



DeFishGear

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PHOTO: Bostjan Mljacac



Fishing for Litter

The DeFishGear experience in Corfu isl. Greece.

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Our target

- 1) To organize a pilot **collection** scheme of **DFG** **for recycling**.
- 2) To test if FFL activities is an effective **management tool** of seafloor litter in Greece.
- 3) To check if FFL is an effective **monitoring tool** for seafloor litter.

Preparatory activities

- ❖ Distribution of questionnaires to fishermen regarding litter and DFG management.
- ❖ Organization of small events targeted to fishermen, the municipality and local recyclers.



Mr S. Diavatis, Captain of trawl 'Ag.Spyridon'

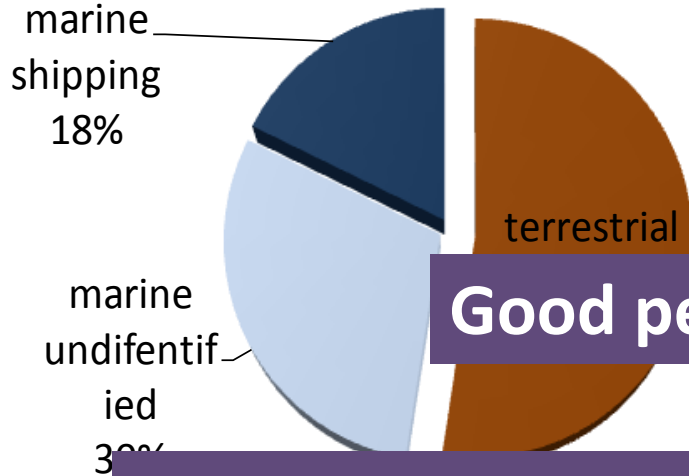
Difficulties encountered

- ❖ Municipality and Port authority were very promising in words but **never actually took the responsibility.**
- ❖ Fishermen attitude towards the problem was very reserved but after a lot of discussion on a personal level we managed to collect **18 questionnaires out of 45 fishermen (40%).**

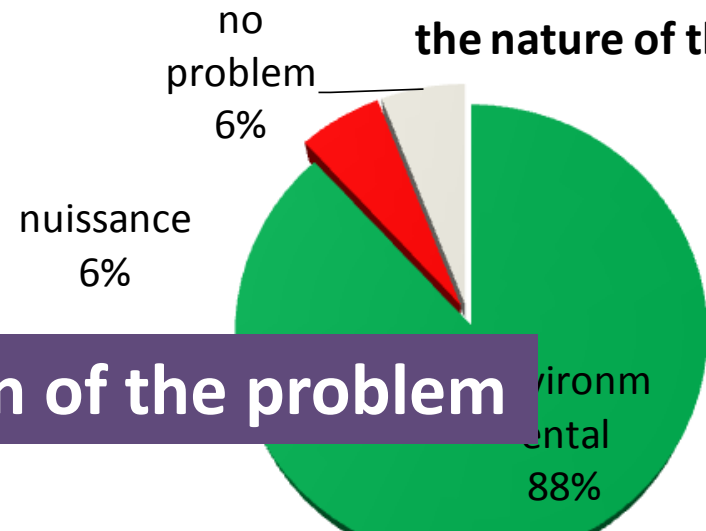


Results from the Questionnaires

the source of the problem

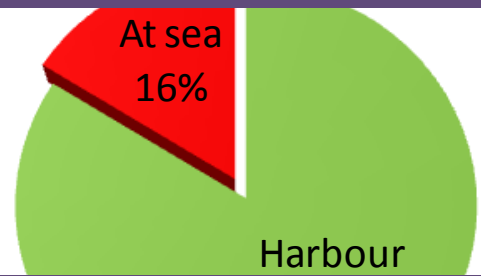
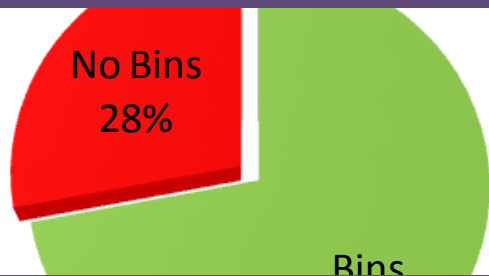


the nature of the problem



Good perception of the problem

None of them noted the presence of fishing lines or nets in ML caught !!



Inconsistency

Not my responsibility, smbdy else should clear the mess

❖ Collection of DFG for recycling

Fishermen were eager to deliver

About 400 kg of derelict fish

Gear which have been delivered to



❖ FFL pilot actions

Two years of FFL. Two out of four trawlers participated.
Major problem: lack of financial compensation.

We have spotted more specific/local problems:

- 1) In Greece fisheries is not industrial, and the fleet of trawlers is rather small. They work independently not in companies.
- 2) In Corfu the 4 trawlers may use 3 -4 different shelters. Often these shelters are in remote places not included in waste collection routes.
- 3) In our case FFL succeeded, mostly due to our physical presence and the personal relationship that we established with the 2 trawlers.



Effectiveness of FFL as a management tool

35 kg/km² ML density
from scientific monitoring

Fishing grounds total area 1867 km²

4.2 T litter collected

**53 T of ML reside on the
fishing grounds**
no inputs assumed

Trawling period 240 days/ y
420 *2 trawls= 900 Days

1.05 T/y/trawl

For 4 trawls~13 years needed to clean the seafloor

How much litter resides on the seafloor compared to that coming from land, floats and is washed ashore?

Waste production on land

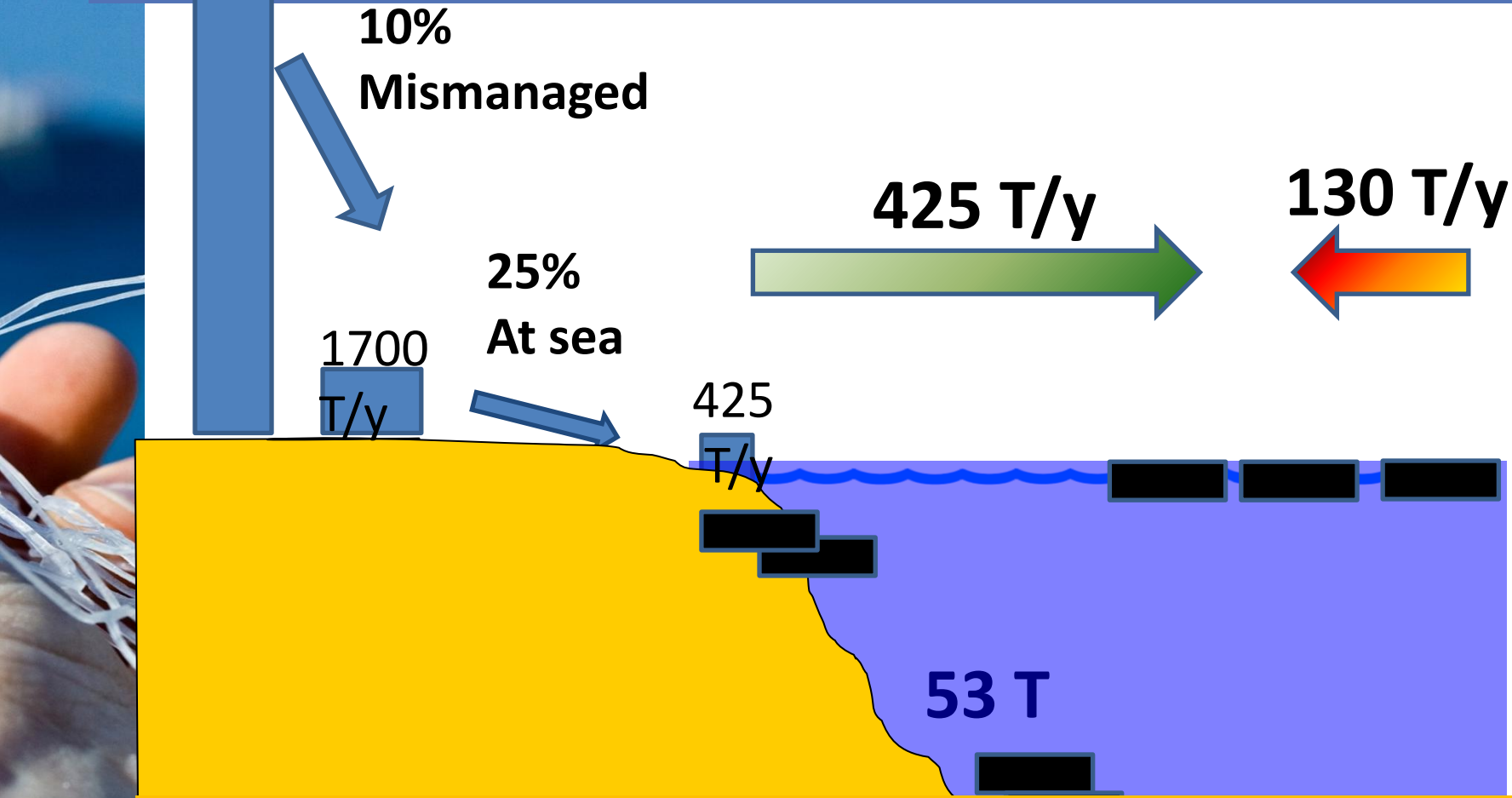
112,000 Residents of Corfu

500 kg/resident /year  56 KT/y

30% recyclable 

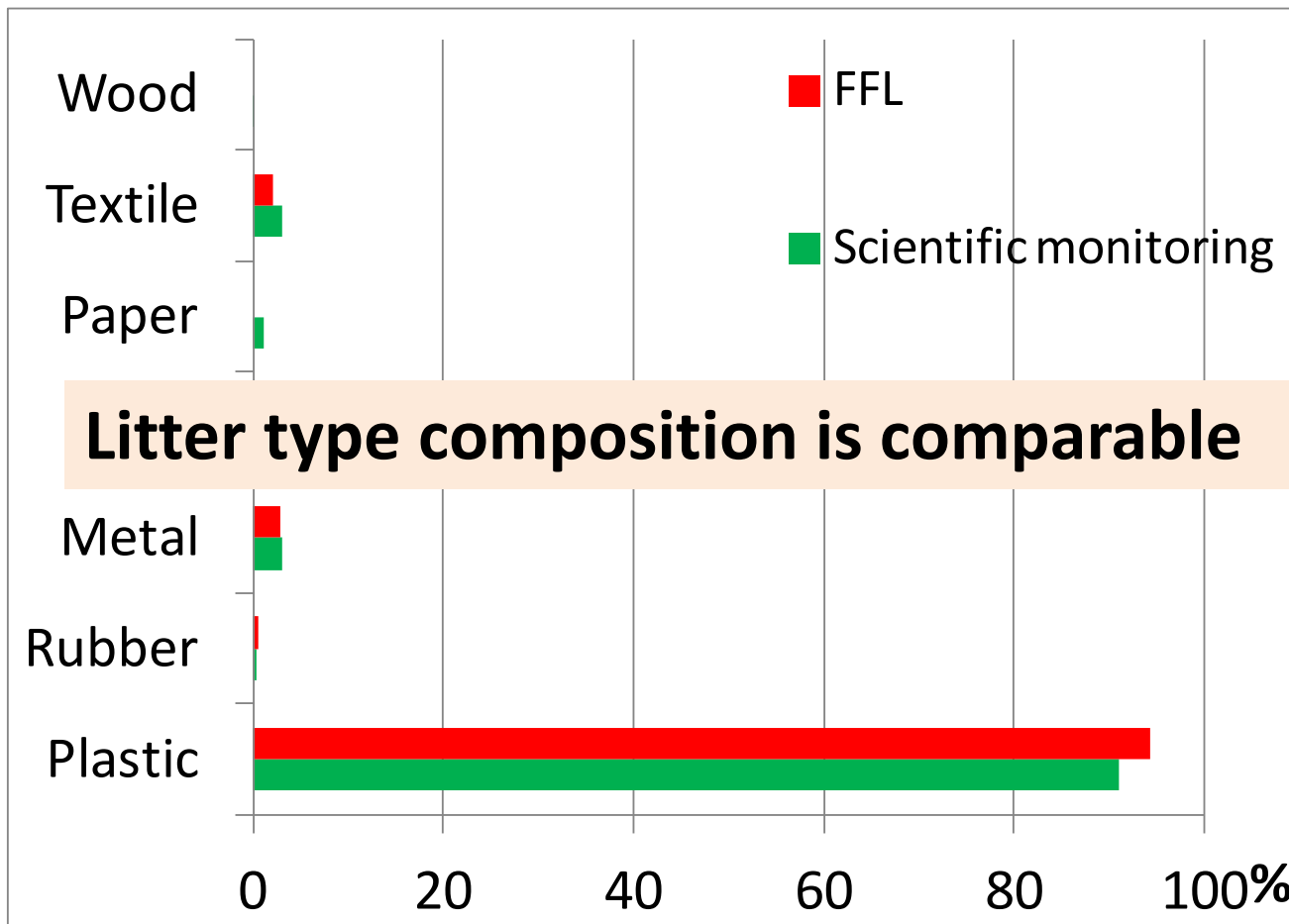
17 KT/y

Production of recyclable wastes



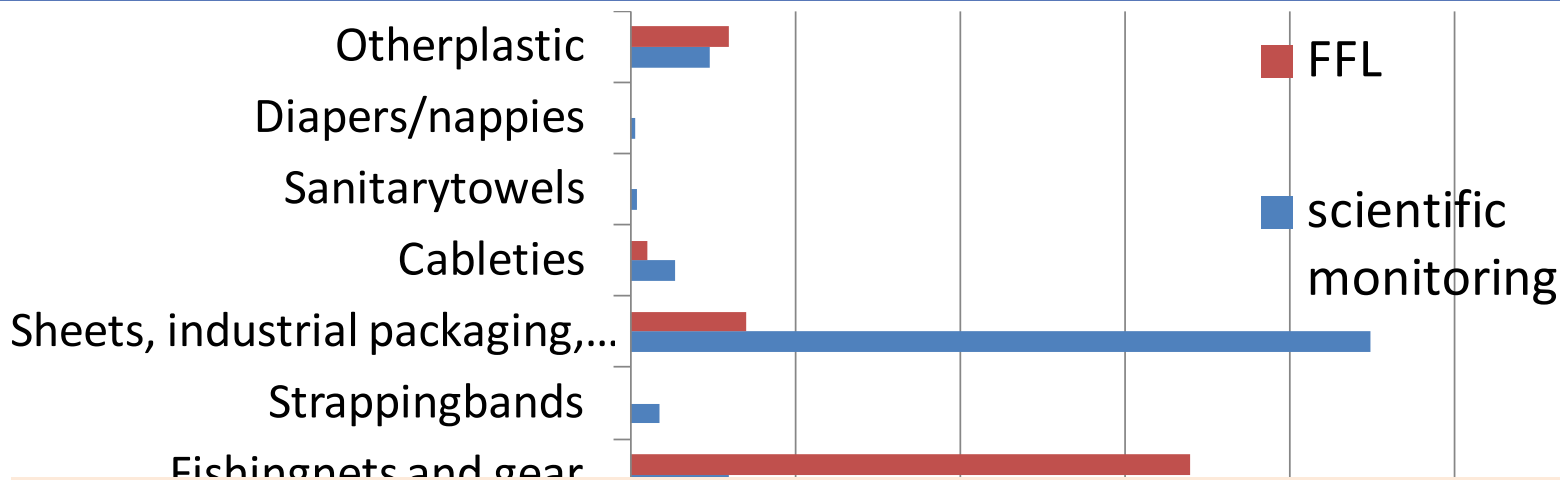
The figures show that our efforts should concentrate also on beach and riverine litter collection and management

Comparisons with scientific monitoring





Effectiveness of FFL as a monitoring tool

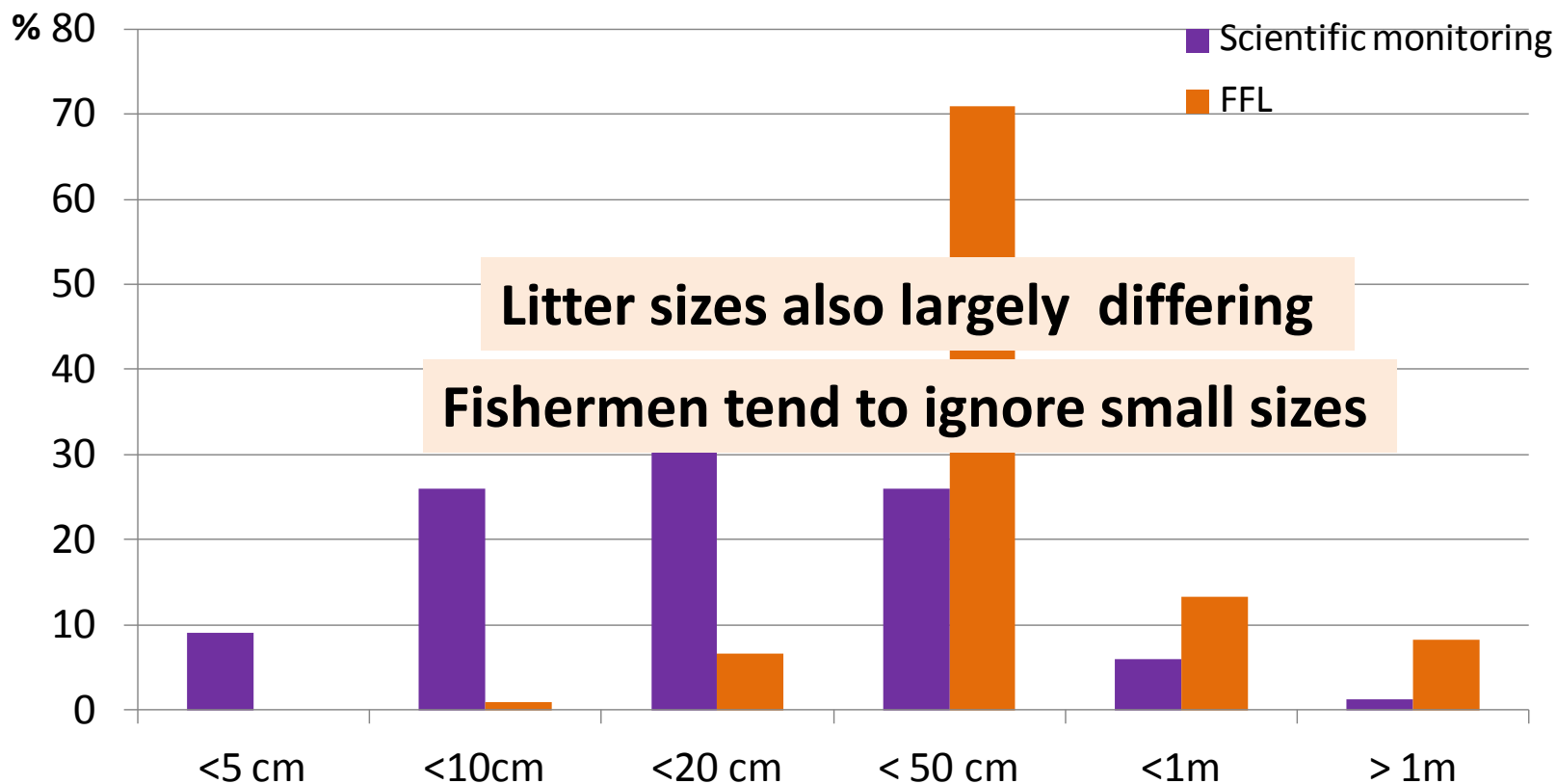


Plastics categories composition is largely differing





Effectiveness of FFL as a monitoring tool



Also information on sampling routes may not be accurate



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Litter collected by fishermen





Litter collected during scientific monitoring



In conclusion

✓ **Local authorities and recyclers** are still **ignorant** and mostly indifferent to the problem. Their interest will arise only when the **waste management sector on land** will take into consideration ML.

✓ **Great effort** is needed **on a personal level** for fishermen to understand that FFL can be conducted easily as part of their fishing.

✓ **Fishermen** need an **organized simple scheme** concerning bin availability, collection and compensation.

✓ **FFL is not the ultimate management tool** and it should be considered in relation to other tools focusing to riverine and beach litter.

✓ **FFL** is definitely **not** a reliable way **for monitoring** seafloor litter.



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DeFishGear - Derelict Fishing Gear Management System in the Adriatic Region



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Thank you very much for your
attention



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