



SUMARiS NEWSLETTER 1 - January 2018

The SUMARiS team wishes you a Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to working with you to make the SUMARiS project successful.



Editorial

"It's a first time a French producer organisation, is a leader of an INTERREG 2 seas project.

Members of our fishery organisation used to ask us why the European Total Admissible Catch (TAC) is so restrictive. The project will anticipate the rays' Landing Obligation (LO) from 2019, by encouraging fishermen to adapt their fishing strategies, so to avoid discards and/or release rays alive at sea.

The aim of the project is to examine scientific knowledge of different rays species, to differentiate them and to know the actual situation of the different stocks that are present in the English Channel and the Northern Sea. The European dimension of the project will enable to build a common code of conduct and a cross-border management strategy for a sustainable fishery for these species."



Thierry Missonnier, Director, FROM Nord, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.



In 2013, the European Union endorsed the **Common Fisheries Policy** that requires from 2019, professional fishermen in the English Channel and the North Sea **to land juvenile rays and skates** which do not meet the size criteria to be authorised for sale.

This new policy applies to all rays and skates without differentiating the stocks of individual species. Moreover, there is no historical data about the actual state of the stocks of the individual species, their reproduction and survival rates, and the professional fishermen do not always know how to distinguish one species from another. To address this knowledge gap, FROM Nord launched the European project **SUMARiS – Sustainable Management of Rays and Skates** in July 2017.

The partners involved in the project are hoping to expand biological and geographical knowledge of the different species, and thereby allow for sustainable management of rays and skates, which will reflect the actual situation of the different stocks that are present in the region. The project is funded by the **INTERREG 2 Seas programme**.

The ultimate aim is to push forward a sustainable **and cross-border management strategy** for rays and skates stocks.

What is going on in the SUMARiS project?

Six partner organisations – FROM Nord, Rederscentrale, KEIFCA (Kent and Essex Inshore fisheries and Conservation Authority), IFREMER (l'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer), ILVO (Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek), Nausicaa, and **three observer partners organisations**- AQUIMER, CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science), and VisNed - have started to work

together to study **the reproduction and survival of rays and skates and test new release methods** with the aim of increasing their survival rate in the English Channel and the Northern Sea.

The project will be conducted during **three years** in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and involves producer organisations, fishermen organisations, scientific institutes and an aquarium.

Latest events



On October 17th, 2017, the SUMARiS project was officially launched during the **kick off meeting** at Nausicaa, Sea Experience Centre in Boulogne-sur-Mer in France.

Did you know? The 9 partners of the SUMARiS project

FROM Nord is fisheries professional producers organisation in Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France. Its main role is to accurately manage the quota, valorise the fisheries products and represent its 190 members' interests in the national and EU institutions. FROM Nord is the **coordinator of the SUMARiS project**.



Rederscentrale is a fish producer organisation of Belgian fisheries and a professional organisation representing the interests of Belgium ship-owners. It advises the Flemish government measures to allocate the available quota and fishing effort in the most relevant manner possible.



In United Kingdom, **KEIFCA - Kent and Essex Inshore fisheries and Conservation Authority** was set up as part of the UK 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district.



Since 1984, in France, **IFREMER - Institut français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la mer** contributes to the sustainability of maritime activities through studies and expert assessments about biological resources as well as the monitoring of marine and coastal zones.



In Belgium, the **ILVO - Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek** is an internal independent agency established in 2005 by the Flemish Government. ILVO – Fisheries' mission consists of providing policy-supporting scientific research and the associated public service for economically, ecologically and socially sustainable fishery.



In France, opened to the public since 1991, **Nausicaa** is one of the **largest marine centres in Europe**. Member of the EUAC and EAZA, Nausicaa participates to over 15 European programs for the reproduction and monitoring of elasmobranch, including species directly targeted by SUMARiS.



VisNed represents **POs of UrK, Southwest and North of the Netherlands** with 80% of the flatfish and 40% of the brown shrimp fisheries. Under the EMFF VisNed has set several projects on selectivity, survival of discards, including juvenile thornback rays, using pilot-trips with commercial vessels.



In United Kingdom, **CEFAS – Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science** is a research and advisory centre for fisheries

In France, **AQUIMER** is a **seafood cluster working** on the value chain from the resource, through the transformation and until the final producer and consumer acceptance.



What will happen in 2018?

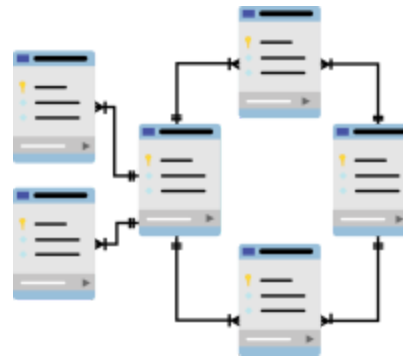
ADVANCING FISHERY KNOWLEDGE

- IFREMER will study key life traits (growth, maturity) of Thornback rays (Raja Clavata) – **from January 2018 to June 2020.**
- IFREMER, ILVO and CEFAS will set up a common protocol for ray ageing study to be presented at ICES (the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) working groups– **from January 2018 to December 2018.**
- Nausicaa will welcome juvenile Thornback rays to study their fecundity and eggs survival rate – **Summer 2018.**



BUILDING A DATABASE

- FROM Nord will develop a database on rays and skates fisheries (landing/catch/effort statistics, spatial distribution, life traits history) – **from January 2018 to September 2018.**
- IFREMER will produce an atlas of the distribution of rays in the Channel and the south of the Northern Sea - **December 2018.**



ESTIMATING A SURVIVAL RATE – SEA TRIPS

- Rederscentrale, KEIFCA, FROM Nord, and ILVO will carry out surveys to gather data on board of Belgian, English and French commercial fishing vessels - **from May 2018 to September 2019.**



TRAININGS ON HANDLING and good recognition RAYS AND SKATES

- Rederscentrale and ILVO will develop a common code of conduct for optimal operations and handling of skates and rays on board and in fish auctions - **from January 2018 to July 2019.**
- Rederscentrale and ILVO will organise a training session (teach the teacher session) in the Flemish fish auction for SUMARiS partners - **March 2018.**
- SUMARiS partners will carry out the first training sessions for fishermen and fish auction employees in their countries - **from January 2018 to June 2020.**



MANAGING STOCKS TOGETHER IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

- FROM Nord, Rederscentrale and KEIFCA will organise local consultation meetings for fishermen and fish auction employees to present the strategy based on scientific research and to obtain the stakeholder feedback from the field and in this way, elaborate a precise vision about the state of the different stocks and ensure the durability of the SUMARiS approach - **from January 2018 to March 2020.**



OTHER EVENTS :

- IFREMER will hire **1 postdoc** (18 months) and **1 technician** (12 month).
- Nausicaa will recruit **1 technician aquariologist** (12 month).
- FROM Nord hired **1 Project coordinator.**
- ILVO hired **1 postdoc** for the RAMP method analysis.

Connect with us

The project SUMARiS is online !

- <http://www.fromnord.fr/le-from-nord/nos-projets-en-cours-de-realisation>
- <https://www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk/im-interested-in/research/rays-and-skates/>

- <http://www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/language/en-US/EN/Press-and-Media/Newsletter/Survey/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/4776/The-pursuit-of-rays-Towards-improved-mangement-of-ray-stocks-in-the-North-Sea-and-English-Channel.aspx#.WnHj6UxFyuU>
- <http://www.rederscentrale.be/index.php?page=activiteiten&subcategorie=92&lang=ned>
- <https://www.visned.nl/aanlandplicht/259-sumaris-project-wellicht-bijdrage-aan-chokespeciesdiscussie>



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