Instructional Plan

Sustainable Fisheries & Climate Justice Workshop

Curated by:
Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) & Enalia Physis
Part of the LEVERS Project – Learning Ventures for Climate Justice and Resilience

Summary

Subject(s): Sustainable Fisheries, Climate Justice, Marine Conservation, Community Knowledge
Topic or Unit of Study: Climate impacts on fisheries, sustainable fishing practices, circular economy in marine contexts

Relevant LEVERS Features:

- Place-based learning
- Climate justice
- Learning ecosystems
- Participatory co-creation
- Relational learning
- Systems thinking

Target Group:
Adult learners – Small-scale fishers and members of coastal communities

Key Skills Being Developed:

- Sustainable fishing techniques
- Environmental stewardship
- Sustainable Waste Treatment
- Peer knowledge exchange
- Critical reflection on climate impacts
- Community-led problem solving

Time Allotment:
3-4 hours each location (including field-based and reflective activities)
Location:
Coastal community spaces, fishing ports, or local meeting halls (e.g. Larnaca, Zygi, Limassol, Paphos)

Funded by the European Union

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify practical sustainable fishing practices that protect marine biodiversity
- Apply safe handling and release techniques for protected species
- Reflect on how climate change affects local fisheries and livelihoods
- Share and value local ecological knowledge alongside scientific insights
- Explore opportunities for circular practices related to fishing waste and materials

Context and Purpose

This workshop is part of the Cyprus Learning Venture under the LEVERS project and responds to the increasing pressures faced by small-scale fisheries in Cyprus, including climate change, declining fish stocks, and competition from industrial fishing.
Rather than delivering top-down instruction, the workshop uses an action-first, participatory approach, recognising fishers as knowledge holders and co-creators of solutions. Learning begins with practical activities rooted in everyday fishing practice and is followed by guided reflection and dialogue.

The workshop also foregrounds climate justice, highlighting the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on coastal communities and the role of small-scale fishers in protecting marine ecosystems for future generations.

Methods and Procedures

Step 1: Welcome & Grounding the Session

- Informal welcome and introductions
- Facilitators explain the purpose of the session and the LEVERS approach
- Open discussion prompt:
- “What changes have you noticed in the sea over the past years?”

Facilitation focus:
Building trust, acknowledging lived experience, setting a collaborative tone

Step 2: Understanding Sustainable Fishing
Participants engage through video, power point presentation and discussion

Step 3: Action First – Hands-On Fishing Practices
Participants engage directly in practical demonstrations led by experienced fishers and marine experts:

- Demonstration of sustainable trap techniques
- Hands-on practice in handling and releasing protected species
- Discussion of real scenarios encountered at sea
- Focus on species protection (e.g. Angelshark, bycatch reduction)

Participants are encouraged to:

- Try techniques themselves
- Share their own adaptations and methods
- Ask questions based on real challenges

Step 4: Reflection & Knowledge Exchange
After the practical session, participants gather for facilitated reflection:
Guiding questions:

- What worked well in the techniques we tested?
- What challenges do you face when applying these practices at sea?
- How does climate change affect your daily work and income?

Scientific insights on climate impacts and biodiversity are introduced **after** the discussion, connecting theory to lived experience.

Step 5: Circular Economy & Marine Waste
Participants explore:

- Types of waste generated through fishing activities (nets, plastics)
- Risks of marine litter and ghost nets
- Introduction to circular economy approaches (e.g. reuse, recycling of nets)

Short case example:

- Future collaboration with Plastic Precious to transform old fishing nets into new products

Materials and Resources

- Fishing traps and gear
- Visual aids (species identification posters, videos, images)
- Protective gloves and basic tools
- Flipcharts and markers
- Printed guides on protected species and sustainable practices

Assessment

- No formal assessment. Learning is evaluated through:
- Participation in activities
- Quality of discussion and reflection
- Peer knowledge sharing

Outcomes and Impact

- Short-term
- Increased awareness of sustainable fishing techniques
- Improved confidence in handling protected species
- Stronger trust between fishers, NGOs, and facilitators
- Medium-term
- Adoption of more sustainable practices at sea
- Greater openness to circular economy solutions
- Enhanced dialogue between fishers and environmental organisations
- Long-term
- Contribution to healthier marine ecosystems
- Strengthened resilience of small-scale fishing communities
- Recognition of fishers as key actors in climate justice and marine conservation

Why this lesson plan matters for LEVERS

This lesson demonstrates how action-first, place-based learning can empower adult learners, validate local knowledge, and create meaningful engagement with climate justice. By starting from what people do, rather than what they are told, learning becomes relevant, respectful, and transformative.

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