



2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

Focus: species

Bass, salmon, mussels, herring, sea trout



What is this project about?

PREP4BLUE is a project that showcases how citizen science can support the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030. Within this project, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) are leading a task to establish a public database of all aquatic citizen science initiatives across the EU.

The PREP4BLUE team is surveying and interviewing selected citizen science initiatives to identify good practices for aquatic citizen science in terms of sustainable funding models, attracting and maintaining a diverse volunteer base, ecological impact, and becoming integrated into formal monitoring frameworks. Over 1000 aquatic citizen science initiatives have been identified. These are relevant to fisheries in terms of species of interest, habitat monitoring and opportunities for collaboration between the fishing industry and science world. The database will be made public in mid-2023.



...and citizen science?

Citizen science is a great path to increasing citizen engagement in knowledge production, influencing policy, building community, and increasing knowledge of marine and freshwater ecological issues. The principle of including citizens in knowledge production and the decisions that affect them has moved to the core of European Union policy. This includes Mission Ocean and Waters, where the European Commission chose 'Public Mobilization and Engagement' as one of two 'Cross-Cutting Enablers' that will drive the Mission. Researching and supporting marine and freshwater citizen science has thus been one powerful way of developing a path for non-specialists to take part in mission activities, such as monitoring the effects of restoration and antipollution initiatives.



Want to know more?

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