Output 2.1: Model outlining findings & potential policy recommendations for National Policy Makers

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union

Northern Periphery and Arctic

Blue Circular Nets

Overview

- **Our Approach.**
- **Gathering inputs – What we asked & Who we engaged**
- **What people told us.**
- **What we concluded.**
- **How we move forward.**
- **Roles & Responsibilities.**

Key elements in our Policy Design Approach

Gathering Inputs

Economic Potential Webinars

Held Nationally (Finland) and Transnationally (involving Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland)

Economic Potential Workshops

Held Nationally in Ireland, Norway and Sweden

Events & Engagement

Across all Partner Countries – people attended relevant events to engage with stakeholders e.g. Skipper Expo in Ireland, Northern Finland Hunting & Fishing Expo, West Coast Sea Week in Sweden.

Stakeholder consultations

Held Nationally in Finland, Iceland & other countries to enhance findings from the Workshops

What we asked people

- 🧠 **Knowledge & preparedness**

Understanding of EPR for fishing gear and readiness to implement.

- 🎯 **Incentives, penalties & compliance**

Existing measures and ideas to encourage compliance.

- 💸 **Costs & implementation challenges**

Perceived cost impacts and main barriers to implementation.

- ♻️ **Innovation & circularity opportunities**

Design, recycling technologies and new product opportunities.

- 🌍 **Economic potential & best practices**

Value from EOL gear and examples of effective collection systems.

Who we engaged with

What they told us

Common Themes
Challenges with Definitions of producer/manufacturer v. assembler (in EPR context) Need to protect current sustainable practices Design of gear - Eco-Concious design at the beginning and designing with dismantling and repair in mind

Norway	Sweden	Ireland	Finland	Iceland
• Opportunity = sustainable supply chain (incorporating more recycled content in products) • Green Procurement • Quality • Lack of Data Sharing amongst all stakeholders in supply chain • Lack of Product tracking technologies.	• Challenges: High Cost/Low volume • Opportunity- Marking system to trace gear • Market Demand – not there • Virgin Materials too cheap	• Looking to existing recyclers who can diversify into fish net waste • Fees determined by whole weight of gear – not just plastic component	• Combining with other sectors who deal with nylon for example to make a feasible value chain in Finland/Nordic area. • Looking to existing recyclers who can diversify into fish net waste • Fees determined by whole weight of gear – not just plastic component	Eco-Concious design (Hampidjan model)

What we concluded
Overview Policy Recommendations

Horizontal Principle: Stakeholder Engagement

Overarching Policy & Regulatory Recommendations

Financial Policy & Public investment Recommendations

Policy to Support market development

Horizontal Principle: Implementation Enablers

Overarching policy and regulatory recommendations

- Implement Extended Producer Responsibility in Marine Plastics
- Establish mandatory eco design standards for fishing gear (inc. reducing number of materials; design for disassembly; Marking or identification systems)
- Set recycled content targets for specific product categories & pilot uses of marine plastics
- Establish measurement frameworks for re-use

Financial policy and public investment recommendations

- Invest in dedicated recycling infrastructure & technology to process end of life gear locally.
- Audit and repurpose existing facilities
- Fund comprehensive collection and transport systems
- Provide targeted financial aid linked to innovation
- Establish accessible green financing tools

Policy to support Market Development

- Mandate Digital Product Passports for selected fishing gear materials and products
- Mandate use of recycled fishing gear materials in public projects e.g. picnic benches, street furniture etc.
- Premium Product market support (tell the story)
- Capitalise on the well established B2B market for recycling nylon
- B2B Exchange platforms for waste polymers

Stakeholder Engagement

Create Local Knowledge Sharing
Empower Social Enterprises & Fishing Co-operatives
Education & Outreach
Involve Community Members, fishers, local businesses and NGO’s in policy discussions

Implementation enablers

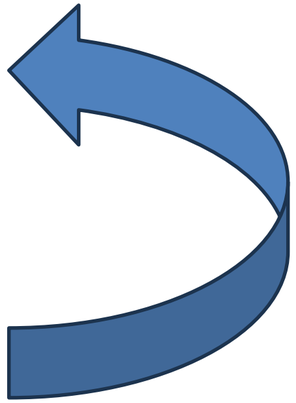
Utilise Existing infrastructure
Fund Pilot projects that create tangible products from recycled gear
Establish systematic collection infrastructure
Create Standard operating Procedures

Three Stage process – from Evidence to Implementation

Stage A: Evidence Gathering
(Economic Report)
• Data on gear volumes, recycling costs, market potential
• Financial viability & social impact (jobs, community)
• Gaps in infrastructure & logistics

Stage B: Policy Translation
(Model Development)
• Convert findings into policy levers:
– EPR → cost allocation framework
– Infrastructure gaps → investment roadmap
– Social enterprise → community engagement
• Define KPIs & compliance mechanisms
(% recycled content, traceability)

Stage C: Implementation & Feedback
• Pilot projects & funding schemes
• Monitoring & reporting
(digital product passports, VSME/CSRD)
• Continuous feedback to refine the model



Feedback & Refinement

Stakeholder Grouping & Actions

Stakeholder	Relevant Actions	Interests
Policy Makers & Regulators	Convert findings into **policy levers** (EPR obligations → cost allocation framework). Define **KPIs and compliance mechanisms** (e.g. % recycled content, traceability standards). Monitoring and reporting systems for **VSME/CSRD compliance**.	Regulatory compliance, environmental protection, alignment with EU directives.
Local Communities & Social Enterprises	Mobilise local knowledge, innovation, and ownership. Develop **community engagement strategies**. Create **sustainable job opportunities and revenue streams**.	Economic development, social impact, job creation.
Fishing & Aquaculture Industry	Reduce marine litter and find solution for abandoned/retired gear. Participate in **pilot projects and funding schemes**. Tell a good news story for the catching sector.	Operational sustainability, cost efficiency, reputation.
Investors & Financial Institutions	Infrastructure gaps → **investment roadmap**. Analyse **financial viability and market potential** for recycled polymers.	Return on Investment (ROI), risk mitigation, green investment opportunities.
Technology Providers & Innovators	Develop **digital product passports** and monitoring systems. Innovate recycling technologies and logistics solutions.	Market growth, partnerships, tech adoption.

In summary

- Need to recognize the importance of Re-Use practices
- Public solutions central to success