

MARLITCY

A guide for the implementation of
the Fishing for Litter initiative in
Cyprus



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Guide on How to Implement Fishing for Litter Initiatives in Cyprus



Introduction

Fishing for Litter (F4L) initiative is a voluntary initiative that engages fishermen in the removal of litter from the sea and raises awareness of the problem of marine litter in the fishing industry. F4L was first implemented at a port in the Netherlands and now runs in numerous countries across Europe with great results (KIMO International, 2018).

The first Fishing for Litter initiative in Cyprus was launched by the MarLitCy project (MarineLitter: Together for Clean Coasts!) in Famagusta. The success of the initiative and the eagerness of the fishing community to contribute to the fight against marine pollution has led the MarLitCy2 project (Marine Litter for Synergies, Capacity-building and Peacebuilding) to launch three more F4L initiatives around Cyprus. Hopefully this action can be permanently established around Cyprus on a regular basis.

This F4L Guide aims to provide the fishing community, a key stakeholder of the MarLitCy 2 project, information on how they can safely participate in these F4L initiatives and assist in the reduction of marine litter in Cyprus. Furthermore, F4L can contribute to changing practices and culture within the fishing sector, provide a mechanism to remove marine litter from the sea, and raise awareness among the fishing industry, the public and other sectors (OSPAR Agreement, 2017).

What is marine litter?

According to the European Commission (2010) “marine litter consists of items that have been deliberately discarded, unintentionally lost, or transported by winds and rivers, into the sea and on beaches. It mainly consists of plastics, wood, metals, glass, rubber, clothing and paper. Land-based sources account for up to 80% of marine litter– these include tourism, sewage and illegal or poorly managed landfills. The main sea-based sources are shipping and fishing.”



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Why is marine litter an important issue?

Marine litter is one of the biggest global threats to the health of the world's coastal areas, oceans, and fresh water (Therevnon et al., 2014). It is an issue of local, regional, national, and international concern.

According to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) (2018), marine litter can:

- Threaten human health and safety.
- Potentially kill or injure marine and coastal wildlife which gets trapped or mistakenly feeds on litter.
- Degrade and damage marine habitats.
- Cause economic loss to fishing and tourism.



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The slow rate of degradation of litter, especially plastics, along with the continuously growing quantity of litter disposal is leading to a gradual increase in marine litter found on the shores and at sea. In addition, microplastics; small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long (Thompson, et al., 2004), can be consumed by fish, enter the food chain and then end up on our plates (Boucher and Friot, 2017). The Mediterranean Sea is one of the most polluted seas worldwide, especially with regards to plastics (Deudero and Alomar, 2015).

The targets behind the Fishing for Litter action!

The systematic collection and management of marine litter aims to:

- Improve the condition of the marine environment
- Promote behavioural changes in the fishing industry
- Achieve an effective disposal system for marine litter in ports and fishing shelters
- Raise awareness of marine litter issue
- Improve and understand the characteristics of marine litter in the fishing areas

How can I help?

We know that you, the fishing industry, are not responsible for the marine litter found in our sea and our coast. But you can be a big part of the solution and directly involved in the appropriate management and treatment of this problem.

All you have to do is to collect any litter that is caught in your fishing gear during your normal fishing operation and dispose it in the Eco Bins that are specifically installed at selected harbours. There is no financial compensation for your efforts, but the disposal logistics are free, and you will contribute towards the aim of this action and help the environment.



Credits: MerTerre





Guidelines for Fishing for Litter

- All marine litter either floating on sea surface or caught in your nets should be collected in the containers (zembiles) provided.
- Garbage including plastics, domestic wastes, oil, operational wastes and fishing gear should never be thrown overboard.
- Full bags of marine litter should be deposited in the Eco bins. The local entity in charge is responsible for disposing the Eco - bins to the recycle station. If you accumulate a significant amount of litter in one trip resulting in space problems on board the containers (zembiles) should be emptied regularly.
- Drums of fluids, chemicals and hazardous items such as batteries are considered special waste. They should be dealt with the local special waste procedures.
- Special attention should be paid to large and heavy items. These items should be placed next to Eco bins (not inside). The local entity in charge will transfer them to the appropriate recycling station.
- Any queries or suggestions to improve the scheme should be directed to the project's contact point in the following link <http://www.marlitcy.eu/contact-us.html>
- For issues regarding the Eco bins or the management of the marine litter, you must contact the responsible department at:

- 1.Larnaca Municipality - Health Board Service, phone numbers:
22816541, 24816559
- 2.Paralimni Municipality Public Health Service, phone number:
23819213
- 3.Famagusta local community: phone number, 0548 8166026
- 4.Iskele/Trikomo local community : phone number: 0548 8470707

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