



case study

environmental sustainability



Objective One is
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The Objective One Partnership
for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

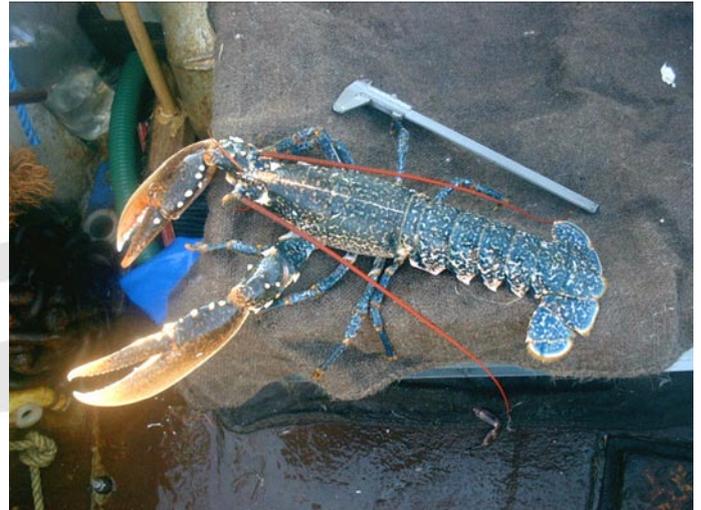
SHELLFISH STOCK SURVEY

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the project

The project collected baseline data about the population size and structure of brown crabs and lobsters within Cornish waters to assess and conserve the long term viability of the £3,000,000 industry relying on these stocks.

The Programme has invested £17,250 from the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) in the project which has a total cost of £23,000.



measures of environmental sustainability adopted

To protect and improve the environment:

The survey's data collection and analysis will be instrumental for the sustainable management of the shellfish resource of Cornwall and, hence, the long-term economic viability of the shellfish industry. Data is also collected on other aspects of habitat and biodiversity (ie water temperatures and presence of other species) and then made available to others who require this data to support their research in marine biodiversity. Equipment is sourced from identified local suppliers where it is available

To promote the prudent use of natural resources:

Very few resources are used in the delivery of this project as the research takes place on working fishing boats which do not create more energy or water consumption, or production of waste in order to support the project.

To increase awareness of residents, businesses and visitors of the value and importance of the environment:

While surveying, the project officer talks to the fishermen about environmental sustainability.

benefits of environmental sustainability

Collecting corresponding data while carrying out the stock survey gives added value to the project, makes

the best use of the time and money, and provides valuable and scarce information about Cornwall's marine habitat. It also gives the survey data greater context and corroborates information fishermen are giving to Cornish Sea Fisheries.

Sourcing local goods has helped to build good relationships with the sea fisheries staff and is convenient when problems with equipment arise as expertise is available nearby. Staff have also found that the local goods are competitively priced and they feel confident that they are getting good value.

The added advantages beyond costs savings of reducing resource consumption by surveying on existing sea vessels are that the data meaningfully reflects the real fishing situation and the stakeholders and beneficiaries (the fishing industry) are directly engaged. As a result the fishing industry recognises the legitimacy of the project and therefore has become an advocate of the project.

In summary the major economic benefit of the survey is its ability to help sustain the livelihood of fishermen. The adoption of environmental sustainability measures in the management of the project has delivered costs savings for the Cornwall Sea Fisheries and a market for local suppliers.



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lessons learnt

Sam Davis, the fishery officer at Cornwall Sea Fisheries responsible for the survey work says *“Environmental sustainability is central to the project aim of safeguarding fish stocks and therefore marine biodiversity. The survey allows a better understanding within the fishing industry of their fishery and therefore better management of this resource.”*

Sustainable shellfish stocks are vital to the future of much of Cornwall’s inshore fleet. Without these boats landing boxes of lobsters and bins of crabs, many of our harbours would cease to be places of work and interest. Objective One had enabled us to work alongside local fishermen to gather valuable data and a unique insight into these fisheries.”

Roger Lewis, Owner/Skipper of Newlyn potter ‘Little Waters’ says *“My business depends upon healthy crab and lobster stocks. Getting involved with this survey is one way of showing that local fishermen like me care about the future of our industry.”*

Alison Elvey, Objective One Fisheries Programme Manager stated *“Work like this which helps decision makers make better informed decisions on fisheries management are brilliant. It is great seeing the fishermen getting involved as they know more than anyone what the fisheries are like.”*

For more information about how you can incorporate environmental sustainability into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk.

