



Gull Bulletin 2/2025

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Introduction

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS) project! Before heading to a busy fishing summer, I, Gus the Gull, would like to inform you on behalf of the CIRCNETS team about what our spring has been comprised of, including a published report and various events. I will also give you an update about the state of the EOL fishing gear collection in the partner countries. At the end of this newsletter, you also get a sneak peek at our upcoming (and busy) final autumn!



Galway, Ireland

D.1.2.1 report

The second deliverable report of Work Package 1 has been published. WP1 focuses on creating an overall picture of the current status of EOL fishing gear. The second report is titled “Fishing gear report: Review on quantities and qualities of fishing gear in the NPA area”. After introduction, the second chapter describes the material composition of fishing gear used in NPA countries, followed by the third chapter looking into the manufacturers and importers of fishing gear in NPA countries, the fourth and fifth chapters assessing the quantities and qualities of fishing gear put on the market and in use in the NPA area, and finally chapter six brings all this together for a material flow analysis, followed by conclusions.



Cover of the D.1.2.1 report

Knowing the quantities and qualities of fishing gear in use is important if we want to recycle used gear. Mapping these with the current statistics from NPA countries did, however, prove to be quite difficult. With the current information, it was not possible to map out how much plastics there is in the used fishing gear or how many certain kinds of gear are in use or have entered the markets. It is, however, important to acknowledge these knowledge gaps so that we know what kind of new information is needed.

Read the full report from our website: [Project reports](#).

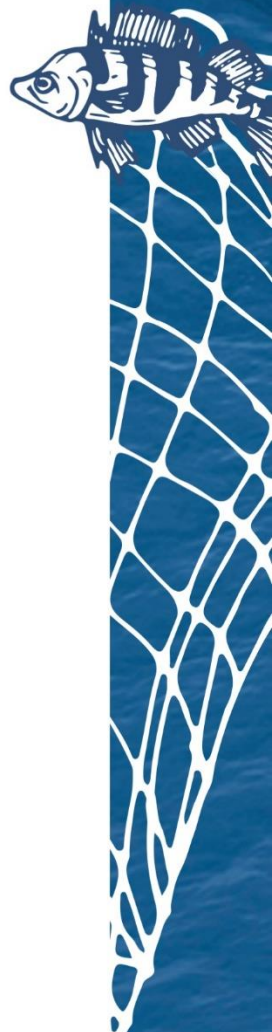
If you're interested in more summer reading, keep an eye out on the Project reports page since two other reports will be published there in July...

Past events

Spring of 2025 has been busy with various events. In April, team Oulu participated in an Innovation Camp event held at the University of Oulu, in which upper secondary school students learned about entrepreneurship education. In the event, challenges under different themes were introduced to students to which they brainstormed solutions for. Team Oulu introduced the students to marine plastic pollution and the role of fishing in it, while also discussing with the students what could be done with the collected fishing gear. You can read more about the event [here](#). Team Oulu also participated in the Northern Finland Hunting and Fishing Expo for enthusiast hobbyists and professionals, held in Oulu between 16th and 18th of May. The idea was to tell the attendees about the new gear collection in Finland and promote the CIRCNETS project. About 150 people visited the stand and some of them also answered a short questionnaire about their fishing habits and whether or not they had heard about the fishing gear collection before. While for many attendees the collection was a new thing, it was positively received, and even some improvement ideas were gathered from the fishers.

University of Galway (NUIG) team attended The Irish Skipper Expo, organized in Limerick between 21st and 22nd of March. The expo brought together over 140 companies and organizations working in the fishing gear industry. NUIG was at the expo to promote the CIRCNETS project, discuss the development of the EPR scheme in Ireland with relevant stakeholders, network with key actors and gather insights related to challenges and opportunities in EOL fishing gear management. During the expo, different stakeholders were contacted, including Reel It Back, which was the interim body for the establishment of EPR scheme in Ireland (now called Haul It Back) and Cavanagh NETS and Swan Net Gundry (SNG), both fishing gear producers. Reel It Back had actively engaged with fishing gear producers to encourage registration under the scheme and had held workshops to inform producers about their responsibilities under the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme was also discussed with the fishing gear producers at the expo, who expressed interest in participating in it and had registered under the scheme. There is still, however, need for collaboration, investments and policy support to promote circular economy practices regarding fishing gear in Ireland.

CIRCNETS team also gathered in Galway, Ireland, for the fifth partner meeting, hosted by the Irish partners, WDC & NUIG, on the 20th and the 21st of May. The meeting consisted of checking the progress in the work packages as well as planning the last months of the project. CIRCNETS also had three visitors (Allan Mulrooney, CEO of WDC, Colman McCarthy from the Clean Technology Centre, and Percy Foster from Haul It Back) to present interesting topics and had some time besides sitting in a meeting room to roam around sunny Galway. For more information about the meeting, head [here](#).





CIRCNETS team in Galway (photo by Niall Brady, WDC)

What is happening with fishing gear collection in the partner countries?

In the previous newsletter, we checked what the situation was regarding the EPR scheme for fishing gear in the partner countries. Since the transition period for the implementation of the EPR ended by the end of 2024, we have some updates from the partner countries regarding this.

In Finland, the separate collection for fishing gear started in April. There are 75 permanent collection points all over the country where fishing nets and other passive gear can be brought in, listed [here](#). There are also mobile collections touring during the summer (2.6.–30.9.2025) in southwestern Finland. In addition to this, two retail store chains selling fishing gear (Ruoto and Motonet) collect rods during the summer (16.6.–31.7.2025) and winter (1.–31.12.2025). Professional fishing gear and aquaculture gear is collected in 10 terminals around the country. The collection is organized by the Finnish Packaging Recycling Rinki Ltd, commissioned by the Finnish SUP Producer Group Ltd.

In Ireland, a temporary PRO, Haul It Back, has been set up by the producers this spring. Their plan is to do trials regarding the collection and recycling of fishing gear in the upcoming months, with a detailed business plan coming in the fall. They have also applied to be the permanent PRO, and if the application is approved, this will start in January 2026.

In Norway, the EPR process is delayed, possibly until 2026. During the hearing regarding this, held in December 2024, a lot of suggestions were brought up how the scheme should be arranged. There will be a PRO but this is still under development.

In Sweden, Fiskekretsen AB was accepted as PRO for fishing gear in October 2024. They work together with Stena Recycling, which provides containers to the municipalities, which will provide the collection points. Further collection points and collaborations are under development.

Iceland won't implement the EPR and has already had a collection of EOL fishing gear for almost 20 years.

What are we up to next?

After our summer break, CIRCNETS team will head into the last months of the project. Our busy autumn is filled with webinars and workshops, final partner meeting in Bodø, final webinar of the project in November and, of course, final reports and outputs still to be published.

Have a relaxing and fishful summer!

Gus, on behalf of the whole CIRCNETS team

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<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/circnets/home/>

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