

PROPOSAL FOR BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN

FISHERIES

1 ELIMINATE PLASTIC LEAKAGES FROM NET REPAIR AREAS

- Use a closed area to repair fishing nets and gear.
- Place easily accesible containers in the repair areas for the disposal of remains of fishing nets and gear.
- After repairing fishing nets, always sweep the area to prevent leakages.

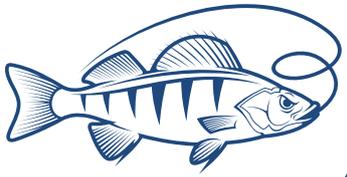
2 IF YOU CAN, COLLECT ANY PLASTIC YOU FIND AT SEA

- If you find plastic floating on the surface, use a skimmer net to collect and bring it in to land.
- If plastic gets caught in fishing nets, do not put them back in the sea and bring them to land.
- If you find floating patches of microplastics or pellets, inform the shoreline cleaning service by calling to 112.

3 WHENEVER POSSIBLE, RECOVER LOST OR BROKEN FISHING GEAR AND NETS

- If fishing nets or gear have broken, do not leave at sea.
- Whenever possible try to recover lost or identified fishing gear or nets from sea.
- If possible, use geolocation systems or trackers on fishing nets and gear to minimise their loss.
- If you cannot recover a lost fishing net at less than 40 metres of depth, but you know their location, inform LEADERS' Ghost Net Recovery Project, by contacting galp_menorca@cime.es.





4 REPLACE FISHING GEAR FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

- Replace polystyrene fishing gear such as buoyancy systems, with cork or less polluting and more resistant materials such as PVC or high density Polyethylene.
- Stay informed of the novelties in more sustainable materials for fishing professionals. There are initiatives such as the INdIGO and INARBIO projects that are experimenting with biodegradable nets.
- Whenever possible, replace fishing nets made from synthetic materials with natural or biodegradable materials.

5 IDENTIFY A SECOND LIFE FOR DISCARDED FISHING NETS AND GEAR

- Analyse the possibility of enabling an area with containers for storing discarded fishing nets and gear.
- Find a waste manager or come to an agreement with a local entity to process discarded fishing nets and gear, reusing the different type of materials.
- Collaborate with local artisans to create new products from discarded fishing gear. You can contact the Plastic Free Menorca Alliance about this as they have a project working on this matter.

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