



FAQ's

What is Fishing For Litter?

Fishing For Litter is a simple project which involves fishing vessels bringing ashore any rubbish that is caught in their nets during fishing activities. Fishermen are supplied with large hard wearing 0.5t or 1.0t bags so that they can easily collect any marine litter that they find at sea. The rubbish is then returned to port where it is collected and disposed of responsibly at a site regulated by the Environment Agency.

The project is based upon the very successful "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 200 tonnes of litter. As well as being harmful to the marine environment, litter can pose a serious risk to life and livelihood by causing entanglement or breakdown of vessels at sea.

The project was launched in Newlyn during March 2009 and it is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out across the South West during 2009.

What are the benefits of the scheme?

Once collected and brought ashore, the waste is permanently removed from the sea benefitting fishermen, wildlife and the environment. Many fishermen testify that they lose thousands of pounds of fishing time dealing with marine waste caught up in their nets. It is estimated that each boat could lose between £6,000 and £30,000 per year due to the effects and presence of marine debris. In their case, time really is money. The catch, net and other equipment could be contaminated by oil containers, paint tins, oil filters and other chemicals, resulting in a potential loss of revenue of up to £2,000 per incident. This reduction in marine litter will also reduce the impact on wildlife and pollution to our beaches and coastline and will also help reduce the bill to keep them clean. Visitors to, and residents of Cornwall and Devon will also benefit from cleaner seas and safer beaches.

What does the scheme hope to achieve?

The aim over the next 2 years is to involve 60 vessels, working out of at least four South West ports and provide facilities for the removal of 200 tonnes of litter.

What does it involve?

Involvement in the scheme costs fishermen nothing and coupled with sensible working practices, ensures that fishing vessels meet section 5.2 of the Responsible Fishing Scheme.

I am a skipper, what do I need to do to participate in the scheme?

- Please complete the vessel registration form and fax or post/fax it back to the Project Coordinator.
- Collect up to one month's supply of skip bags from the harbour office or from a member of the harbour staff. (You should collect no more than 4 bags at a time).
- Refer to the "fishing vessel guidance form" for advice on hazardous waste.
- On return to port, each used bag should be placed on the quayside, the bags will be removed by the harbour staff, the contents will be logged and the bags transferred to a designated skip ready for collection.
- You can collect additional bags and deposit full sacks at any of the participating harbours in the scheme. (Newlyn, Plymouth, Brixham, Looe).

How is the waste managed once brought ashore?

The Fishing For Litter Co-ordinator will work with Harbour Masters and waste contractors to manage the collection and disposal and where possible, the recycling of the waste.

Who do I contact for more information?

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