

Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS)

Promoting collection and recycling of end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear in the European North

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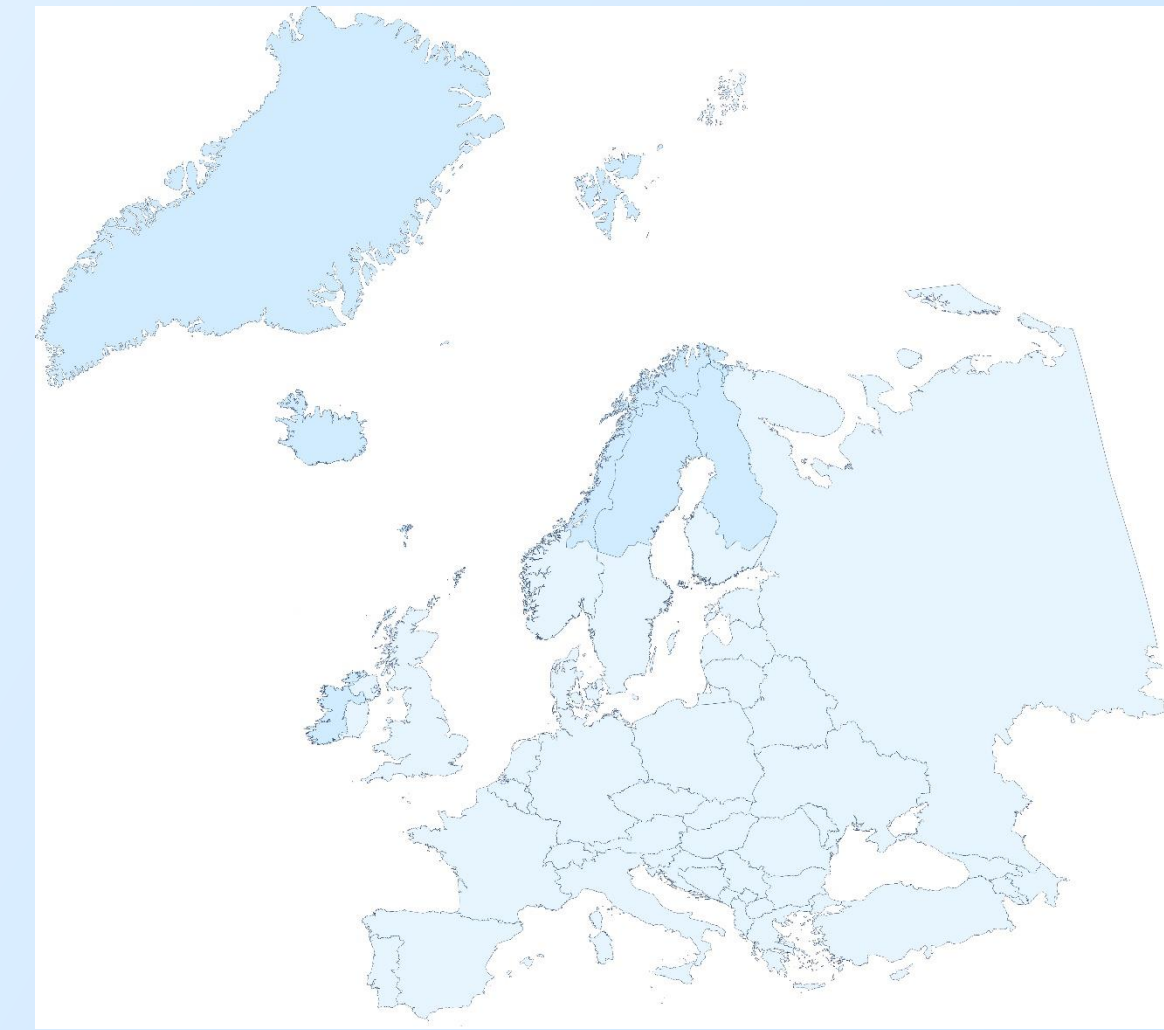
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Northern Periphery and Arctic



CIRCNETS

- Funded by Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme 2021–2027
- Implementation period: 1/2023–12/2025
- Partners from FIN, SWE, NOR, IE and ICE



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Why do we need CIRCNETS?

Background of the project

- European waste framework directive - Preventing waste is the top priority, but how this can be applied to fishing gear?
- SUP directive – aim is to decrease marine litter in Europe
- Not just “Single Use Plastics”, also fishing gear is targeted => the most significant sources of marine litter
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) to be applied to plastics containing fishing gear => Producers and importers have to organise separate collection of EOL fishing gear
- The situation varies from country to country, national legislation takes these into account and defines how the system should be set up in each country, etc.
- How this can be done in northern, sparsely populated regions with long distances?

EPR and fishing gear

- Producers and importers form an extended producer responsibility organisation, which will fund and implement separate collection of EOL fishing gear
- Users can return EOL fishing gear for free, the collection points are widely available
- The national legislation has set annual collection targets
- Recycling is not required yet at this point

EOL fishing gear and their circular value chain

- Collected EOL fishing gear – repair and reuse, or recycle the materials
- Can the materials be processed and used in the regions, where the nets are collected?
- Treatment of the fishing gear and separating of the materials is labour intensive and expensive
- Is there industry, that can utilise the collected materials?

The status quo of separate collection of EOL Fishing gear

NPA Port Report: Review of the current gear collection and disposal practices in NPA fishing ports

“The report provides an overview of the current collection and disposal practices for EOL gear in the NPA ports. It summarizes practices and differences between them, and assesses the functioning of existing systems. It also identifies good practices and highlights gaps that need to be addressed.”

Out now, available at the website of the project

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WP1 REPORT

**D.1.1.1 REVIEW OF THE
CURRENT COLLECTION
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
DISPOSAL PRACTICES IN
NPA FISHING PORTS AND
AQUACULTURE SECTOR**

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Coming up in CIRCNETS

- The aim is to disseminate the good collection practices that are already found in the NPA area and beyond to new regions
- Another aspect that will be addressed in the project is the recycling of collected fishing gear
- What kind of technologies, best practices and methods are in use on this field?
- Workshops, webinars and seminars addressing different aspects of the above mentioned topics

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Want to keep up with what happens in CIRCNETS?

- Social media (X): @APP4SEA_NPA
- Website: www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/circnets/home
- Newsletter – Gus the Gull's Gull Bulletin



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