

Overview of the workshops

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Two workshops have taken place and three more are planned

1. At NTNU, Ålesund, Norway on May 15th 2024.
2. At Sotenæs Marine Recycling Centre, Sweden on May 24th and June 4th, 2024.

Planned (tentative dates):

1. At MarEco headquarters in Reykjavik, Iceland on November 5th 2024.
2. At the Univ. of Oulu, Finland in Spring 2025.
3. In Cork, Ireland in May, 2025 (organised by WDC and Univ.of Galway)

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Goal or outcome of the workshops

Be able to find best practice and give recommendations for how to set up collection and recycling systems (in the NPA-area) for end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear

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Background for the workshops

- EU Port Reception Facilities (PRF)
- Single Use Plastics (SUP)

In the first half of 2019, the European Parliament and Council adopted two flagship Directives – one on Port Reception Facilities (PRF) and one on Single-Use Plastics (SUP), with the goal to reduce plastic pollution of the oceans and to improve waste

Under the revised PRF Directive, port facilities will have the obligation to include separate collection points for fishing gear and for passively fished waste in fishing harbours and apply a so-called 100% indirect fee system to incentivise landing of fished and operational waste.

Member States have to set up extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for producers of fishing gear containing plastics. Producers will be financially responsible for the whole lifecycle of the product, including awareness raising, waste and end-of-life stage collection, transport and treatment.

Member States should be encouraged to complement 100% indirect fee by alternative financing of the costs of collecting and managing fishing gear waste or passively fished waste ashore, including 'fishing for litter schemes' and extended producer responsibility schemes.

Member States to report on fishing gear placed on the market and on waste fishing gear collected, as of 2022.

PRF

EPR
Scheme

SUP

Workshops in the CIRCNET project

Target groups for the workshops (ex. below: Norway)

1. Producers (EPR) – ex. Selstad, Mørenot, Frøystad
2. Users – fishers, aquaculture firms ex. Mowi, Lerøy, Hofseth, Norwegian Seafood Cluster, Norwell
3. Recyclers – ex. Oceanize/Containerservice/Noprec, Attvin/Årim, Nofir, Østbø
4. Use recycled marine plastics in production
Clean Sea solutions, Plasto, Ogoori, Ørskog plast, Vartdal plast, Replast, Partnerplast
5. Authorities ex. Kystverket, Fiskeridirektorat, port officials
6. NGOs – beach cleaners, Runde Envmntl Centre, Hold Norge rent, Handelens Miljøfond, Plastfritt Hav, In the same boat, SALT, Marine Recycling Cluster

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Workshop in Norway and Sweden in May and June 2024

Questions posed on preparedness for EPR

1. What do you know about the implementation of EPR for fishing gear?

How prepared are you?

(Have you made preparations for the EPR scheme)

2. Do you know about any incentives or penalties for compliance or non-compliance?

What do suggest could be used as incentives to encourage compliance?

3. What do you see as challenges/barriers and opportunities in the implementation of the EPR scheme?

Do you think the implementation costs will be substantial? Elaborate with examples (% of unit cost)

Do you see opportunities (e.g. in fishing gear design, recycling technologies, new product development)?

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Workshop in Norway on May 15th 2024

Questions posed on the economic potential for EOL FG

4. What do you see as the main challenges/opportunities in achieving economic potential with EOL fishing gear?
5. Are you aware of any best practices in the collection of EOL fishing gear and getting it into a circular value chain?
 - in your country/Region or elsewhere?

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Summary of what came out of the Norwegian and Swedish workshop

1. Little knowledge about the implementation of EPR although most seems to know that producers of FG must start a PRO by 31 Dec 2024
2. Different views from different stakeholders on the topic
3. Both the representatives for the aquaculture organisation and the fishermen organisation are worried about the costs of the new collection system suggested by the Norwegian Environment Agency
4. The representatives from the recycling business on the other hand, thought it could (should) be more expensive and suggested that there should be introduced a deposit system for fishing gear – by giving worn out fishing gear a value, they believe it will not be discarded of and “lost” as much
5. There was also a suggestion that the authorities must make incentive systems for recycling and reusing fishing gear
6. It is a problem that the regulations today are made for linear value chains (produce-use-discard) and not circular ones, and there are no incentives for handling the EOL FG correctly f.ex. it is currently much cheaper to bury the FG than to send it to proper recycling

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Summary of what came out of the two first workshops

1. There are limited information about the implementation of EPR
2. To successfully implement the EPR scheme, stakeholders must proactively engage in knowledge-sharing, seek guidance from relevant authorities, and lay the groundwork for effective adoption.
3. Understanding the role of incentives and penalties is crucial in fostering compliance with EPR regulations - one suggestion was that
4. Potential incentives such as deposit schemes for used FG, it is free of charge to dispose of FG at the harbours, and subsidies for eco-friendly gear, can encourage stakeholders to embrace responsible practices
5. Conversely, penalties for non-compliance could include fines, restricted market access, or mandated corrective actions to drive accountability.
6. Challenges in EPR implementation for fishing gear include high initial costs for gear redesign, collection logistics, and recycling infrastructure.
7. The costs of implementation, though substantial initially, can be offset by long-term benefits and increased market competitiveness.