

Healthy Mediterranean Sea - Unlocking the potential of Ports and Harbours in preventing and reducing the effects of Marine Litter

BlueMed Pilot Workshop
Sep. 14, 2021

BLUENET



Co-funded by the European
Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Creating new life for discarded fishing and aquaculture gears to prevent marine litter generation

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in the Mediterranean Area

Main achievements

1. Longline ropes for mussel aquaculture manufactured from recycled discarded fishing nets

recovery of old nets



conditioning



pellets



Aquac. Ongrowing rope

monofilaments & ropes



Mussel seeding



tests at sea



Aquaculture Holding rope



Fishing PO trawling net

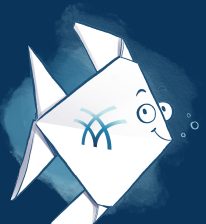


Fishing PA purse seine net



DISCARDED
NETS, ROPES

LONGLINE
ROPES AT SEA



Main achievements

2. Establish the *Fishing for Litter* initiative in the Basque Country (SP)

- Involving: 150 fishers // 24 vessels // 3 ports
- Producing: 1 Regional management plan for marine litter (in progress)

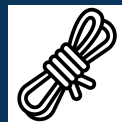


Bottlenecks and mitigation measures

FISHING FOR LITTER



- No collaboration with waste managers
- Few engagement of fishers



LONGLINE ROPES

- Series of heavy weather conditions at sea that led to loss of mussels
- No interest in paying a price premium for the ropes

No collaboration

- Tight communication with Port Dept. of the Basque Government - Weekly photo reporting
- Dir. Port Reception Facilities → discussed with Basque government (workshop)

Few engagement from fishers

- Joining their trips and doing characterization onboard, hearing what they had to say
- **Designing with fishers** the procedure to store the litter onboard and in port
- **Incentives:** t'shirts, hats

Bad Weather – loss of mussels

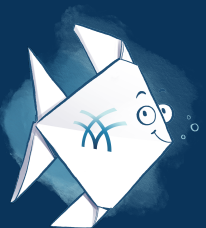
- New batch of ropes launched in a protected raft
- **Collaboration with local aquaculture site manager**
- Ropes were cleaned and re-seeded
- Inclusion of a protected mesh to avoid mussel loss

Upscaling and commercialization of the ropes

- Different application for compounded pellets
- Promote need of incentives, new policies for the upcycling, added value of circular designs in sustainable certification labels...

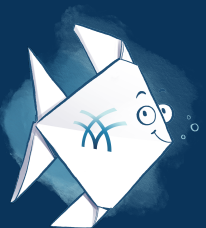
Key to successfully prevent/reduce marine litter from the environment

- Engagement with key stakeholders
 - Identify them (administrations, policy makers, fisher associations, rope manufacturers, waste managers, port authorities, NGOs...)
 - Engage them actively from the beginning
 - Make them become part of the solution



Take home message

- The solutions to tackle marine litter and End-of-Life gears are seldom single-sided, they often involve several stakeholders.
- Key stakeholders need to be identified and engaged from the beginning. They have to become part of the solution. For example, for the *Fishing for Litter* initiative stakeholders include: fishers-fishing associations, administration, port authorities, waste managers, scientific community.
- Longline ropes made of recycled gears: although technically ropes were as good as commercial ones, the price premium that need to be pay for them makes rope manufacturers to lose interest in them. So, if this type of business needs to be promoted within the Blue and Circular Economy framework, incentives or different policies, or consumer demands for sustainable products, and ocean literacy should be promoted.
- Exploitation agreements should be discussed from the very beginning of the project.





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