

Slow Fish Campaign Report 2017

Slow Fish campaign on 2017 has collected previous focus on youth participation, women in fisheries, regionalized networks, art as a language creation medium, inclusivity, collaboration and solidarity and brought them into one storytelling effort. Through the notion of **value chain**, the campaign has encompassed the totality of the aquatic world: from plankton to the spiritual and symbolic dimensions tied into fish and oceans; from water and resource management including inland waterways to community welfare; from gastronomy and preservation techniques to local cultures and knowledge. The **interconnectedness**, main characteristic of any network, has been the cement of the narrative that has shaped the activities performed during 2017.

Slow Fish Genoa has been a crucial event this year. By rediscovering the value chain hidden behind a fish product, participants were able to reflect about a good, clean and fair fish. By understanding that the origin of this value chain relies on the water quality and biodiversity of plankton, that it develops through the management of marine and fishery resources by small-scale fishermen around the world, including transportation and trade, and that this chain finishes when the fish product finally reaches the kitchen and the table, discussions about several issues regarding governance, adaptation of communities to fast environmental change or sustainable practices were held.

One of the most remarkable outcomes of this event was the **workshop of the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)**. With a panel composed by stakeholders from different fisheries backgrounds, participants discussed together the policy needed in the EU for small-scale fishers and to better inform the future work to be carried out by LIFE and its members at all institutional levels.

After the enriching discussions and brainstorming that took place during Slow Fish Genoa, **Slow Fish Northern Seas** has been very active and started to develop collaborations among fishmongers from Belgium, who have visited fishmongers and fishermen from the UK. Currently, fishmongers from both countries are trying to sell products from Northern Seas producers, mainly Dutch oysters and smoked Irish fish. These fishmongers have also participated in the development of the Thorup Strand Presidia, in Denmark, and they as well have visited a fishermen community in Galicia, Spain.

In the **Mediterranean region**, communities of two different countries have been visited and explored. Regarding France and following the already existing Prud'hommie of Sanary Slow Food Presidia, it is intended to add two Prud'hommies more: Antibes and La Seyne sur Mer. In the Southern side of the Mediterranean, a new Presidia was launched regarding the traditional fishing techniques of the Kerkennah archipelago, in Tunisia. A possible exchange between these two Mediterranean regions is also planned for the next year to reinforce solidarity and coordination. In addition, another exchange between oyster fishermen from the Netherlands and the community of fishermen from Kerkennah was planned by the end of this year. However, due to the fishing seasons of the Northern Sea, it has been postponed for winter next year.

During its first year of existence, the **Slow Fish Caribbean** network has sought to document, socialize, disseminate and implement good practices at the regional level, by recognizing the deep interconnection of the geographic and socio-ecological conditions throughout the Caribbean. This network is based on the virtuous experiences of the communities of the Mexican Caribbean who are mainly engaged in the capture of spiny lobster in the Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserves in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, and of the Providencia Black Crab Slow Food Presidia in the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina, Colombia. Besides the launching of the Spiny Lobster Presidia, another remarkable action within the Slow Fish Caribbean network is the participation in Agroexpo 2017, one of the most important international events in Centroamerica and the Caribbean about the agricultural and fishing sector that took place on July, 13rd-23rd in Corferias de Bogotá (Colombia). Slow Fish Caribbean representatives have participated in the forum of "Rural Sustainable Development and Peace-Building in Marine-Coastal and Swampland Zones." Their intervention was focused on the commercialization and responsible consumption of products from these areas.

Slow Fish North America has been present at **Slow Food Nations** at Denver, June. Several activities related to seafood were planned during this event but due to meteorological reasons, some of them were not possible to be performed, that is the case of the Slow Fish Row Seafood pop-up in one street of Denver. However, it was indeed an opportunity for the participants to enjoy seafood and learn a method to purchase seafood products. It even arose a still-in-process idea of developing a Seafood Buying Club.

Within Slow Fish North America, **Slow Fish Canada** has launched in the beginning of December a campaign in order to help raise awareness of how the Canadian government is managing its fishing grounds by using policies that result in the privatization of access to fish resources, as well as a petition for policy reform of the Fisheries Act (<http://www.saveourbcfisheries.info/>). This campaign is the result of fundamental changes that commercial fisheries in British Columbia and the communities that rely on the industry such as processing, retail suppliers of gear, ice and bait, mechanics, insurance and accounting have undergone in the past three decades. The cost that fish harvesters and younger generation harvesters should pay to purchase quota for commercial fish species has skyrocketed due to concentrated ownership by a wealthy few. As consequence, they are being squeezed out of the market, as it is extremely difficult to successfully bid for a state-sanctioned quota without serious financial resources.

In addition to the three **Presidia** mentioned above, the Thorup Strand Small-Scale Fishing (Denmark), the Spiny Lobster from Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka'an (Mexico), and the Kerkennah Islands Traditional Fishing (Tunisia), three Presidia more have been established in Italy: Torre Guaceto Small-Scale Fishing, Secche di Ugento traditional fishery, and Porto Cesareo Small-Scale Fishing. We have also worked on the **questionnaire to evaluate the already existing Presidia** and a test was performed in the Orbetello Lagoon Traditional Fishing. We plan to apply this evaluation in more Presidia to get an overview about their current state. Finally, in the Ark of Taste, a total of thirty-nine fish products and byproducts has been included as well as two algae.

The **communication campaign** which started at the beginning of 2017 was intended to disseminate material produced by communities themselves. This material was used during the Slow Fish event and will be the core of the Slow Fish new website. The idea is to create a sort of Atlas of Slow Fish Communities and waterways, which integrates textual, audio, graphic and audiovisual material. Despite we are still working on the new website, visual materials, mainly videos, have been translated into different languages and it is expected to be included in the new website by the beginning of next year.

To spread this campaign, Slow Fish has used all available tools within the Slow Food network which includes:

Slow Food Newsletter (a total of five publications related to Slow Fish topics).

Communication materials such as banners, posters, postcards, brochures.

Articles published on Slow Food International website with the tag Slow Fish:

- [24.11.2017](#) Alarming increase in the new ICCAT quotas for tuna fishing
- [21.11.2017](#) World Fisheries Day 2017
- [27.07.2017](#) Stingray, salmon, seaweed or clam chowder – what’s on the menu in school cafeterias?
- [23.05.2017](#) Satisfied at Sea – an interview with Barbara Rodenburg of the Wadden Sea Fishers
- [23.05.2017](#) A Sea of Cultures
- [03.05.2017](#) Severed nets: Historic “tonnarella” fishing system destroyed off Italian coast
- [27.04.2017](#) Slow Fish 2017 – We are the net
- [24.03.2017](#) Slow Fish in Genoa: We are the net!
- [15.03.2017](#) Slow Fish Caribbean: cooperation, peace and sustainability for the future of fishing
- [07.03.2017](#) Submarine Ecosystem in the Amazon under threat
- [27.02.2017](#) It is time to give the oceans a break – says World Bank
- [17.02.2017](#) Slow Fish Caribbean: a new project to protect the region’s biodiversity
- [10.02.2017](#) Pangasius: why is it being farmed intensively along the rivers of Southeast Asia?

At **international level**, a total of 24 articles related to Slow Fish topics have also been present in Slow Food websites of the different geographic areas that conformed the net.

Special mention to the eight edition of Slow Fish, “**Slow Fish 2017 – We are the net**” which has had **relevant international coverage**: China, portal web MSN; Germany, Deutsche Welle International; Germany, Greenpeace Magazin; Monaco, Radio Monte Carlo; Russland, Promvest; Spain, Agencia EFE; Swizerland, Tessiner Zeitung; Taiwan, News&Market; Uruguay, El País.

We are working in spreading the network. Important contacts have been done in Tunisia and Japan and skypes as well as future collaborations are planned for the next year.

