

A strategic conversation about becoming a model region



THE PROCESS

DRAWING ON A METHODOLOGY FOR ENABLING CONVERSATION ACROSS SECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS, THE WORLD CAFÉ APPROACH WALKS PARTICIPANTS THROUGH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO REVEAL COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE AROUND AN ISSUE THAT MATTERS TO THEM

On day 2 of this conference, participants were invited to work together in an interactive session with the **purpose** to:

- Open up channels of communication between stakeholder groups, enabling authentic listening and sharing of diverse perspectives
- Create space for meaningful conversation that leads to meaningful action, and make recommendations for action collectively visible
- To start practising collaboration towards the Baltic Sea as a model region

We kicked off the process sharing and collating our individual and collective **vision** for the Baltic Sea. We had a World Café to address 3 **key questions**, which resulted in voting on **action areas** that the group believed had the most leverage. A real-time **graphic recording** of the process was made.



Co-Evolving Our Futures

This process and document was collaboratively designed, hosted and harvested by Kajsa Balkfors, Tatiana Glad and Iwona Roman.



Vision for the Baltic Sea region

“Healthy environment, healthy stocks”

“Data transparency → fully documented fishery”

“Trust”

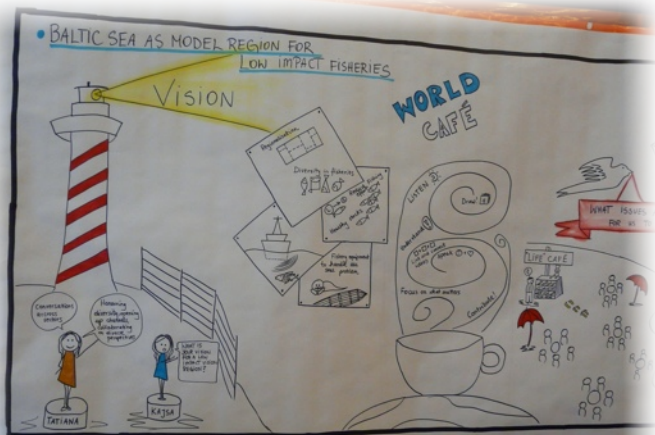
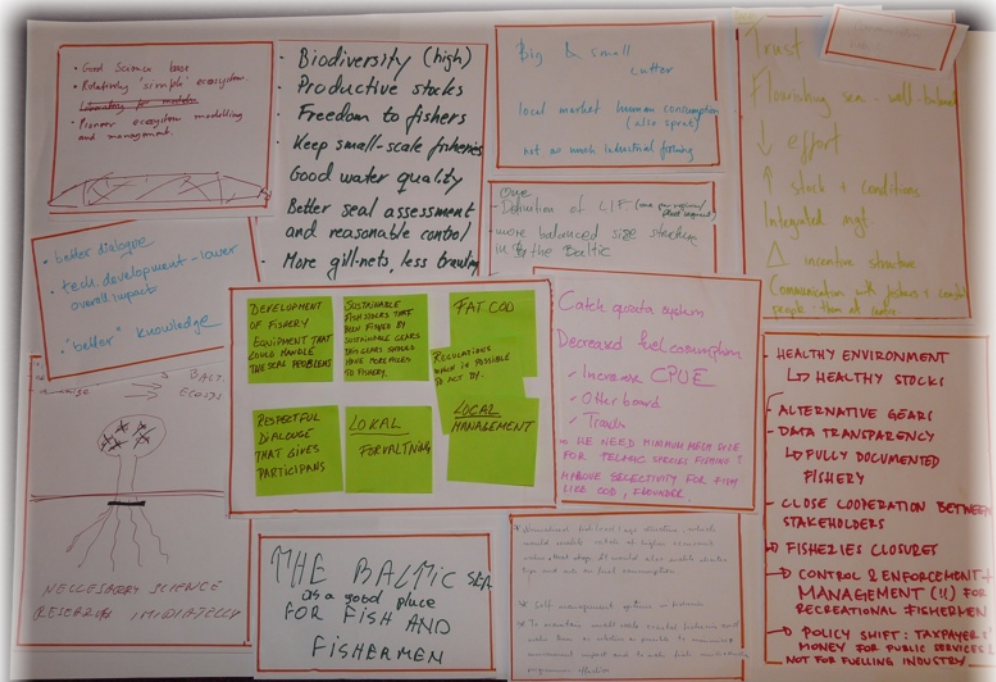
“Pioneer ecosystem modelling and management”

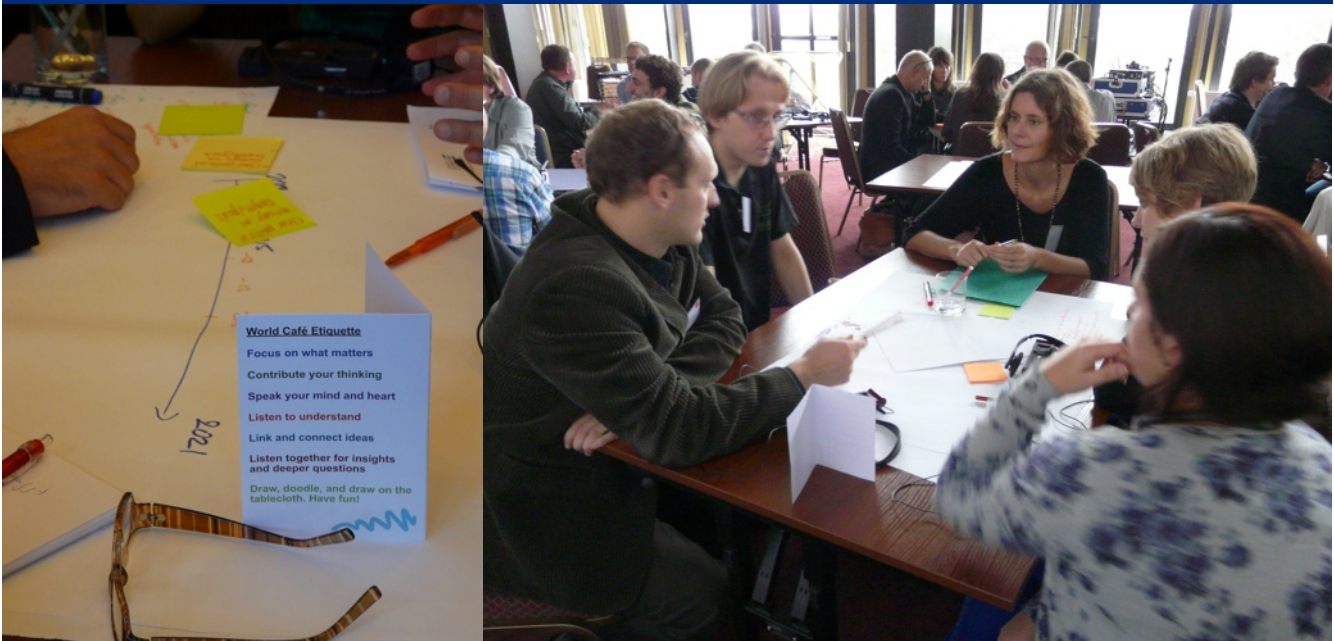
“Respectful dialogue that enables participation”

“The Baltic Sea as a good place for fish and fishermen”

“Normalised fish/cod/age structure, which would enable catch of higher economic value. It would also enable shorter trips and cuts on fuel consumption”

“Close cooperation between stakeholders”





Café Conversations Round 1

If we want the Baltic Sea to become a model region for low impact fisheries, what issues are important for us to work on?

Communication “Communication + information + transparency e.g, AIS” “Seals-fisheries conflicts” “Sound scientific advice”

Gears & Selectivity “Selectivity: improve where is needed, resign from selectivity if not needed” “Sustainable gears for both the fish stocks and the whole environment as well” “Passive gears” “Size distribution cod”

Motivation & Incentives “Motivate fishermen to use LIF” “Incentives for compliance and protection measures e.g. conservation credits scheme” “Relevant fines” “Motivation and incentives for fishermen (Scottish model)”

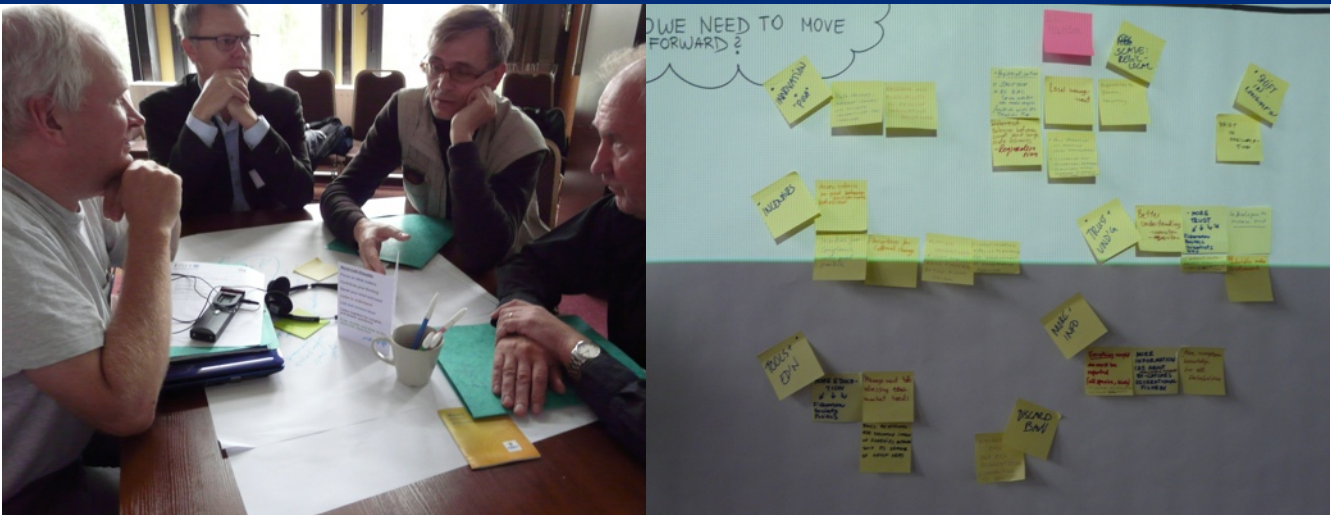
Viability and Money “Viability of the fishing industry” “Profits” “Reform subsidies e.g. fuel”

Integrated Management “Integrity of environmental and fishery policy, Baltic = HELCOM” “Integrated management” “Ecosystem-fisheries interactions” “More consideration to ecological links among species in management. predatory fish ↔ preyfish, seals, cormorants ↔ fish”

Regionalisation & Small-scale “Regionalisation – moving towards local management, Scottish example” “Political structure for local-regional management” “Regional & local management, improved cooperation between fisheries and fishery agencies”

Population Management “Quota allocations” “Real time closures to avoid young fish catches or spawners catches” “Seal control” “Discard ban to allow young fish to grow up”





Café Conversations Round 2

What do we need to move forward?

Regional-Local Scale “Regionalisation – Baltfish, BS RAC, new extended role involving managers” “Balance between small and large scale fisheries – regionalisation” “Local management”

Incentives “Have access criteria for good environmental behaviour” “Companies and fishermen prepared to actively work together to develop new gear/solutions” “Incentives for compliance with good practice” “Incentives for cultural change” “Incentivisation + policy flexibility for development of conservation measures” “Putting incentives right will make fishermen do the right thing”

Innovation and Push “Push factors - market signals or societal incentives for change” “freedom and flexibility to develop innovative solutions”

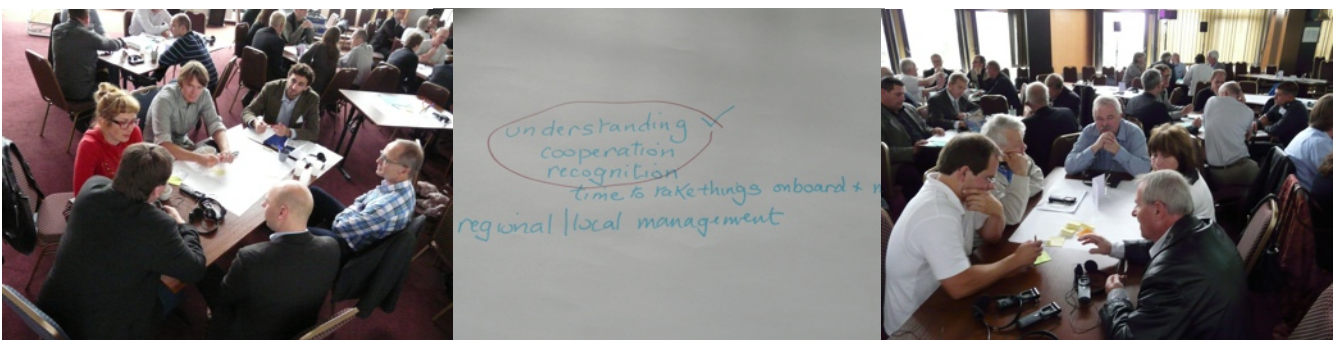
Discard Ban “Discard ban and full documentation + connection to quotas”

Trust and Understanding “All stakeholders involvement” “Dialogues to increase trust” “Better understanding – cooperation, recognition” “Resolve conflicts between seals and low impact gears e.g. gill net lines”

More Information “Responsibility to fisherman, transparency” “Good examples of adaptive local management” “More information, about small scale fishery, bycatches, recreational fisheries” “More ecosystem knowledge for all stakeholders” “Everything caught must be reported, all species, birds – improve data” “Scientific sound advice”

Tools and Education “Tools to mitigate the negative impact of fisheries activities such as removal of ghost nets” “More education to fishermen, society and politicians” “Management tools addressing market needs”

A Shift in Consumption “Shifting consumption motivations and behaviours, make the public aware”



Café Conversations Round 3

What are the concrete actions we can - and want - to take?

Educate and Exchange (22 votes) “Training programs for fishermen and scientists (STPO) on marine biology and fishing, exchange knowledge” “Cross-border projects: push-up traps” “Support to BALTFIMPA” “Local and regional tables of stakeholders / equal number, map stakeholders in each area” “Exchange programs between fishermen and low impact gear (e.g. traps, longlines)” “Informational/education campaign to consumers about seafood” “Education programs, public and at local level, for market and public opinion awareness”

Create/improve Structures for Management & Dialogue (19 votes) “Create structures for management and dialogue on regional level” “Launching of brainstorm groups to create win-win solutions focused on concrete problems (not all at once)” “Create / find structures and links for regional/local management and dialogue EU level → Baltic: Balt fish/BSCAC → POS/FLAGS/Regional /National”

Develop local seal regulation (18 votes) “Local seal regulation, raise the issue with HELCOM”

Do Research (18 votes) “Alternative ESB FMSY reference points. Including selectivity, seal predation, bycatches, birds.” “Discard ban, catch quota, better data, propose to the Commission” “Strong pressure to develop new gears to fit the discard ban... start now!”

Make Targets (14 votes) “Set overarching targets for both conservation and fisheries to operationalise regional/local management” “Clear political message on targets/goals” “Awareness for ecological fishery by communication”

Define priorities for conservation (11 votes) “Define shared priorities for conservation in the Baltic Sea region and integrate in activities”

Enable Science-Fishermen Collaboration (8 votes) “Focus on relationship-building and understanding” “Organise meeting with people who represent fishing interests of EC”

Access Initiatives (8 votes) “Try to achieve a balanced exploitation pattern, diversity of gears and techniques” “Better access to fisheries in summer for passive gear, *sustainable*”

Document and Share Information (6 votes) “Understanding area/fisheries ecological effects who/what/where/when” “Make a rule to document all catches e.g. CCTV, photography, logbooks” “Action to document responsible fishing by the many small-scale fisheries e.g. MSC”

Baltic Preferential Access Project (5 votes) “Develop practical proposals of Baltic system similar to Scottish example access criteria”

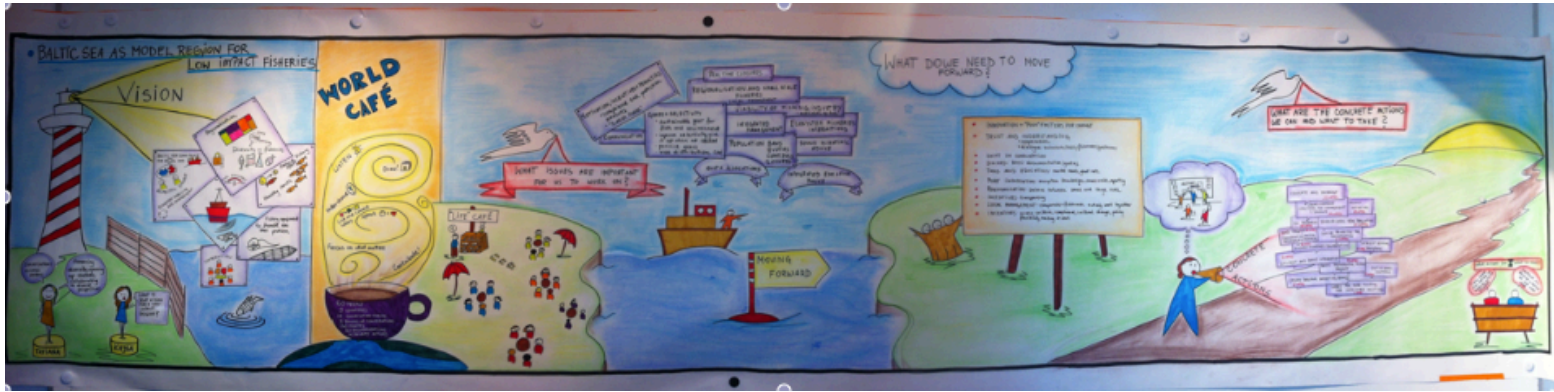
Nutrient Removal Programs (5 votes)

Put in Good Controls (4 votes) “Implement a discard ban for dead fish” “Standardised rules in all Baltic/Europe. Stricter implementation. Effective control system from EC”

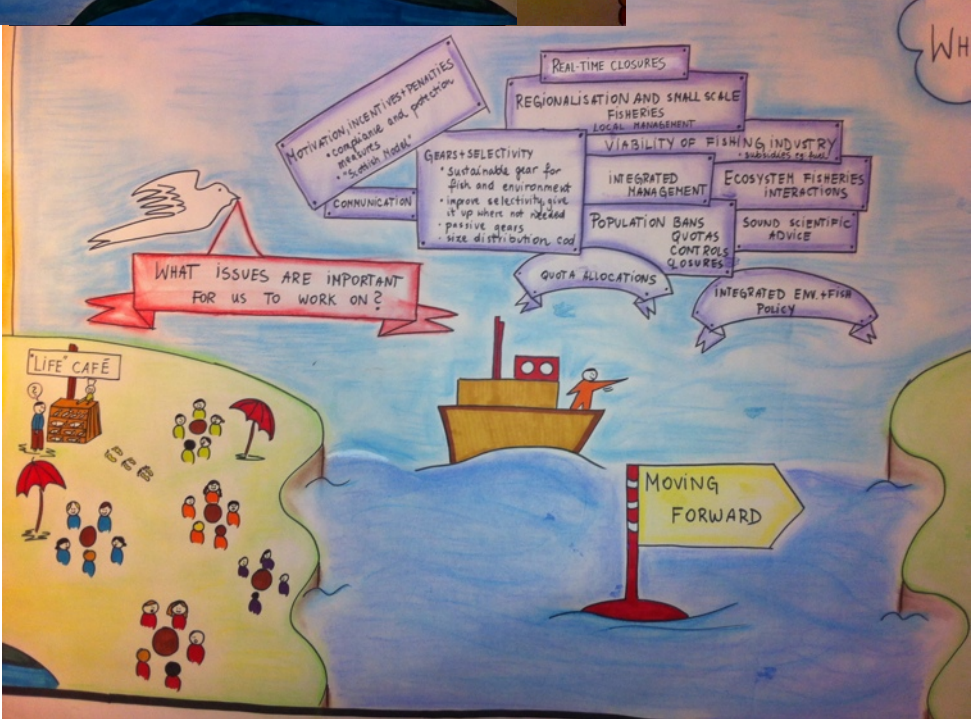
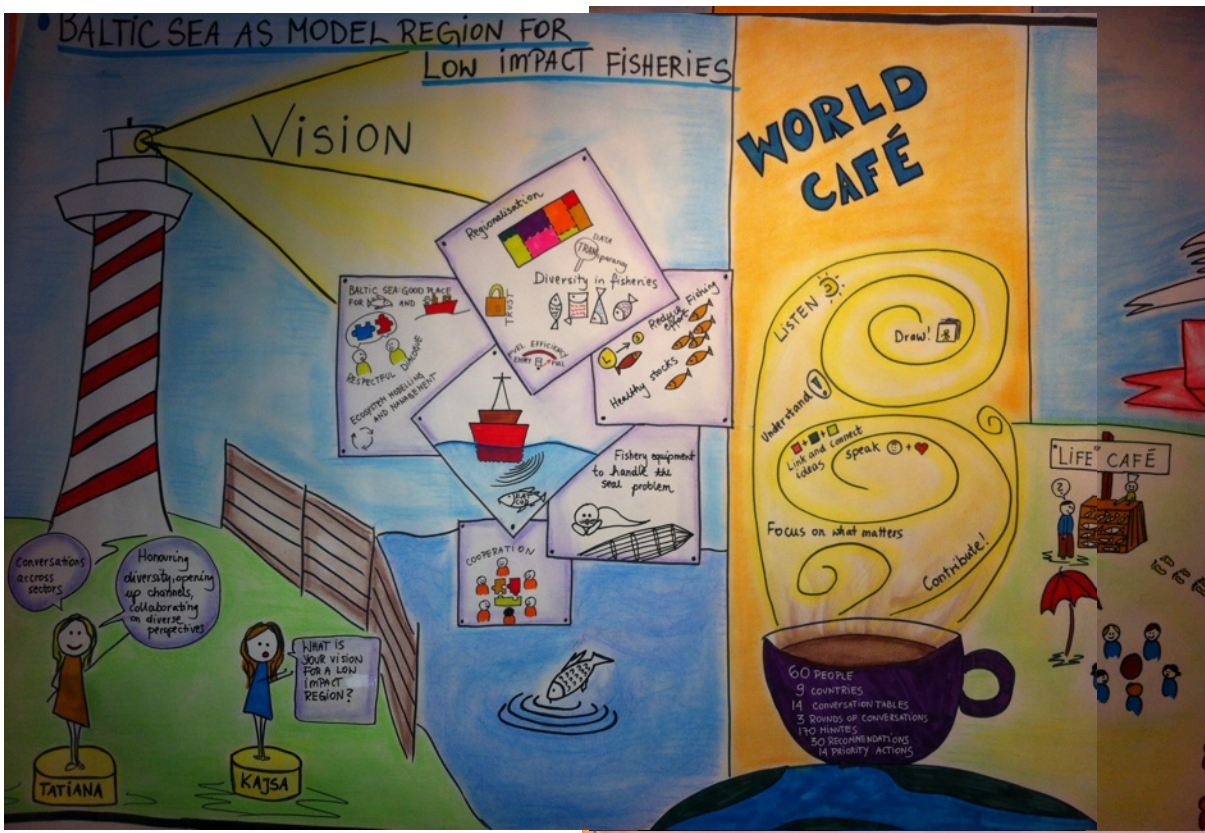
Create Regional Marketing/Brand (2 votes) “More focus on value and best utilisation of catches/species (include retail level) → important for local management improved status”

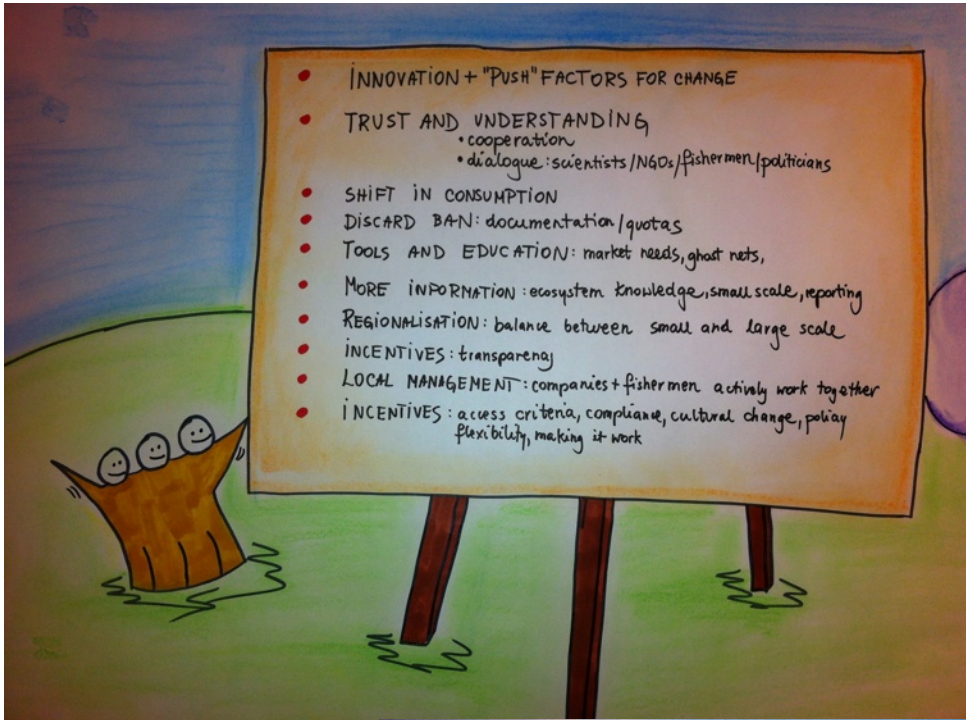
Lobby for more funding of sustainable solutions e.g. gear methods (1 vote)





a graphic recording of our conversation







Alliance for Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations • AtlantNIRO • Baltic Net Ltd • Boat owner Kat-99 • BSRAC • Coalition Clean Baltic • Danish Society for a Living Sea • Dep. of Hydrobiology and Ichthyology, Faculty of Food Sciences and Fisheries, West Pomeranian University of Technology • Deputy Regional Sea Fisheries Inspector • Diving Magazine (Magazyn Nurkowanie) • Dpt. of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Theory of Science • DUH, German Environmental Help • EKO-UNIA • Erzeugergemeinschaft der Nord- und Ostseefischer GmbH • Espersen • Fish Industry Magazine • Marine Stewardship Council • Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development • Fisheries Officer, County Administrative Board of Blekinge • Fisheries Resources Department of Ministry of the Environment of Estonia • Fishermen Jämjö Swedish Fishermens Economic Association (SYEF) • Fishery director Skåne county • FishWorldScience • Former director of Swedish Board of Fisheries • Friends Society of the Ina and Gowienica Rivers (TPRIIG) • General Directorate for the Environmental Protection • Hel Marine Station/FRUG, Poland • ICES • Independent Expert on Bird By-Catch • Institute of Coastal Research, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences • Klub Gaja • Kołobrzeska Fish Producers Group Ltd. Z O.O. • Krynica Marine, boat owner PIA-34 • Lithuanian Fund for Nature • Marine and Coastal Nature Conservation Unit, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation • Maritime University of Szczecin • Member of Swedish Parliament • Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark • National Marine Fisheries Research Institute • National Marine Fisheries Research Institute/ MIR-PIB • OCEAN2012 • Oceana • Oceanograph Kuter Rybacki UST-97 • Our Earth Foundation (Nasza Ziemia) • Polish Ecological Club • President of the Association of Fishermen Kamieńskiego Szczecin Lagoons and Lake Dabie • Protective Water Conservation District, Slowinski National Park • Scottish White Fish Producers Association Limited • Sea Fish Industry Authority • SIK, The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology • Skipper Kuter Rybacki UST-97 • South Finland Flag ESKO • Statku rybackim ŁEB – 7 • Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Hav) • Swedish Cod Fishermens' Producer Organization • Swedish Fishermens Economic Association (SYEF) • Swedish Society for Nature Conservation • Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua) • The Fisheries Secretariat • University of Skövde • WWF Sweden • WWF-Poland • ZRM-OP • **Representing countries: Denmark • Estonia • Finland • Germany • Lithuania • Poland • Russian Federation • Sweden • United Kingdom** • **Representing sectors: Fisheries • Fishery Associations • Government and Government Ministries • Independents • Marine &/or Fisheries Management Organisations • Industry & Private Sector • NGOs • Science**

WHO WAS PART OF THIS CONVERSATION?

90 people

9 countries

Multi-sector representation

14 conversation tables

3 rounds of conversation

170 minutes

30 recommendations for action distilled down to 14 prioritised action areas