

INVOLVEMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERMEN IN THE PROCESS OF MONITORING AND COLLECTING PRIMARY DATA IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE BLACK SEA

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Observing and studying the seas and oceans provides prediction of trends and changes. Stakeholders benefiting from systematic observations include various members of the Blue Network whose work and life are related to the ocean.

The inclusion of new entrants in the network for monitoring and collecting primary data can significantly improve the modeling and prediction process. The participation of people involved in various maritime professions can contribute to expanding the possibilities for predicting the oceans.

For the last 10 years, Balkan and Black Sea Business Institute within Regional Cluster "North-East" has been actively working to involve small-scale fishermen in the process of monitoring and collecting primary data in the Black Sea coastal waters. Given the frequency of boats going to sea / 2-3 times a day / the collection of samples of sea water and data on air and water temperature, water quality, wind, as well as samples of different marine flora and fauna allows to improve the monitoring and modeling of the processes in the respective region.

The first project of Balkan and Black Sea Business Institute in Byala, Varna District has been operating successfully since 2016. In 2014-2015, a project proposal was developed for the construction of a market facility for fish storage and first point of sale in Byala, which received funding under the Operational Program for Development of the Fisheries Sector. The second phase took place in 2015-2016 and included training and equipping small-scale fishermen in the process of monitoring and collecting primary data in coastal waters.



In 2019, our second project started, which is being implemented at the Fisheries Port "Quarantine" in Varna, Bulgaria. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the project has been delayed, but the final phase of training fishermen is under way and will finish next month.

In the summer of 2022, a new project is expected to be launched in Tutrakan, Bulgaria, on the Danube River.



The planned next stages include the expansion of the network of fishing centers on the Southern Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, as well as the inclusion of partners from other countries in the Black Sea basin.