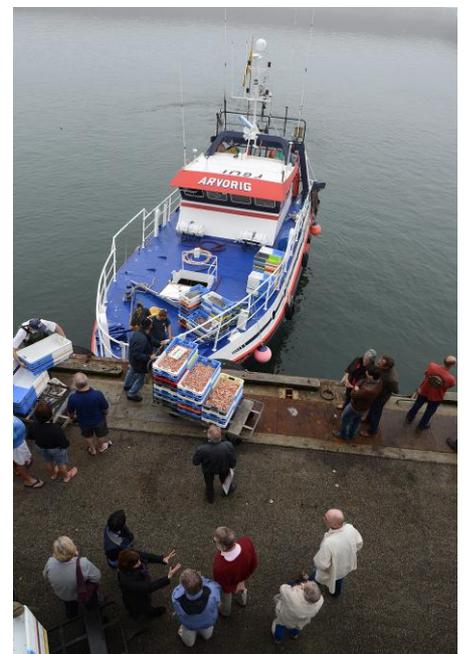
## Fishing Places and Community

### Community and Place Identity

It is increasingly recognised that fishing can be the heart and soul of a community and the glue that binds people together. Through work carried out in case study areas, the importance of inshore marine fishing to community identity, social cohesion and tourism will be explored. Community engagement will be via questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and community employed photography. Professional photography will also be undertaken to creatively illustrate the cultural richness and diversity of inshore fishing across southern/eastern England, northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

### The Contribution of Women to Social Cohesion

The aim is to identify and understand women's roles and contribution to the development and sustainability of coastal communities in the four partner countries, and therefore contribute to the knowledge and theory development themed on the concept of social cohesion. The objective is to inform policy makers at EU and national levels, enhance and promote women's participation in fisheries production, community development, decision making and any other aspects related to their contribution to social cohesion.



### Fishing Activity Past and Present

Historical fishing data is of key importance for studying long-term changes in fisheries activities, fishing stocks and fishing communities. A historical perspective can shed light on inshore fisheries-related socio-cultural, economic and ecological changes over time. It can also provide a framework for setting baselines and goals for sustainable management in the future. The aim is to provide a longer-term perspective on the current and historical importance of inshore fishing to coastal communities in terms of volume of landings, economic value and direct employment and their relative importance to the sector as a whole.



Transport of Fish  
VLIZ photo gallery / Author unknown

### Cultural Heritage for New Economic Activities

Cultural heritage and tradition can be used as an important source of inspiration for developing new products, services and events. This action will include developing opportunities with small and medium enterprises that enhance the value of fish through product and service design as well as marketing and branding in three case study sites. The main case study development will be in Arnemuiden in the Netherlands, as part of the programme of heritage-led regeneration.



Landing Herring  
VLIZ photo gallery / Author unknown

## Economy and Regeneration

### Comparison of the Value of Fished Species and the Economic Profitability of Fishing Between Regions

An investigation into the elements that could explain the economic performance trends of artisanal fishing fleets in each region will be undertaken.

As fishing companies across different regions along the English Channel generally target the same species in the same seasons, a comparative study on the valorisation of species harvested by study area and by fleet will be completed. Case studies will be used to examine various activities such as: average prices per species in relation to local demand; marketing circuits; structure of operation costs; public subsidies to the fishing sector and territorial branding.

### Estimating Positive Externalities Generated by the Fishing Industry

The aim is to highlight the economic benefits resulting from tourists attracted by the “marine fishing dimension”. By conducting surveys it will explore how tourists that visit places to see the fishing-related activities spend their money during their visit and how much of an impact this has on other local activities. It will explore the actual tourist behaviour to understand how much the presence of fishing activity influences their choice of destination.

### Evaluation of the Social Demand for Marine Fishing

Fishing scenes are enjoyed by people but because seeing is a free right, it is not possible to calculate directly the value which could be attributed by the community that would preserve this activity. To evaluate the willingness to preserve the marine dimension an analysis of policies implemented and associated budgets will be undertaken in order to reveal part of that value. This will provide evidence as to whether there is a commitment to provide finance for fishing and maritime heritage.

### Arnemuiden – a local case study of fishing heritage, tourism and regeneration

The project in Arnemuiden will consist of economic regeneration investment infrastructure that celebrates the local distinctiveness of being an historic fishing place. It will be a cross border co-development project to maximise the profile of the project across the region. By focusing on the fishing heritage, the old stories of the residents involved in the fishing activity will be revived and, by emphasising storytelling, amenities, infrastructure and street furniture, the village will be brought back to life in contemporary times.

### Non-Market Values of Inshore Fishing

The aim is to measure the non-market values of inshore fishing for tourism as these benefits are not usually taken into consideration despite the fact that they can often be much higher than direct benefits. A survey will ask individuals about their hypothetical choices which will measure the attractiveness of a fishing place for tourism.

### Hastings Local Case Study of Fishing Community Governance

The objective is to gain an insight into how the fishing community in Hastings affect and interact with policy-making/shaping and key decision-makers at multiple scales of governance (locally, nationally and Europe-wide). Interviews with local fisherman, and private and public sector stakeholders have been undertaken to investigate how, and to what extent, the community is engaged in various governance structures that influence that political space. The research provides an insight into how, through those structures, community representatives shape agendas and determine the social sustainability of their community. The over-arching themes from the research demonstrate that community members, allies and stakeholders are attempting to secure the future of the fleet by capitalising on and maintaining an intensive political profile, securing strategic alliances and partnerships (multi-scale) and further embedding the fishing community into the cultural identity of the town. The findings also outline the key governance mechanisms and related socio-political features that are acting to obstruct community representation and influence. The full research findings will be fed back and discussed with the Hastings FLAG board members at their December 2012 meeting and the final report will be available on the GIFS website in early 2013.



## News

### Sensing Fishing Places Survey



The University of Greenwich is conducting a questionnaire survey of fishing communities in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands called **Sensing Fishing Places**. The aim of the survey is to find out how fishing influences the way people feel about where they live. Over 5,000 people who either live or work in coastal towns in England (from Norfolk to Cornwall), northern France (from Finistere to Nord pas de Calais), Belgium and the southern Netherlands will help us to create a picture of marine fishing in the social and cultural lives of people along the English Channel and southern North Sea.

The results from the survey will be used as part of the wider GIFS project to inform fisheries policy and local decision-making. It is anticipated that by comparing peoples' experiences of marine fishing across the different countries it will be possible to; first, build a better understanding of the importance of marine fishing to communities; second, identify and share opportunities and experiences amongst those who live in fishing places; third, contribute to building a sustainable future for fishing places. If you would like to take part in the survey, please contact Julie Urquhart ([j.urquhart@gre.ac.uk](mailto:j.urquhart@gre.ac.uk)) or Suzanne Louail ([s.louail@gre.ac.uk](mailto:s.louail@gre.ac.uk)) and you will be sent the online link to the survey when it is launched (survey launch dates: England – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012; France / Belgium / Netherlands – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013).

### People, Place and Fish: Photo Project



The **People, Place and Fish** project seeks to capture, through local photos, how people view the fishy places where they live, work or play. Through the lens of those living in these communities, we want to create a snapshot of what it is like living in places with inshore fishing at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Alongside the photos taken by people in the community, we are creating a photo documentary of fishing places that will be showcased in an exciting exhibition in 2014, including selected images from the community photographs.

**People, Place and Fish** will be launched in early 2013. If you are interested in receiving further information, or becoming involved please contact Tim Acott ([t.g.acott@gre.ac.uk](mailto:t.g.acott@gre.ac.uk)) or Julie Urquhart ([j.urquhart@gre.ac.uk](mailto:j.urquhart@gre.ac.uk)).

## Website Launch



The official GIFS website was launched in June 2012 [www.gifsproject.eu](http://www.gifsproject.eu). The website will evolve as the project activities develop and we intend that it will be of interest to stakeholders, policy-makers and fishing communities. Outputs from the project, including the community photographs and photo documentary will be displayed on the website alongside information about all GIFS activities and events.

## PhD Research Students Join the GIFS Project



Three research studentships are being funded by the GIFS project to support the research of PhD students in the UK. The three research students have now been recruited and their research will include, investigating women in fishing, tourism and ecosystems services.

From the University of Greenwich (School of Science), Michaela Kennard is researching "Identity, tourism and inshore fishing in the English Channel and Southern North Sea". From the University of Greenwich (Greenwich Maritime Institute),

Esther Copete is researching "Women and Social Cohesion in Fisheries: Cases from England, Belgium, France and the Netherlands". From the University of Brighton, Jeremy Evans will examine how fishermen learn about fishing and fish stocks and undersea places and how this can be disseminated to the wider community as cultural ecosystem services.

## GIFS Lesson Plans for Schools

The University of Brighton is working with the Hastings Academy to produce study packs on inshore fishing and coastal communities. The plan is to produce five packs aimed at primary, secondary and post-16 students, in geography and history lessons. A publisher will be involved from an early stage.

The Classroom on the Coast is an educational facility right on the coast in the Hastings fishing quarter, set up by the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). It fields many enquiries from schools around the country who wish to plan a trip to Hastings to look at the coastal environment. These packs will enhance the experience of school and college students in Britain and potentially across Europe, and will ensure a better understanding of the contribution of inshore fishing to the coastal economy.

## Partner Visit to Arnemuiden, The Netherlands

As part of the cross-border involvement is the regeneration of the small town of Arnemuiden in the Netherlands, GIFS partners undertook a field visit there on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012. Arnemuiden was once a vibrant fishing village and fishing activity supported most members of the community. However, the fishing has now gone and the town is in need of regeneration. The Municipality of Middelburg have been working within the GIFS project on tasks to re-develop the town in the hope of attracting tourists, so the partner visit took place before the infrastructure work had started.

Following a meeting at the town hall, there was a tour of the town which included a visit to the local museum <http://museumarnemuiden.nl/> and the wharf where boat restoration takes place. The GIFS team then boarded historic fishing vessels for the return journey to Middelburg.



The GIFS Team with residents of Arnemuiden in traditional costume

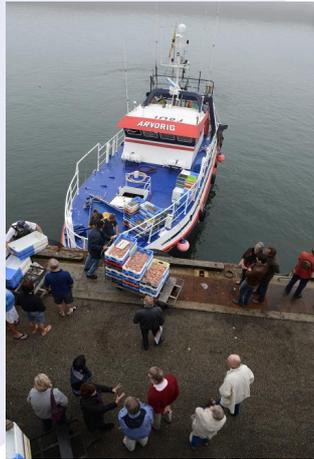


## Tradition Transferred into New Economic Growth

Traditions inspiring new economic growth, part of the work being undertaken by the Municipality of Middelburg involves developing new products, services and events which are inspired by cultural heritage and tradition. This may include working with local businesses in tourist, hospitality, art, fashion and retail. Fishing communities, such as Arnemuiden in the Netherlands, have their own rich traditions and characteristics and this distinct sense of place and culture can provide a strong foundation for branding the town and developing associated products and services. The Municipality of Middelburg aims to help local people develop new economic opportunities by providing a platform for generating ideas and bringing people together. For example, Middelburg has helped to establish a thinktank of women in Arnemuiden, which led to the women deciding to produce sweaters based on a traditional fishermen's sweater design. As a result of the work led by the women's thinktank, a local entrepreneur and business have agreed to produce and sell the sweater with 150 due to be on sale in time for Christmas. All proceeds from the sweater will go to a foundation established for Arnemuiden tourism promotion.

## Le Guilvinec, France

In June 2012 the GIFS team made another group visit to a case study site, this time to Le Guilvinec in the Finistere region of Brittany. The team watched the landing of the catch from the inshore fleet, a daily activity and a great tourist attraction with hundreds of spectators. A tour of the auction was followed by a visit to the Haliotika museum <http://www.haliotika.com/> and a presentation by the museum Director on the purpose of the museum and the issues it faces. The following day GIFS partners met with the Municipality of Concarneau and presented details about the GIFS project and discussed potential opportunities for collaboration.



## Women in Fishing Fieldwork

During the Summer of 2012 researchers working on the 'Contribution of Women to Social Cohesion' visited the Netherlands and Belgium and met a former member of the European Women in Fisheries Network (VinVis) in the Netherlands, who spoke about the Network's activities and their concerns about the future of the fishing industry. Primary data was also gathered in the selected case study sites of Arnemuiden in the Netherlands and Oostdunkirke in Belgium. Fishermen's wives and families were interviewed, providing an insight into the economic challenges of the communities.



Meeting Anne-Marie Seters, former member the European Women in Fisheries Network (VinVins)



GIFS team meet a fisherman's family in Breskens-Netherlands, August 2012.

## Events at which GIFS has been represented

**2 – 6 July 2012** 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress at Maritime History, Ghent, Belgium

Suzanne Louail of the University of Greenwich attended this conference as a delegate and displayed a poster on the GIFS project

**5 – 7 September 2012** ICES Working Group on the History of Fish and Fisheries, Oostende, Belgium

Co-chaired by VLIZ.

**19 – 23 September 2012** World Congress on Mariculture and Fisheries, Dalian, China

Tim Acott, Julie Urquhart and Minghua Zhao of the University of Greenwich presented research papers on related work and highlighted the GIFS project.

**11 October 2012** 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting for the axis 4 of the EFF, Etaples-sur-mer, France

Alizee Angelini attended this meeting to meet people from the relevant FLAGs and introduce GIFS to them.

**12 October 2012** European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) Conference, Bruges, Belgium

The first conference on ocean literacy in Europe attended by Anne-Katrien Lescauwat and Heidi Debergh of VLIZ.

**17 October 2012** Cross-border professional event on the fishing sector (Interreg 2 Seas IVa Project TIME).

An event on innovative technologies and initiatives that aim to overcome the challenges faced by the fishing sector. Attended by Heidi Debergh of VLIZ.

**13 – 15 November 2012** Positioning FLAGs for the future: Fisheries communities at the heart of local development, Quiberon, France

Attended by Marie Leseur of Agrocampus Ouest who met with the relevant FLAGs to discuss the implications of GIFS and to invite them to the first public stakeholder meeting.

**21 – 22 November 2012** The 2012 Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) Winter School, University of Warwick, UK

Esther Copete of the University of Greenwich presented a paper on her PhD aims and methodology.

**21 – 22 November 2012** European cross-border cooperation programme Interreg IVA France (Channel) – England's Annual Event, Bognor Regis, UK

Attended by Tim Acott of the University of Greenwich.

**26 November 2012** Food and the Public Good, Brighton-Sussex Food Research Network Symposium, University of Sussex, UK.

Jeremy Evans and Judith Watson presented 'Learning of Fish and Fisherfolk', which is an exploration of issues that will be studied in Jeremy's PhD.

**27 – 29 November 2012** Littoral 2012 – Coasts of Tomorrow, Oostende, Belgium

Attended by Ann-Katrien Lescauwat of VLIZ.

## Future Events

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2013** Sustainable Development of Inshore Fishing in Europe: The Way Forward  
**GIFS Public Meeting, Agrocampus Ouest, Rennes, France**

This meeting will include the following workshops:

- Women and social cohesion in fishing communities
- The allocation of subsidies to the fishing sector: processes and objectives
- Fishing heritage-led regeneration: opportunities and challenges
- Coastal zone governance and inshore fishing

**15 February 2013** Young Marine Scientists Day, Bruges, Belgium

<http://www.vliz.be/EN/INTRO/&p=show&id=3250>

**14 – 15 March 2013** 2 Seas Annual Event, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

<http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/news/the-latest-2-seas-news-is-online/en>

**23 March 2013** The Maritime Law and Policy Postgraduate Research Conference 2012, City University, UK.

<http://www.city.ac.uk/law/courses/research/london-universities-maritime-law-and-policy-research-group-luml/>

**26 -29 June 2013** 'Maritime Futures' 7<sup>th</sup> MARE People and the Sea Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands

[http://www.marecentre.nl/people\\_and\\_the\\_sea\\_7/index.html](http://www.marecentre.nl/people_and_the_sea_7/index.html)

**3 – 5 September 2013** European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) Conference, Plymouth, UK

<http://www.emsea.eu/conference-2013-plymouth>

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