



Overview and assessment of implementation
reports Fishing for Litter
(on Recommendation 2010/19)



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. It has been ratified by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and approved by the European Community and Spain.

Convention OSPAR

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à 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. La Convention a été ratifiée par l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, 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 et la Suisse et approuvée par la Communauté européenne et l'Espagne.

Acknowledgement

This report has been prepared by Marieke van der Kooij (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands) and is based on reports received from Contracting Parties.

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1. Background

The Netherlands agreed at the previous EIHA meeting (15-19 April 2013) to undertake an overview assessment of the implementation reporting on OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of Fishing for Litter (FFL) Initiatives to be submitted to EIHA 2014 (product 23 of the EIHA Work programme).

The purpose of Recommendation 2010/19 is to promote the establishment of Fishing for Litter initiatives in fishing harbours of Contracting Parties (CPs) 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.

Furthermore, this report is made to see whether CPs are following the OSPAR guidelines.

There are two types of implementation reports:

- 1) Paragraph 5.3 of OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives includes the following:

By 1 January 2013 Contracting Parties should present to the OSPAR Commission:

- a. *a short description of the initiatives that they have established to meet the aims of this Recommendation and experience of their 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 paragraph 3.1).*

The following Contracting Parties submitted their implementation reports: Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, United Kingdom, Spain, Norway and the Netherlands.

- 2) *in addition: not later than 1 October 2013 more information had to be provided (paragraph 5.1).*

This concerned: the number of vessels and harbours taking part in Fishing for Litter initiatives and the weight and, where possible, composition of the waste brought ashore is recorded locally and collected by Contracting Parties for OSPAR reporting purposes (paragraph 3.1(c)).

Some of the Contracting Parties provided some aspects of this information already when reporting on paragraph 5.3. In order to give an indication of the information received this will be dealt with in a separate table. Till date only Sweden submitted the required information on paragraph 5.1.

2. Overview

Table 1. Overview information required based on paragraph 5.3 Recommendation

Contracting Party	Information required based on paragraph. 5.3 of the Recommendation		
	Description initiatives (Paragraph 5.3 sub a)	Experiences of implementation and results (Paragraph 5.3 sub a)	Explanation not to have established Fishing for Litter initiatives (incl other equally effective initiatives) (Paragraph 5.3 sub b)
Denmark	No specific Fishing for Litter facilities in place. Ports are obliged to collect any litter landed by fishing boats (Danish and foreign) whether collected in FFL bags or not.	-	The Danish Marine Strategy from October 2012 includes a goal for reducing litter. To fulfil this goal DK will consider and put in place relevant measures not later than 2020. This might include initiatives such as recording and collection of data on marine litter and awareness raising activities.
France	Different initiatives are in place aiming at collecting litter from sea and raising awareness of the economic and environmental aspects. Remuneration is offered to participating fishermen to encourage them to participate and to compensate for economic losses. Sites where litter accumulates are used as pioneer spots, fishing vessels are specifically sent there and paid. CNPMM started an experience like this, the project does not only focus at collecting litter but also looks at options for treatment of collected litter. It is focused on 3 locations: Seine estuary, Basque coast and the coast line of the Rhone estuaries. The experiment also includes: (1) training for fishermen to use a special developed trawling net; (2) sorting of collected litter and analysing the origin; and (3) exploring possibilities for valorisation.	The first step, collecting macro litter at sea, is scheduled for this (2013) year.	

Germany	• NABU's initiative for Norddeich started august 2012 in OSPAR areas (already in 2011 FFL projects in Baltic Sea). Big bags are provided for free, special containers are available, brought to sorting plant to examine composition. Research on recyclability. 6 fishing vessels involved. • Jan 2013 start of 'Fishing for Litter Lower Saxony – Fishing, Documentation and Disposal of Litter with Accompanying Public Relation at Lower Saxony's Coast'. Will be sponsored by ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony. Project divided in three parts.	• "First pick up of a filled container is scheduled for end 2012" => still in process, no experiences yet. • While writing the report the project hadn't started.	-
Luxembourg	No fishing for litter initiatives taking place.	-	Luxembourg neither has marine waters nor harbours where such activities should take place.
Sweden	• Project started in 2011 with focus on Baltic Sea. Administrated by KIMO Baltic Sea and Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation. Implemented by the fishing fleet, often with support of harbours administration or municipal harbour office. 4 ports joined, all in Baltic Sea. • Since 2012 the project expanded, 8 additional ports joined. In total 47 boats participate.	• In total 7 ton of litter broad ashore. • Fishermen are positive to participate. • Boats using nets get less litter than boats using trawl. • Results for Baltic Sea: 56% of litter consists of plastic items, 17% metal, 13% textiles, 7% rubber, 6% wood, 1% other. Not available for OSPAR region. The project has been visible in Swedish press and media.	-
United Kingdom	• The UK has been delivering a FFL project since 2005. The project started in Scotland and managed by KIMO. 2009: first FFL initiative launched in South West England. • Scotland: Currently 14 harbours participating in FFL initiative (possibly 2 in near future) and over 205 vessels. • South West England: covers 8 harbours and 123 vessels have been registered to the scheme. Another port will be added this year.	• Scotland: Removed over 600 tonnes of litter from the sea since 2005. • South West England: 40 tonnes of litter landed from fishing vessels since 2009.	-

Spain	The Centro Tecnológico del Mar has participated in several FFL initiatives in the last years: • OMAR with the participation of several Port Authorities analysed the recycling possibilities of different kinds of materials and waste produced by the “sea industry” and enabled channels among stakeholders, developed a platform for the collection of data, information and management options of port waste. • 3R-fish project worked for two years (ended in 2011) on the development of a management and recycling system of three types of solid waste produced by fishing and harbour activities: fishing nets, packaging polystyrene and lighting devices. • NPB 2010, (Nada pola Borda) was a pilot action designed to collect and manage the solid waste floating over the sea and on the seabed in Galician rias and continental shelf. Behind this main objective of monitoring the waste coming ashore, establishing its typology, origin and likely trends along the coast, was the aim of removing marine waste from the seabed and raising awareness among the fishing industry. • On going initiative PESCAL. The marine litter collection by fishermen will be extended to different maritime areas in Spain, going even further by putting into practice two other activities: a ghost fishing experiment and a new collecting campaign. • GESUPES has two main objectives: 1) to reduce the dumping of discards and fishing byproducts to the sea. 2) Try to increase good practices on board, so that solid waste collected from the seabed in normal fishing activities are not thrown again into the sea. Participating ships will bring ashore the collected waste which will be characterised and subsequently managed according to law.	• Seminars, workshops and conferences were organized to make stakeholders aware of the environmental effects of the diverse activities taking place in sea and coastal areas, and informed on the based legislation and duties related to those activities. • As a result of the project 748 tons of nets out of use, 33.5 tons of batteries and 184 tons of EPS were collected and recycled, thanks to the involvement of 15 and 2, Spanish and Portuguese ports, respectively. • 152 ships and 11 ports were involved and 34 tons of waste was collected.	-
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Norway	At the moment Norway has no ongoing activity on the FFL initiative according to OSPAR recommendation 2010/19.	-	However: working on a project exploring the possibilities on how to implement the initiative in this recommendation. The project will conclude in May 2013. Other relevant activities: Every year the Norwegian Directorate for Fisheries organizes search for lost fishing gear. This has been going on for more than 20 years and is based on reporting of lost fishing gears from fishermen.
The Netherlands	• FFL 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 2011 a total of 101 fishing vessels from 12 ports participated in the FFL programme. • The fishing vessels are trawling vessels, the litter is collected from the seafloor while fishing. • 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 and in many cases the collection and treatment is paid for by the waste collector/treatment facility ("green image" for the company). "	• 2011: vessels brought almost 400 ton of litter ashore. • In a number of ports, especially in IJmuiden, monitoring takes place.	-

Table 2. Overview information required based on paragraph 5.1 Recommendation

Contracting Party	Information required based on paragraph 5.1 of the Recommendation	
	Number of vessels and harbours taking part in FFL initiatives	Weight and, where possible, composition of the waste brought ashore is recorded locally and collected by Contracting Parties for OSPAR reporting purposes;
Denmark	-	-
France	-	-
Germany	• Norddeich (1 harbour): 6 fishing vessels involved. • Project in planning (for 2013, currently in place?) aiming for implementation in more ports (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)	• “First pick up of a filled container is scheduled for end 2012” => still in process, no experiences yet. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)
Luxembourg	-	-
Sweden	Sent report to OSPAR Secretariat, information not yet included in this table.	
United Kingdom	• Scotland: Currently 14 harbours participating in FFL initiative (possibly 2 in near future) and over 205 vessels. • South West England: covers 8 harbours and 123 vessels have been registered to the scheme. Another port will be added this year. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)	• Scotland: Removed over 600 tonnes of litter from the sea since 2005. • South West England: 40 tonnes of litter landed from fishing vessels since 2009. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)
Spain	• 3R-fish: 15 and 2 Spanish and Portuguese ports involved. • NPB 2010: 152 ships and 11 ports were involved (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)	• 3R-fish: As a result of the project 748 tons of nets out of use, 33.5 tons of batteries and 184 tons of EPS were collected and recycled. • NPB 2010: 34 tons of waste was collected. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)
The Netherlands	• In 2011 a total of 101 fishing vessels from 12 ports participated in the FFL programme. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)	• 2011: vessels brought almost 400 ton of litter ashore. (reported in Paragraph 5.3 report)

3. Results

Based on paragraph 5.3(a) of the Recommendation, CPs have to give a short description of the initiatives and of the experiences of implementation. Sweden explicitly made this distinction in their report (and added results to the experiences part). Other CPs did not explicitly make this distinction and used different formats, a reason could be a lack of experiences or that the distinction between the two aspects was not clear.

The implementation reports show a very wide range of approaches. Nine CPs submitted implementation reports on Article 5.3 and gave a short description on the FFL (-like) initiatives that are taking place.

The UK and The Netherlands carry out FFL projects/programmes as defined by the F4L Guidelines. Germany also started with FFL-initiatives but also hereof no results were available while writing this report. Sweden carries out similar projects in the Baltic Sea and is expanding these projects towards the OSPAR area. However, there are so far no results from the harbours participating in the Swedish OSPAR area.

One CP (France) offers remuneration to fishermen to compensate financial losses due to collecting litter. It's questionable whether this is according to the OSPAR guidelines which prescribe a passive form of fishing for litter.

In Spain FFL type of projects/programmes have been carried out or are still running. From the Spanish report it remains unclear whether this is done according to the OSPAR guidelines. Is there a continuous FFL project?

Luxembourg indicated that no FFL-initiatives are taking place due to its geographic location. Also Denmark indicated to not have a specific FFL-project. In Denmark all litter can be landed free of charge. However, it remains unclear if fishermen also collect/deliver the waste they catch in their nets. Furthermore, in the report it is indicated that the Danish Marine Strategy includes a goal to reduce litter. Whether FFL initiatives will be used to reach this goal is still unclear. Besides Luxembourg and Denmark, Norway indicated to have no ongoing activity on FFL initiatives according to OSPAR recommendation 2010/19. However, possibilities are explored in order to implement the recommendation. An update of the information is requested.

It has been indicated that CPs need to report on paragraph 5.1 and 5.3 of the Recommendation. Above concerned the reports handed to comply with the reporting requirement of paragraph 5.3. Only one CP (Sweden) reported under paragraph 5.1 so far. Several other CPs gave some paragraph 5.1 information while reporting paragraph 5.3 (and only on a very high level (total number of vessels and total weight per year)).

4. Conclusions and recommendations

So far only a few CPs follow the F4L Guidelines. CPs aren't doing very well of either implementing the recommendation or reporting against it at EIHA.

The approach from France (paying the fishermen) might not be in line with the Guidelines but could be a useful addition for hot spots.

It is not clear if Danish fishermen actually collect/deliver the waste the catch in their nets, nor is the FFL situation in Spain entirely clear, although there are many good projects running.

Only one CP has reported on paragraph 5.1, although the deadline was 1st of October 2013. CPs are requested to submit this information in line with the requirements of the Recommendation.

Especially since paragraph 5.4 of the Recommendation states that “The OSPAR Commission will periodically review arrangements set out in this Recommendation in light of experience of its implementation. Such reviews will evaluate the success of Fishing for Litter initiatives, and will look at such factors as costs, benefits and governance. The first such review should take place not later than 31 December 2014.”



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**OSPAR's vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse
North-East Atlantic used sustainably**

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