

## ECO-FISH 1<sup>st</sup> e-newsletter

The Project 'Ecological footprint in cross-border marine fish farming in Sagiada (Greece) and southern Albania'(ECO-FISH) aims, through specific pilot actions, to reduce the environmental footprint of aquaculture in Greece and Albania, with a view to sustainable management of natural resources and control of microclimatic conditions during production.

ECO-FISH is implemented under the "Interreg IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Greece-Albania 2014-2020" and is co-funded by the European Union and by National Funds of Greece and Albania.

During the previous months:

**Deliverable 3.1.1 "Report of applied production methods"** was finalized by the University of Ioannina – Lead beneficiary of the Project.

The rationale behind this document was to enhance capacity building of fish farmers in Sagiada strip and Vlore bay, on the grounds of close co-operation, tackling of common problems, exchange of know-how and comprehension of future challenges faced by the marine fish farming sector. The document includes detailed description of a) the sector in each area; b) the production processes and equipment related to cage farming; and c) suggestions for improvement and possible solutions to problems and issues that are usually encountered in the cage farms.

*Ecological footprint  
in cross-border  
marine fish farming*

**ECO-FISH**



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The Study reveals encouraging prospects for further development on technological and production levels, as well as the main challenges to be tackled. After all, both rural regions have all the prerequisites to further develop this low footprint industry (i.e. the industry without chimneys), in order to produce healthy and relatively cheap animal food, provide employment, increase local GDP and benefit the trade balance of both countries.

**Deliverable 3.2.1 “Baseline Study in Greek Eligible Area”** was finalized by the Chamber of Commerce of Thesprotia. This Study provides a useful baseline scanning of the national and particularly of the local status in Sagiada, Thesprotia in terms of production figures of sea-bream and sea-bass, number of farms, volumes per species farmed, ex-farm price trends, leased areas and spatial organisation, turnover, exports and challenges faced by the fish farming sector, concluding that:

- Although the national marine fish farming sector is still suffering from low ex-farm prices, bureaucracy, competition from third countries and financial crisis, it seems that production volumes are gradually increasing. This trend is expected to continue after the completion of the restructuring process in the sector;
- This situation is unavoidably reflected on the local sector in Sagiada, Thesprotia. However, the prospects for future development are particularly encouraging, particularly after the forthcoming official designation of the local Area of Organized Development of Aquaculture (AODA) in Sagiada strip.

The following ECO-FISH events took place during the previous months:

The **GreekLocal Event/ Info Day** was successfully held in Igoumenitsa on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 at the Conference Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Thesprotia.

The Local Event/ Info Day was organized by the Chamber of Thesprotia in collaboration with the Project Manager Prof. Ioannis Skoufos of the University of Ioannina and was attended by the Former Rector of TEI of Epirus and President of the Integration Council, Prof. Anastasios



Tsinas and the Dean of the School of Agriculture of University of Ioannina, Prof. Athina Tzora, and also by local stakeholders and businesses in the aquaculture sector.

During the Local Event, the following were presented: the correlation between the ECO-FISH Project and the aims of the Chamber, the Project's relevance to the Chamber's planning for adding value to the



local agricultural products, the Project's actions and expected results, the linkage between the Project's results and the aquaculture sector.

Please find more info at the following link: <https://cb-ecofish.eu/2019/02/27/ecofish-project-implemented/>

The **Albanian Local Event/ Info Day** was successfully held in Orikum on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2019.

The Local Event/ Info Day was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vloora Region in collaboration with the other 2 Albanian Project Beneficiaries (SEEP, RAF Foundation), and was attended by institutions of the region, environmental associations and by local stakeholders and businesses in the aquaculture sector.



Among the issues that were discussed during the Local Event were the following: the correlation between the Project and the aims of the Chamber, the Project's relevance to the Chamber's plan for adding value to the local agricultural products, the Project's actions and expected results, the linkage between the Project's results and the aquaculture sector.

Please find more info at the following link: <https://cb-ecofish.eu/2019/02/27/ecofish-project-implementation-al/>.

**Project Beneficiaries:**

	University of Ioannina, Special Account for Research Funds	LB
	Chamber of Thesprotia	PB2
	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vlora Region	PB3
	Social Education & Environment Protection	PB4
	Royal Albania Foundation	PB5

*"The views expressed in this e-newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority".*

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