

# CLEANATLANTIC CONFERENCE

*Vigo, 21st June*

*09.00 – 16.30 h  
(UTC+2h00, Madrid, Bruselas)*

Examples of initiatives on the  
collection and upcycling of  
fishing gear and passively fished  
waste, and knowledge sharing  
by the Fishing for Litter HUB

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**Interreg**  
**Atlantic Area**  
European Regional Development Fund



# 1. Objectives

1. Development of a strategy and guidance on the process of the collection of information for the study on waste management cases and structures in UK ports and harbours that address  
a) **passively fished waste**, b) **net cuttings** and c) **end-of-life nets**.
2. Design of and provide guidance on the implementation of pilots on improved sustainable waste pathways for marine litter and/or potential marine litter in Fishing for Litter ports/harbours
3. Write a report on the findings of the study.
4. Further development a Fishing for Litter Hub for knowledge sharing



## 2. Approach

1. Establishment of an organisational framework
2. Research, data collection and processing  
(Survey, interviews and field visits)
3. Development and implementation of pilots
4. Preparation of a FFL-Hub





### 3. Research questions addressed were on

1. Organisational aspects
2. Landing and storage at port of:
  - passively fished waste (incl. ALDFG)
  - net cuttings and
  - end-of life nets (EOLFG)
3. Recycling of marine litter
4. Best practices and pilots



## 4. Actions, a field visit to collect data

Field visit from 26 February until 4 March 2023  
Humber estuary + coastline Whitby (N) - Grimsby (S)  
(= Eastern UK, around Hull)





Bridlington harbour



Scarborough harbour





## 4. Actions and peculiarities

White fish industry largely disappeared from E-UK. Three main choices to fishers:

- “Business as usual” with lower catches and lower income
- Change from catching white fish to “creeling” (crab/lobster fishing)
- Become a guard ship for windfarms











Grimsby harbour  
(fishing fleet went from 150 - 20 ships)





## 5.A Key findings on waste management of the UK harbours assessed

1. 23 out of 138 responded to the survey (16.7%)
2. 30% of the harbours participate in a FFL Scheme (57 of which 31 in Engl. and 26 in Scl.
3. 31% of harbours collect passively fished waste.
4. 100% of harbours that collected FFL waste/PFW had skips or a large bin
5. strong indications that PFW goes into landfill together with other waste streams.
6. 22% of the ports participate in an end-of-life net and net cuttings collection or other schemes.



## 5.A Key findings on waste management of the UK harbours assessed

6. 75% of the ports that have a system for disposing nets and net cuttings
7. Strong indications that collected end-of-life fishing gear and net cuttings go into landfill together with other waste streams that were collected in port.
8. Crab pots and lobster pots pose a special challenge.





## 5.B Key findings of best practices and pilots on marine litter upcycling

1. Multiple initiatives in UK on the collection and sustainable processing of ML: e.g. **Journey Blue Net Collect**, Ocean Plastic Pots, Oddysey Innovation, **Ørsted's collection of ropes, nets and buoys**, **Plastics@Bay**, Refactory and **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's marine litter initiative**.
2. All initiatives assessed run because of enthusiastic and very dedicated people.
3. The initiatives that shared information all at least target plastic parts of nets.
4. The plastic parts of nets are when still useful, being converted into new products (Journey Blue and Plastics@Bay).
5. One initiative targets also ropes and buoys (Ørsted)



## 5.B Key findings of best practices and pilots on marine litter upcycling

6. One initiative targets marine litter in a broad sense.
7. Funding of processing/transport of plastic waste is the main challenge
8. The number of volunteers is limited.
9. There is limited interest in participation in certain.
10. More participating ships could lead to more waste collected at sea.
11. Remoteness of coastal areas and low populations density, lead to a lack of volunteers.
12. There is a lack of governmental support for community recycling and remediation.
13. Some waste streams are difficult to process (esp. lobster pots and flares).



© Plastic@Bay



## 6.A General recommendations

1. ML should be included in the waste reception of each fishing port/harbour in the UK.
2. All fishing ships should be allowed to land PFW.
3. Reception facilities for PFW, ELFG, ALDFG and net cuttings should be present in all fishing ports
4. The establishment of waste recycling facilities at regional (county level) should be encouraged.
5. Linkage to initiatives for community recycling and remediation of plastic pollution could be an option for creating synergies with society.



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## 6.A General recommendations

5. Governmental support for community recycling and remediation of plastic pollution should be provided.
6. It is strongly advised to conduct an assessment of methodologies for environmentally friendly processing of crab and lobster pots.
7. Developing and organizing awareness raising for port staff, fishermen and crew of guard ships.





## 6.B Recommendations for development of waste pilots

For the development of pilot projects on marine litter there must be:

1. Sufficient amounts of marine Litter present for longer term collection and processing, and on the longer term, the creation of a viable business model.

“Sufficient” amount is not specified because this depends on the target of the organisation, the financial needs and the capacity (scale) it can deal with.



## 6.B Recommendations for waste pilots

### 2. A good understanding and a clear vision of:

- a. What marine litter is aimed at and for what purpose.
- b. The availability of financially and technologically viable methodologies and equipment for sustainably processing of the waste aimed at.
- c. How to collect, transport, store and process the waste
- d. What products of the waste will be made.
- e. The presence of a sufficiently large market.
- f. What those products will generate in terms of €.
- g. What legal requirements apply for all the process.
- h. Partner organisations needed to make it all work
- i. The number of staff/volunteers that are needed to start the project.
- j. The initial costs.
- k. The way the initial stage and the later stages of the project will be funded.





## 6.B Recommendations for waste pilots

### 3. The presence is needed of:

- a. Sufficient amounts of useable waste of the right composition and quality for the longer term at locations where those could be collected well.
- b. Sufficient funding for the longer term (both for starting and a viable business model for the longer term).
- c. Sufficient technical means for collection, storage and transport.
- d. An effective processing technique (viable both technically as financially).
- e. Sufficient staffing.
- f. The availability of technical support options when needed (by partners).
- g. Legal requirements acquired (permits).
- h. A market that is interested in the products and willing to pay sufficiently to support the project.





Learn more

International ▾

News

Resources

English ▾

With CleanAtlantic funding we were able to expand the FFL Hub to include a 'Resources' section.

This makes public for the first time, information on:

- How to fund FFL,
- PRF implementation at national level
- Operational management of passively fished waste,
- Monitoring,
- Public Relations Strategy
- Best practice



## Fishing for Litter Project Guidelines

How to plan and operate a Fishing for Litter project

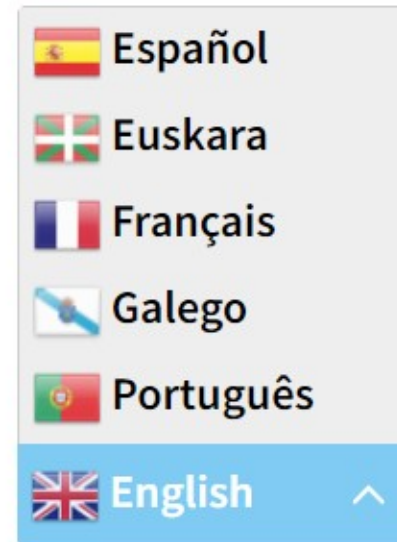
Download File



## Fishing for Litter HUB

[www.fishingforlitter.org](http://www.fishingforlitter.org)

With CleanAtlantic funding we were able to make the FFL Hub available in the languages of the countries involved in the Project and improved Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) in these languages.



Fishing For Litter



WORKING WITH FISHERMEN TO CLEAN OUR SEAS



# Fishing for Litter HUB

## Participating Ports

By surveying across the Fishing for Litter network and CleanAtlantic Project Partners we were able to update the map of Fishing for Litter ports.

The map now shows 140 ports (up from 98 ports previously).





## Fishing for Litter HUB

[www.fishingforlitter.org](http://www.fishingforlitter.org)

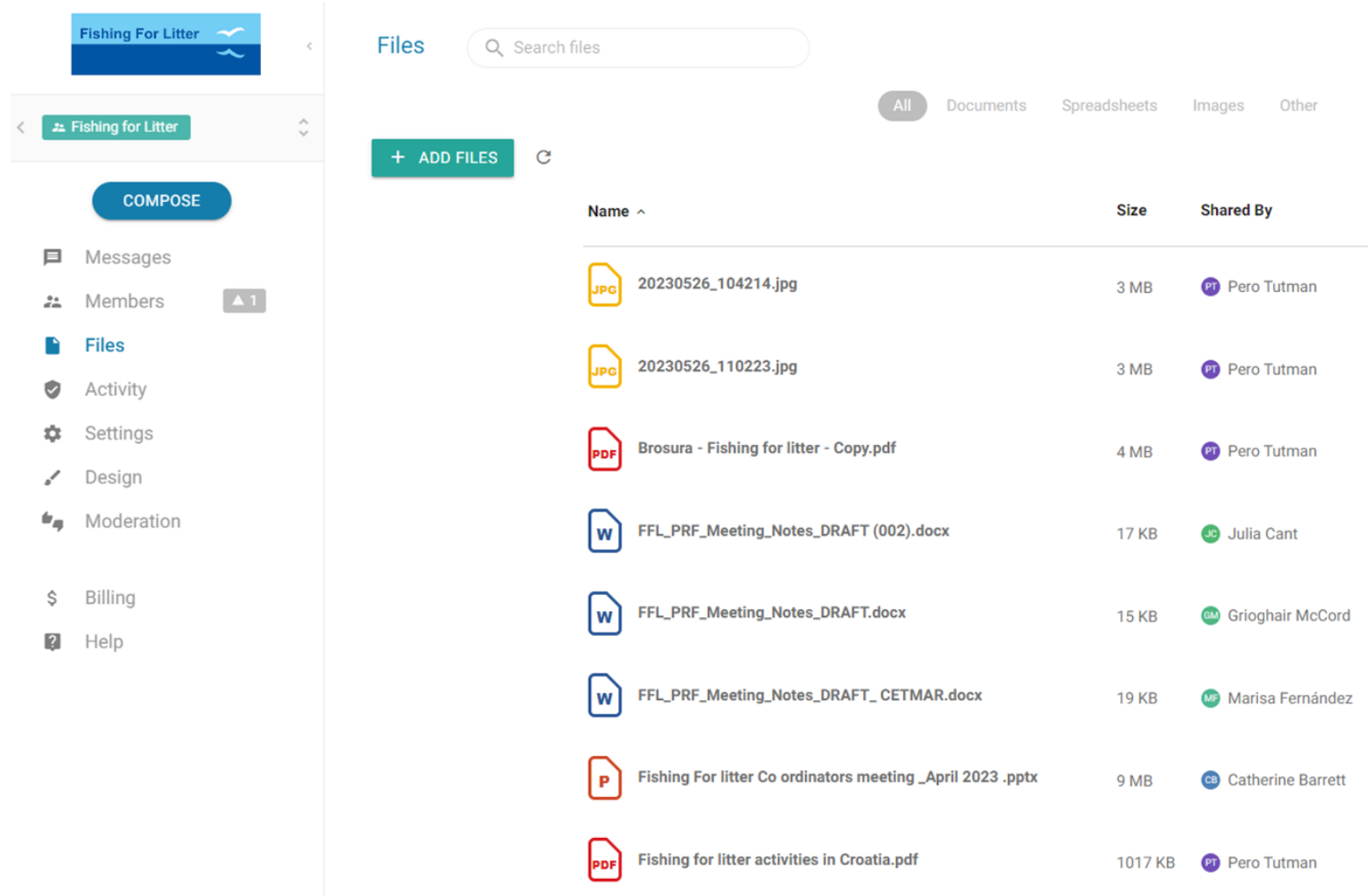
As part of the Hub, the Fishing for Litter Coordinators' Group meets regularly to learn from each other and to further improve projects by sharing best practice.



















# Fishing for Litter HUB

[www.fishingforlitter.org](http://www.fishingforlitter.org)

The FFL Coordinators' Group has their own dedicated online forum where they can ask questions and share resources that are helpful for the rest of the group but perhaps not suitable for the general public



The screenshot displays the Fishing for Litter HUB interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with a 'Fishing For Litter' header and a 'COMPOSE' button. Below this are links for Messages, Members (with a '+1' badge), Files (highlighted in blue), Activity, Settings, Design, Moderation, Billing, and Help. The main area is titled 'Files' and includes a search bar and tabs for 'All', 'Documents', 'Spreadsheets', 'Images', and 'Other'. An 'ADD FILES' button is present. A table lists the files with columns for Name, Size, and Shared By.

Name ^	Size	Shared By
 20230526_104214.jpg	3 MB	 Pero Tutman
 20230526_110223.jpg	3 MB	 Pero Tutman
 Brosura - Fishing for litter - Copy.pdf	4 MB	 Pero Tutman
 FFL_PRF_Meeting_Notes_DRAFT (002).docx	17 KB	 Julia Cant
 FFL_PRF_Meeting_Notes_DRAFT.docx	15 KB	 Grioghair McCord
 FFL_PRF_Meeting_Notes_DRAFT_CETMAR.docx	19 KB	 Marisa Fernández
 Fishing For litter Co ordinators meeting _April 2023 .pptx	9 MB	 Catherine Barrett
 Fishing for litter activities in Croatia.pdf	1017 KB	 Pero Tutman



# Questions?

