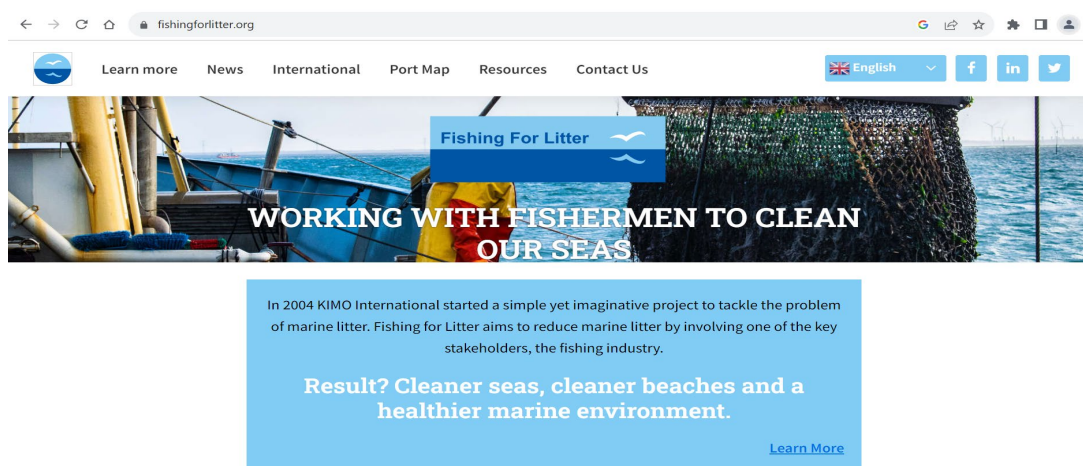# CleanAtlantic

Tackling Marine Litter
in the Atlantic Area

A Hub to share Fishing for Litter knowledge and examples

DELIVERABLE 7.2

WP7 – Tackling Marine Litter in the Atlantic Area

Interreg

WP7	TACKLING MARINE LITTER IN THE ATLANTIC AREA
ACTION	Development of an online resource that contains data on all FfL projects in the Atlantic area.
LAST UPDATED	23/06/23
VERSION	1
AUTHORS	KIMO International
PARTICIPANTS	NA
COVER PHOTO	Screen shot of the Fishing for Litter Hub introductory page

DISCLAIMER

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Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Explanation
EU / EC	European Union / European Commission
FfL	Fishing for Litter – a scheme involving physical removal of marine waste by the fishing community
KIMO	Kommunernes International Miljøorganisation (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation)
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
OSPAR	Oslo-Paris Convention, Regional Sea Convention of the NE Atlantic area
PFW	Passively fished waste

Executive Summary

Plastic litter in rivers and the ocean is a major environmental problem that needs to be addressed urgently. Some solutions and actions have been developed cooperatively through the CleanAtlantic project, and achieved through funding from the EU Interreg (Atlantic Area) grant funding. CleanAtlantic aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic Area by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove (macro) marine litter. One of the project's work packages focuses on the removal of passively fished waste (including Fishing for Litter waste) by fishers. Since Fishing for Litter (FfL) projects are run in many countries across Europe, each with their own unique challenges and opportunities, sharing of knowledge between those involved in the projects is desirable. A digital platform was created, and subsequently developed and refined under Work Package 7 of the CleanAtlantic project. In order to determine what requirements needed to be met to develop a digital resource in such a way that it could support practitioners, stakeholders linked to regional and national projects were surveyed between 1 January and 1 July 2023.

The outcomes of those surveys led to a number of resources being identified as useful additions, including:

1. General information on the Fishing for Litter scheme;
2. Information (such as a manual) on the requirements and necessary resources for the scheme;
3. An overview of the projects currently operating;
4. A map identifying the locations of all projects and associated ports;
5. A location to share news and developments;
6. Provision of information in national languages;
7. Contact details for questions and updates.

Including those needs in the Fishing for Litter hub was practically feasible and did not pose major challenges. The site now provides an elaborate overview of the current fishing for litter projects, featuring their location and other details, and the information is accessible in multiple languages. Since the current structure of the hub is contemporary, the most important recommendation is that this online resource should be maintained and regularly updated to include new projects as they are developed.

Acknowledgements

Introduction

1. Background

Plastic litter in rivers and the ocean is a major environmental problem for which solutions are needed. Some of these have been developed cooperatively through the CleanAtlantic project. The first project cycle ran from 2018 until 2021 but was extended from 1 January 2022 until 1 June 2023. The project aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic Area by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove (macro) marine litter. CleanAtlantic was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, through the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme, and aims to raise awareness and change attitudes among stakeholders and to improve marine litter managing systems. The main objectives of the project are:

1. To draw a picture of current situation, existing knowledge, data and initiatives in the Atlantic regions and definition of gaps.
2. Review of current systems to monitor and record marine litter, and to deliver protocols, tools and indicators to fill monitoring needs.
3. Development of modelling tools to predict the origin, circulation, and fate of marine litter, and elaboration of regional maps of hotspots of accumulation using models, remote sensing technologies, and aerial, surface and underwater unmanned systems.
4. To address prevention by developing best practices to reduce inputs from fishing and port sectors.
5. To tackle removal of marine litter by implementing initiatives of fishing for litter, to reduce the presence of "abandoned lost and otherwise discarded fishing gears" on the sea-bed, and to develop best practices for routine beach litter clean-up by local authorities.
6. To deliver training and awareness activities addressed to various audiences and to transfer project outputs to competent authorities and key stakeholders to improve management and facilitate MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) implementation.

2. Purpose of the project

KIMO International joined the CleanAtlantic project as a full partner in 2021 when, due to our experience on fishing gear and marine litter collection, we proposed a number of tasks aimed at improving integrated waste management of passively fished waste, net cuttings and end-of-life-fishing gear. Furthermore, as KIMO International shares knowledge on its Fishing for Litter scheme via a primary online resource or hub, we identified that this Fishing for Litter Hub could contribute well to the needs and requirements of the Clean Atlantic project. Therefore, under Work Package 7 it was developed for a broader reach of stakeholders and support of the project.

3. Structure of this report

The structure of this report is as follows: Chapter 1 forms the introduction to the work. Chapter 2 describes the online structure that was developed, and chapter 3 gives conclusions and recommendations for next steps.

Fishing for Litter Hub: requirements, structure and elements

1. Introduction

A digital platform was created, and subsequently developed and refined under Work Package 7 of the CleanAtlantic project. In order to determine what requirements needed to be met to develop a digital resource in such a way that it could support practitioners, stakeholders linked to regional and national projects were contacted between 1 January and 1 July 2023 during which period:

- all Fishing for Litter coordinators were surveyed for project updates;
- all CleanAtlantic partners were surveyed to improve the visibility of the FfL Hub in CleanAtlantic Project languages through Search Engine Optimisation.

The survey outcomes were analysed and the most practical structure of the hub determined.

2. The hub's requirements, structure and elements

2.1 Requirements

The outcomes of those surveys led to a number of resources being identified as useful additions, including:

- General information on the Fishing for Litter scheme;
- Information (such as a manual) on the requirements and necessary resources for the scheme;
- An overview of the projects currently operating;
- A map identifying the locations of all projects and associated ports;
- A location to share news and developments;
- Provision of information in national languages;
- Contact details for questions and updates.

2.2 Structure

The following structure was developed:

1. **Introductory page**
   a. Overview of projects which was expanded and updated;
   b. Overview of countries;
   c. Map and overview of participating ports with information of each port. The previous map was updated from 98 harbours to 140;
   d. Contact information.
2. **Learn more page** with background information.
3. **International page** with information of each of the projects with links to the projects.
4. **News page** with relevant developments.
5. **Resources page** with guidelines and other information that can be downloaded. The functionality of the resource page details how to set up a new project and best practices for waste management.

The resources include the following Fishing for Litter information, much of which is available in the public domain for the first time:

a. How to fund FfL projects;
b. PRF implementation at national level;
c. Operational management of passively fished waste;
d. Monitoring;
e. Public Relations Strategy;
f. Best practices.

In addition, the CleanAtlantic partners who responded to the survey asked for solutions to improve the visibility of the FfL Hub in CleanAtlantic Project languages through Search Engine Optimisation. This was addressed through the addition of relevant keywords in CleanAtlantic partner languages. To take the example of Portuguese, the following keywords were added to the Hub:

- lixo-marinho;
- plástico no oceano;
- Pescadores;
- Frota pesqueira;
- Barcos de pesca;
- Voluntários;
- Recuperação de artes de pesca;
- Limpeza de lixo-marinho;
- Esquemas voluntários;
- Pesca de lixo;
- Artes de pesca perdidas e abandonadas.

A language choice option on the FfL Hub has also been included to make it readable in any of the CleanAtlantic Project Languages.

2.3 Elements

The result of the work done can be seen by visiting the FfL hub online at fishingforlitter.org but the key elements are also presented in this section, in the order of the pages as presented in paragraph 2.2.
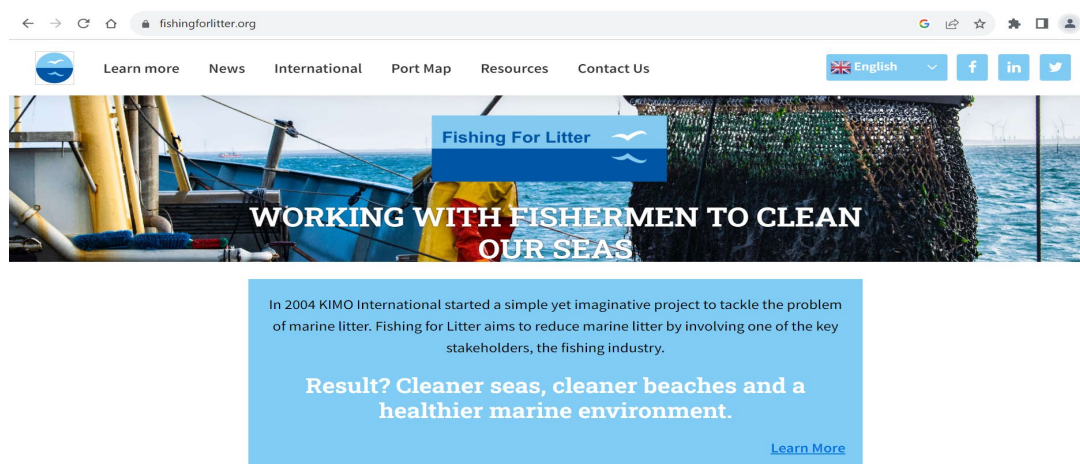

Figure 1. Screenshot of the upper part of the FfL hub introductory page.

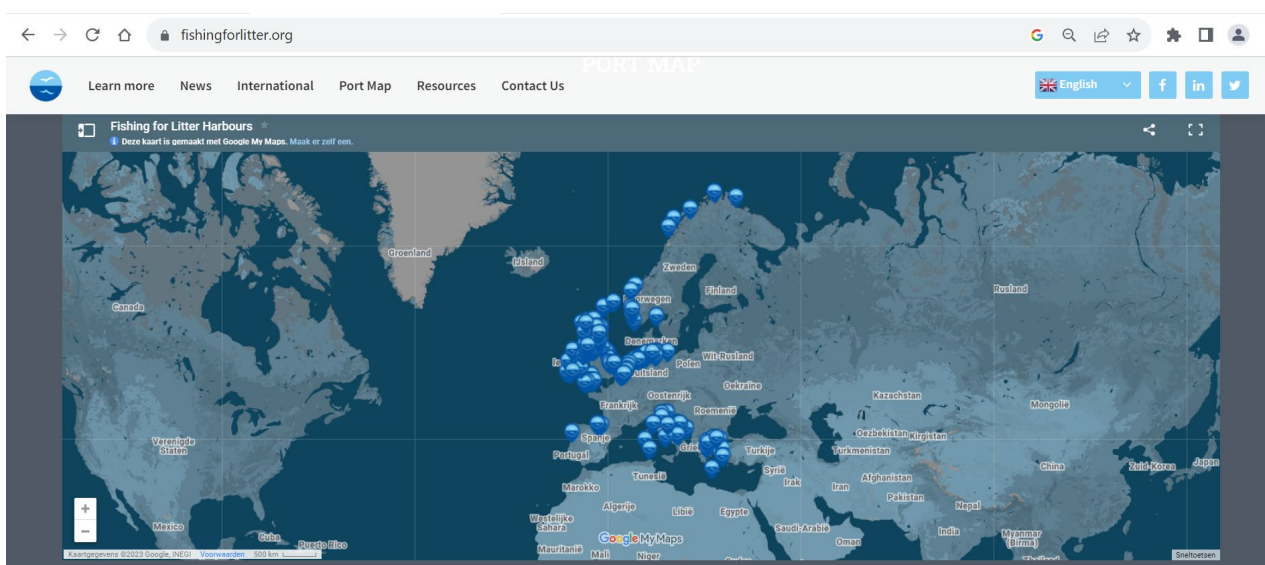**Figure 2.** The FfL hub presents information on 12 participating regions and countries.

Figure 3. The FfL hub has an interactive map of participating posts across Europe.
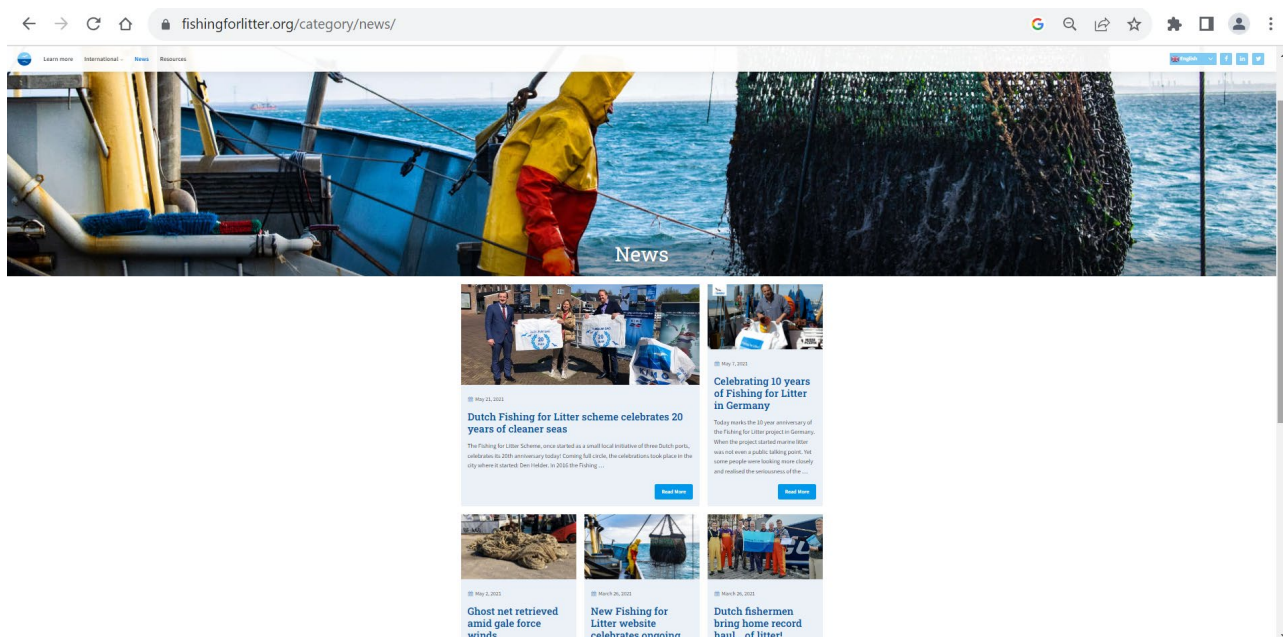
Figure 4. The FfL hub has a news page where information including on active projects is published.
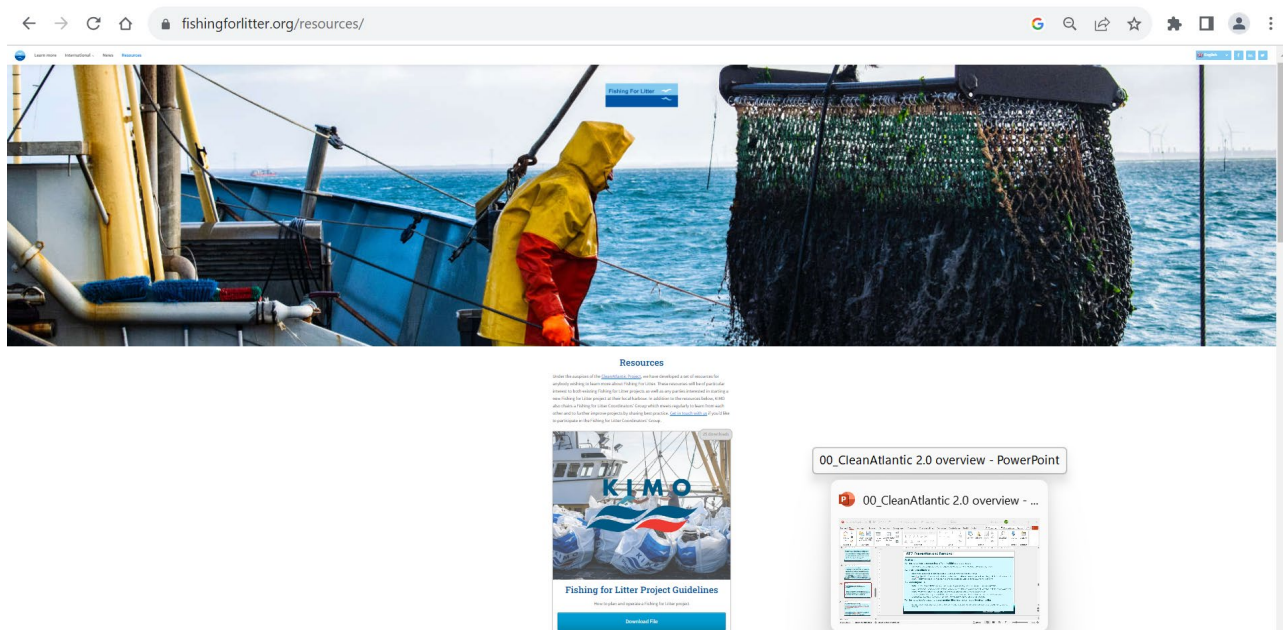

Figure 5. The FfL hub has a resources page with contemporary resources useful to practitioners and policy-makers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1   Conclusions

Based on feedback from relevant stakeholders, an online resource that contains data on all FfL projects in the Atlantic área was improved and enriched, through the inclusion of a variety of Information and Resources, including:

- General information on the Fishing for Litter scheme;
- Information (such as a manual) on the requirements and necessary resources for the scheme;
- An overview of the projects currently operating;
- A map identifying the locations of all projects and associated ports;
- A location to share news and developments;
- Provision of information in national languages;
- Contact details for questions and updates.

Including these requirements in the Fishing for Litter hub was practically feasible and did not pose major challenges. The site now provides an elaborate overview of the current fishing for litter projects, featuring their location and other details, and the information is accessible in multiple languages.

2   Recommendations

Since the current structure of the hub is both useful and contemporary, the most important recommendation is that this online resource should be maintained and regularly updated to include new projects as they are developed. It should also include additional information identified by practitioners and policy-makers that will be informative and accessible and will help to promote wider uptake of the Fishing for Litter scheme. Furthermore, the Fishing for Litter hub offers the potential to be used to facilitate reporting on landing of passively-fished waste, under the EU Port Reception Facilities Directive.