

## Clean Oceans

---

### Project Outline:

There are key points in the system that need support to minimise the impact on the marine environment and be in line with the green deal and the circular economy in particular. Supporting the ports, gear suppliers and vessels to adapt to a more sustainable recovery-based model, against a baseline that can be comparable with other member states.

The engagement and encouraging vessels and ports to go beyond the willingness and co-operation to return marine litter/passively fished waste caught at sea to proactively assisting in ensuring that end of use fishing gear increase its opportunity for recovery, will need incentivisation and assistance in forging new alliances further along the recovery model that were not needed before. Opportunities to engage such as through the Skipper Expo and consultation of the Green Ship Concept will harness the goodwill to date.

The project will also investigate skill development opportunities to equip the stakeholders to adapt to a circular business model and economy through the Skillsnet system. A desktop review of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation and templates will also be commissioned to conduct a gap analysis on the schemes in place and provide stakeholders with a road map and classify their eligibility and role in the EPR scheme.

### Project Objectives:

- Maintain the support to assist the harbour/port members manage, co-ordinate, record and dispose of passively fished waste management that is voluntarily returned to shore by the fleet. The concept is widely known within the sector as, and internationally as, Fishing For Litter (FFL) and disposal for 12 ports.
- Design and implementation of six Waste Handling and Management Plans (WHMPs) in Clean Oceans Network.
- Develop demonstration projects for a Waste Fishing Gear Scheme as encouraged in the Port Reception Facilities Directive (BIM Net Effect Scheme).
- To review and prepare a report on the EU Gear taxonomy in line with the Irish fleet activity and register so it can be used as MS reference for the monitoring and reporting for placing on the market.
- Green Ship Concept consultation with stakeholders.
- To participate on behalf of the sector in the CEN 466, the Circular design of Fishing Gear.
- Investigate EPA process for re-classification of waste (from municipal waste to materials for recovery).

### Expected Benefits:

- Continued removal of waste plastics from the marine environment.
- Structured and measurable disposal of end-of-life gear.
- Industry prepared for their future roles in the extended producer responsibility scheme and to meet the requirements of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.
- Stakeholders informed and engaged in the process of moving to a Circular Economy model.

**Projected Cost:** €207,000