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CIRCNETS

Northern Periphery and Arctic



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Table of contents

- 🦆 Introduction
- 🦆 Port report
- 🦆 Events
- 🦆 What are we up to next?

Introduction

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS) project! Winter has turned into summer, and at least here in Finland we've had exceptionally hot and dry weather. For me, Gus the Gull, it has been fun flying above the blue seas and lakes in such clear conditions, but hopefully there'll be some rain soon.

Our project is in full swing, and this newsletter contains plenty of interesting results for you to browse. The main topic in this newsletter is the report on end-of-life fishing gear collection in the NPA area. After the publication of the last newsletter, we've also released our proper website. The website will contain all our publications and news items, so make sure to bookmark it.

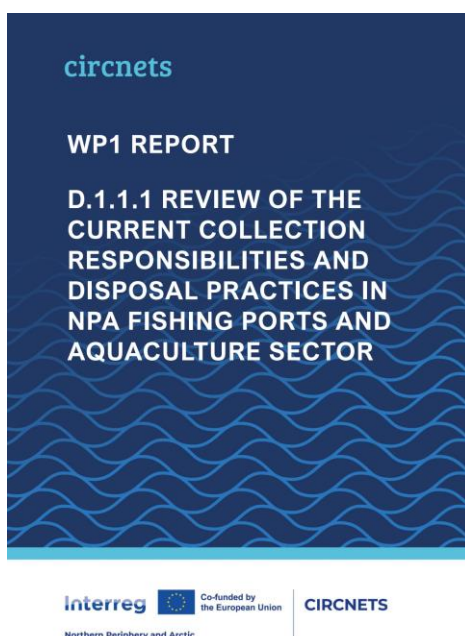


Kiviniemi port in Finland.

Port report

The aim in WP1 is to create an overall picture of the current status of EOL fishing gear: how much fishing gear waste is created and how is it collected. Our findings can now be read in the report titled “Review of the current collection responsibilities and disposal practices in NPA fishing ports and aquaculture sector”.

The report is divided into six chapters. After the introduction, the second chapter gives the reader an overview of fishing and aquaculture sections in the NPA countries. The report then goes into detail on the legislation on EOL fishing gear. The fourth chapter is devoted to how EOL fishing gear is collected in the region. The report ends with conclusion and references. The entire report is 80 pages long, so it has plenty of content for you to mull over. Below are some of the main takeaways.



Cover of our first WP1 report – two more to come!

The report highlights the vast differences between the countries and the NPA areas. Importance of fishing and aquaculture in general for the national economy seems to be a good indicator of whether there is separate collection of fishing gear. In Iceland, where the role of fishing is important, there has been a separate collection scheme for EOL fishing gear for close to 20 years. On the other hand, among the NPA countries, commercial fishing is the least important in Finland, and there is no separate collection of EOL fishing gear at least in the NPA region of the country. The other NPA countries can be placed between these two extremities.

Starting from 2025, there must be separate collection for EOL fishing gear in place and the member countries must report the collected amount to the EU. Reuse potential of collected materials and improving the environment can be identified as drivers for setting up of collection schemes.

Stay tuned for country-specific highlights on our social media channel.

Read the full report from our website: [Project reports](#).

Events

We had a Partner Meeting in Ålesund, Norway on the 13th to the 15th of May. Hosted by NTNU, the meeting consisted of checking up on the progress in the work packages. Besides the hours spent in meeting rooms, our days in sunny Ålesund were filled with other activities. We also visited a local fishing net company, Mørenot AS, to see how fishing nets are made – a real eye opener for all of us!

Reaching out to the stakeholders, hearing what they have to say, was in focus on the second day. NTNU hosted a seminar about “Transition to Circular Economy of Fishing Gear”, which included interesting presentations from different organisations involved in production and recycling of fishing gear. This was also a European Maritime Day in My Country event that could be followed online. In the afternoon, we continued our deep-sea dive into this very topic in a workshop which was attended by various stakeholders. Similar events about recycling EOL fishing gear and their economic potential will be organised next autumn in other partner regions. For more information about these events and to view the presentations from the seminar, head to our website...

We also took part in the [European Maritime Day 2024](#) in Svendborg, Denmark on 30—31 of May, as our project manager Niko took part in a few of the workshops. Next year the event will be held in Ireland in the beautiful city of Cork. Maybe we will see you there?



Our team inspecting ropes that are used in fishing nets during our visit to Mørenot.



Surrounded by water from many directions – you are never far away from the sea in Ålesund!

What are we up to next?

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, 2024 is a busy year for the CIRCNETS project. We will release reports on the quantities and qualities of fishing gear in the NPA area as well as publish a report on EOL gear collection and responsibilities in the region. There will also be a webinar and a partner meeting in Iceland coming up, among other activities.

But for now, enjoy the summer!

Gus, on behalf of the whole CIRCNETS team

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Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS)

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