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LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION

PRESS RELEASE

Fishing for Litter South West campaign is launched in Newlyn

Photograph/filming/interview opportunity on the quayside at Newlyn

Friday 13 March

- 10.15am Welcome at the Fishermen's Mission, Newlyn
- 10.30am Presentations by John Mouat (KIMO) and Sarah Henshall (Fishing For Litter South West)
- 11.00am **To the quayside for a demonstration of the scheme in action as one of the fishing vessels unloads a consignment of marine litter for disposal**

Fishing for Litter South West, an initiative to help clear the sea of rubbish, will be officially launched at Newlyn on Friday 13 March.

Fishing for Litter South West is enlisting the help of local fishermen and encouraging them to bring ashore litter caught in their nets during fishing.

Local fishermen are supplied with special large hard wearing 0.5t or 1.0t bags which they take out with them so that they can easily collect marine litter that they find at sea. The bags are then brought into harbour and deposited on the quayside where the rubbish is collected and recycled or disposed of responsibly.

The project is based upon Fishing for Litter Scotland which has been in operation for over 3 years. Scotland's fishermen, from 16 major ports and from over 110

vessels, have removed over 150 tonnes of litter. As well as being harmful to the marine environment, litter can pose a serious risk by causing entanglement or breakdown of vessels at sea.

Cornwall County Council's executive member for public protection Ken Yeo said: **"I am delighted to support this project. Marine litter damages fishermen's livelihoods as well as the environment. The success of the project in Scotland shows that it is a problem that can be solved and it is in everyone's interest to work together to both improve the marine environment and clean up the litter."**

A three year project, Fishing for Litter South West started in Newlyn in October 2008 and plans to enlist fishermen from across the region with the aim of recruiting 60 vessels and collecting 200 tonnes of marine litter.

Paul Trebilcock, Chief Executive of the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation said: **"The CFPO whole heartedly supports this initiative. Fishing for Litter recognises the responsible operational practices that the vast majority of our vessels work to at present and hopefully will send the message to the wider public that fishermen do take their environmental responsibilities very seriously. We as an organisation are actively encouraging all of our members to get involved in this scheme so that people can appreciate the good that fishermen are doing at sea rather than the negative messages that are so often put out there."**

Fishing for Litter South West is supported by Cornwall County 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, Natural England and Penwith District Council. It 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.

Drew Davies owner of Newlyn Vessel CKS said: **"We have been bagging and bringing litter back to port for some years now and have more recently signed up to the Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme. The large bags provided by the project will make it easier for the crew to collect and handle any waste collected at sea as well as making it quicker and less costly to manage its safe disposal."**

Fishing For Litter South West is coordinated by Seafood Cornwall Training Ltd, Newlyn. Further information can be found at <http://www.fishingforlitter.org>

Ends

Caption

Project Officer Sarah Henshall promoting the project in the launch port of Newlyn.

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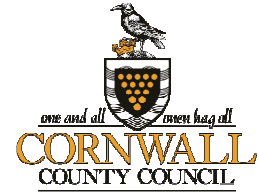
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