

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

# The role of the fishery sector to reduce the effects of Marine Litter

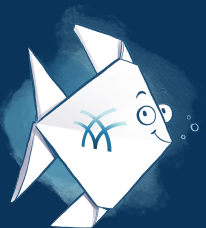
*Projects from Federpesca's experience*

Francesca Biondo



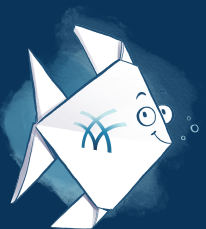
# Facing the problem

- The plastic deposited on the seabed and floating in water, is one of the most severe threats to the environment.
- Between one 150.000 and 500.000 tons of plastic waste end up in the European seas every year
- **The role of fishery sector** – fishers represent one of the best and most effective resource to face the marine litter problem



# The role of the fishery sector

- The Italian fishing companies have always felt the responsibility to restore the marine biodiversity, but it's now time to build, around this sense of responsibility a whole system.
- To contribute to this critical goal, two years ago Federpesca and the Seeds&Chips Global Food Innovation Summit, have published a Manifesto to protect the sea: "Humans of Mediterranean - the generation that healed the sea", which was signed by 31 sectoral bodies and associations from 11 countries from the EU and the southern shores of the Mediterranean.

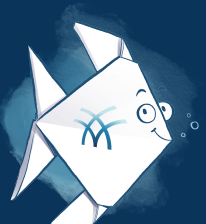


# Projects

Experiences from 3 different Italian Marinas:

1. “Fishing for litter” project promoted by Federpesca, COREPLA, and Regione Lazio. 26 vessels along the Lazio coast from Anzio to Civitavecchia have collected, over the past two years, around **25 t of waste**.
2. Within the «ML-REPAIR» project, in Molfetta 9 vessels have collectet, in about 6 months, **2,700 kg** of waste.
3. «Ri-pescato dal mare», in Chioggia financed by Veneto Region – problems beacuse the current rules and governance do not guarantee a clear path for collecting and disposing of this kind of waste – project at risk

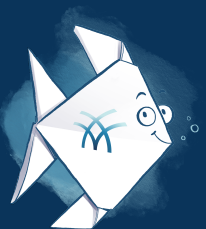
**We cannot leave the marine litter problem to the sensitivity of each region or municipality – It is essential to program a uniform pattern and incentives for port reception facilities**



# Regulatory issues

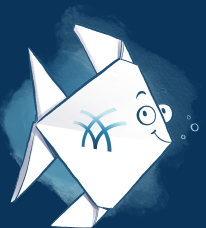
- So far there is no specific legislation regulating the recovery and recycling of indirectly collected marine waste picked-up during normal fishing trawling activities.
- The huge volume of waste collected daily by the trawlers is an obstacle to the on-board operations
- The fisher accidentally catching marine litter becomes the «producer» of the waste that may be landed, which entails economic, civil and criminal liability!

**Governance and institutions have to play their part!**



# Directive 2019/883 and LD «Salvamare»

- A significant recent improvement is the Directive 883 from 2019 on “port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships” (in Italy, its transposition is ongoing).
- The directive encourages member State to integrate incentives to cover the costs the fishers incur when they collect waste during their trawling activities.
- The “Salvamare” Legislative Decree, issued by the Council of Ministers in 2019, represents a partial and early transposition of this Directive (but its approval is still on hold at the Senate).



# Evolution of EU and Italian rules

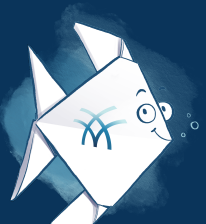
## LD «Salvamare»

- - fishers can land accidentally collected litter without being considered producers but instead « sea-scavengers »
- Installation of waste landing facilities at ports is encouraged
- The costs of handling accidentally collected waste are distributed throughout the community
- But the text still does not clarify other crucial points such as the provision of incentives to fishers and the support to local authorities



If everyone plays its part there are all the conditions to respond to an emergency we have all to be concerned

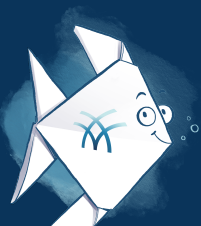
The fishery sector has been ready for a long time and will for sure contribute!



# THANK YOU!

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