



## Transition Woodbridge and the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

### Monday 8 September Event Record

Transition Woodbridge organised the screening of End of the Line, provided cakes and biscuits and led the discussion following it. 28 People attended (including the three organisers).

#### **Key points raised during film and discussion regarding fishing:**

- 1) Large scale fishing (alongside other marine activities) poses a significant threat to future livelihoods, the ecological balance of the oceans and activities such as diving and recreational fishing. While precise numbers cannot be used as counting fish in the sea is tricky and there is a significant global tendency to industry/political misinformation decreasing fish stock trends are clear.
- 2) It is an issue for us in East Suffolk as the Suffolk harbours of Southwold, Aldeburgh and Felixstowe Ferry all contain active fleets which, together with beach launched boats from places such as Lowestoft, Kessingland and Dunwich, trawl, long-line and pot for Bass, Cod , Plaice, Rays, Sole, Crabs and Lobsters.
- 3) Action has/is being taken by some including: (with a few surprises)
  - COOP,
  - Greenpeace,
  - Jamie Oliver,
  - M&S,
  - Marine Conservation Society,
  - Marine Stewardship Council,
  - McDonalds,
  - RSPCA,
  - Sainsbury's,
  - Save Our Sea Foundation,

- Seafish,
  - Soil Association,
  - Waitrose.
- 4) Further action is needed now by everyone who has any influence: activists, consumers, politicians, government advisory groups, fishing industry, fishermen, the Crown Estate, planning authorities, certification bodies, supermarkets, fishmongers, restaurants etc.

### **Action for us**

- 1) Spread the word: talk to family and friends and get them to watch End of the Line or find out online about the issues. The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum will share this record with the Transition Network and suggest others do the same.
- 2) Join and/or Donate to the charities/organisations who are: Researching, raising awareness and whistle blowing.
- 3) Write a carefully thought out letter to your Councillor, MP and MEP to ask their views and raise awareness/remind them of this important issue – Transition Woodbridge will be drafting up a letter and circulating to its members.
- 4) Decide whether to stop eating fish (neatly avoids you being responsible for any harm) or eat less and in season from as sustainable a source as possible (enables you to support those who are trying to fish sustainably but still need to eat less to enable fish stocks to recover).
- 5) If you are buying fish – ask questions whenever you buy it as to where it can from, how it was caught, whether it is in season. Memories are short and unless active questioning/campaigning continues the focus can be lost.

Those in the know mentioned:

Whiting, MCS say: from the Celtic Sea is the most sustainable option for this species as the stock there is assessed as having full reproductive capacity and it is harvested sustainably. Buy fresh only during Sept – Feb.

Sardine/Pilchards, MCS say: Locally caught and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified Cornish sardines are the best choice. There are also MSC certified fisheries for sardine off Portugal and southern Brittany. Buy fresh only during Sept – Feb.

Anchovies, MCS say: a species with a low vulnerability and high resilience

Mussels: In season and harvested from suspended ropes in the water column  
[http://www.seafoodchoices.com/archived%20smartchoices/species\\_mussels.php](http://www.seafoodchoices.com/archived%20smartchoices/species_mussels.php)

**Some useful sources of information:**

<http://www.fishfight.net/story.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-and-managing-marine-fisheries-for-a-prosperous-fishing-industry-and-a-healthy-marine-environment>

<http://saveourseas.com/act>

<http://www.fishonline.org/>

**Activities/events promoted**

1. Transition Woodbridge Fruit Tree Harvest:  
<http://transitionwoodbridge.onesuffolk.net/projects/community-fruit-tree-harvest/>
2. Maritime Woodbridge 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September and the Transition Woodbridge stall. <http://maritimewoodbridge.org.uk/>
3. Beachwatch weekend 19th-22nd September  
<http://www.mcsuk.org/greatbritishbeachclean/>
4. Transition Woodbridge Equinox Gig, Monday 22nd September at the Coach and Horses in Melton. Start gathering at 7pm.
5. Explore Green Suffolk - Heritage Open Days 2014  
<http://www.greensuffolk.org/sqbn/2014/>
6. Energy from Waste talk and discussion: Monday 10 November, 7pm – 9pm, the Council Chamber, Melton Hill.

**Other outcomes from the meeting**

10 new members of the Greenprint Forum

Two other people planning to show the film to family and friends

More people aware of the Suffolk Coastal and planned Waveney ban on Sky Lanterns and Balloons