

TITLE	
Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries & aquaculture-related litter	
Implementing partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Non-profit non-governmental Organization for the Preservation of the Aquatic Ecosystems (Lead) ▶ Management Authority of Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas ▶ BlueCycle
Plastic Busters MPAs coordinating partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MIO-ECSDE
Brief description	<p>This is a measure that refers to the involvement of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the collection and proper management of abandoned, lost and discarded derelict fishing gear (ALDFG). The causes of ALDFG are numerous and vary between and within fisheries and aquaculture. Direct causes of ALDFG include operational fishing factors, such as weather, making it more likely that gear will be left or discarded; illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; gear retrieval and gear disposal costs; gear conflicts; vandalism and/or theft. Indirect causes include the unavailability of onshore waste disposal facilities, their accessibility and cost of use. Within this measure special emphasis will be placed on Styrofoam boxes – this has been identified as one of the most commonly found litter items in the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas.</p>
Lines of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitor and assess the presence of ALDFG; ▶ Promote best practices among the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the proper collection and management of ALDFG; ▶ Set up a derelict fishing gear management scheme and install collection bins in selected sites; ▶ Organize stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising activities targeted also to the local communities.
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mussel farmers, professional and recreational fishermen; ▶ Port authorities, local authorities and other competent authorities; ▶ NGOs and associations; ▶ Citizens; ▶ Media.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Deepened knowledge on the amounts, types, composition and sources of marine litter found on the protected areas' coastline; ▶ Reduced inputs of ALDFG in the protected areas' coastal and marine environment; ▶ Enhanced awareness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and also of the local communities on the marine litter issue; ▶ Strengthened collective consciousness, social action and community participation.

Performance indicators

- ▶ Number of marine litter datasets collected;
- ▶ Number of mussel farmers, professional and recreational fishermen reached and trained;
- ▶ Number of ALDFG collection bins installed;
- ▶ Amount of ALDFG collected, sorted, recycled and/or upcycled;
- ▶ Number of stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising events organized;
- ▶ Number of individuals reached.