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# Fishing for Litter Greece Final Report 2025

# Fishing for Litter Greece





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This annual report includes the results of benthic litter monitoring by the ambassadors of the *Fishing for Litter* project for 2025.

We would like to thank: Nikolaos Stratos, Dimitrios Kardiolakas, Dimitrios Sakatis, Dimitrios Boulis, Stylianos Boulis, Elias Hatzigavriel, Athanasios - Theodoros Papagiannakis, Dimitrios Sarikas, Kyriakos Gavougiorgos, Emmanuel Kardamylas, Symeon Maniatis, Taxiarchis Bimpikas, Efstratios Karantonis, Efstratios Kassos, Grigorios Georgalas, Paraschos Karabourniotis, Alexander Melekos, Gerasimos Pouliezos, Apostolos Kypraios, Kyriakos Charanas, Georgios Vogiatzoglou, Georgios Melianos, Eleftherios Giannoukas, Konstantinos Tsolakis, Konstantinos Giannoukas, Dimitrios Giaourakis, Stylianos Savvas, Vlassis Athanasiou, Konstantinos - Panagiotis Karafyllis, Athanasios Ladopoulos, Georgios Aganicolas, Nikolaos Kotsonis, Ioannis Sampakoudakis, Fotis Karavetis, Georgios Chochlakis, Stavros Gylikos, Michael Tsambas, Konstantinos Tzemos, Dimitrios Koukourakis, Georgios Psarros, Nikolaos Alexiadis.

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A man in an orange raincoat is on a boat, handling a blue bucket filled with fishing gear and plastic waste. The background shows the interior of the boat with a net and some equipment.

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# ***FISHING FOR LITTER PROJECT***

The *Fishing for Litter* project is implemented by Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation, exclusively in collaboration with iSea since 2019 with the aim to actively involve the fishing industry in benthic litter removal and the systematic monitoring of benthic litter marine pollution in Greece.

The implementation of the project is based on the fishing industry's access to information on benthic litter, about which knowledge is still limited, and on fishing gear as a means of removing litter from the marine environment, specifically from the areas that cannot be removed in any other way.

The recording of litter by fishermen is carried out in accordance with the OSPAR Agreement 2017-08 protocol and concerns objects that accumulate in the participants' nets as part of their usual fishing activity.

In 2025, the "Fishing for Litter" project expanded to new ports such as Patras, Kyllini, Agios Nikolaos Crete and Rhodes, now counting 54 active fishing vessels operating throughout the Aegean, Ionian and Cretan Seas.



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# 7 YEARS OF *FISHING* *FOR LITTER*

**68** trawlers  
participating

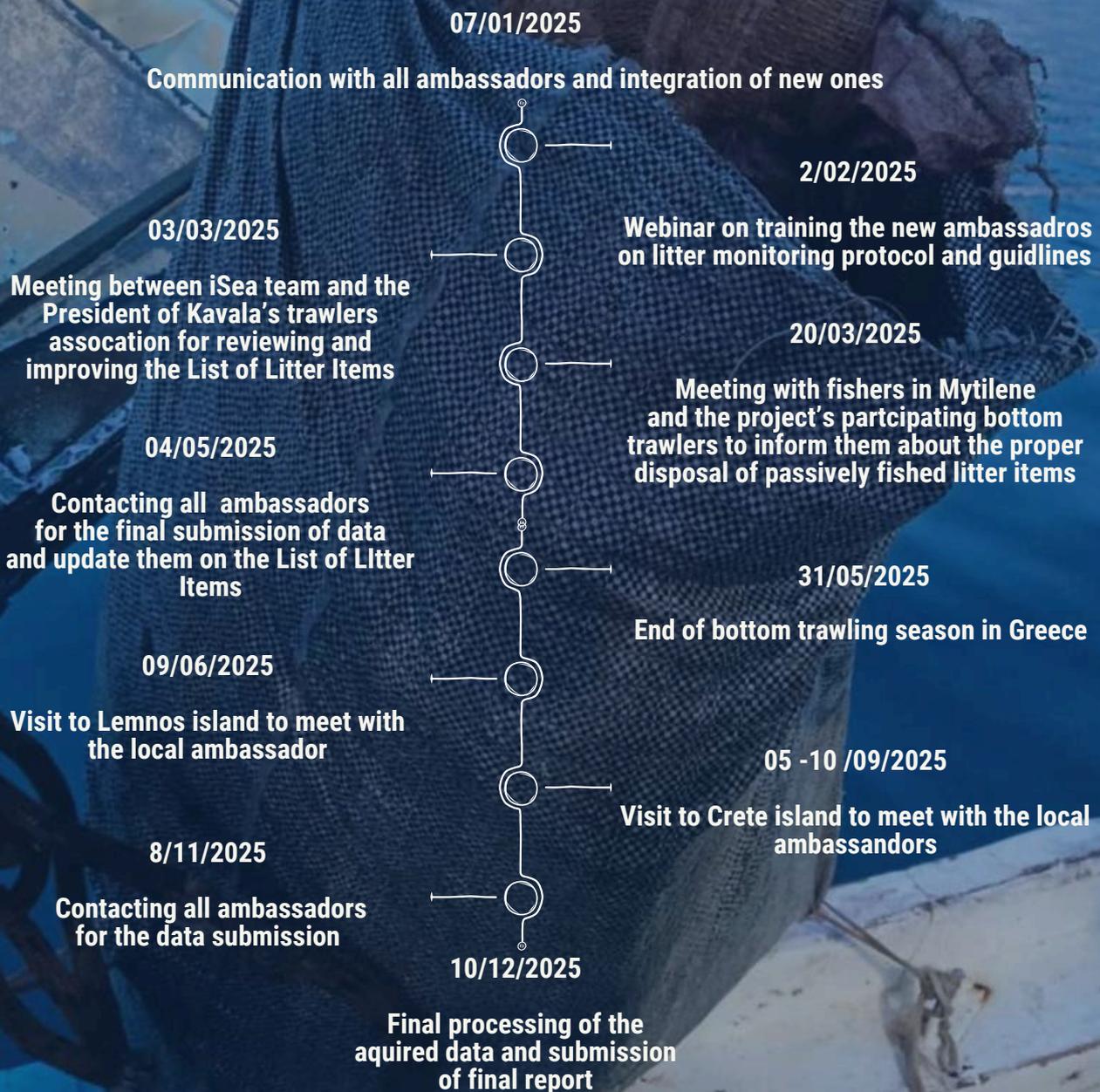
**>277** tons of benthic  
litter removed

**>424.000** litter items  
recorded

**>353.000** were  
plastics



# ACTIONS



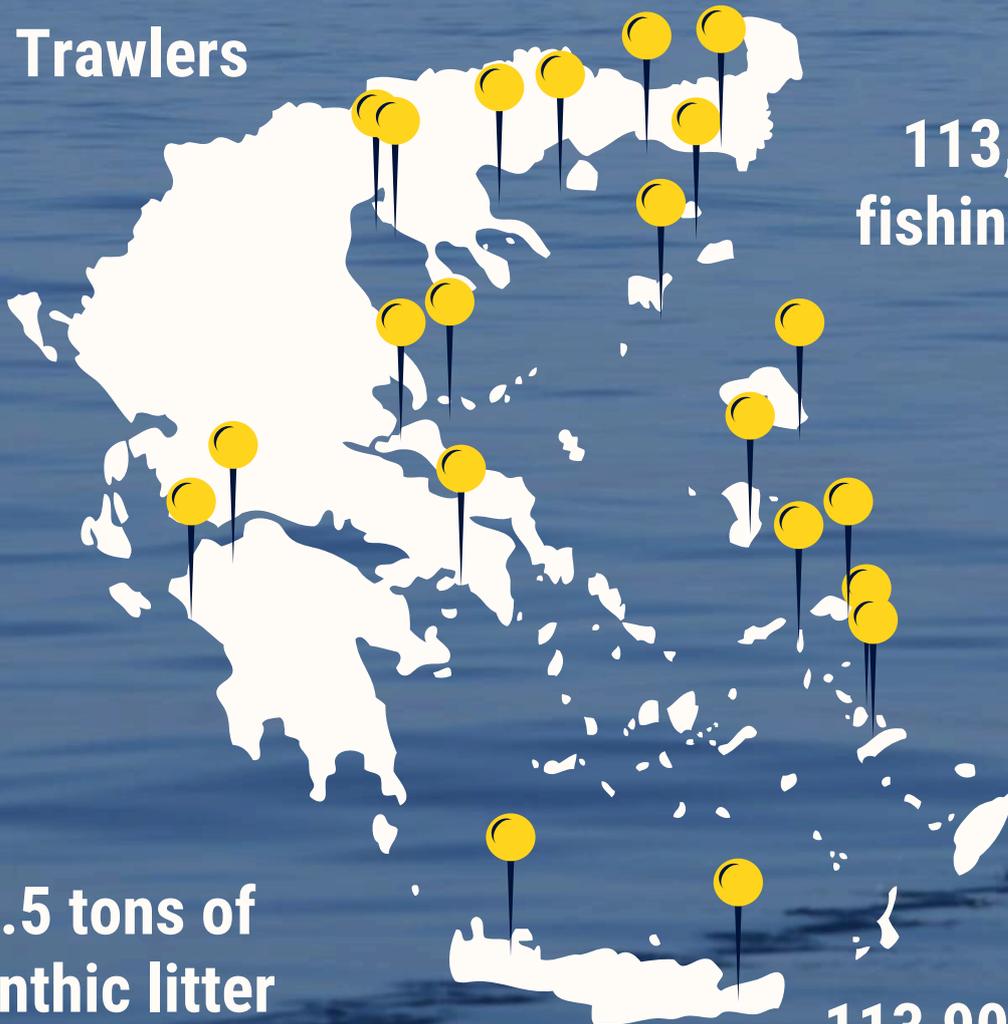


# RESULTS 2025

21 Ports

56 Trawlers

113,428.07  
fishing hours



91.5 tons of  
benthic litter  
removed

113,902 items  
passively fished

8,438  
fishing trips



Table 1: List the total weight (Kg) of litter items collected and recorded by the fishing vessels during 2025

FISHING VESSEL	EX. MARKING	Kg
MARIOS A	NK 329	989.70
PANAGIA TILOY	NK 383	2,073.70
PANAGIA ARGOKILIOTISSA	NA 137	171.80
MICHALIS B.	NX 239	454.00
MARIA B.	NX 294	487.30
TAXIARCHIS B.	NX 254	877.00
PANTOKRATOR B.	NX 306	746.70
FANEROMENI	NΘ 1128	1,675.50
ANTONIOS	NΠX 82	962.00
NIKOLAOS	NΘ 716	2,534.00
EVAGGELOS	NA 134	1,646.00
ASTERI	NΠ 6827	737.35
ELEFTERIOS	NΠ 11502	608.20
AGIA MARINA	NA 209	672.95
MATOUULA - DIMITRIOS II	NΣ31	2,326.50
STAVROS	MN 379	962.00
KAPETAN FOTIS II	NA 136	815.50
AGIA PARASKEVI (chios)	NX 233	1,525.40
MARIA K.	NM 374	7,054.40
CHRISTOS K.	NΘ 1119	2,424.00
AGIA PARASKEVI (Dogias)	NΘ 466	574.90
CHARALAMPOS	NΘ 903	2,168.30
TAXIARCHIS (Kassos)	NM 303	5,976.50
APOSTOLOS	NΣ 358	1,083.20
KAPETAN STRATOS	NA 27	774.50
KONSTANTINOS - IRINIS	NΘ 467	1,137.00
PANAGIA M	NM 16	289.00



FISHING VESSEL	EX. MARKING	Kg
VENUS II	NX 263	1,438.00
KAPETAN GIORGIS	ΝΠ 19	1,259.90
ARGO	ΝΘ 978	544.50
ARGO II	ΝΘ 1359	896.80
ARGO III	ΝΘ 1362	915.30
PANTOKRATOR (Nearxos)	ΝΘ 1370	998.00
TAXIARCHIS (Bisbikas)	ΝΘ 546	995.00
AGIOS STILIANOS	NK 238	1,564.60
AGIOS DIMITRIOS	NK 326	1,868.30
KAPETAN KOSMAS	NK 421	1.948,20
FILIPPOS	NB 737	3,368.50
GERASIMOS	ΝΠ 27	1,057.00
KAPETAN SARANTIS	ΝΠ 18	965.00
AGIOS NIKOLAOS	NKA 227	9,545.50
TAXIARCHIS (Sakatis)	NK 348	1,601.50
TRIA ADERFIA	NA 131	589.60
PANAGIA KREMNIOTISSA	NA 02	915.30
NIKOS	NA 113	2,321.00
PANAGIA THALASSINI	NA 114	1,295.30
KONSTANTINOS	NX 219	1,446.00
PANAGIA FANEROMENI II	ΝΠΔ 444	2,199.00
KATERINA KONSTANTIA	ΝΘ 1349	992.00
ICHTHYS D.S.	NAN 96	590.50
AGIA IRINI CHRISOVALANTO	NP 262	464.00
MARIA KONSTANTINOS	ΝΠ 359	890.30
VOREIO AIGAIO	ΝΘ 784	540.70
P.S. PSARROS	NM 27	1,242.20
AGIOS NEKTARIOS	ΝΘ 1020	4,096.40
AGIOS ANDREAS	ΝΘ 957	1,857.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>91,565.20</b>

Table 2: Average amount of litter items collected and recorded by the fishing vessels during 2025

FISHING VESSEL	FISHING AREA	A. A. Kilos/ Month
MARIOS A	KAVALA	122.17
PANAGIA TILOY	STAVROS THESSALONIKI	271.30
PANAGIA ARGOKILIOTISSA	ALEXANDROUPOLI	219.80
MICHALIS B.	CHIOS	59.70
MARIA B.	CHIOS	59.72
TAXIARCHIS B.	CHIOS	119.42
PANTOKRATOR B.	CHIOS	85.12
FANEROMENI	LESVOS	188.92
ANTONIOS	LEROS	130.28
NIKOLAOS	LEROS	299.57
EVAGGELOS	LEROS	225.57
ASTERI	LEROS	90.52
ELEFTERIOS	LEROS	66.78
AGIA MARINA	ALEXANDROUPOLI	88.20
MATOUULA - DIMITRIOS II	SKIATHOS	312.92
STAVROS	LESVOS	116.14
KAPETAN FOTIS II	ALEXANDROUPOLI	116.50
AGIA PARASKEVI (chios)	CHIOS	196.48
MARIA K.	LESVOS	966.20
CHRISTOS K.	PORTO LAGOS	280.57
AGIA PARASKEVI (Dogias)	THERMAIKOS	72.84
CHARALAMPOS	THERMAIKOS	299.50
TAXIARCHIS (Kassos)	LESVOS	754.95
APOSTOLOS	SAMOS	147.60
KAPETAN STRATOS	SAMOS	102.50
KONSTANTINOS - IRINIS	SAMOS	149.42
PANAGIA M	LIMNOS	35.50
AGIOS ANDREAS	THERMAIKOS	247.85



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FISHING VESSEL	FISHING AREA	A. A. Kilos/Month
VENUS II	CHIOS	179.57
KAPETAN GIORGIS	PATMOS	167.21
ARGO	THERMAIKOS	77.71
ARGO II	THERMAIKOS	128.11
ARGO III	THERMAIKOS	130.75
PANTOKRATOR (Nearxos)	THERMAIKOS	142.57
TAXIARCHIS (Bisbikas)	LESVOS	127.57
AGIOS STILIANOS	KAVALA	223.51
AGIOS DIMITRIOS	KAVALA	244.87
KAPETAN KOSMAS	KAVALA	254.01
FILIPPOS	VOLOS	404.78
GERASIMOS	PATMOS	135.64
KAPETAN SARANTIS	PATMOS	126.85
AGIOS NIKOLAOS	KALYMNOS	1,212.07
TAXIARCHIS (Sakatis)	KAVALA	209.71
TRIA ADERFIA	ALEXANDROUPOLI	77.98
PANAGIA KREMNIOTISSA	ALEXANDROUPOLI	125.61
NIKOS	SAMOTHRAKI	279.85
PANAGIA THALASSINI	ALEXANDROUPOLI	173.47
KONSTANTINOS	CRETE	188.71
PANAGIA FANEROMENI II	PATRA	293.57
KATERINA KONSTANTIA	CRETE	130.28
ICHTHYS D.S.	CRETE	84.28
AGIA IRINI CHRISOVALANTO	CRETE	66.28
MARIA KONSTANTINOS	PATRA	113.97
VOREIO AIGAI0	PATRA	350.70
P.S. PSARROS	THERMAIKOS	142.35
AGIOS NEKTARIOS	PATRA	515.60

# BENTHIC LITTER ABUNDANCE

Table 3: Average amount of litter items collected and recorded during 2025 by the different areas in Greece

HSA FISHING AREAS	FISHING TRIPS	A.A. Items/ Area
-East Aegean (S15)	3.008	11.41
-Argolean Gulf, Saronic and Myrtoan Sea (S8)	138	9.28
-Northern Evia - Sporades (S12)	319	16.14
-Dodecanese (S16)	350	14.64
-Euvian Gulf, Trikeri Strait (S10)	156	28.00
-Thermaic Gulf, Toroneos Gulf (S13)	827	19.00
-Thracian Sea (S14)	2,571	12.20
-Ionian Sea (S5)	155	32.68
-Gulf of Corinth (S9)	54	19.76
-Creatan Sea (S18)	552	9.23
-Gulf of Patras. Kefalonia, Zakynthos (S6)	301	9.98



# PLASTIC: The dominant material on the Greek seafloor

Due to the continuous increase in the percentage of plastic litter, for better monitoring and recording of benthic litter passively fished by the ambassadors, as well as its better categorisation, in 2025, the following categories were added to the Plastic Materials of the Masterlist of Litter Items in the recording form:

- Plastic Mussel farming barrels
- Plastic boats
- Plastic clothing
- Plastic crates
- Styrofoam boxes

As a result, 100 plastic boats have been already separately recorded mainly around the islands.

Cables and wires were also added as a separate category of the Metallic Materials for a more accurate recording of litter items.



# BENTHIC LITTER COMPOSITION

Of the total weight of benthic litter removed and recorded by the 58 participating fishing vessels of the *Fishing For Litter* project, plastic constitutes the overwhelming percentage of 53%, followed by objects belonging to Metal at 20% and Glass - Ceramic at 12%, with the remaining categories following in smaller percentages.

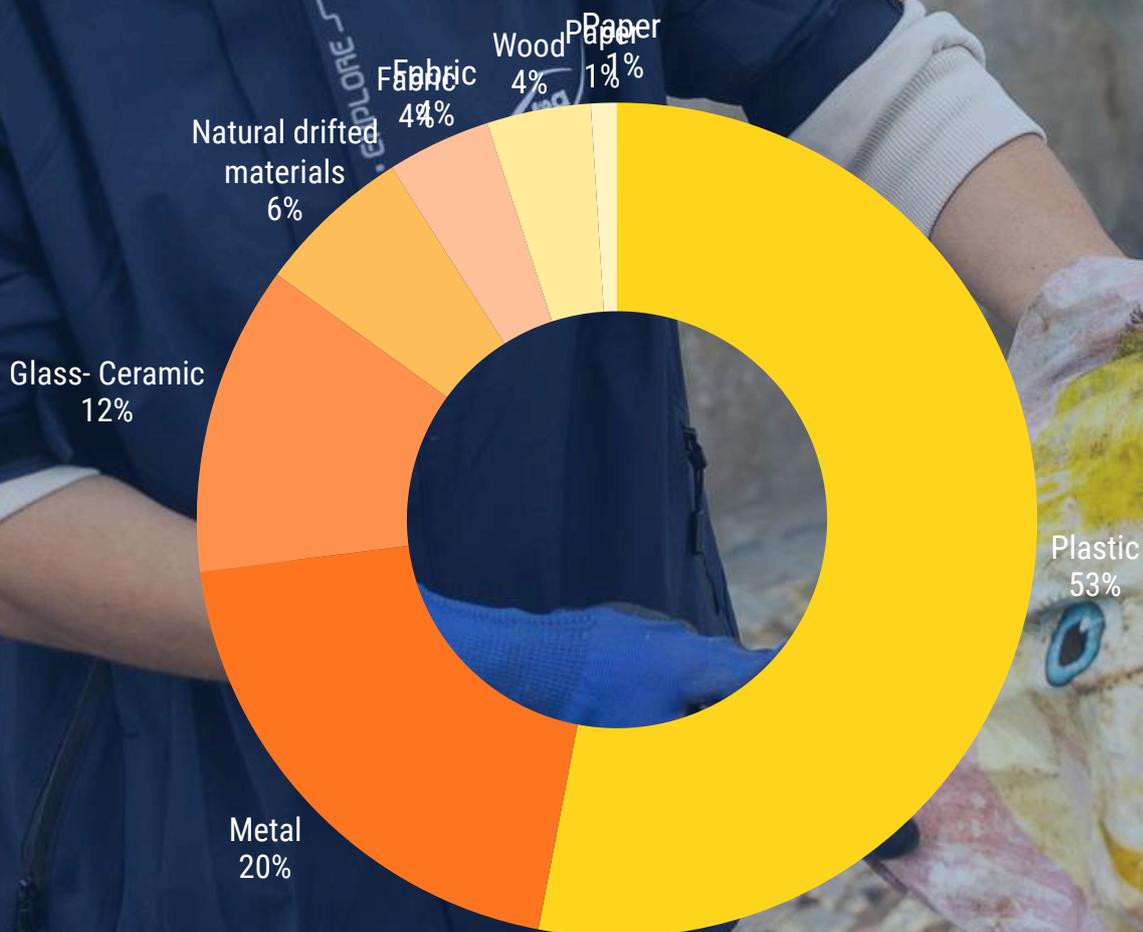


Chart 1: Percentage by materials' total weight



# BENTHIC LITTER COMPOSITION

Of the total number of items removed, an overwhelming 83% were plastic items recorded by the participating fishing vessels. This percentage of the total items removed by item, is greater than the percentage of plastics by weight, due to the low weight of the most abundant plastic items.



Chart 2: Percentage by materials' total litter items



# TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS

The 10 most abundant litter items mainly consist of plastics, with plastic bags being the most abundant at 27% and plastic bottles at 19%, followed by industrial bags at 12%, while litter items, such as ropes from purse seine fishing gear and octopus pots are still in the Top 10.

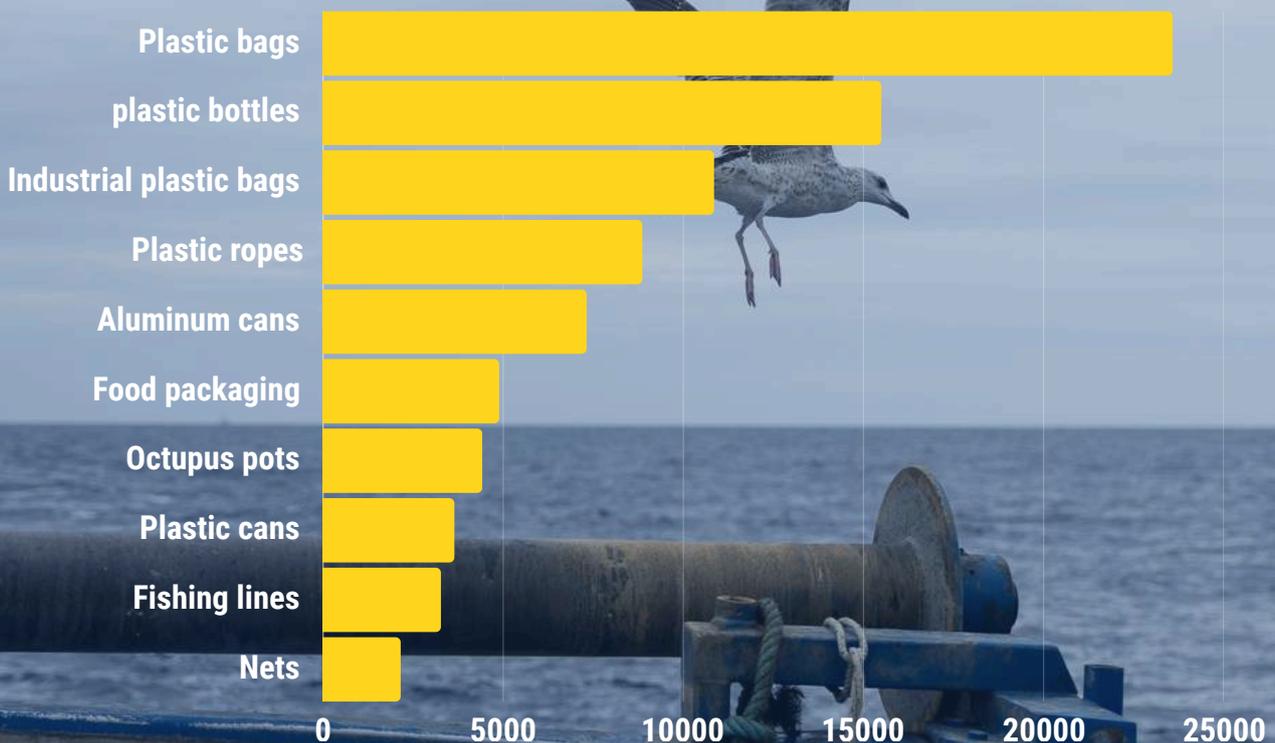


Chart 3: List of the 10 most abundant litter items

The percentage of items related to Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear reaches 25% of litter.



# 5 YEARS OF SYSTEMATIC MONITORING

Marine litter pollution is escalating every year, making it one of the most urgent global environmental challenges with serious threats to marine biodiversity and significant economic impacts.

Part of marine litter is visible on the coasts, while of what floats before reaching them, a staggering 70% eventually sinks, remaining largely hidden on the seabed and poorly understood.

Research activity and increasing knowledge about the composition and distribution of benthic litter is therefore crucial, but research methods based on new technologies are often limited by high costs and limited space coverage.

The *Fishing for Litter* (FFL) project, a cost-effective initiative introduced under the OSPAR Protocol, offers a practical solution by actively involving the fishing industry in monitoring benthic marine litter. Professional fishers participating in the project remove litter items passively fished in their nets during their daily operations and then sort, categorize, weigh and record them in standardized forms.



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# 5 YEARS OF SYSTEMATIC MONITORING

The results of the data systematically collected in this way during the 5 years of the project's implementation were analyzed by the environmental organisation iSea, in collaboration with the MER Research Institute and the Athanassios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation. With the aim of increasing scientific knowledge about benthic litter at deeper depths (>50 meters), a scientific publication will follow that will describe the composition, quantity and spatial distribution of marine litter in Greek waters, which has been already submitted.

In this specific scientific publication, in addition to the results of the systematic monitoring of benthic litter, the European institutional framework aimed at achieving Good Environmental Status and the country's obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive will be presented, and targeted policy interventions and sustainable financing mechanisms will be proposed at the national level with the aim of strengthening efforts to achieve Good Environmental Status.



# UPCOMING REPORT

At the same time, the analysis of the data obtained within the framework of the *Fishing for Litter* project, as well as the experience of the fishers themselves, highlighted the need to further investigate a specific category of items related to polypropylene ropes and cement blocks that act as anchors for the stabilization of lighting devices used by purse seines.

The data collected by the ambassadors of our project (especially in the fishing zones of the Thracian Sea and the Euboean Gulf) highlight the quantity and dispersion of this specific source of pollution, which, together with proposed solutions for mitigating the issue, is described in the report entitled "The Silent Pollution Sources of Fishing Activity" and is due to be published soon.



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# ACKNOWLEDGING THE AMBASSADORS

Providing labels to all the participating vessels was completed!!!





# PROJECT COMMUNICATION

In order to better communicate the project, publications were made on iSea’s social media, in accordance with the guidelines of the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation.

In addition, the communication campaign continued with interviews with the ambassadors and the aim to highlight the project and strengthen participation through the personalized effort made by the ambassadors.

## Facebook

Date	Reach	Interaction	Link
4-2-2025	1,412	49	<a href="#">Link1</a>
5-2-2025	1,237	31	<a href="#">Link2</a>
6-2-2025	982	31	<a href="#">Link3</a>
7-2-2025	1,364	59	<a href="#">Link4</a>
5-9-2025	3,043	85	<a href="#">Link5</a>
4-12-2025	4,481	47	<a href="#">Link6</a>

Date	Reach	Interaction	Link
6-2-2025	3,553	47	<a href="#">Link1</a>
9-5-2025	1,333	34	<a href="#">Link2</a>
6-12-2025	1,582	27	<a href="#">Link3</a>

## Tik Tok



# ACKNOWLEDGING THE AMBASSADORS

## Instagram

Date	Reach	Interaction	Link
4-2-2025	1,216	41	<a href="#">Link1</a>
5-2-2025	914	15	<a href="#">Link2</a>
6-2-2025	419	54	<a href="#">Link3</a>
7-2-2025	896	43	<a href="#">Link4</a>
5-9-2025	1,267	72	<a href="#">Link5</a>
4-12-2025	1,180	57	<a href="#">Link6</a>

A total of 5 “stories” were created and shared on Instagram with 2,837 views.





# ACKNOWLEDGING THE AMBASSADORS

## LinkedIn

Date	Reach	Interaction	Clicks	Link
4-2-2025	526	27	14	<a href="#">Link1</a>
5-2-2025	235	18	11	<a href="#">Link2</a>
6-2-2025	178	4	1	<a href="#">Link3</a>
7-2-2025	367	3	2	<a href="#">Link4</a>
5-9-2025	760	34	66	<a href="#">Link5</a>
4-12-2025	119	6	10	<a href="#">Link6</a>

Date	Reach	Interaction	Link
4-2-2025	3	4	<a href="#">Link1</a>
5-2-2025	10	15	<a href="#">Link2</a>
6-2-2025	3	4	<a href="#">Link3</a>
7-2-2025	3	7	<a href="#">Link4</a>

## Bluesky

## Website

Pages	Projections	Link
Fishing For Litter GR	265	<a href="#">Link1</a>
Fishing For Litter ENG	27	<a href="#">Link2</a>
Δελτίο Τύπου GR	60	<a href="#">Link3</a>
Δελτίο Τύπου ENG	21	<a href="#">Link4</a>

# PHOTO INDEX

## TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS

Plastic Bags



Industrial bags



Single Use  
Plastic bottles



Polypropelene ropes



Aluminum Cans



# PHOTO INDEX

## TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS

Plastic Octopus Pots



Hard plastic pieces



Fishing lines



Food Packaging



Nets



Learn more about  
Fishing for Litter Project



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