

# NEWSLETTER



2<sup>nd</sup> Issue  
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Marine litter

Economic costs

Open day

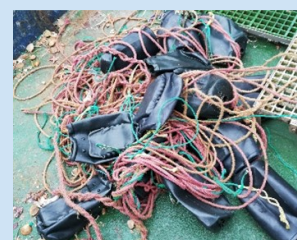
Conferences



During the 1<sup>st</sup> year, NetTag project assessed the marine litter problematic in the fisheries sector. Integrated in the WP2, two technical reports were produced identifying the most frequently lost gears and their hotspots off NW Iberian Peninsula coast (D2.1) and the problematic of marine litter as identified by fishers (D2.2). These reports resume the results of semi-structured interviews and participatory workshops conducted with key players in the fishing industry. According to fishers, hotspots of abandoned and lost fishing gear



## MARINE LITTER PROBLEMATIC

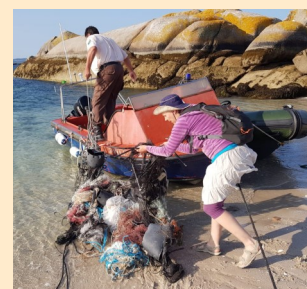


are found in irregular bottoms (rocky bottoms, reefs, shipwrecks) or in

high hydrodynamic areas, up to 5-6 NM from the coast. Marine litter occurs mostly near shores, river mouths, ports and navigation routes. According to information gathered, fishers can spend up to one hour per day dealing with marine litter in their nets. Fishers also reported that marine litter can damage both fishing gear and the catch and even compromise the safety of the crew and the navigability of the fishing vessels.

## ECONOMIC COSTS OF MARINE LITTER

**NetTag** also assessed the economic costs of marine litter in fisheries sector, resumed in the technical report D7.1. According to Portuguese and Spanish fishers, the average life of fishing gear is 5 years but marine litter can substantially decrease these estimates. Fishers can lose parts of fishing gears several times per year, spending more than 1 500 €/year in time employed to recover them, and more than 6 500 € to repair them (ca. 10% of their annual benefits). Vessels catch ca. 13 t of marine litter every year, and the hours they invest cleaning the gears can cost ca. 600 €/year per vessel. Fishers also identified that marine litter can pose relevant impacts on tourism, human wellbeing and health and, to a lesser extent, on cultural heritage.





## HOTSPOTS OF LOST NETS



From the information gathered in D2.1, the German submarine U1277 sunk out of Matosinhos coast (near Porto city) at 30m depth, was selected as a case study to assess environmental impacts of lost fishing gear. This shipwreck is a touristic location for recreational divers and typically accumulates small pieces of fishing nets. With the collaboration of divers from the Submersus diving school, samples of water and sediments and also pieces of lost fishing nets were collected to determine in the laboratory the presence of specific pollutants associated with lost gear, namely metals, organic contaminants and microplastics. All the detailed information can be found in technical report D4.1 'Technical Report on environmental impacts of lost fishing gear, retrieving vehicles and acoustic tags'.

## ECOMONDO 2019



Last November **NetTag** participated in the green technology expo, ECOMONDO 2019, in Rimini, Italy. During the two days of the event, NetTag attended a round table organised by EASME "Supporting actions to improve plastics management" and was present in the European Commission stand to promote dissemination and networking with stakeholders.

## BUSINESS2SEA

**NetTag** participated in the blue economy conference Business2Sea, held in Porto, in November 2019. In there, the main goals and achievements of the project were shared with stakeholders through a short oral communication. This event was a great opportunity to expand the network of stakeholders in the areas of blue economy and sustainable growth.



## CIIMAR OPEN DAY



NetTag was present at the CIIMAR open day (21<sup>st</sup> September 2019), an outreach event, with hands-on activities to raise awareness of marine litter. Participants were asked to first collect and identify different plastic litter found in beaches, and after to do the same but in an aquarium (simulating the ocean) with lost gear and several animal life. Participants experienced the difficulties of collecting litter from the ocean, and how NetTag approach will help fishers to recover their lost gear and properly manage litter onboard.