

PRESS RELEASE

45 fishing boats "fished" for litter for the 5th year in a row

In 2018, in Keratsini, the fishers began to systematically record the litter items they caught during their fishing activity, in the context of the "Fishing for Litter" project. Since then and over a period of five years, more fishing vessels from different ports of the country have joined this collective effort, bringing the fishing industry to the forefront of tackling marine pollution.

The "Fishing for Litter" project, an initiative of the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation, implemented in collaboration with the Environmental Organisation iSea, aims to reduce marine litter with the participation of the fishing industry, to improve its waste management practices and to collect data on benthic marine pollution, at depths inaccessible to divers. In its course of implementation, the project has been empowered and is currently carried out with the support of 45 fishing vessels from different ports throughout the Aegean.

With their assistance, approximately 50 tons of benthic litter were removed in 2023, comprising mostly from plastic. Specifically, 57% were plastic items, half of which belong to single use plastics (bags, plastic bottles, etc.). Also, about 10% are fisheries related litter items (octopus traps, ropes and nets).

The tons collected correspond to approximately 45.000 objects/litter items, which were recorded by the fishers on a designated form for the collection of scientific data, according to the OSPAR protocol 2017-018. Through this process, participating fishers contribute to the removal of a large amount of benthic waste and become "citizen scientists" by collecting important information about it.

As one of the projects ambassador said: "The sea is my life! It's part of my job, so anything that affects it has a direct impact on me. Its protection is one of the most important issues we should discuss."

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