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**‘Fishing for Litter’ initiative collaborates with contemporary eco-artist at Newlyn Fish Festival**

Cornish-based, contemporary eco-artist, Georgina Maxwell, is becoming increasingly well-known for her work concerning plastic marine pollution. At this year’s Newlyn Fish Festival she was collaborating with ‘Fishing for Litter South West’

The Fishing for Litter scheme provides fishing boats with large bags to collect marine litter caught in their nets and coordinates the safe and responsible disposal of the waste. The project is designed to recover marine litter whilst raising awareness of the detrimental impact such waste can have on the marine environment.

Maxwell’s artwork loomed from the eight foot beams of Newlyn fish market on Monday, casting an ominous shadow on to its walls. The huge myriad plastic bottles have all been collected from the Cornish shorelines by her. The art installation draws one’s attention to its strong aesthetic quality, of which is, normally considered ugly rubbish.

She was also working with children, encouraging them to make art from what they imagined could be found in the fishermen’s nets, as well as a few fish! As the new generation become increasingly ecologically conscious, Maxwell considers this an important educational opportunity.

As the first female to complete a course in Sea Survival with Seafood Cornwall Training, the artist is shortly planning to document and photograph, on board one of Newlyn’s fishing boats, while the fishermen net rubbish out at sea.

She commented recently that, “I’ve been keeping track of Fishing for Litter since 2004 when the project first began in Scotland. It’s been so successful that now they’re funding the project here in the South West. I believe it is a moral and ethical responsibility that we all need to consider in order to find solutions to the environmental catastrophe of marine plastic pollution.”

Fishing for Litter Project Officer, Sarah Henshall added, “Georgina’s sculpture drew so much interest at the festival that many children couldn’t wait to get creative. They managed to make some wonderful pieces of their own to demonstrate the key aspects of the project and the problem of marine litter.” Maxwell’s website can be seen at [www.georginamaxwell.com](http://www.georginamaxwell.com)



Ends:

#### Notes to editors

Captions:

- *Marine litter themed artwork created at the fish festival*
- *Georgina Maxwell with sculpture made entirely of marine litter*

Fishing for Litter South West is supported by Cornwall Council and the Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee and funded by Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, The Crown Estate, The Marine and Fisheries Agency, Duchy of Cornwall, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Natural England. The three year project forms part of the Fishing for Litter network run by KIMO, an international organisation of local authorities working to tackle marine pollution and environmental issues.

For more information please visit [www.fishingforlitter.org](http://www.fishingforlitter.org).

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#### About KIMO:

KIMO was founded by local municipalities with a shared concern for the state of the environment. KIMO is designed to give municipalities a political voice at the international level, to share best practice and to find solutions to marine political problems that affect coastal communities.

Fishing for Litter is an example of where this has been successful. The scheme, which encourages fishermen to take ashore litter they catch while fishing by providing the infrastructure required, has been acknowledged by United Nations Environment Program as one of the tools to

reduce marine litter. KIMO will continue to seek funding for projects in the future that will benefit the coastal communities that it represents.

**Funders:**

