

FISHING GEAR RECYCLING



A GUIDE FOR HARBOUR AUTHORITIES



INdIGO Project
www.Indigo-interregproject.eu



WHY RECYCLE?

THE BENEFITS OF SETTING UP A RECYCLING SYSTEM IN HARBOURS

OCEAN THREAT

Having a **free recycling system** encourages proper disposal of waste gear.

“Oceans are under threat from a tidal wave of plastic – over 30 tonnes estimated to enter the Channel every year from the fishing industry alone!”

Clean-up groups in your region spend thousands of volunteer hours collecting marine litter from the coasts, much of it fishing gear.

Fishers face plastic pollution from all sources, and most gear losses are unintentional. Every effort should be made to retrieve lost gear or report it for specialist recovery. Direct waste charges will discourage this activity. Leaving waste at sea increases pollution, threatens marine health and can cause costly entanglement.



Rob Thompson, NRS, with recyclable plastics collected from the fishing industry

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Using recycled plastics (instead of new) significantly reduces the carbon footprint of products. We need to manage resources more carefully to address climate change and to meet current and future expectations from customers and suppliers (e.g. new requirements to combat **ghost gear** in the MSC certification for sustainable fish).

HARBOUR COST SAVINGS

Reducing the amount of material sent for regular disposal saves money.

Landfill costs are typically £100 per ton, or £1000 per skip.

HARBOURS' PERSPECTIVE

Harbour Masters want easy communication and prompt collections on demand. Can provide storage for regular collections, or offer a collection day to fishers in agreement with NRS.

Need to know what can be recycled and in what condition?
See loose insert on guidelines and website for recycling tips.

May need to dedicate storage space but that can make for a tidier and safer quayside.



★ ONE STAR HARBOURS

Management

Harbour Authority wants to improve recycling. No clear strategy yet in place

No monitoring of waste streams

Harbour authority only charges an indirect fee for waste disposal

Facilities

Some bins or bags available for plastic recycling

Awareness

Fishers and harbour staff are somewhat aware that recycling is possible in the harbour, but not how to prepare gear for recycling

3 KEY MESSAGES

- Plastic pollution is a serious threat to marine life and livelihoods
- The fishing industry has a key role to play in reducing pollution and giving plastics from fishing gear a second life
- Time, effort and collaboration are needed to reap rewards of successful net recycling

Collaborate – work with fishers and net setters, fish producer organisations, local authorities, neighbouring ports, recyclers and researchers to keep plastics out of the ocean and circulating in the economy

Communicate! Let us know what the challenges are, how we can help...

support@odysseyinnovation.com



★★ TWO STAR HARBOURS

Management

Harbour Authority has set targets for increasing recycling rates

Waste streams are measured and reviewed

Harbour is swept regularly to prevent offcuts from being washed to sea

Facilities

Dedicated receptacles are available for gear recycling

Fly tipping is minimised through secure storage or monitored use (e.g. staffed amnesty days for collecting up gear)

Awareness

Fishers and harbour staff know how to prepare gear for recycling and which bins to use

3 KEY MESSAGES

- Plastic pollution is a serious threat to marine life and livelihoods
- The fishing industry has a key role to play in reducing pollution and giving plastics from fishing gear a second life
- Time, effort and collaboration are needed to reap rewards of successful net recycling

Collaborate – work with fishers and net setters, fish producer organisations, local authorities, neighbouring ports, recyclers and researchers to keep plastics out of the ocean and circulating in the economy

Communicate! Let us know what the challenges are, how we can help...

support@odysseyinnovation.com



THREE STAR HARBOURS

Management

Recycling targets consistently met and extended, and waste contracts reviewed regularly

Waste streams are monitored and savings from recycling vs disposal are understood

Harbour housekeeping is excellent, repair sites kept free of debris, public anti-littering in place

Facilities

Dedicated receptacles are well signed, widely used by fishers/staff and emptied. Gear is dismantled and kept separate

A wide range of gear types are recycled

Signs/CCTV/secure compounds minimise contamination

Harbour staff have time and resources to prepare gear (dismantling, cleaning etc)

Awareness

Fishers and harbour staff are kept informed of recycling progress, the benefits to themselves and the marine environment and communication is encouraged

Collaboration with neighbouring harbours to share facilities or co-ordinate collections

Are you a Three Star Harbour? Use the above checklist to track your progress.

3 KEY MESSAGES

- Plastic pollution is a serious threat to marine life and livelihoods
- The fishing industry has a key role to play in reducing pollution and giving plastics from fishing gear a second life
- Time, effort and collaboration are needed to reap rewards of successful net recycling

Collaborate – work with fishers and net setters, fish producer organisations, local authorities, neighbouring ports, recyclers and researchers to keep plastics out of the ocean and circulating in the economy

Communicate! Let us know what the challenges are, how we can help...

support@odysseyinnovation.com



MARINE PLASTIC RECYCLING GUIDELINES

WE ACCEPT 



plastic buoys



plastic crates



polypropylene
polyethylene - rigid plastic



plastic drums



loose rope
(bagged separately and
free from contamination)



plastic bottles and caps



floating pontoons



gill nets (bagged
separately from ropes)



plastic food containers



whelk pots (nets
and weights
removed)



net trimmings /
fisherman's kisses
(if bagged separately)



plastic toys



net bins



trawl nets (if stripped of metal
and rubber and bagged
separately or in a bundle)

support@odysseyinnovation.com



MARINE PLASTIC RECYCLING GUIDELINES



NOT ACCEPTED



rubber



heavily contaminated materials



general rubbish



traps / pots



fiberglass



sanitary produce



containers with any contents or contamination inside / outside



metal



polystyrene



glass



lead-lined ropes

support@odysseyinnovation.com



HOW TO RECYCLE

EFFECTIVE RECYCLING SYSTEMS



Have well-signed, secure bins/bags for separation and storage.

Monitor and manage waste streams
Educate, inform and communicate with fishers and recyclers.

Encourage good practices by keen litter prevention and housekeeping in the harbour.

COMMON CONSTRAINTS

Time, space and resources are often cited as barriers to putting new systems in place. The possibilities for recycling, and the financial benefits, are not always well understood. Dismantling gear can be complex. Instructional films are available on our website. Attitudes may need to change in response to the urgent and extensive threat of marine pollution from fishing gear.

RECYCLERS PERSPECTIVE

Recycling is more viable when gear is clean, hasn't been derelict for a long time, and is separated into different types of plastic. Collections are more efficient knowing what is to be collected, what size van is needed, and by scheduling pick ups from several nearby harbours.

Cost of transportation may be chargeable depending on distance from Exeter.

No gate fee applies for collecting recyclable material.

A GUIDE FOR HARBOUR AUTHORITIES

This guide sets out:

The benefits of recycling end-of-life fishing gear
and marine litter

Common constraints

The recyclers perspective

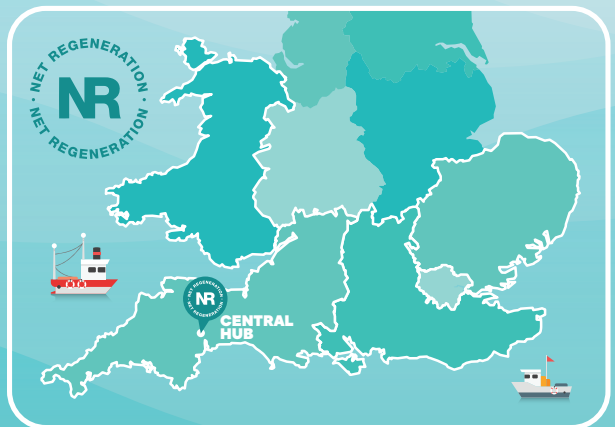
How to make steps towards best practice recycling

The Net Regeneration Scheme

works within a growing number of over 40 fishing communities making regular collections of sorted gear.

The NRS also recycles lost fishing gear and other recovered marine plastics from over 20 charities including beach clean groups, specialist diving and coastal retrieval organisations.

NRS collects from harbour authorities around our coastlines, including the Southwest, South, East and Wales, who are all committed to converting their waste plastic into a recycled resource.



This guide has been produced by the University of Plymouth for the EU funded INdIGO project, aiming to support fishing gear recycling in the Channel region.

The Net Regeneration Scheme is run by Odyssey Innovation Ltd and Exeter City Council.

The guide is endorsed by Seafish and the British Ports Association.

Grateful thanks go to Newlyn and Mevagissey Harbours, as well as the many ports and fishers who have taken time to work with the team.

support@odysseyinnovation.com



@netregeneration