

DeFishGear

The DeFishGear pilot actions targeted to the fisheries sector: collective impact and lessons learned

Tirana, 20-21 June 2016

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The Project is co-funded by the European Union,
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)





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Fisheries socio-economic importance

- Fishing plays a fundamental role in the economy of Mediterranean countries and people.
- Total fish landings account for more than 3 billion euros in the Mediterranean, and indirect economic impacts are estimated to be around 10 billion Euros.



250,000 direct jobs
55% in artisanal fisheries



Marine Litter and Fisheries



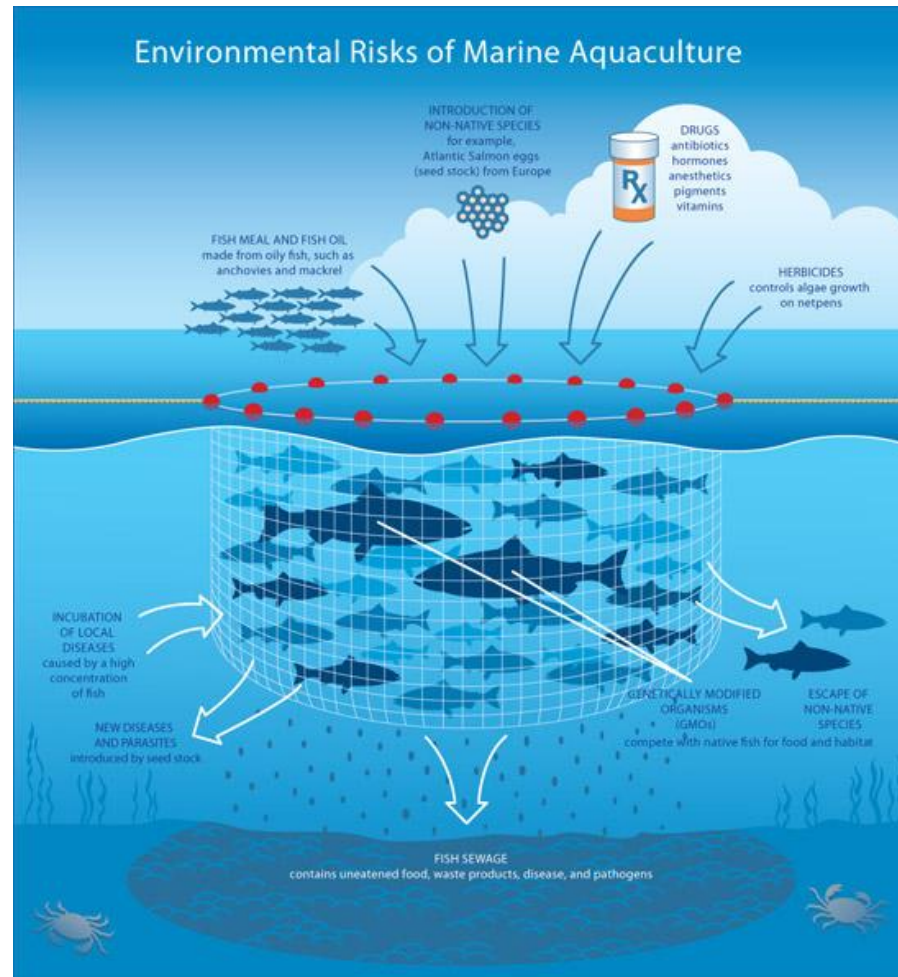
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Marine Aquaculture & Environmental Risks



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Mussel culture nets on beaches and ports



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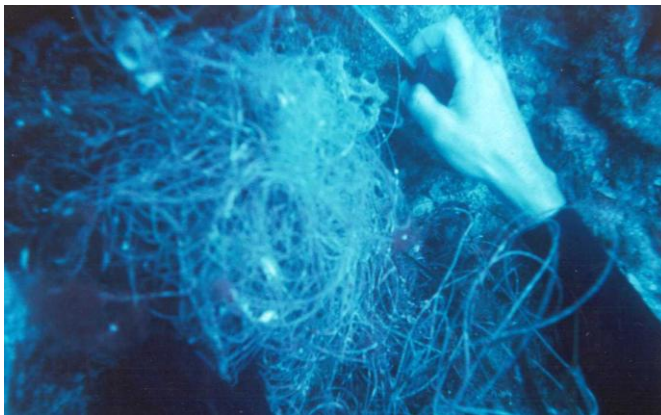


Fishermen Involvement



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It is possible to reduce marine litter pollution in coastal waters and collect derelict fishing gear by involving fishermen and other stakeholders





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How to do it

- Setting out a system for collection and (where possible) recycling of derelict fishing gear
- Collection of floating litter and litter from the sea bottom, including "ghost nets"



DeFishGear pilot actions targeted to the fisheries sector



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Pilot action 1:

Derelict fishing gear collection in ports for recycling

Pilot action 2:

Fishing for litter

Pilot action 3:

Ghost nets recovery from the sea

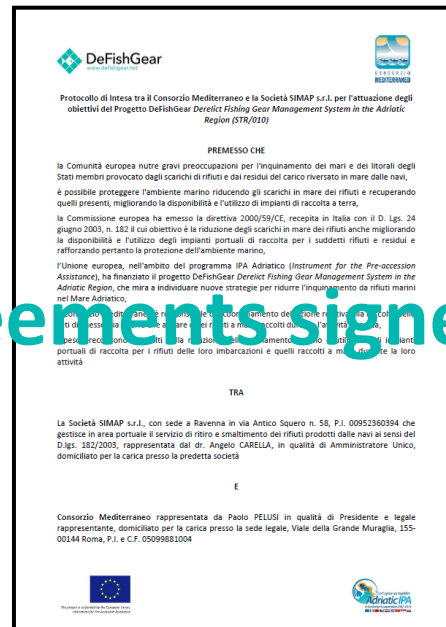
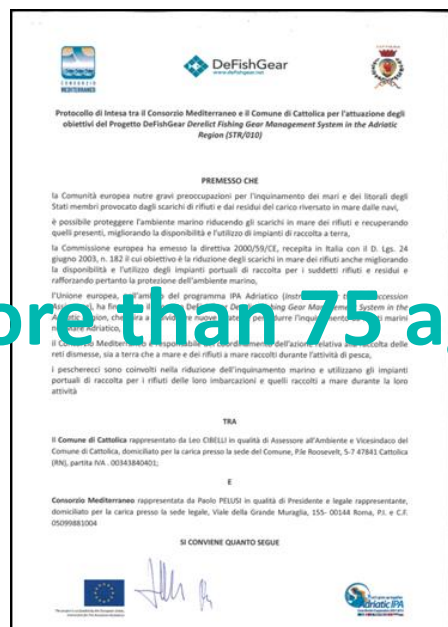


Establishing agreements and implementing an awareness campaign targeted to fishermen

Contacts with local administrations, management agencies and harbor authorities

Agreements with fishermen

Agreements with municipalities



More than 75 agreements signed!

Collecting and taking inventory of derelict fishing gear

Set-up of collection points for DFG collection

Collection of fishing gear and eventually preparing them for recycling

What can Fishermen do?



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put derelict fishing gear in containers at the collection point for recycling

Dismantling fishing nets/gear from vessels



Management and storage on land



Collection and transporting



Communication



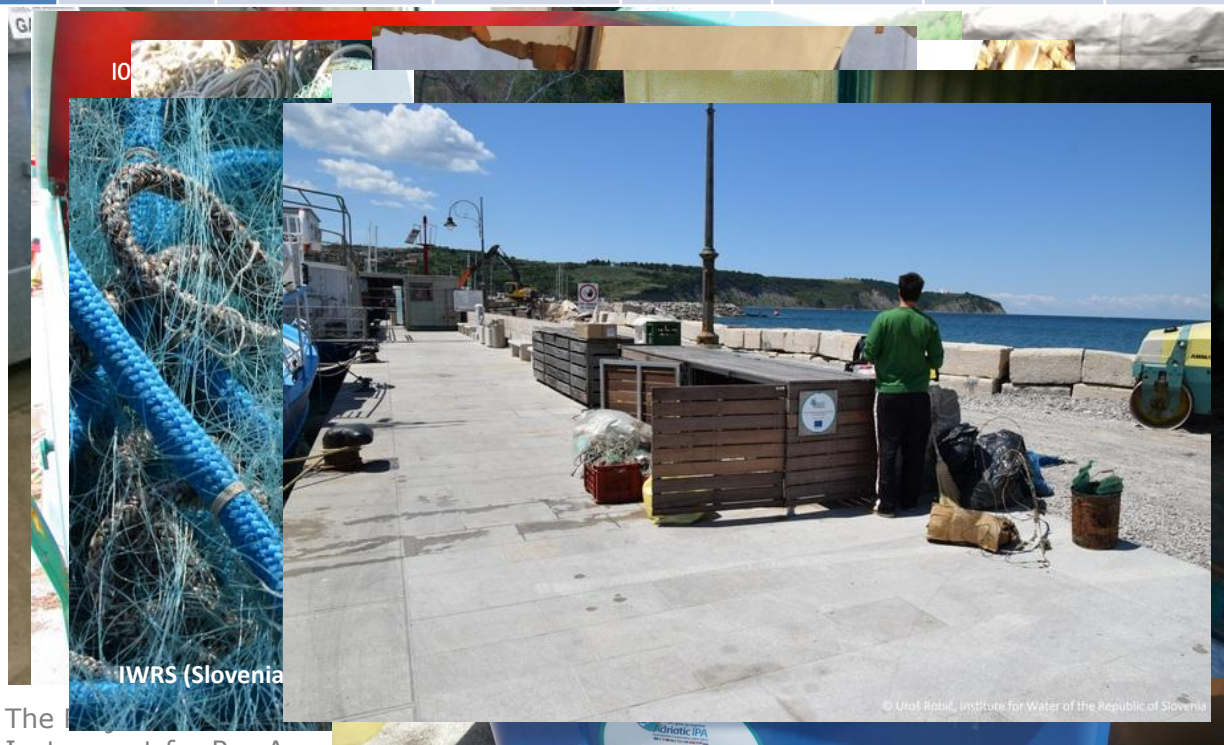
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DFG collection in ports – collective results

	Greece HCMR	Montenegro UM	Croatia IOF	Slovenia IWRS	Italy ISPRA	Italy MC	TOTAL (kg)
DFG collected at ports (kg)	425,00	150,00	28.000,00	441,00	7.780,00	16.830,00	53.626,00
Socks for mussel aquaculture collected at Cattolica (kg)				8,24		59.935,00	59.943,24
TOTAL (kg)							113,569,24

Target value

100 tons





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Opportunity: to recycle collected nets

Collection of derelict nylon nets to be recycled by Aquafil (MOC DFG-Healthy Seas Initiative) to produce new nylon for carpets, socks and swimming cloths.



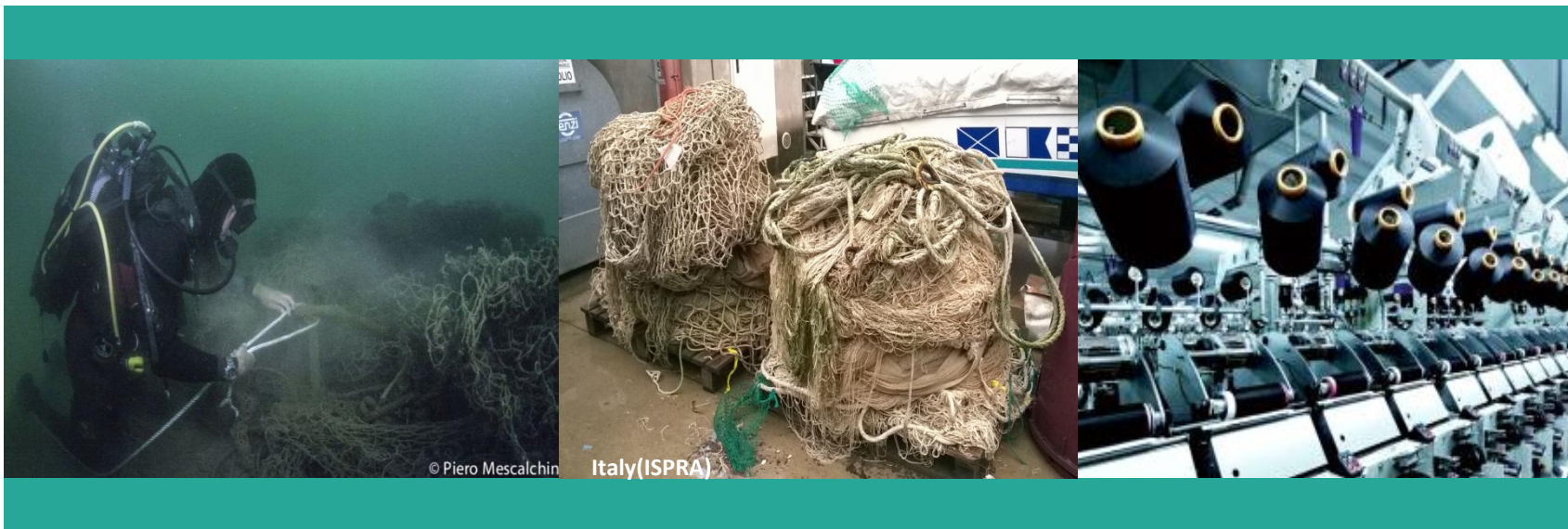
From fishing nets to yarn



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The nylon recovered from fishing nets is transformed into virgin raw material, which, together with other waste materials, is turned into ECONYL® regenerated nylon yarn.

IMPORTANT: only Nylon 6 fishing nets are regenerated in Aquafil plant



DFG collection in ports – collective results



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	Greece HCMR	Croatia IOF	Slovenia IWRS	Italy MC	TOTAL
Nets sent or prepared for recycling (kg)	420,00	10.000,00	147,01	16.410,00	26.987,01



Extensive involvement of fisherman

Supply of containers to put on board

On a voluntary basis fishermen collect and bring ashore marine litter accumulated in their nets

What Fishermen can do?



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put the marine litter in garbage bins and contribute to the cleaning of the sea

Storage on board



Management and storage on
land



Communication



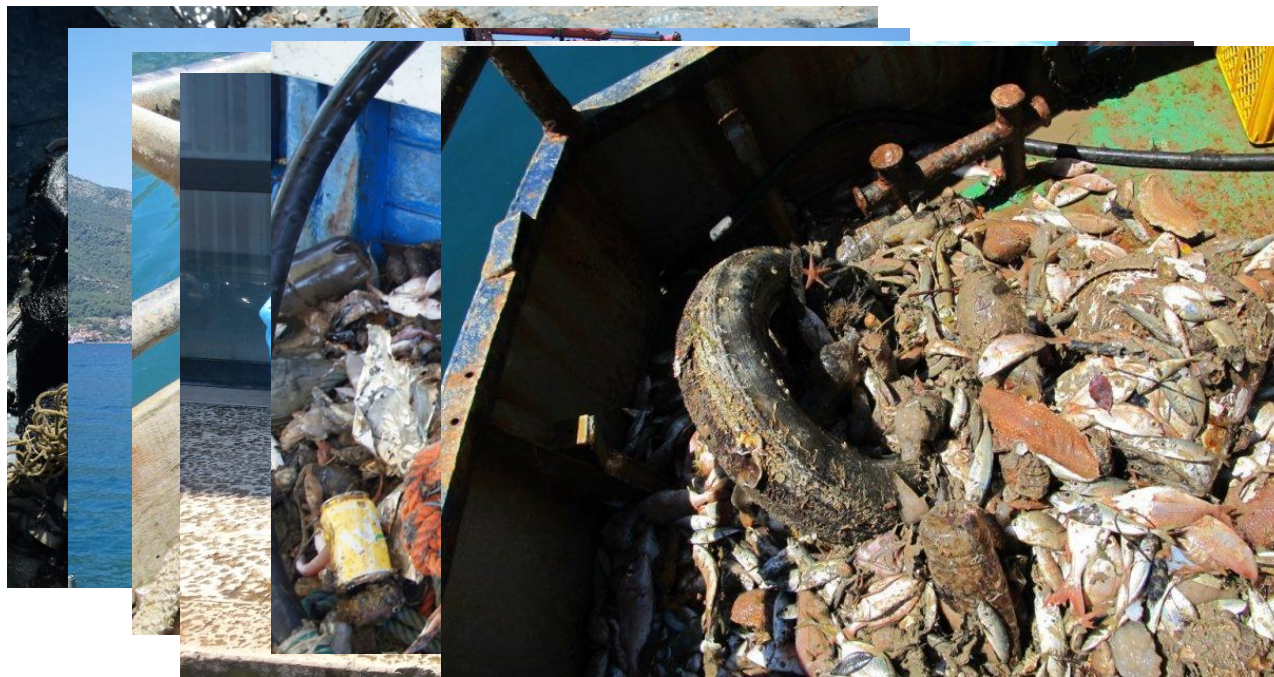
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FISHING for LITTER – collective results

	Greece HCMR	Montenegro UM	Croatia IOF	Slovenia IWRS	Italy ISPRA	Italy MC	TOTAL (kg)
Marine litter collected (kg)	4.201,00	24.034,40	30.500,00	727,00	30.600,00	51.495,58	117.523,58

Target value

200 tons



Characterization of the lost fishing gear issue

Distribution of questionnaires

Identification of accumulation spots and recovery of different types of nets lost on the seabed

Landing and taking inventory of the nets & their disposal on the defined sites on the docks

What can Fishermen do?



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take part in the collection of ghost nets, thus avoiding undesirable catches

Identification of accumulation spots at sea



Ghost net recovery organization



Management and storage on land

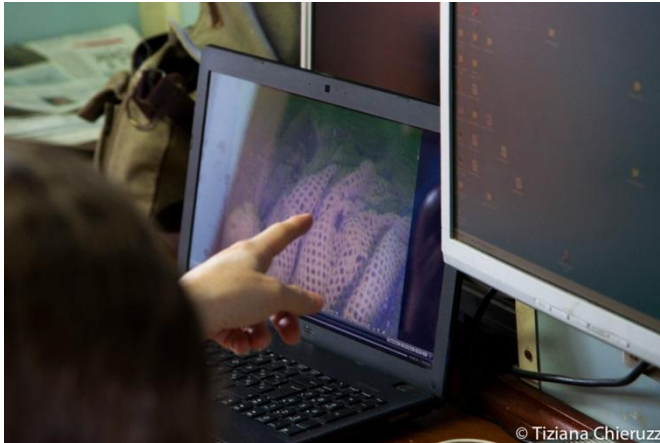


Communication

ROV monitoring and collection



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Ghost nets collection from the sea – collective results

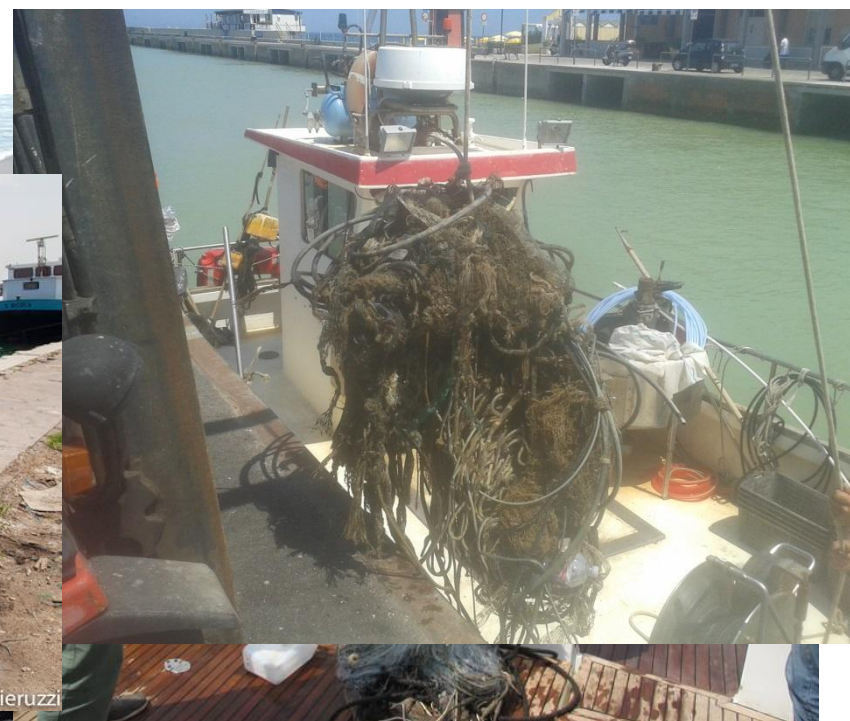


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	Montenegro UM	Croatia IOF	Italy ISPRA	Italy MC	TOTAL (kg)
Ghost nets collected at sea (kg)	150,00	1.100,00	640,00	6.192,00	8.082,00

Target value

50 tons



ICZM Guidelines



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Identification of tools for improved governance and sustainable management in the framework of ICZM, based on the results of the project activities



Collective impact



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Reduction of marine litter in the coastal and marine environment via prevention and mitigation actions

Establishment of a system for collection and recycling of derelict fishing gear

Restoration of the marine environment via the direct removal of marine litter from the sea, including "ghost nets"

Raising awareness on significance of the problem within the fisheries sector but also amongst citizens and policy-makers



Considerations



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The main problems for fishermen are:

- for litter management on board: small space available on board, time spent for sorting, lack of enhancing the role of fishermen as sea cleaner
- for litter management on land: lack of port plans for marine litter management, no dedicated areas on docks, lack of regional/national plans for marine litter collection and disposal.

Possible solutions could be:

- to raise awareness on the need for a clean marine environment
- to urge public administration to draw port plans for marine litter management
- to enhance the role of fishermen as sea cleaner



Conclusions & lessons learned...



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- The maritime sector needs to take its share of responsibility and be part of the solution.
- Raising awareness within the maritime sector is essential towards triggering change and establishing an enabling mindset for reducing the plastic footprint and the amounts of litter entering the coastal and marine environment.
- There are successful circular economy initiatives in the Mediterranean that showcase the fact that “waste is too valuable to be wasted” and we should make best use of them.





**Thank you very much for
your attention**

Image: for Eco Vitae, Boštjan Mljač



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