



Summary

- The aim of the Knowledge Circles fits the objectives of the triptych.
- The ownership of the question or problem is clearly with the Knowledge Circles themselves. The participants meet each other at least four times a year and cooperate to make the Knowledge Circle a success.
- Experiences and results of the Knowledge Circles are public and supportive to the whole fishery sector

Knowledge Circles to be started:

1. Twin-rig fisheries (Nephrops and Plaice)
2. Coastal fisheries (Grey mullet and Seabass)
3. Transition in the South (of the Northsea)
4. Gill net fisheries (Sole)
5. Beam trawl fisheries (Flatfish)
6. Lake IJssel fisheries (IJsselmeer)
7. Mussel seed collectors
8. Puls fisheries (Flatfish)
9. Inland fisheries (Eel)
10. Flyshoot fisheries
11. Oyster cultivation
12. Shrimp fisheries
13. Outrig fisheries

Knowledge Circles Fisheries

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Knowledge Circles Fisheries From, for and by fishermen



Knowledge Circles are groups of fishermen working on topical questions. For example, with oil prices going sky high, some Knowledge Circles focus on saving fuel, while others are involved in alternative fish marketing or looking for new and cost-reducing fishing techniques. Overall objective is working on sustainable fisheries.

The sector wants sustainability

In 'Vissen met Tegenwind' (sector policy paper) the sector pointed out that it wants to increase its sustainability and its economic future perspective. It wants to look for alternatives offering better fish products at a reduced cost price and meeting social demands. This is the so called **tritych**: cost reduction, increase of revenues and reduction of ecological impact.



Working on sustainability together!

Especially the fishery sector, but also research institutes have a lot of knowledge on fishing stocks, fishing techniques, fish quality, ecology, economy, marketing etc. This knowledge is essential to find the answers. Cooperation among fishermen, between fishermen and researchers and between fishermen, and other stakeholders in the chain and the society is a necessity to increase the sector's sustainability and profitability. For this reason the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) supports the Knowledge Circles.



Knowledge Circles bundle knowledge

Knowledge Circles are (study) groups of fishermen that have formulated challenges, questions or problems and together are looking for solutions. With assistance of LEI and IMARES, both part of Wageningen UR (University & Research centre), the Knowledge Circles are supported in organizing meetings, finding new contacts, answering (knowledge) questions in relation to sustainable fisheries. Even experiments can be carried out by researchers. The sector has access to the knowledge and expertise of LEI and IMARES. However, the Knowledge Circles remain in control in finding the answers and the participants also contribute with their own knowledge.



What results can be expected?

A Knowledge Circle is a project from, for and by fishermen looking for solutions. It is not a research project led by researchers. To the fishermen, a Knowledge Circle means looking for answers and solutions together with colleagues, to, for instance, developing new fishing techniques, an alternative way to market the fish or a more efficient fuel consumption. The fishermen learn from the approach of colleagues and their ideas on (im-)possible solutions. Together they share knowledge. Evenso, the Knowledge Circles lead to new national networks and cooperation with other actors like NGO's and supplychain partners.

Knowledge Circles Fisheries