

# Potential for Irish solutions: Treatment & Reuse of used Fishing gear

## Sharon Barrington

*IFF Plastics, Ireland*

Sharon Barrington is the General Manager of IFF - a family run plastic washing shredding and manufacturing company in West Clare. They accept all plastics for washing and shredding from industrial factories & farms and reuse recovered ocean plastic in their eco friendly plastic fencing posts.

Sharon will tell us about their experience of using ocean plastics and the potential along with the challenges that they have experienced.



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# Who we are

- My background is from a family business that produced pellet from LDPE supplying another Irish company who blew rubbish bags from 2006 to 2009. The business was before its time.
- I began IFF in 2010 and we built a washing line for agri film. We shipped 1000's of tons of material but were left with a lot of PP material no company wanted.
- Built a recycling plant based on what we learned from plant in 2006. Built it simpler and more cost effective.
- Our Product: We felt fencing product was something we could make and sell back to our current clients.



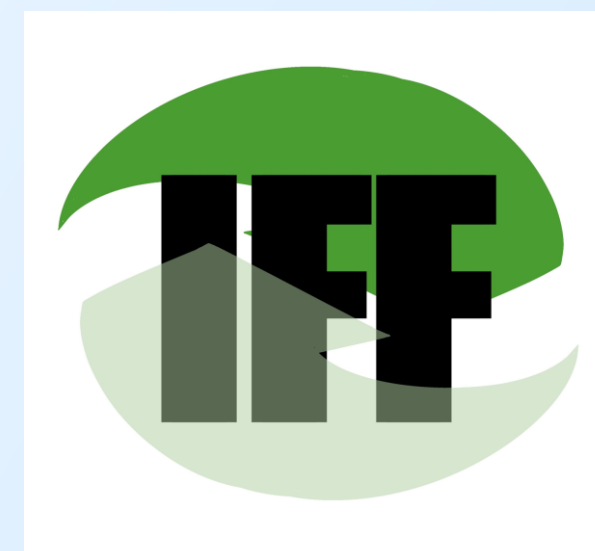
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# IFF & Circular Economy

- We are big supporters of the circular ethos we try not to buy new machinery - my Father taught us to think there is always a way so we use machinery that others have discarded.
- We also reuse all our water and have top up from rain water harvesting.

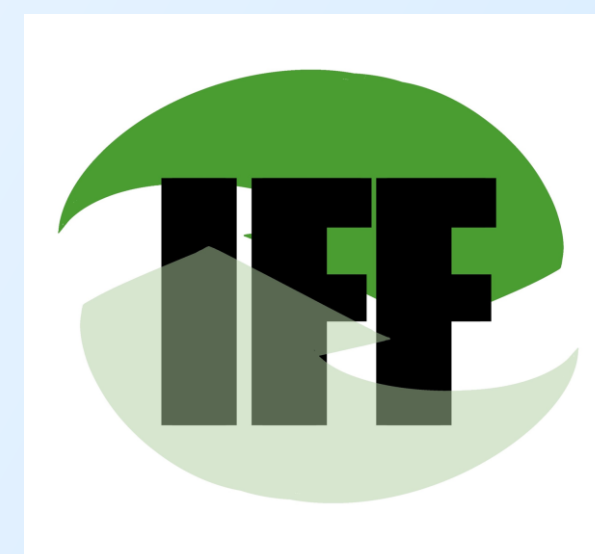


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# What we do

- Run collection points for material to be accepted from farmers
- Facilitate lorry collections for client on farmyards
- Shred, Wash, Dry material before it passes through extruder
- Mold posts and cool posts
- Sales currently have more orders than products
- Custom products for clients.



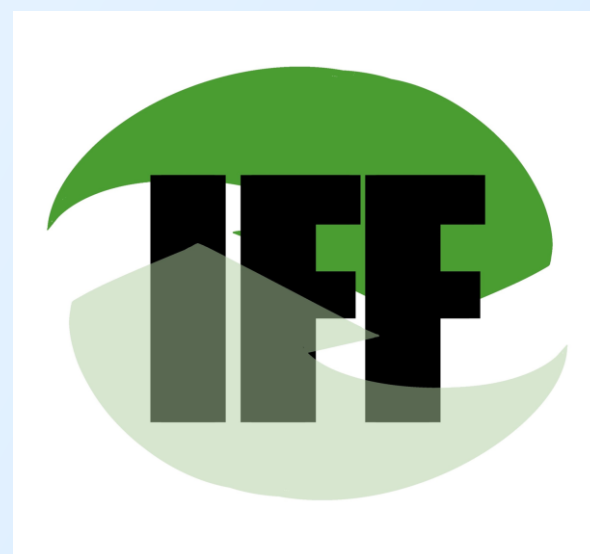
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# Experience with Ocean Plastics

Been involved in small trials starting with the segregation and collection of material from ports.

We found the material mixed but had large quantity of green fishing trawl bags and braided twine.

Our shredder struggled with this material.

Slow Process - had to initially break it down to small sized pieces to feed it into shredder.

Once shredded we tried varying amounts in fencing products

We found feeding the shredded material on its own produced the best product. This has to be sent for testing and further investigations are needed to determine best use after recycling.



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# Experience with Ocean Plastics – The Challenges

- Separating products/contamination/salt residue/ different material mixed
- Our capabilities: We found it difficult shredding material and have only one production line - investment is needed
- Costly/time consuming to run trials
- Very good material when recycled - need to explore best possible uses to maximised potential value
- Cooperation from BIM is excellent

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