



CLS Wins EU Blue Economy Grant to Trial Innovative Technology for Small-Scale Fishers

CLS and its partners APC and ERC are thrilled to announce that our STARFISH 4.0 project is one of 26 sustainable blue economy projects selected for funding by the EU Commission under the [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#). In all, the EU has awarded **€19.1 million** to accelerate the sustainable development of the Blue Economy and support its maritime policy goals. STARFISH 4.0 is a 2-year project (2020-2021) to demo an autonomous connected device and digital tools in order to improve the safety of artisanal fishermen and the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries.

Small scale fisheries (SSF) play an important role in the European Union from an environmental, economic and social perspective, amounting to 85% of all fishing vessels. But SSF are not currently monitored as large, industrial fishing vessels are. To solve this gap, STARFISH 4.0 trials innovative system for small-scale fishers in real operational conditions at sea. The general goal is to refine the product through user feedback. This demo will support fishermen in developing new practices and adopting new 4.0 technologies, fostering a culture of compliance. Fisheries managers and scientists will gain precious information about SSF fishing activities, which will serve as crucial decision-making tools for sustainably managing resources.



Key Facts: Small-Scale Fishing in Europe

85 %

of fishing vessels in the Mediterranean & Black Seas

700,000

Estimated number of small fishing vessels (under 12m) in Europe

15,000

Estimated number of small fishing vessels (under 12m) in Greece

The STARFISH 4.0 Project

STARFISH 4.0 demo trials CLS' NEMO system in conjunction with APC in Greece and ERC in Mauritania. NEMO includes a robust, low-cost VMS transponder with satellite-mobile communications, a Big Data software platform, and mobile applications for fishermen.

100 fishermen in Greece and 50 fishermen in Mauritania will be involved for 18 months to test the device and apps at sea. Their feedback will be collected through several questionnaires, which will be used to further refine and improve the product. As this product also includes mobile applications dedicated to fishermen families, shipowners, distributors and authorities, these stakeholders will also be surveyed.

Project Outcomes

As project outcomes, scientists and authorities will have precious information about SSF fishing activities, which will serve as crucial decision-making tools for sustainably managing resources. The willingness of fishermen to use such system shall be also enhanced ahead of EU regulations of this sector expected in 2021-2022.



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About CLS Sustainable Fisheries Division, France



www.fisheries.groupcls.com

To sustainably manage marine resources and ensure a future for the Blue Economy, CLS Fisheries Division provides all the products and services needed along the sustainable management value chain. CLS is the world's leading provider of Fisheries Monitoring Centers (FMC) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for fishermen and their associations, governments, regional and national fisheries management organizations, and NGOs in nearly 100 countries.

CLS Group, a subsidiary of the French Space Agency, ARDIAN & IFREMER, is a worldwide company and pioneer provider of monitoring and surveillance solutions for the Earth since 1986. Our mission is to deploy innovative space-based solutions to understand and protect our planet, and to manage its resources sustainably. CLS employs 750 people at its headquarters in Toulouse (France) and in its 24 other sites around the world. The company works in five strategic industries: sustainable fisheries management, environmental monitoring, maritime surveillance, fleet management, and energy.

About Advanced Planning-Consulting (APC), Greece



<http://www.apc.gr/en/>

APC is a consulting company specializing in fisheries, aquaculture, and the seafood industry. It is the pioneer fisheries-aquaculture consulting company in Greece, acting as an advisor to European and international organizations, companies and industry associations. We have carried out several state projects such as the temporary cessation in Greece and the activation of fisheries funding measures.

About Entreprise de Commerce et de Représentation (ERC), Mauritania



ECR sells solutions for satellite observation and fisheries monitoring. ECR has been the exclusive distributor of CLS in Mauritania since 2005. All industrial vessels fishing in the Mauritanian EEZ are fitted with VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) and ERS (Electronic Reporting System) by ECR. For many years, ECR has worked closely with authorities and fishing associations to develop sustainable management of industrial and artisanal fisheries.

