



(Version 4)

## EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Flagship Project

### “To lay the groundwork for developing a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries” – bilateral visits to the Baltic Sea States

#### Background

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea has as one objective to make the Baltic Sea Region safe and secure. This also applies to the maritime space which is becoming ever busier. The fisheries sector can benefit from assistance in terms of increased awareness of safety practices and standardised reporting of accidents. This project aims to develop cooperation and exchange of information on accidents in the fisheries sector between the eight EU Baltic sea states: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, as well as Russia. Taking part are representatives from fisheries and fisheries related organisations. The project aims to establish and develop contact with representatives from national administrations dealing with maritime safety and working conditions and with educational establishments. On the basis of exchange of information on current practices and the development of best practices, the project aims to prepare the groundwork for formulating a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries. The Swedish Fishermen's Federation is overseeing the project and the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council is coordinating the work.

In February 2013, a kick-off meeting was held for stakeholders and representatives from national administration to inform on the current state of play and define what is needed to improve on health and safety practices and reporting in fisheries. A report was produced. It can be downloaded from the BSRAC website:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Flagship%20Project/Reportkickoff250213FIN.pdf>

The second phase of the project consists of a series of bilateral visits and meetings, the aim of which is to meet representatives from administration and education/ training establishments, as well as fishermen and fishermen's organisations. We seek a dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience on current practices with respect to health and safety. We want to gather some suggestions and recommendations on how things can be done better and what future improvements can be made to health and safety practices in the fisheries sector.

Two key headlines are:

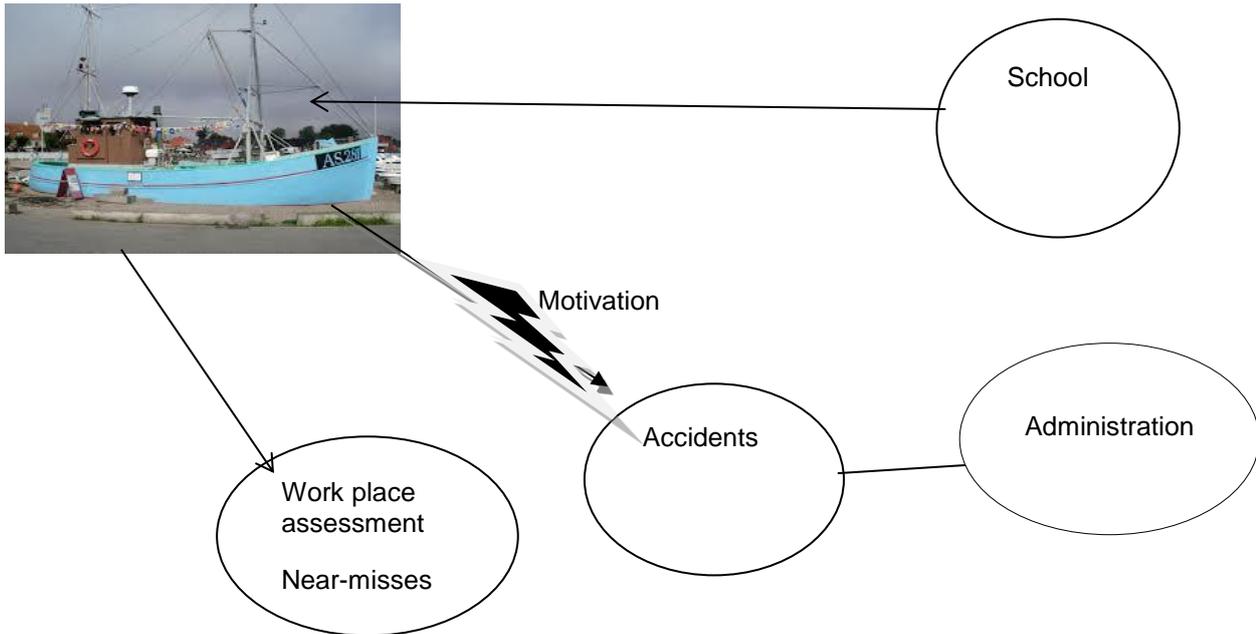
#### **HOW DO YOU WORK WITH SAFETY? HOW CAN THINGS BE DONE BETTER?**

The diagram shows how we want to highlight the relationship between the school and the vessel and the importance of motivation to reduce the number of accidents and minor incidents. The authorities are also involved in the process in connection with registering and dealing with accidents. Danish experience in this area of work has shown that carrying out a



work place assessment together with and, in dialogue with the fishermen, can help to find out and identify where the risk of accidents is.

Making use of the information on accidents helps very much to plan where the work and effort has to be made to minimize future accidents:



We want to underline the importance of motivation: to reduce the number of accidents, to create some good permanent workplaces in fisheries, and to maintain a fishery in the local communities – traditional local societies based on fishing and fishery related activities. We see this as a positive message that we want to bring with us.

**Here are some general questions we have:**

- Is there any kind of arrangement for the fishermen in your country with respect to safety? What rules/regulations apply?
- Is there any kind of targeted preventative work or initiative to deal with work-related accidents and illnesses in the fisheries sector?
- Is safety training a part of the basic education for fishermen? To what extent?
- How are work-related accidents or illnesses reported?
- Are fishermen covered by insurance if they are away from work because of a work related injury?
- Is there anything that can be done differently/better in future in order to increase general safety for the fishermen?



### **We hope to visit a maritime school training fishermen**

We hope to spend some time at a school/academy or to meet representatives from there. We hope to meet the director of the school and teachers, preferably in term time when students are there.

### **To the schools we would have some questions:**

- What education is on offer to become a fisherman?
- How many fishermen do you train each year?
- Are there any special health and safety requirements for fishermen (as opposed to other maritime branches)?
- What weight is given to the theoretical and the practical in the training courses (this relates to the many requirements put in the STCW-F Convention)?
- How much time and weight are given to safety in the education and training?
- What kind of further/refresher training in health and safety is there, once you've qualified as a fisherman?

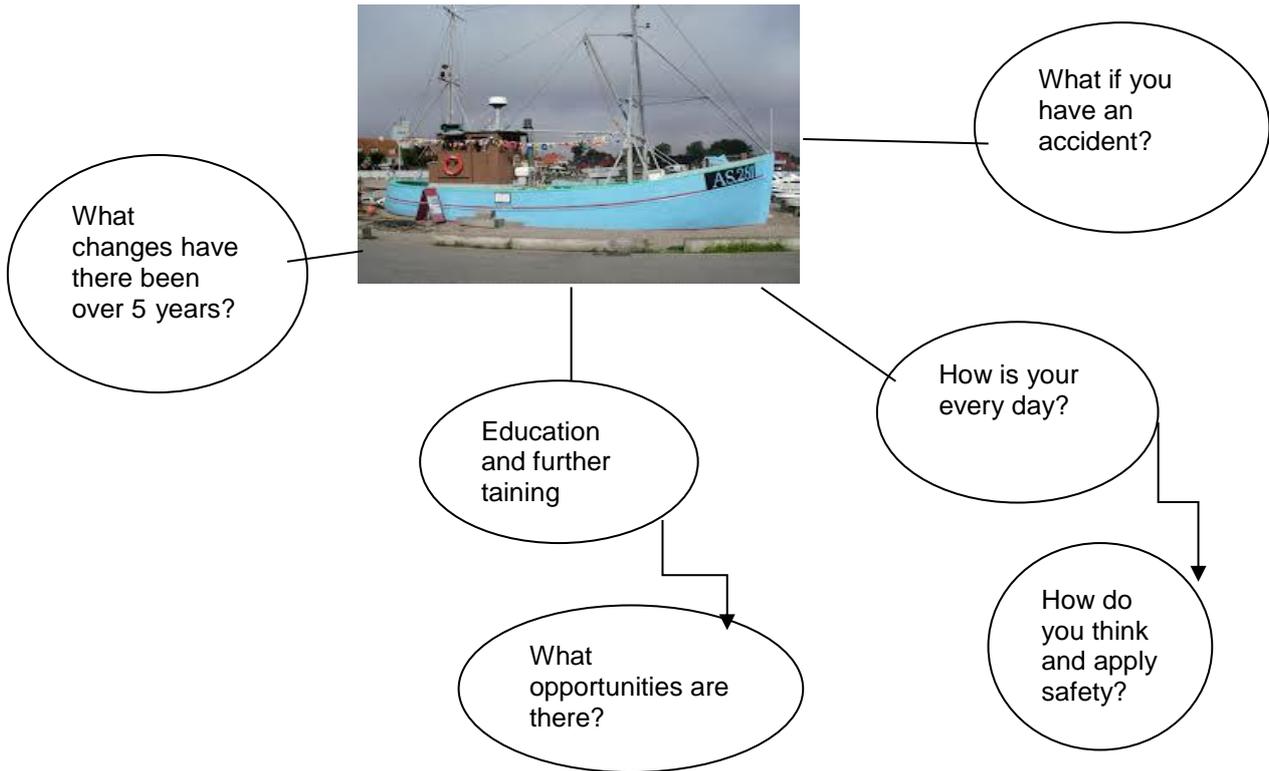
### **To meet fishers and visit a fishing vessel**

We would like to be allowed access to the whole vessel. We'd like to discuss in more general terms the working environment on board the vessels. We would like to find out how the fishers manage the catching work and how they include safety into their daily work. We'd like to ask them:

- How does your working day go with respect to health and safety?
- What do you do if you have an accident?
- How do you work with safety?
- What opportunities are there for the vessel owner to get help on the working environment and safety onboard (outside consultants)?
- What wishes/requests/needs are there with respect to safety?
- Have there been any safety problems that have been solved?
- What changes/developments have there been in the past five years?
- Are there any things you would highlight?



The following diagram shows what we have in mind in our interviews with fishers:



**Who are we?**

Coming to visit are Karsten Korsgaard Andersen, Consultant from the Danish Fishermen’s Occupational Health Services and Sally Clink, Executive Secretary from the Baltic Sea Advisory Council.

**Karsten Korsgaard is from Jutland, Denmark**

He originally qualified as a carpenter and joiner.

From 1981 to 1984, he worked on board several smaller fishing vessels (trawlers and seiners) fishing for consumption and industrial species.

In 1985, he qualified as a skipper.

From 1985 to 1995 he worked on board larger fishing vessels (trawlers) fishing consumption and industrial species in the North Sea and the Baltic.

From 1995 to 1999 he was teaching safety at sea, navigation, radio communication and fishing skills.

From 1999 to 2002 he worked as a consultant in the working environment at the Danish Fishermen’s Occupational Health Services in Esbjerg.



From 2002 to 2009 he was again teaching safety at sea, fishing skills, medical chest maintenance.

Since 2009 he has been back at the Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Services in Esbjerg, working as a consultant. He has been working on measuring noise and vibration, writing reports and recommendations on noise reduction. He has also been carrying out work place assessments and further developing the work place assessment system in Denmark. He has been coordinator of a project on vessel stability project and helped to produce films and written teaching material on this and has held various thematic workshops on stability. He has also been working on and giving advice in connection with flagging vessels into Denmark. He has also been giving advice in connection with inspections of vessels carried out by the Danish Maritime Authority.

He's also been giving general advice and teaching on the work place environment and safety on board fishing vessels.

### **Who is the Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Service?**

Located in Esbjerg in the south western part of Denmark, they provide advice on occupational health and safety on board. They encourage fishermen's safety, preventing accidents at work and the aim is to maintain a healthy and safe working environment.

<http://www.f-a.dk/default.asp?id=52898>

Sally Clink is from the UK, but has lived in Denmark since 1993. She is Executive Secretary at the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council which brings together stakeholders with an activity/interest in the fisheries in the Baltic. They provide advice to the EU Commission and member states on fisheries management. She coordinates the work of the BSRAC and writes the reports from the meetings.