

Fishing for Litter Scotland

15 harbours 200 Boats 200 Tonnes

What is Fishing for Litter?

The Fishing for Litter project was originally started by the North Sea Directorate of the Dutch Government in co-operation with the Dutch Fisheries Association, in March 2000. The aim of the project was to clear the North Sea from litter, by bringing ashore the litter that is trawled up as part of fishing activities and disposing of it on land. This is achieved by providing large hardwearing bags to the boats so the waste can be easily collected and deposited on the quayside. This work was continued during the Fishing for Litter Scotland (2005-08) project.

Why become involved in Fishing for Litter?

Quite simply because marine litter costs money. In our report on the Impacts of marine Debris and Oil (Hall, 2000) KIMO interviewed Shetland Fishermen as to the costs associated with marine litter. In the worst case scenario marine litter could cost each boat up to £30,000 per year in lost time, damage to nets, fouled propellers and contaminated catches. Over the time of the Save the North Sea project it was calculated that on average in the North Sea each tonne of marine litter cost fishermen £1,300 in lost time alone.



“We picked up a drum with green deck paint which destroyed 20 boxes of fish and took us about 4 hours to clean off the boat winch”, Shetland Fisherman. In addition to this huge amounts of litter wash up as an eyesore on our coastline every year and thousands of marine animals die from entanglement in and ingestion of marine litter. Therefore it is in everyone’s interest to ensure that there is as little marine litter as possible.



During the 2005-2008 Fishing for Litter Scotland project 110 vessels collected 117 tonnes of marine litter and brought it ashore at 15 harbours. The co-operation of the vessels and their crew was on a voluntary basis. Due to renewed sponsorship the 2008-11 project will expand on the previous work and Fishing for Litter will hopefully become an established fishing practice.



Fishing
For Litter



Funding

The project will run for three years and is funded through nine main sponsors: Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Government, Aberdeenshire Council, Western Isles Council, The Highland Council, Total, Peterson SBS and the Scottish Fisheries Trust. However it is KIMO's aim that Fishing for litter should continue beyond the next three years of the project and be funded permanently. A KIMO spokesman stated "We hope to hold a dialogue over this three year period with industry, government and other agencies on how to develop a national strategy for Fishing for Litter."



**SCOTTISH
NATURAL
HERITAGE**



Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
Western Isles Council

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



**THE CROWN
ESTATE**



Aims of the Project

Fishing for Litter Scotland will establish a network of 15 harbours around Scotland. The goal is to make it straightforward for the boats involved to collect bags or drop of waste at their convenience. The scheme aims to encourage 200 boats to take part with the aim of collecting 200 tonnes of marine litter from the waters around Scotland over three years and recycling at least 10% on this litter. The project will also monitor a percentage of the waste that comes ashore as a result of the project. The aim is to try and identify the source of the litter and establish if there are any regional differences. The information will also be fed into international monitoring programs such as OSPAR's Marine Litter Monitoring Working Group.



Project Co-ordination

The project is being co-ordinated by KIMO UK based in Aberdeen. KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) is an association of coastal local authorities whose goal is to eliminate pollution from the Northern Seas. The organisation's members include 115 local authorities representing over 6 million inhabitants in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Faeroe Islands, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Baltic States.



Contact details

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