

MARLISCO



Stopping Marine Litter Together

Collecting Ghost Nets in the Baltic Sea

Case Studies collected by the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas. Berlin, 10-12 April 2013.

Baltic Sea	
Geographical area targeted	Baltic Sea: Polish and Lithuanian Territorial Waters
Scale of Implementation:	Regional
Commencement Date:	2011-03-01
End Date	2013-03-31
Objectives:	Prevention of waste from entering the aquatic environment Remediation Raising Awareness Understanding the problem
Type of Initiative:	Collection Education and Outreach Research and Development Litter monitoring
Type of Marine Litter targeted:	Abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear
Location of the litter targeted:	Sea Surface Water column Seafloor
Land based sources targeted:	Solid waste managers and companies
Sea based sources targeted:	Ships



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<p>Brief Description of the Initiative:</p>	<p>In 2011, WWF Poland together with fishermen, scientists and divers conducted a pilot project financed by Baltic Sea 2020, with a view to work out the methodology for net removal and carry out activities to clean the Polish territorial waters from ghost nets. As a result 6 tones of ghost nets were retrieved from the Baltic during 24 days of actions at sea – from sea bottom and two ship wrecks.</p> <p>To further diminish the impact of ghost nets on the Baltic ecosystem actions aimed at collecting ghost nets should be accompanied by measures aimed at preventing the loss of fishing gears. WWF is of the opinion that improved marking of fishing gears that would permit their quick retrieval and creation of port reception facilities where nets could be deposited free of charge are the most effective measures to combat the phenomenon of ghost nets.</p> <p>Considering the number of nets lost annually in the Baltic fishing grounds, estimated in the framework of the project describe above WWF Poland, with financial support of Baltic Sea 2020 decided to extend the Project in 2012 to Polish and Lithuanian waters. By collecting lost nets in the Polish and Lithuanian economic zones and creating internet database of “hooks”, the project will contribute to decreasing unnecessary and uncontrolled impact of ghost fishing on the species which are already heavily affected by commercial fisheries. The project will also contribute to raising awareness of sea users with regard to the lost nets.</p>
<p>Responsible organisations:</p>	<p>WWF Poland</p>
<p>Partner organizations</p>	<p>Lithuanian Fund for Nature, Baltic Sea 2020</p>
<p>Financing:</p>	<p>Financed by Baltic Sea 2020</p>

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Project URL and Other Sources of Information:	www.wwf.pl ; sieciwidma.wwf.pl
Contributor and further contact person for request	
First name:	Piotr
Last name:	Prędko
Organisation/Affiliation	WWF Poland
Job Title:	Project Leader
Organisation Address:	Wisniowa 38 Street, 02-520 Warsaw, Poland
Pdf document:	2013-02-07-12-32-32-SieciWidma_PL.pdf
Literature:	Concluding report from the first year of action is available at: http://assets.wwfpl.panda.org.wwf-web-1.bluegecko.net/downloads/ghostnet_en_1.pdf