

Tackling water pollution

FLAG: Pays d'Auray
Brittany, France

Project overview

This project supports efforts to reduce water pollution, a serious problem for local oyster producers. CAP 2000 is an association that brings together fishermen, shellfish producers and farmers with the aim of improving water quality and the overall sustainability of coastal primary activities.



In the past, a lack of coordination between the activities of different local stakeholders had resulted in conflicts between farmers and shellfish producers as well as undermining the impact of the different institutions involved in measuring pollution. CAP 2000 has obtained support from Axis 4 to set up local groups that bring together fisheries professionals, local authorities and other stakeholders in order to coordinate attempts to identify and reduce the sources of bacteriological pollution that impact on local shellfish producing areas. Specifically, the project will facilitate access to information on water quality in each shellfish basin. Local groups will then be guided on how to assess this information and will carry out further analysis to better identify sources of pollution. The ultimate goal is to help local authorities develop action plans to tackle the identified pollution, assigning specific responsibilities by sector. As such, on confirmation of pollution sources, a support itinerary for those responsible can be developed as can economic incentives or even legal actions.



Key lessons

- › **Relevance to FARNET themes:** Environment and cooperation/coordination between the fisheries sector and other local public and private stakeholders.
- › **Results:** It is still very early to talk of results in terms of reductions in bacterial pollution. However, we can already point to a better understanding among the local stakeholders involved of the issues that contribute to pollution in the area and a growing consciousness among those fishermen involved of the role they can play in identifying and minimising such pollution. Very importantly, it has put fishermen on an equal standing with other local players, including public bodies, that are traditionally involved in combating pollution and it is demonstrating the value (both to the fisheries sector and to the public sector) of better communication, cooperation and joint problem solving.
- › **Transferability:** Issues around water quality are common to many fisheries areas around Europe. This project offers a model for those fisheries areas suffering water pollution and in particular for those areas where responsibility for assessing water quality lacks a systematic coordination and participation of relevant stakeholders.
- › **Final Comment:** This project has managed to mobilise a cross-sectoral partnership with a sense of solidarity and the momentum to change longstanding and un-coordinated working practices.

Total cost and EFF contribution

- › Total Project total: €14 400
- › EFF Axis 4: €7 200
- › National Co-financing: €3 200
- › Other/ Private: €3 200 (€ 1 600 Région Bretagne, €1 600 Conseil Général du Morbihan)

Project information

Title: Tackling water pollution

Duration: Ongoing since April 2011

Case study date: December 2011

Project promoter

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[FLAG factsheet](#)

Editor: European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Director-General.

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