

Certifying sustainability



Increasing value, not captures

“Increasing value without increasing captures” has been the motto of Sweden’s Blekinge FLAG. To achieve this goal, it worked on a comprehensive package of activities for local fishermen, including support to gain certification for the sustainability of their fish.

More than a motto, this has become a guiding principle for the area and its fishermen across the whole fisheries supply chain. FLAG support has helped fishermen to improve the quality and value of their catch through an integrated package of actions, ranging from improving the environmental sustainability of their fishing activity to improving handling practices and sales.

Getting local fish certified by Sweden’s most renowned sustainability label, KRAV, was a central part of this work. This is a lengthy process requiring significant research to collect data on the fish stocks in question. Action was also needed to ensure compliance of fishing gear and vessels used, as well as fish handling processes. A project coordinator worked with fishermen and the relevant fisheries authorities to prepare the necessary application to have local fish certified. A first fisherman has achieved certification and this success has now paved the way for fellow fishermen to follow suit.

BLEKINGE FLAG, SWEDEN

RESULTS (AFTER 2.5 YEARS):

- > 1 fisherman certified for KRAV sustainability scheme for cod.
- > KRAV application submitted for pike and perch.
- > 20-25% increase in profitability for KRAV certified catch.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

- > Good cooperation between different actors: fishermen, scientists & public authorities
- > Experienced “process leader” who managed the project from the ideas stage to results

TOTAL PROJECT COST

(KRAV CERTIFICATION): €72 610.68

- > EFF Axis 4: €36 305.34
- > National co-financing: €36 305.34

Project promoter

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