

Explanatory Note

Implementation report on compliance with OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter:

The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter ([RAP-ML](#)) contains 23 actions that OSPAR Contracting Parties should consider in their national programs and 32 actions that require collective activity. These actions aim to address both land- based and sea-based sources, as well as education and outreach and removal actions.

Action 58:

Awareness on the impact of marine litter is essential in changing behavior. The purpose of OSPAR Recommendation [2019/01](#) on RAP ML action 58 is to reduce marine litter by promoting the implementation of sustainability education programmes for fishers including addressing the social, economic and ecological impacts of marine litter. The implementation of sustainability education programmes for fishers should enable fishers to gain understanding of sustainable fishing, of the marine environment and its challenges and of the economic viability of the fishing industry. The aim is to inspire them to take more consideration of the marine environment, contributing to the prevention of new marine litter and to a responsible, sustainable and successful fishing industry. The Recommendation is supported by a set of guidelines (OSPAR Agreement [2019-08](#)).

Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers:

For the purpose of the Recommendation:

- a. *“Sustainability education programmes for fishers”* means all training, workshops and other educational programmes that provide knowledge and understanding of sustainable fishing and its contribution to the reduction of marine litter.
- b. *“Marine Litter”* means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.

The guidelines describe two sustainability education programmes for fishers:

1. *Implementation of the one-day course*

The short course is a one-day introduction to sustainable fishing. This one-day programme gets participants acquainted with the general concept of sustainability as a balance between planet (environmental challenges), profit (economic viability), and people (acceptance of your business by society – a license to operate). The programme focusses on the issue of marine litter and addresses the contribution of the fishing industry to the problem, the (changing) attitude of fishers towards marine litter, and, projects like Fishing for Litter where the fishing industry contributes to solutions for the problem.

2. Implementation of the four-day course

This four-day programme for fishing education bodies addresses the wide scope of sustainability education as a balance between planet (environmental challenges), profit (economic viability), and people (acceptance of your business by society – a license to operate). It includes marine ecology and the role of fishing in the marine ecosystem and provides knowledge and understanding of current issues, such as fish stock assessment, marine litter, entrepreneurship, climate change, certification schemes, cooperation within the fish supply chain, and enhances communication skills.

Existing programmes that include elements of sustainable fishing and marine litter in OSPAR Contracting Parties should be considered. It is recognized that the fishing sector in every Contracting Party is different and unique in many aspects. Setting up sustainable fishing training for fishers in different countries requires that the course is adjusted to the specific situation for that country or region, and adjusted to education level, language, culture, specifics of the fishing sector and the local environment. Therefore, when reporting about this RAP action, you should describe what kind of sustainability education programmes for fishers have been implemented in your country and what they contain.

Contracting Parties should report by **31 January 2021** on the implementation of this Recommendation to the appropriate OSPAR subsidiary body, in this case the EIHA Committee. After 31 January 2021 Contracting Parties should report **every three years** on the implementation of this Recommendation.

Implementation reporting sheet:

With the “means of implementation”, we ask Contracting Parties to fill in whether the recommendation has been implemented *by legislation, by administrative action, and by negotiated agreement*. It is recognised that the descriptions of means of implementation are subject to different interpretations at national level. If necessary, please include further details in the box on measures.

The next part of the implementation sheet contains more specific questions about the implementation of this recommendation in your country.

- a. Specific measures taken to give effect to this measure in line with the Guidelines on the reduction of marine litter through Sustainability Education Programmes for fishers, especially concerning the implementation of the short (one-day) or full (four-day) education programme or of equivalent programmes.
- b. the number of fishing education bodies with a sustainability education programme for fishers.
- c. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure
- d. any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.