



OSPAR
COMMISSION

Reporting on the implementation of
OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01 on
the reduction of marine litter through
the implementation of Fishing for
Litter initiatives

Review of national reporting on the implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of Fishing for Litter initiatives

OSPAR Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention") was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. The Contracting Parties are: Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Convention OSPAR

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin du Nord-Est de l'Atlantique, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature durant la réunion ministérielle des anciennes commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. Les Parties Contractantes sont: l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, l'Espagne, la Finlande, la France, l'Irlande, l'Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, la Suède, la Suisse et l'Union Européenne.

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Récapitulatif	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Overview of compliance	5
3. Actions taken to give effect to the Recommendation	6
4. Barriers to implementation	7
5. OSPAR Fishing for Litter Target	7
6. Conclusions on the state of implementation of Recommendation 2016/01	8
Annex 1 – National implementation reports	10

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview and assessment of the implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of Fishing for Litter initiatives.

This overview assessment is based on national reports submitted by Contracting Parties in 2022, and was examined by the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee in 2023. Reports were provided by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

In nearly all the Contracting Parties that submitted a report, the Recommendation has been implemented, through administrative measures in the majority of cases. Denmark and Sweden are an exception.

OSPAR has the target to 'Increase the total number of vessels participating in FFL schemes in the OSPAR maritime area by 100% by 2021, compared to the baseline situation in 2017' (OSPAR 2019 Summary Record §13.5). This target has been met and exceeded considerably: we can see an increase in vessels participating in the FFL scheme by 179%. See figure 1 below.

The next implementation reporting round on Recommendation 2016/1 should be conducted by 1 January 2028.

Récapitulatif

Le présent document donne un aperçu et une évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation OSPAR 2016/01 sur la réduction des déchets marins par la mise en œuvre d'initiatives de Pêche aux déchets.

Il est fondé sur les rapports nationaux soumis par les Parties contractantes en 2022, et a été examiné par le Comité impact environnemental des activités humaines en 2023. La Belgique, le Danemark, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Irlande, le Luxembourg, l'Espagne, la Suède, les Pays-Bas, la Norvège et le Royaume-Uni ont soumis des rapports.

Dans presque toutes les Parties contractantes qui ont soumis un rapport, la recommandation a été mise en œuvre, par le biais de mesures administratives dans la majorité des cas. Le Danemark et la Suède constituent une exception.

OSPAR s'est fixé la cible visant à « augmenter de 100 % le nombre total de navires participant à des programmes de Pêche aux déchets dans la zone maritime d'OSPAR d'ici à 2021, par rapport à la situation de référence en 2017 » (Compte rendu OSPAR 2019, paragraphe 13.5). Cet objectif a été atteint et même largement dépassé : le nombre de navires participant au programme FFL a augmenté de 179 %. Voir la figure 1.

Le prochain cycle de la notification de la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation 2016/01 aura lieu d'ici le 1^{er} janvier 2028.

1. Introduction

1.1 OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1

The purpose of Recommendation 2016/01 is to reduce marine litter by Fishing for Litter (FFL) initiatives. The establishment of new or additional FFL initiatives should be promoted in fishing harbours of Contracting Parties. Furthermore, the Recommendation aims to facilitate

- the raising of awareness of the social, economic, and ecological impacts of marine litter among fishermen and within the fishing industry;
- a change in waste management practices within the fishing industry;
- the direct removal of marine litter from the marine environment within fishing areas.

The FFL scheme can contribute to changing practices and culture within the fishing sector, provide a mechanism to remove marine litter from the sea and seabed, and raise awareness among the fishing industry, other sectors and the public. By tackling the problem at source through direct engagement with key stakeholders FFL also contributes to the prevention of litter reaching the marine environment.

Contracting Parties should promote the use of the OSPAR “Fishing for Litter guidelines” (OSPAR Agreement 2017- 08).

OSPAR 2019 adopted the following target for this action, with a baseline year of 2017: “To increase the total number of vessels participating in Fishing For Litter schemes in the OSPAR maritime area by 100% by 2021, compared to the baseline situation in 2017”.

The full text of Recommendation 2016/01 can be found in Annex 1 below.

1.2 Implementation reporting

1.2.1 General reporting requirements

Under Article 22 of the OSPAR Convention, Contracting Parties shall report to the OSPAR Commission at regular intervals on the national measures (legal, regulatory, or other) taken by them to implement the provisions of the Decisions and Recommendations adopted under the OSPAR Convention and on the effectiveness of these national measures. This implementation reporting forms the basis for OSPAR to assess the compliance by Contracting Parties with the Convention and ultimately to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes and measures under the Convention.

Detailed provisions on implementation reporting and related assessments by OSPAR are laid down in OSPAR’s Standard Implementation Reporting and Assessment Procedure (reference number 2003-23, update 2005). Unless stated otherwise in the OSPAR instrument concerned, the practice has been in general that an implementation report should be submitted to the appropriate OSPAR subsidiary body in the intersessional period four years after the adoption of a measure and every four years thereafter until fully implemented. Implementation reporting does not apply to Contracting Parties with reservations (or non- acceptance) on an OSPAR measure unless and until the reservation (or non-acceptance) is lifted.

1.2.2 Reporting requirements under OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01

This overview assessment of the implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01 has been prepared by the Netherlands based on national reports submitted by Contracting Parties in 2022, and was examined by the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee in 2023.

Under the Recommendation, Contracting Parties should report annually on participation levels, and every six years on general implementation, using the reporting format in Appendix 1 of the Recommendation.

2. Overview of compliance

All Contracting Parties were invited to submit implementation reports on Recommendation 2016/01 by 31 January 2022. The following Contracting Parties submitted a report: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom. No reports were received from the European Union, Finland, Iceland, Portugal, and Switzerland. The Recommendation does not apply to Finland, Luxembourg and Switzerland, as they do not have maritime waters in the OSPAR Maritime Area. Luxembourg did in fact provide a report but commented that, as a landlocked country, it did not have any professional fishers.

Table 1 provides an overview of compliance. Of those Contracting Parties who reported, the most common means of implementation was administrative action, while two Contracting Parties took legislative measures. Annex 2 provides a summary of the Contracting Party responses on implementing actions and barriers.

Table 1. Overview of implementation on OSPAR Recommendation 2016/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of Fishing for Litter initiatives.

Contracting Party	Reservation in place	Measure applicable	Implementation report submitted in 2022	Means of implementation		
				By legislation	Administrative action	Negotiated agreement
Belgium	No	Yes	Yes		X	
Denmark	Yes	No	Yes			
EU			N/A			
Finland			N/A			
France	No	Yes	Yes		X	
Germany	No	Yes	Yes	X	X	X
Iceland			N/A			
Ireland	No	Yes	Yes		X	
Luxembourg	No	No	Yes			
Netherlands	No	Yes	Yes		X	
Norway	No	Yes	In 2023		X	
Portugal			N/A		X	

Spain	No	Yes	Yes	X	X	
Sweden	Yes	No	Yes			
Switzerland			N/A			
United Kingdom	No	Yes	Yes		X	

3. Actions taken to give effect to the Recommendation

Many Contracting Parties implemented the Recommendation with an administrative action. Several Parties implement FFL as one of their measures in the MSFD Programme of Measures. The level of implementation differs: partly there is a collection of local initiatives and partly there are national FFL schemes.

There is a relevant link with the implementation of the EU Directive 2019/883 (Port Reception Facilities (PRF) directive) and with the implementation of the Directive 2019/904 on single-use plastics, including implementing Extended Producer Responsibility schemes and the work on a circular design of fishing gear. Linked to a successful and efficient implementation of the relevant EU directives, Ireland highlights the importance to coordinate fishing efforts internationally in shared European waters. Also, Ireland takes effort to design a “Green Ship” concept as suggested in the PRF directive. Some Contracting Parties use the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for securing the financing of FFL programmes, for instance Germany and Ireland.

Several Contracting Parties used the reporting to highlight other relevant projects or research related to fishing gear or waste from the fishing sector. In most Contracting Parties that have FFL schemes, the schemes are linked to other initiatives. Various FFL schemes are linked to awareness and education activities.

Several Contracting Parties have also taken steps to improve waste management in fishing harbours and to stimulate recycling. For instance, in France, two studies have been carried out to identify priority improvement points for waste management in fishing, pleasure and commercial ports. Also, there was a call for projects in the French overseas territories with the aim to reduce the impact of marine litter, including from Abandoned Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG). Furthermore, there is a study on the possibility of creating a recycling channel for marine litter that have been fished. In Ireland, initiatives have been carried out on the improvement of waste management on-board and onshore.

Other noteworthy developments on FFL in Contracting Parties include:

- In Belgium not only fishers but also other organisations such as dredgers, recreational boats and boats operating in wind farms got the opportunity to participate in the FFL programme.
- In France, fishing for litter is still a recent initiative, which is in development. France expected to be able to report data to OSPAR by 2022. A steering committee was put in place in 2021 to improve the monitoring of FFL activities.
- In Spain, there are several regional FFL initiatives since 2009. Spain is working on the drafting and agreement of criteria for a common national FFL scheme. This scheme should function as an umbrella to existing and future initiatives.

- In the Netherlands, there have been FFL schemes since 2000. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium coordinate the programme. The programme is financed through a series of sponsors: national and local government, harbours and the private sector. In the future, there will be efforts to use the EMFAF. The Netherlands plans to investigate the possibilities for more prudent forms of data collection of passively fished waste, including source analysis for example. The incident with the MSC Zoe, in early 2019, led to a significant temporary increase of FFL waste in 2019- 2021.
- In the UK, KIMO UK runs two Fishing for Litter schemes in Scotland (since 2005) and South-West England (since 2008), and there are affiliated FFL projects in Northern Ireland. In Wales there is no FFL scheme, which is due to the type of fishing vessel.

4. Barriers to implementation

Barriers to implementation include the financial stability of the programme, encouragement of fishers to participate and recycling of fishing for litter waste (issue of toxicity of recycled objects).

Long-term financial stability

Long-term financial stability of the programme can be a problem with increasing amounts of passively fished waste being delivered on land. This in turn gives rise to increasing operational costs which could lead to problems in the future. Additional funding has to be foreseen.

A complicating factor is the unpredictable nature of the annual budget required. The biggest cost driver of the project is the waste management aspect, so the correlation between amounts of litter brought ashore and the financial means required is very strong. It is however hard to predict how much litter will be brought ashore annually.

Encouragement of fishers to participate

In a few Contracting Parties the encouragement of fishermen to participate in the programme was an issue.

Recycling of FFL waste

It is a challenge to ensure the long-term funding of FFL. However, it is currently not possible to further specify upcoming difficulties within the future process.

5. OSPAR Fishing for Litter Target

OSPAR has the target to 'Increase the total number of vessels participating in FFL schemes in the OSPAR maritime area by 100% by 2021, compared to the baseline situation in 2017' (OSPAR 2019 SR §13.5). This target has been met and exceeded considerably: we can see an increase in vessels participating in the FFL scheme by 179%. See figure 1 below.

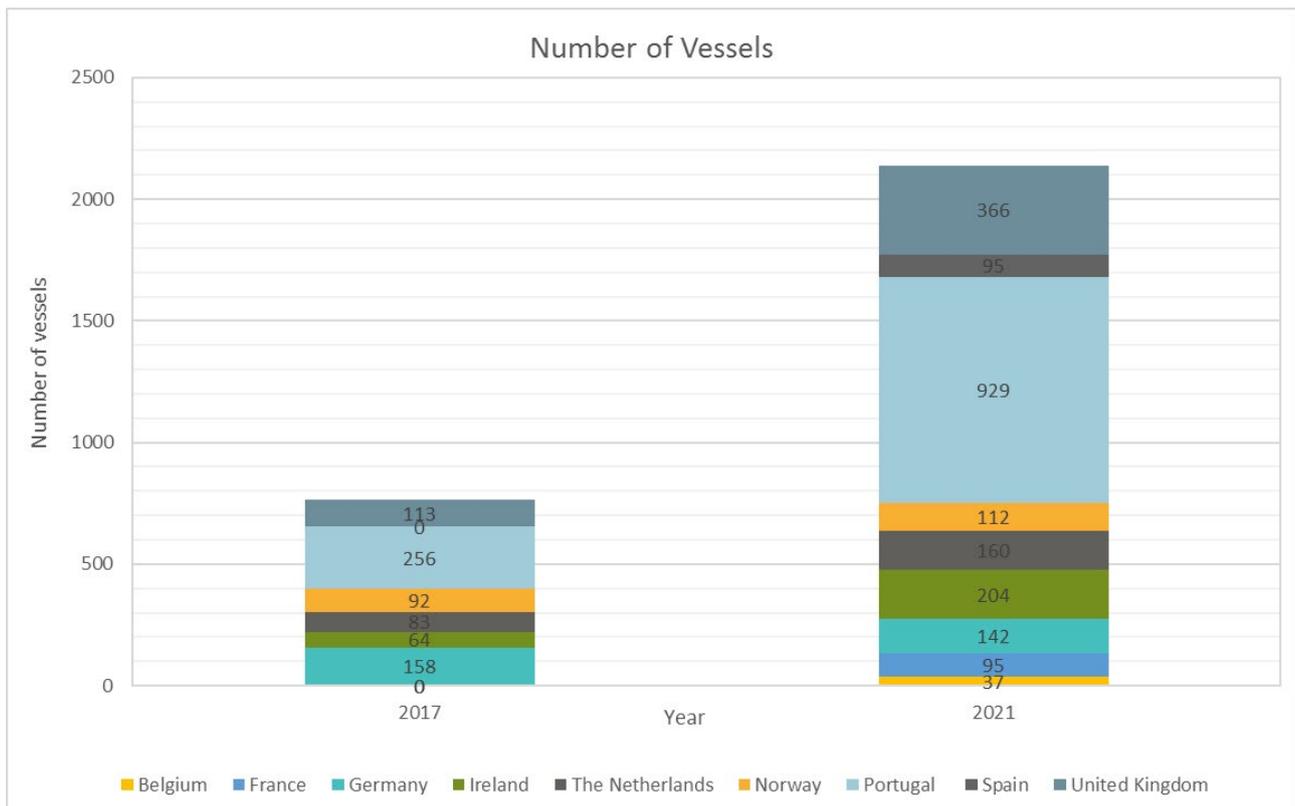


Figure 1: Participation of fishing vessels in FFL schemes 2017 - 2021

6. Conclusions on the state of implementation of Recommendation 2016/01

A number of conclusions can be drawn which may help Contracting Parties to strengthen the application of Recommendation 2016/01 in the future.

1. In general, the Recommendation has been implemented by most Contracting Parties. Ten CP's reported successful implementation, whereas three Parties did not provide a report, and the measure is not applicable to a further three Parties.
2. The most commonly cited means of implementation is through administrative action, although as with reporting on other Recommendations there may be differing interpretations of the distinction between legislation/administrative action and negotiated agreement;
3. The collaboration in OSPAR seems crucial for the successful implementation of FFL initiatives, be it by exchanging information or by taking collective action. This is due to 1) the implementation of the EU PRF and SUP directives which might influence FFL schemes in EU Member States; and 2) the opportunity to link FFL schemes to boost education and awareness and to stimulate good waste management practices and recycling of litter. Several Contracting Parties work on related projects.
4. The financing of the FFL initiatives is a barrier to implementation, although the EMFAF is providing a framework for long-term sustainability of FFL actions.

5. Further links with ALDFG retrieval initiatives (focused on other than those passively fished) are to be explored and better understood and promoted (including legally and financially).

Annex 1

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

Source: OSPAR 16/20/1, Annex 5

RECALLING Article 2(1) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (“the OSPAR Convention”);

RECALLING Annex V to the OSPAR Convention on the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area, and in particular its Article 3 1.a, which makes it a duty of the OSPAR Commission to draw up programmes and measures for the control of the human activities identified by the application of the criteria in Appendix 3;

RECALLING that the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2010 and the Joint Assessment by UNEP and the OSPAR Commission of the litter problem in the North-East Atlantic have concluded that marine litter is a persistent problem, which originates from both sea and land based activities, that affects the entire marine environment, the ecological effects of which are not fully understood;

RECOGNISING the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP) agreed in June 2014 and the action No 53;

RECOGNISING the social, economic and ecological impact of marine litter in the marine and coastal environment;

AIMING to provide a means through which Contracting Parties can reduce the amount of marine litter in their waters and address one of the main sources of marine litter through awareness raising and changes in behaviour;

NOTING the successful establishment by some Contracting Parties of Fishing for Litter initiatives;

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic RECOMMEND:

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of this Recommendation:

“Fishing for Litter initiatives” means Fishing for Litter projects as outlined in the Guidelines on how to develop a Fishing for Litter project (OSPAR Agreement 2007-10).

“Marine Litter” means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.

2. Purpose and Scope

2.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to promote the establishment of new or additional Fishing for Litter initiatives in fishing harbours of Contracting Parties and to facilitate:

- a. the raising of awareness of the social, economic and ecological impacts of marine litter among fishermen and within the fishing industry;
- b. a change in waste management practices within the fishing industry;
- c. the direct removal of marine litter from the marine environment within fishing areas.

3. Programmes and Measures

3.1 Contracting Parties should promote the establishment of Fishing for Litter initiatives in line with OSPAR Agreement 2007-10 whereby:

- a. fishermen are provided, at no cost to them, with large hardwearing bags, or other suitable receptacles, in which they can collect marine litter that accumulates in their nets as part of their normal fishing activity. This does not include operational or galley waste from the vessel;
- b. facilities are available for these bags to be deposited in any harbour participating in an OSPAR Fishing for Litter initiative at no cost to the fishermen and disposed of, where possible, in line with the waste hierarchy: reuse, recycle, recover and dispose;
- c. the number of vessels and harbours taking part in Fishing for Litter initiatives and, wherever possible, the weight of the collected marine litter brought ashore is recorded and the data is collected by Contracting Parties for OSPAR reporting purposes;
- d. a communication plan is developed and implemented to promote the initiatives and to raise awareness of fishermen and the fishing industry to the impacts of marine litter;
- e. if the cost of disposal is likely to exceed the budget of an FFL initiative, a participating harbour should advise the vessel to use the existing harbour waste reception facilities and alternatively provide information on disposal facilities of another harbour that can be used.

3.2 Contracting Parties should notify the details of their national contact for these initiatives to the OSPAR Secretariat.

4. Entry into Force

4.1 This Recommendation has effect from 24 June 2016.

4.2 Upon taking effect this Recommendation supersedes OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19.

5. Implementation Reports

5.1 By 1 January 2017 Contracting Parties should present to the OSPAR Commission:

- a. a short description of the initiatives that they have or plan to establish to meet the aims of this Recommendation and a short description of their experience with its implementation; or
- b. an explanation why they have not established any such initiatives (e.g. descriptions of other initiatives which are equally effective in fulfilling the requirements of this Recommendation).

5.2 Contracting Parties should report to the OSPAR Commission annually on the effectiveness of this Recommendation (i.e. number of harbours, number of participating vessels and approximate annual tonnage of collected marine litter), in line with the reporting format outlined in Agreement 2016/03.

5.3 The OSPAR Commission will review arrangements set out in this Recommendation every six years in light of experience of its implementation, based on the reports submitted in line with the reporting format in Appendix 1.

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

b. Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
yes/no*	yes/no*	yes/no*

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

* Delete whichever is not appropriate.

National reporting

BELGIUM

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
No	yes	No

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
 - b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
 - c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.
- (a) In 2006, a feasibility study was carried out in Belgium from 15 December 2006 to 15 October 2007 to see whether it was possible to start a fishing for litter pilot project within Belgium. The results were found to be positive and therefore it was decided to continue the project. In 2017 the fishing for litter project was taken up as measure 4.3.3 under the federal action plan marine litter and it was examined if it was possible to expand the programme to organisations such as diving clubs, dredgers,

wind farms and recreational boats. A couple of dredgers and boats operating in wind farms also receive big bags when they operate. The data is kept separate from that from the fishing boats. The transposition of the directive (EU) 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships took place in 2021 and has been transposed by Flemish environmental legislation.

Fishing for litter (FFL) is funded by the Marine Environment Service part of the FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment and run nationally over the Ports of Zeebruges and Ostend. Under assignment of the Marine Environment Service, the Flemish Fisheries cooperation provides big bags and appropriate port reception facilities in both harbours. For the communication aspect of the fishing for litter programme the Rederscentrale, a recognised professional association that represents the interests of ocean-going shipowners on both fronts, was appointed. A steering group consisting of several public actors, formerly mentioned associations and the harbor captains of the ports of Ostend and Zeebruges follow up on the programme. Extra projects under this steering group consist of providing education to young fishermen at schools and looking into recycling options for end-of life fishing gear.

- (b) Financial stability of the programme can be a problem with increasing amounts of passively fished waste being delivered on land. This in turn gives rise to increasing operational costs which could lead to problems in the future. Additional funding has to be foreseen. Also encouragement of fishermen to participate in the programme was an issue at the start.
- (c) For now the measure, as provided in *OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives*, is fully implemented. Work continues to increase participation among Belgian fishing boats. Solutions for the increased waste processing costs via alternative budget sources are being looked into to guarantee the existence of the programme.

DENMARK

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Denmark has no FFL schemes. Instead we have a 100% "No Special Fee" system, where all vessels (including fishing vessels) can deliver their own operational waste including passively fished waste without having to pay for it as it is covered by port fees. We believe that this system have a similar effect in the marine environment as Fishing for Litter.

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
no	no	No

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

FRANCE

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
no	yes	No

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

(a) As for the specific measures taken to give effect to this measure, France adopted in 2018 the Biodiversity Plan which sets out the ambitious goal of achieving zero plastic discharged into the sea by 2025. The Biodiversity Plan is developed into the "Zero plastic at sea (2020-2025)" Action Plan, which provides for a specific action (action 23) dedicated to fishing for litter. This action plans to develop fishing for litter and professional fishermen's awareness about marine litter, in conjunction with associations. For the implementation of this action :

- France supports several associations which raise awareness among professional fishermen about marine litter, develop fishing for litter actions with them as well as with port managers, and feed the database of OSPAR monitoring indicators on marine litter in conjunction with the scientific

community (IFREMER, CEDRE, HISA) and fishermen. Twelve pilot ports are currently involved in the action on the Atlantic coast (Saint-Cast-Le-Guildo, Saint-Quay-Portrieux, Erquy Dieppe, Lorient, Boulogne-Sur-Mer, Concarneau, Saint-Guérolé, Douarnenez, Les Sables d'Olonne, La Cotinière and La Tremblade).

- several local actors support technically and financially some actions (e.g. optimization of port recycling centers), and are working to raise awareness among professional fishermen and to support the development of their practices to initiate actions to combat marine litter related to fishing;
- a steering committee which gathers several associations which develop fishing for litter and which was set into place and met for the first time in June 2021, in order to continue to develop and monitor fishing for litter actions more widely.

Moreover, on directive (EU) 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, the directive has been transposed by an ordinance and a decree of 8 September 2021. The implementing decrees have been published.

Furthermore, other actions are triggered by France and participate in the realization of this measure :

- two studies supported by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition have been carried out in order to identify priority improvement points for waste management in fishing, pleasure and commercial ports, and one is still in progress;
- the law n°2020-105 of 10 February 2020 on the fight against waste and on circular economy was adopted in order to transpose the Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (SUP Directive): this law creates several extended producer responsibility channels, among which a channel dedicated to fishing gear;
- a call for projects was launched in the French overseas territories, and aims at reducing the impact of marine litter, including abandoned or lost fishing nets and gear, on marine biodiversity in overseas territories. Several projects that have been selected in this context aim at recovering marine litter, collecting data and raising awareness to the impacts of marine litter.

(b) As for the difficulties encountered in the implementation of this measure, associations in France are only beginning to take hold of fishing for litter and the various legislative and regulatory texts require a certain period of adoption.

Moreover, France launched a study on the possibility of creating a recycling channel for marine litter that have been fished. However, France is concerned about the toxicity of recycled objects made from marine litter that have been fished and has launched a study to evaluate this risk.

Furthermore, France is evaluating the possibility for and the methods of mobilizing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) to finance all or part of the actions of fishing for litter.

Finally, several projects selected under the call for projects in the French overseas territories suffered from the health crisis and their progress was delayed by storms which redistribute spotted litter.

(c) As for the reasons for not having fully implemented this measure, it shall be noted that fishing for litter is still a recent initiative which is, thus, in development. In order to fully implement the measure, France:

- will complete the directive (EU) 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships transposition and ensure its concrete implementation;

- will complete, by 2025, the implementation of the actions in progress as part of the "Zero plastic at sea (2020-2025)" Action Plan;
- will, by 2025, as part of the implementation of the second cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: encourage the reduction, collection and recovery of waste from maritime activities and support activities towards sustainable equipment; and improve waste management in ports as well as in oyster farms and develop passive fishing for waste;
- will continue to support associations that carry out passive fishing for litter actions and raise awareness of professional fishermen and port managers on marine litter;
- will be able to communicate to OSPAR data for the OSPAR zone by 2022.

GERMANY

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
yes/no*	yes/no*	yes/no*

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

The implementation of fishing for litter initiative is part of the German programme of measures of the MSFD (UZ5- 06). At the North Sea coast funding is currently provided by the federal states of lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein through means of EMFF.

In addition in some of the harbours the fishing for litter initiative is further supported through the Single-Use Plastic Directive (EU 2019/904) and here the income generated from the extended producer responsibility of the producers of fishing gear.

At the German North Sea coast nine fishing harbours are involved in the initiative (reported in the OSPAR "Fishing for Litter reporting DE_2020").

* Delete whichever is not appropriate.

- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

It is a challenge to ensure the long-term funding of FFL. However, it is currently not possible to further specify upcoming difficulties within the future process.

- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

The MSFD guidance document 12 (as of July 2018) describes in Chapter 4.6 criteria for the evaluation of the progress in implementation: "In measures or components with unlimited series of actions, the measure or component is implemented when the first action in the series has been completed." Fishing for litter in Germany is therefore considered implemented.

IRELAND

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
	yes	

Please provide information on:

a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

Fishing for litter (FFL) is run nationally and management centrally by a government agency, BIM, Irelands Seafood Development Agency. This scheme has been funded in Ireland by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and is expected to be funded by the EMFAF from 2021 to 2027. Industry is not paid to participate, they voluntarily collect marine litter/passively fished waste and return it to shore.

To improve the management of onboard and onshore industry generated waste streams, BIM have carried several initiatives in recent years. In 2019, FFL was expanded and incorporated into an umbrella initiative, *the Clean Oceans Initiative* to which includes other wider activities being undertaken to support the reduction of marine litter (e.g. incentives to improve outcomes for gear management and marine litter) and improve understanding of sources and pathways (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Ireland's Clean Oceans Initiative framework

To date 12 ports take part in the programme, and accept marine litter from vessels landing into these ports. 97% of vessels landing in these ports (and targeted by BIM for their operations) have signed up to the *Clean Oceans Initiative*.

Since 2015 to Q3 2021, This Fishing for Litter (FFL) programme has collected over 670 tonnes of marine litter, and carried out waste characterisation surveys to understand the waste profile and co designed further initiatives with the stakeholders (in particular the vessels and port managements). BIM has also held a series of awareness raising initiatives both at sectoral and local community level to highlight the issue of marine litter and the steps being taken by the fishing industry to reduce marine litter and fishing generated waste.

In addition to this, the initiative has supported the development of 6 waste harbour management plans for the ports in the *Clean Oceans Initiative* in 2021 to support their preparedness for the Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directive and Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive.

Four technical reports on waste management options for retired fishing gear, mapping the fishing gear supply chain, assessing waste management flows in ports and the feasibility of collecting data on retired gear in line with the upcoming Single Use Plastic Directive have been completed and will be published in early 2022.

Quarterly reports are delivered to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine on *Clean Oceans* and annually to OSPAR.

In 2021, a webinar was held nationally on the Single Use Plastics Directive for stakeholders to inform them of the coming obligations under the directive along with the potential reporting

requirements. This formed the basis to begin engagement on preparing the sector on the development of Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for fishing and aquaculture gear that will be led by Ireland's the Department of Environment Climate and Communications.

To help incentivise the participation in *Clean Oceans*, a "Green Ship" concept as suggested in the PRF directive, is being designed. This is being undertaken in collaboration with An Taisce's Environmental Education Unit who have wide experience in Blue Flag and Green Coasts awards for coasts and marinas through their Coast Care range of programmes, and Green Flag awards through their Green Schools (Eco Schools) programmes.

BIM with industry stakeholders is on in the National NSAI steering group for CEN466: the circular design of fishing which is an action under the SUP Directive. This work is to assist the sector to adapt their business model from linear to circular in line with the future requirements on gear producers and the aquaculture and fisheries sectors. It is hoped that the CEN 466 will also improve the outcome for recovery of marine plastics and further prepare the sector for the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for fishing and aquaculture gear.

BIM also hosted a FAME (Fisheries Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation) visit due to the multi-faceted approach to reducing the sector being a source to marine litter. FAME created media content and is often used by the commission to promote FFL. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-175441?&lg=EN/EN>

b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

Areas such as Ireland's Waste action Plan for Circular economy (WAPCE), and the circular economy bill (which is aligned with the EU Circular Economy Strategy), the EU plastics strategy and the EU Green Deal need be considered in the system design thinking to improve the use, life span and circular design of items likely to become marine litter. The seafood sector will need to work with, and be supported by, other sectors to design recovery strategies for such items and move from a linear disposal model of both end of life gear and marine litter.

Ireland is only one of many Member States that fishes in our marine waters area. The Irish sector increasingly would like improved co-ordination of gear management to protect the marine environment and maintain sustainability. Each member state will separately implement the directives. However, the majority of activities are in shared water with significant activity off the southern coast of Ireland. Improving the coordination in shared waters will be important for future success of the directives.

c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

Ireland has committed time and resources to ensure that the wider efforts to improve outcomes for marine litter, including its retrieval, are supported. The implementation of the SUP and PRF directives, will require new coalition and funding sources.

LUXEMBOURG

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not:

No fishing for litter initiatives are taking place. There is no professional fishing in Luxembourg. Besides, as a landlocked country, Luxembourg has neither direct access to marine waters nor harbours where such activities should take place.

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
yes/no*	yes/no*	yes/no*

Please provide information on:

- specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

THE NETHERLANDS

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
No	Yes	No

Please provide information on:

a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

In the Netherlands, Fishing for Litter was initiated by the national government in 2000, in the port of Den Helder. Since then the programme has expanded through the (net)work of KIMO Nederland en Belgie. In 2021 a total of 134 fishing vessels from 12 ports participated in the FFL programme.

The fishermen receive big-bags for free and they do not have to pay for the treatment of the litter once delivered ashore. They do not receive financial compensation for collecting the litter.

The programme is financed through a series of sponsors: national and local government, harbours and the private sector.

In a number of ports, especially in IJmuiden, monitoring takes place via sampling and sorting. For the future, the Netherlands plans to investigate the possibilities for more prudent forms of data collection of passively fished waste, including source analysis for example.

There have been two relevant developments:

1. The MSC Zoe container loss incident

The first development is the container loss incident with the MSC Zoe, early 2019. This has led to a spike in collected litter in the northern harbours. It also prompted harbours and fishermen to further streamline and organize their logistical processes relating to the FFL programme. Also, more fishermen joined the programme due to the frequent national media attention for FFL during 2019 in the aftermath of the container loss incident. This has led to a significant increase in the amounts of litter brought ashore. A peak was reached during 2021, participating fishing vessels brought in a total of 756 tonnes. In 2018 the amount brought ashore was a bit over 300 tonnes, so there has been a significant increase since. The year 2019 already exceeded 500 tonnes, followed by little over 600 tonnes in 2020.

The Dutch government ensured a financial contribution from MSC to the Fishing for Litter programme.

2. The Port Reception Facilities Directive

The arrival of the new EU PRF Directive prompted an evaluation of the FFL scheme in the Netherlands. This started in 2019 and is still ongoing. As a part of this, the Dutch government is investigating the use of EMVAF funds for the co-financing of the programme. Additionally, conversations take place with harbours affected by the PRF for more structural forms of funding for the programme. The Dutch implementation of the PRF aims to facilitate more structural funding.

b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

The FFL programme has been ongoing for decades, and established itself as a mature project which more and more fishermen affiliate themselves with. As such it is a successful tool in spreading environmental awareness regarding marine litter. A complicating factor is the unpredictable nature of the annual budget required. The biggest cost driver of the project is the waste management aspect, so the correlation between amounts of litter brought ashore and the financial means required is very strong. It is however hard to predict how much litter will be brought ashore annually. For example when events such as the MSC Zoe incident occur. But also changes in the participating fleet, or the type of fishing gear used, could have significant impacts on the required budget of the programme. For the coming years this will remain a topic of investigation in the Netherlands.

c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

Not applicable

NORWAY

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
no	yes	no

Please provide information on:

a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

In Norway, Fishing for Litter was initiated as a pilot by the Norwegian Environment Agency (2016-2017) and implemented and administrated by SALT Lofoten AS (SALT). The scheme is funded by the national government through annual grants from the state budget. Since 2018, FFL has received funds via the national grant scheme against marine litter, which is operated by Norwegian Centre Against Marine Litter (Marfo).

The funding includes waste analyses and recycling, and costs for waste handling and operation of established receptions. Through the scheme, participating vessels can deliver bycatch litter free of charge in 11 ports along the coast. The receptions are in Tromsø, Ålesund, Egersund, Karmøy, Hvaler, Måløy, Båtsfjord, Austevoll, Stamsund, Myre and Havøysund. A total of 112 vessels are affiliated to the scheme since 2021. The vessels are equipped with bags for waste collection, and bycatch litter is sorted into two categories on board: «recyclable waste» and «other waste». For smaller vessels, collection solutions are offered on shore in the form of bag stands in some of the ports.

b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

The scheme requires separate delivery of waste to separate this waste from the fishing vessels' own produced waste. This can be time-consuming and, in some cases, difficult to separate, but is necessary to remove the incentive to deliver own production waste as fished-up waste at no extra cost. There are over 320 ports in Norway where fishing vessels call (fish reception facilities, bunkering facilities, and purse seiners), of which over 200 are considered pure fishing ports. Several other ports also accept passively fished waste under their own arrangements. In total, an average of 2,750 tonnes of fished waste is collected per year in Norway, but there are large variations from year to year. The FFL scheme and other initiatives therefore only cover a minority of all possible receiving ports.

Norway plans to soon implement the the PRF-directive including the changes related to the cost recovery system and “no special fee”. As the “no special fee” will make it possible to deliver passively fished waste without additional charge, Norway will consider phasing out the FFL scheme as it will result in comparatively very high administrative costs.

c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

Not applicable

SPAIN

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country ?

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
yes	yes	no

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

In Spain, *Fishing for litter* experiences were initiated in 2009. Since then many actions have been developed along the Spanish coast. Detail on the projects that are active in 2021 is given in figure 1.

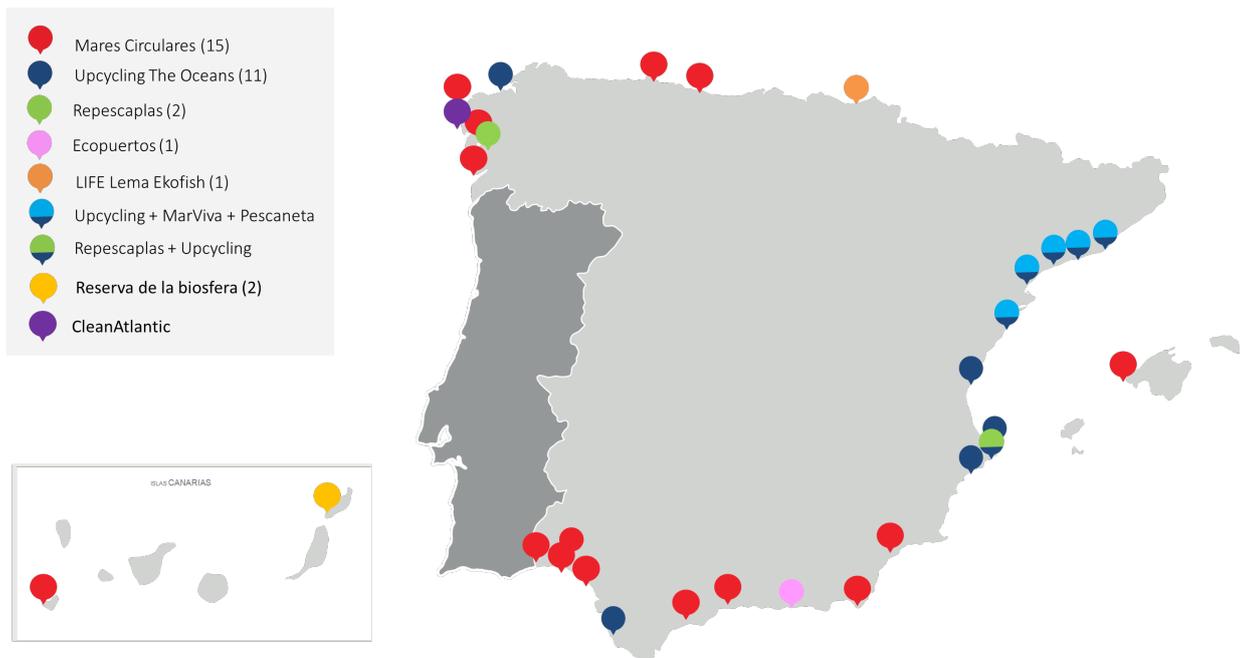


Image 1: Spatial distribution of all current Fishing for Litter initiatives in Spain (2021)

Nada por la Borda

Developed between 2009 and 2011, Nada po la Borda was promoted by Centro Tecnológico del Mar- CETMAR Foundation and financed by Secretaría General del Mar (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Medio Marino) through European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The ports involved were Burela, Coruña, Laxe, Fisterra, Muros, Cambados, Marín and Vigo, in Galicia region, with voluntary participation of the fishing sector.

Pesca Sostenible en Caladeros Limpios (PESCAL)

PESCAL Project was developed between 2012 and 2014, at Vigo and Marín Ports (Galicia region) and Santa Pola y Alicante Ports (in Comunidad Valenciana región). It was promoted by Organización Nacional de Asociaciones Pesqueras (ONAPE) and financed by Secretaria General de Pesca (Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente) through 2011 call for collective actions of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

ECOPUERTOS

The first phase of this Project was developed in Motril Port (Andalucía region) between Grupo de Desarrollo pesquero Motril-Granada. Its objective included increasing knowledge on marine litter abundance and composition, and raise-awareness among fishermen and their communities.

The second phase, initiated in 2016, is supported by ECOEMBES, and since 2018, also by LIBERA Project.

MARVIVA

MARVIVA Project was promoted in 2015 by Cofradía de Pescadores de Barcelona, Agencia de Residuos de Cataluña and Barcelona Port. Fishermen deliver passively fished waste on voluntary basis at Barcelona Port, where waste is weighted and counted. All wastes are segregated for a better management, prioritizing valorisation where possible. In 2017 the Project included 13 ports more in Catalonia region in collaboration with Upcycling the Oceans initiative (Ecoalf Foundation and Ecoembes), and with participation of Direcció General de Pesca, Ports de la Generalitat and Federació Nacional Catalana de Confraries de Pescadors.

UPCYCLING THE OCEANS

Promoted by Ecolaf Foundation, Upcycling the Oceans project was initiated in 2015 with participation of 10 ports. In June 2016, ECOEMBES joined the initiative and more fishermen were involved in Barcelona and Tarragona provinces. The aim is the removal of plastics to be converted into textiles.

LIFE LEMA

LIFE LEMA Project is coordinated by AZTI and financed by LIFE Programme. It was developed between 2016 and 2019 with the aim of developing guidelines for local administrations for the removal and management of floating litter.

REPESCAPLAS

In place since 2017, and currently in its 4th phase, REPESCAPLAS is promoted by AIMPLAS with support from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge through Maritime and Fisheries Funds. This project aims at assessing and improving valorisation options from the different wastes that are passively fished in fishing for litter actions.

Clean Atlantic

CLEAN ATLANTIC has been developed between 2017 and 2021, coordinated by Centro Tecnológico del Mar- CETMAR Foundation with support from INTERREG Atlantic Programme.

Estrategia sectorial CEPESCA

The project “CEPESCA Strategy to contribute to marine litter reduction” was developed in 2018 with support from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge through Maritime and Fisheries Funds. It was conceived as the contribution from the fishing sector to the fishing for litter common scheme foreseen in the Spanish Marine Strategies. The result was a scoping study from the perspective of the fishing sector.

ML-STYLE

ML-STYLE was developed between 2018 and 2020 and promoted by Centro Tecnológico del Mar–CETMAR Foundation and financed by INDITEX. It was part of the Blue Growth initiative of Vigo Port.

MARES CIRCULARES

MARES CIRCULARES was initiated in 2018 by The Coca Cola Foundation with the support from Asociación Chelonia, Fundación Ecomar, Liga para a Protecção da Natureza and Asociación Vertidos Cero. It includes fishing for litter initiatives in 15 ports in Spain and Portugal, research, communication and raise-awareness.

PESCANETA

Initiated in 2020, PESCANETA is an initiative from Federació Nacional Catalana de Confraries de Pescadors, with support from Generalitat de Catalunya through Maritime and Fisheries Funds. It has a clear objective to give value and visibility to fishermen efforts in fishing for litter initiatives.

Observatorio de Basura Marina (OBAM)

In place since 2020, “Observatorio de Basura Marina” Project is promoted by Reserva de la Biosfera de Fuerteventura and Consejería de Sostenibilidad Ambiental del Cabildo Insular de Fuerteventura, with support from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge through Maritime and Fisheries Funds.

In addition, *DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/883 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, of 17 April 2019, on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, amending Directive 2010/65/EU and repealing Directive 2000/59/EC*, has been transposed to the national legislation, including the right to deliver passively fished waste at ports with no cost for the fishermen. This legislation also includes the provision of reduced port taxes for fishing vessels that can prove to participate in a Fishing for Litter initiative, which introduces a clear incentive for the development of such initiatives.

Finally, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge is developing **INTEMARES-CALADEROS LIMPIOS Project (2021-2023)**, with the aim to draft and agree the criteria for a common national fishing for litter scheme. It constitutes a measure included in the Marine Litter Programme of Measures in the Spanish Marine Strategies. The common national scheme pretends to give an umbrella to existing and future initiatives, with agreed and harmonized criteria, in line with OSPAR Agreement 2007-10. Currently the Common Criteria Document has been drafted and is being discussed with all stakeholders. In parallel, the Project is developing an information system that will allow the ports to report to the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge all fishing for litter data required by *DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/883 and International Conventions in a more systematic way. The Ministry is responsible of the official reporting to those Organisations.* INTEMARES Caladeros limpios also includes a Communication Plan to increase fishermen implication, regardless individual communication plans that each single initiative mentioned above may have.

- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

Implication of fishermen and financial sustainability of initiatives have been identified as specific difficulties in some of the existing initiatives. INTEMARES-CALADEROS LIMPIOS was born with the aim of finding solutions to those aspects and supporting the future of existing initiatives, as well as fostering the development of new ones.

- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

The measure, as provided in *OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives*, is fully implemented. Work continues to increase participation, and support continuity of Fishing for Litter initiatives.

SWEDEN

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not:

SE has no FFL schemes since we have the 100% No Special Fee System, which also includes marine litter caught during normal fishing operations. We believe that a 100% NSF-system including marine litter caught during normal fishing activities have a similar effect in the marine environment as FFL.

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
no	no	no

Please provide information on: *see above*

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- c. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

UNITED KINGDOM

OSPAR Recommendation 2016/1 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

United Kingdom

Reservation applies:

No

Is measure applicable in your country ?

Yes

If not applicable, then state why not

Means of Implementation:

By legislation	By administrative action	By negotiated agreement
No	Yes	No

Please provide information on:

d. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;

In the UK, KIMO UK runs two Fishing For Litter schemes in Scotland and South-West England, and there are affiliated FFL projects in Northern Ireland. A full list of FFL participating harbours in England and Scotland can be found at Annex A.

FFL South West (England) (FFLSW) has operated since 2008, creating a network of 12 ports and has collected around 300 tonnes of litter. In England, the project is coordinated by KIMO and delivered through Seafood Cornwall Training Ltd, a SeaFish and Maritime & Coastguard Agency-approved fisheries training organisation. In the proposed programme of work for 2021, KIMO UK have set out their ambition to expand the network of harbours in the South West with the inclusion of 4 more locations and aim to recruit a further 15 vessels. In England, KIMO UK receives funding from the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme run by Defra.

FFL Scotland has operated since 2005 and has created a network of 20 harbours with over 300 fishing vessels participating in the scheme. Over 2000 tonnes of marine litter has been landed in Scotland by the

scheme, co-ordinated and delivered by KIMO UK. Funding is received from Marine Scotland, Scottish Government, and is dependent upon delivery against agreed annual workplans. The 2021/22 workplan includes expansion of the scheme to a further 3 harbours and 30 vessels.

Affiliated FFL projects were introduced in the three main fishery harbours in Northern Ireland - Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie - in 2014 and 2015. Around 135 boats are now participating in the Fishing for Litter project (25 in Ardglass, 100 in Kilkeel and 10 in Portavogie). The scheme is managed and currently funded by the NI Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA). A relaunch of the scheme took place in 2021 to revitalise this initiative. The scheme collected 3.1 tonnes of waste in 2020. The projects are members of a forum run by KIMO UK for the sharing of Fishing for Litter experience, data, and good practice. Membership is open to all projects which operate in line with the KIMO model and organisations working towards launching new projects.

There is no active FFL scheme in Wales. Proportionately, the Welsh fleet does not use towed gear such as nets, instead using mainly static gear predominantly on under 10m vessels and therefore, the scheme would not be the best solution for Wales. In September 2021, Welsh Government funded the marine waste specialist firm Odyssey Innovation Ltd to roll out a pilot recycling scheme for end-of-life fishing gear operating from a number of Welsh harbours. Waste fishing gear collected at sea or through other means is also welcomed.

e. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;

None

f. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

Not applicable



OSPAR
COMMISSION

OSPAR Secretariat
The Aspect
12 Finsbury Square
London
EC2A 1AS
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0)20 7430 5200
f: +44 (0)20 7242 3737
e: secretariat@ospar.org
www.ospar.org

Our vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.

Publication Number: 970/2023

© OSPAR Commission, 2023. Permission may be granted by the publishers for the report to be wholly or partly reproduced in publications provided that the source of the extract is clearly indicated.

© Commission OSPAR, 2023. La reproduction de tout ou partie de ce rapport dans une publication peut être autorisée par l'Editeur, sous réserve que l'origine de l'extrait soit clairement mentionnée.