

LOST FISHING GEAR A TRAP FOR OUR OCEAN



8 MILLION TONNES OF PLASTICS GO INTO THE SEA EACH YEAR, AMONG WHICH A LARGE AMOUNT OF FISHING GEAR

IN FACT

46% OF THE GREAT GARBAGE PATCH IS FISHING NETS

20% OF EU FISHING GEAR IS LOST OR DISCARDED AT SEA, WORLDWIDE THAT'S **640 000 TONNES** EACH YEAR

27% OF ALL BEACH LITTER COMES FROM FISHING GEAR

HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

- **ABRASION** (broken plastics bits get lost in the water)
- **VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT**
- **ACCIDENTS**

ONLY 1.5% OF WORN OUT FISHING GEAR GET RECYCLED

THE IMPACT

THE ENVIRONMENT

SEAFLOORS ARE POLLUTED AND BIODIVERSITY DECREASES

GLOBAL COST OF MARINE LITTER TO MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
€10.7 billion

HUMAN HEALTH

Marine litter is a vehicle for diseases and bacteria

TOXICITY IN THE FOOD CHAIN

THE ECONOMY

LESS TOURISM due to dirty beaches and waters

€ 630 MILLION cost for cleaning up all EU coasts

ANIMAL WELFARE

GHOST FISHING
Marine life gets trapped in lost fishing gear

CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION
has disruptive effects on species

1 TO 5% TOTAL REVENUE LOSS for the fisheries & aquaculture sector

€ 30 MILLION cost for the navigation sector (damaged equipment, accidents, etc.)

EU ACTION

EXISTING ACTION

The EU has already started addressing the problem

target to **REDUCE MARINE LITTER BY 30%**

UPDATED RULES ON PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES

€53 MILLION FUNDING through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020)

MANDATORY MARKING OF FISHING GEAR

MANDATORY RETRIEVAL OR REPORTING OF LOST FISHING GEAR

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

By making producers responsible for managing plastic litter from fishing gear, we will:

INTERNALISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF MARINE LITTER

ATTRACT INNOVATION FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

STIMULATE THE RECYCLING MARKET

HELP OUR FISHERMEN

CHERISH THE RESOURCES OF OUR OCEAN