



THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAS LOCAL EXPERIENCES ON PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIONS AT **THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS**

Anastasia Charitou, iSea



Thermaikos Gulf
PROTECTED AREAS
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS



Joint Ministerial Decision 12966/2009: National Park of Delta Axios-Loudias- Aliakmon

33,800 hectares

Deltas and estuaries of four rivers, Kalochori lagoon, Alykes Kitrous and Nea Agathoupolis's wetland

District of Central Macedonia and expanding into four different regional units



THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

More than 370 species of plants, 50 species of mammals, 27 species of amphibians and snakes, more than 50 species of fish

A total of 299 species of birds, 66% of all bird species observed in Greece, and of these 106 nest in the area.

Threats

Water pollution

Illegal dumping of solid waste

Intensive agriculture and pesticides/ fertilizers use

Illegal fishing

Overgrazing

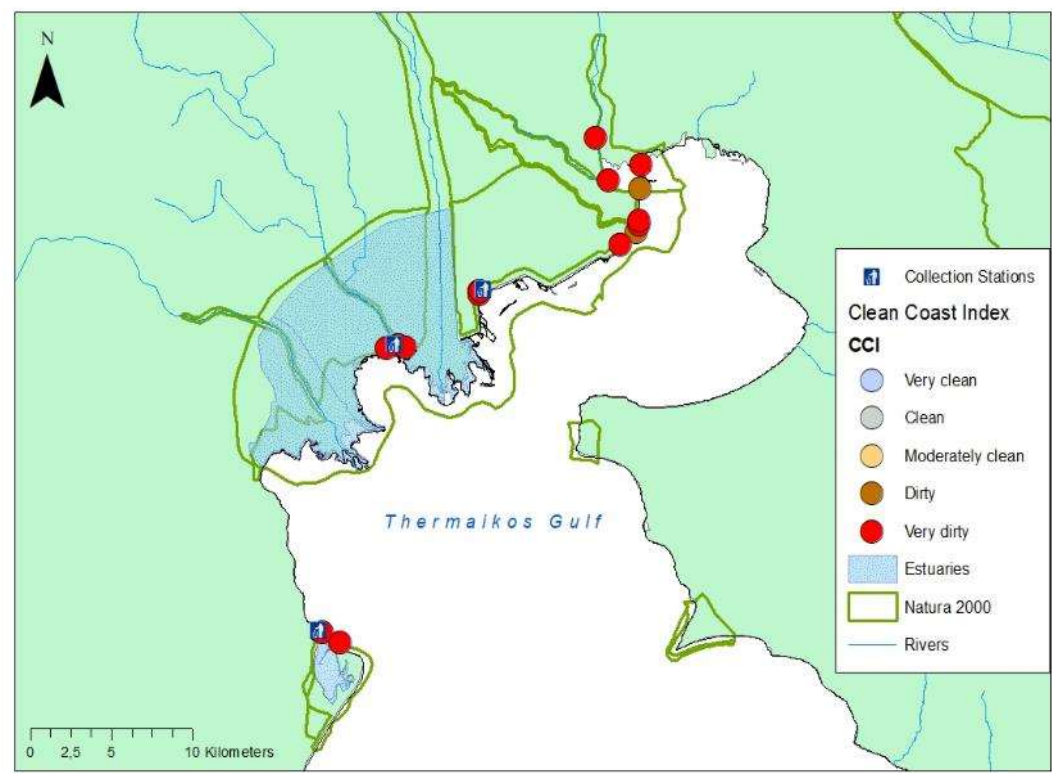
Illegal hunting

Illegal sand extraction

Illegal logging

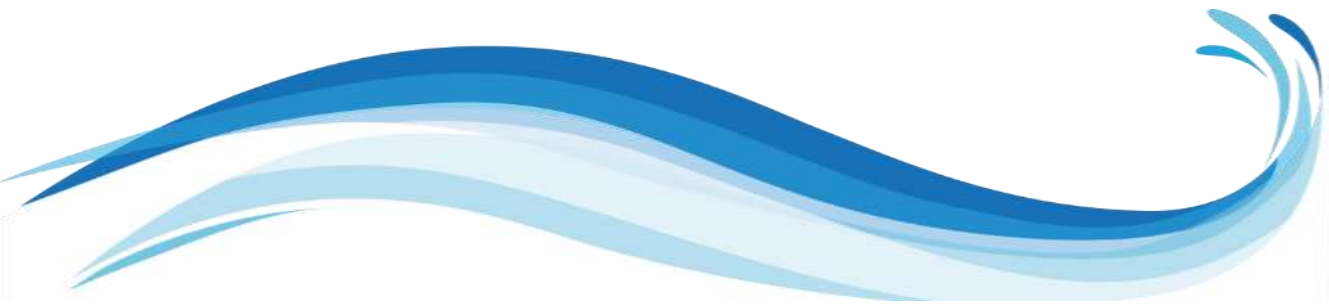


THE MARINE LITTER ISSUE IN THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS | KEY FACTS & FIGURES

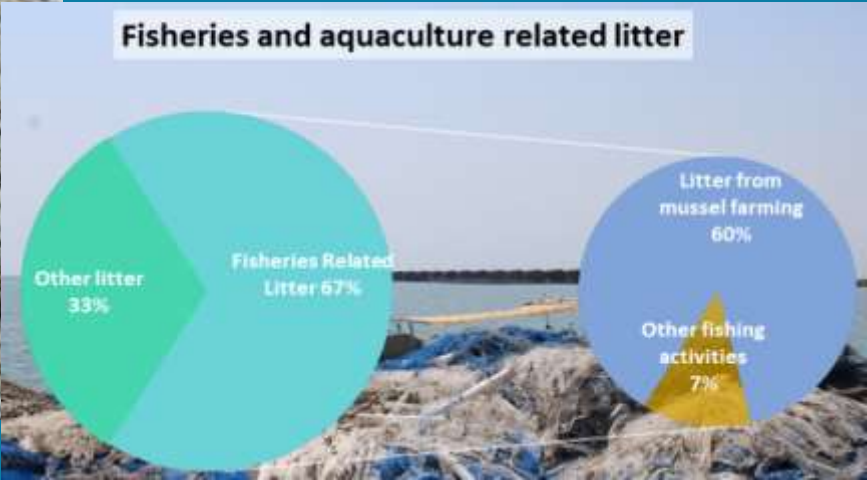


	ITEM	PCS	%
1	Mussels nets, Oyster nets	1789	21
2	Plastic pieces 2.5 cm > < 50cm	1380	16,2
3	Plastic strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm)	1072	12,6
4	Plastic drink bottles >0.5l	439	5,2
5	Cigarette butts and filters	396	4,7
6	Plastic cups and cup lids	356	4,2
7	Glass drink bottles <=0,5l	342	4
8	Polystyrene pieces 2,5cm > < 50cm	332	3,9
9	Plastic pieces >50cm	310	3,6
10	Plastic ropes (diameter more than 1cm)	291	3,4

**based on the data obtained from Spring 2016 to Summer 2020*



THE PRESSURE FROM THE FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SECTORS



**based on the data obtained in the context of the ML pilot action*

THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS | ACTIONS TO ADDRESS MARINE LITTER



Priority measure within the ‘Action Plan for Marine Litter in Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas’ that was developed by the Management Authority of Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas within the framework of the Interreg Med ACT4LITTER project, under the guidance of MIO-ECSDE

THE MARINE LITTER ACTION PLAN OF THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

4. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON MARINE LITTER IN THE THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

The Thermaikos Gulf team join the ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month. The one-month pilot beach survey deployed a harmonised monitoring approach by applying the attached protocol prepared by MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with others within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic DeFishGear project, in accordance with the guidelines the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Litter Technical Group and the UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan - MEDPOL. Alyki Kitrous Beach was selected taking into consideration certain criteria. The Items found in the sampling unit were classified by type according to the 'Master List' and accordingly entered in the 'Beach Litter Monitoring Sheet' (Annex II). According to the results the main type of litter found on the beach was artificial polymer materials (drink bottles, mussel nets, polystyrene pieces, other plastic pieces etc.)

5. PRIORITY ACTIONS TO COMBAT MARINE LITTER IN THE THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

In this section, the priority actions agreed to be undertaken by the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Authority are presented in the format of a table. Each action is featured with a number, a description, the target group, the expected results, the lead and those who should be involved in the implementation, a timeframe and performance indicators (used to measure achievement of outputs or outcomes).

Number	A1
Title	RAISING THE AWARENESS OF MUSSEL FARMERS, FISHERMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON THE MARINE LITTER ISSUE AND PROMOTING CORRESPONSIBILITY

Priority actions to combat marine litter in the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Area

Step 1: Field visits, interviews, workshops and data collection

Step 2: Concrete prevention and mitigation actions

Step 3: Evaluation

ESTABLISHING A DERELICT FISHING GEAR MANAGEMENT SCHEME AND PROMOTING CO-RESPONSIBILITY TO TACKLE FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE-RELATED LITTER



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)

Lines of actions:

Monitor and assess the presence of ALDFG

Promote best practices among the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the proper collection and management of ALDFG

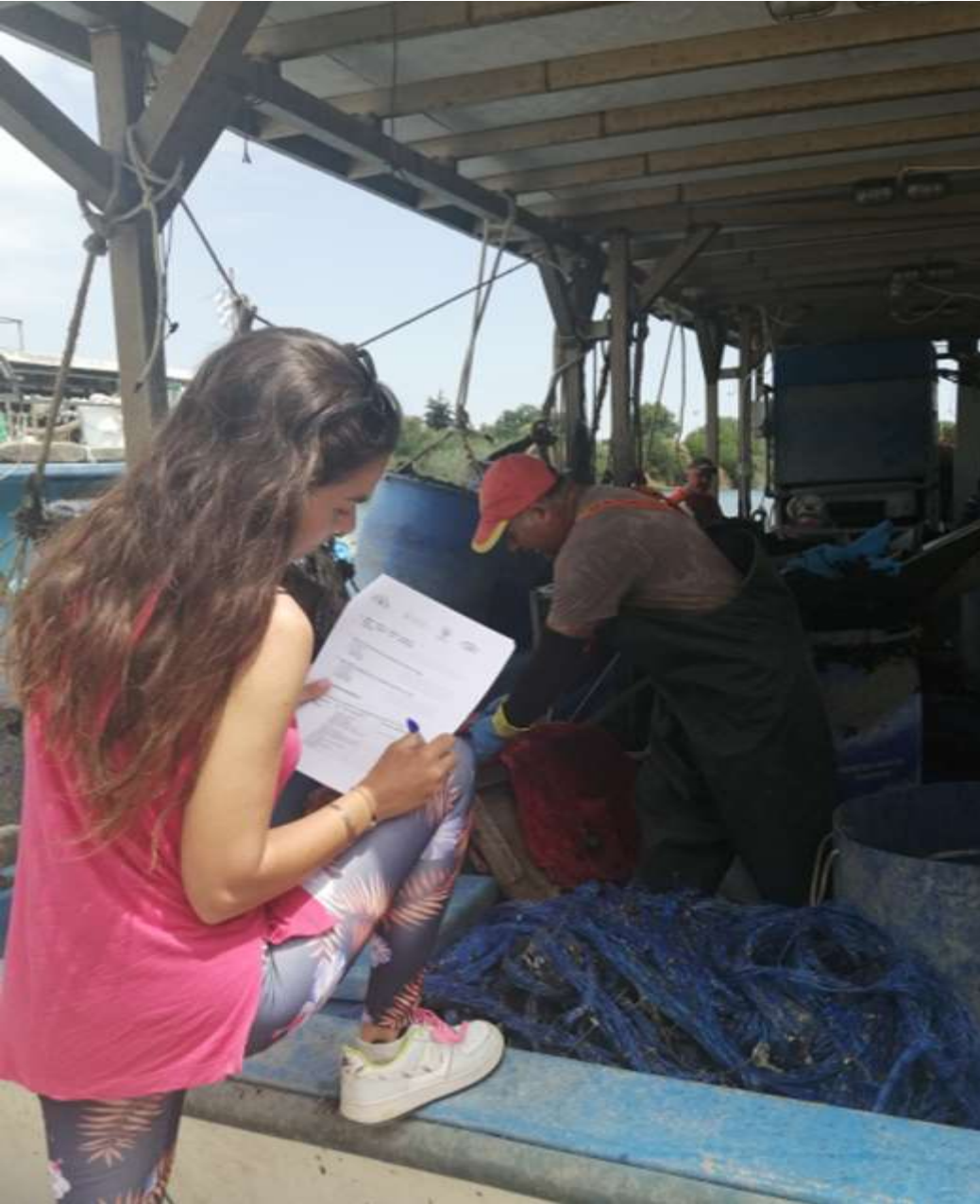
Setup a derelict fishing gear management scheme and install collection bins in selected sites

Organize stakeholder engagement and awareness raising activities targeted also to the local communities



Thermaikos Gulf
PROTECTED AREAS
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

THE DEMO'S TARGET GROUPS



Target groups:

Mussel farmers, professional and recreational fishermen

Port authorities, local authorities and other competent
authorities

NGOs and associations

Citizens

Educators and students

Media

THE DEMO'S IMPACT

7,5 tons of abandoned mussel nets were removed from
Chalastra fishing port

Municipality of Delta

Local mussel farmers and fishers association



THE DEMO'S IMPACT

**14,3 tons of abandoned mussel nets were removed from
Loudias estuary**

Municipality of Delta

Local mussel nets and fishers association

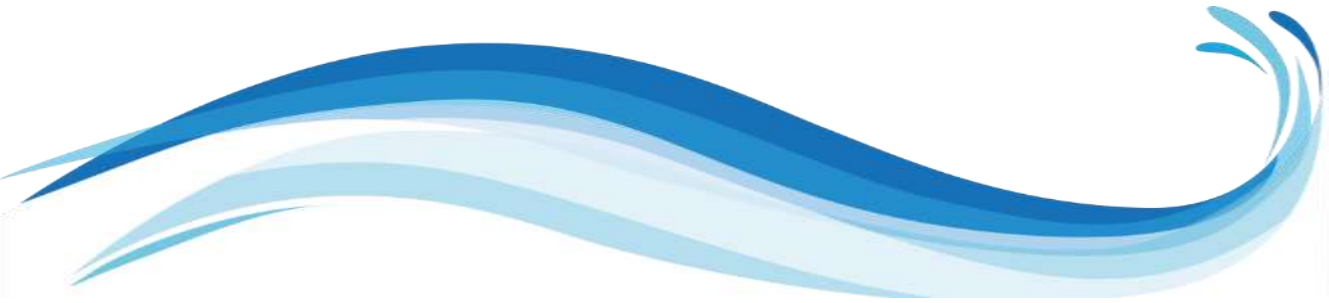
Region of Central Macedonia



DFG TREATMENT | MECHANICAL RECYCLING



Mechanical recycling from BlueCycle

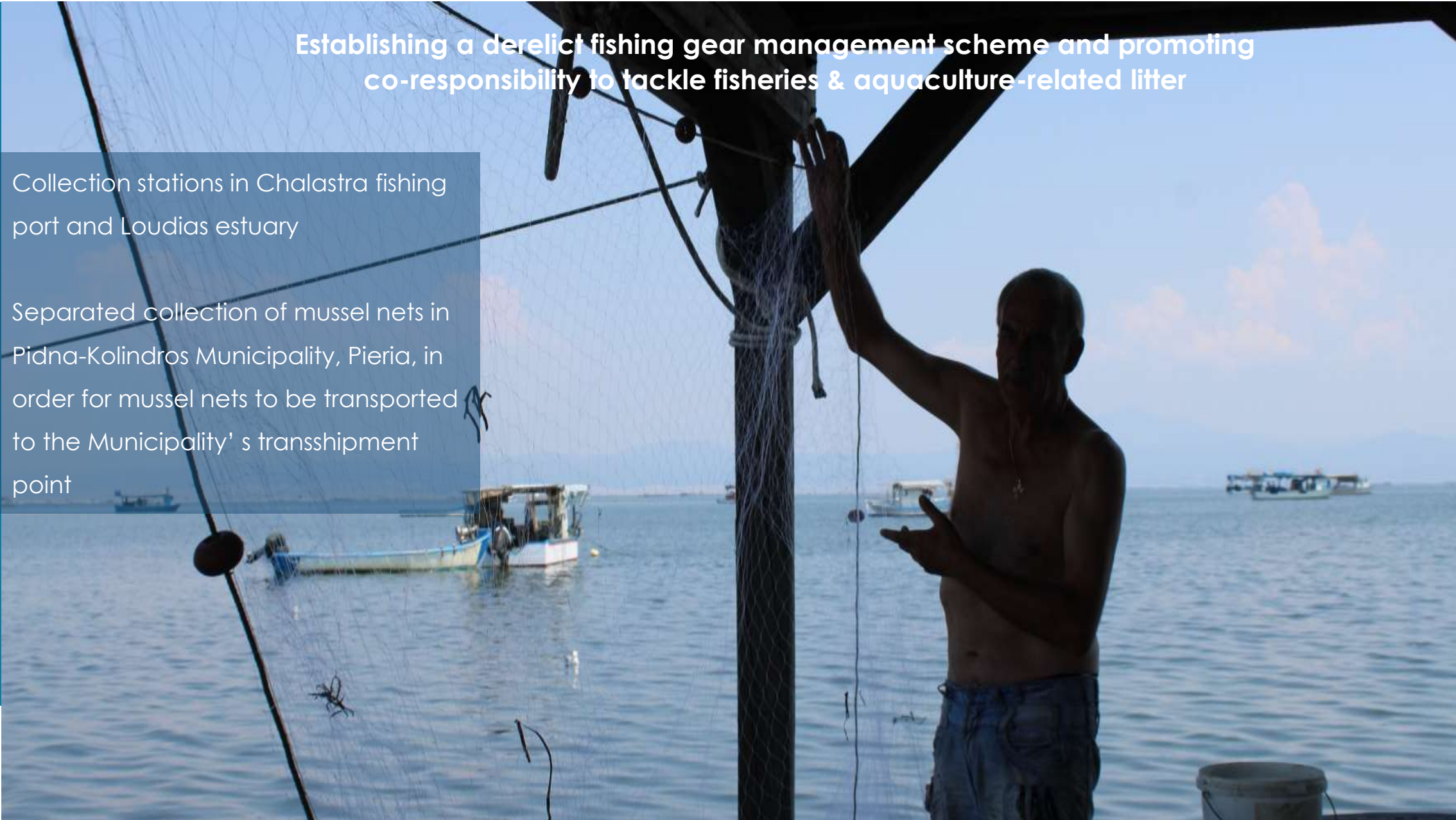


THE DEMO'S LOGISTICS


Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries & aquaculture-related litter

Collection stations in Chalastra fishing port and Loudias estuary

Separated collection of mussel nets in Pidna-Kolindros Municipality, Pieria, in order for mussel nets to be transported to the Municipality's transshipment point



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The background image shows the deck of a blue boat. Two workers in dark clothing and waders are visible. One worker is standing near a large white cylindrical object, possibly a pump or filter. There are various hoses, including a prominent red one, and other equipment on the deck. The boat's structure, including metal beams and a canopy, is visible above the workers.

Workshops and meetings were replaced with interpersonal contacts

Transportation of the materials was the biggest challenge to address and ensure the sustainability of the action

Existing intention to address the issue

LESSONS LEARNED

Collaboration

Bottom up approaches

Involvement of all relevant stakeholders

Key stakeholders provide valuable information

Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries & aquaculture-related litter





Plastic Busters MPAs Capitalization Event

17 June 2021