

Re:Fish

Eva Blidberg, 2026-05-04



Interreg  Co-funded by the European Union

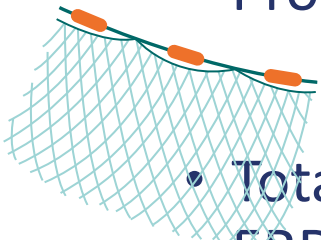
Central Baltic Programme

Re:Fish

Retrieval, recycling, and preventive actions for abandoned recreational fishing gear in the central Baltic Sea

- Overall aim: To improve the marine environment
- Three years project (2023-2026)
- Financed by the Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027

• Total budget: 1.787.923,09 EUR,
ERDF: 1.430.338,46 EUR



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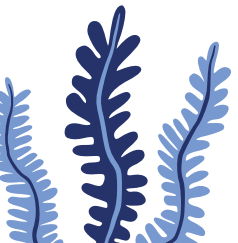
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Background

>3.3 million active recreational fishers in Sweden, Finland, and Estonia

Lost fishing gear is a common challenge in the central Baltic Sea region

It contributes to pollution from both plastics and hazardous substances



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Communication

Overview of activities

- **Retrieval operations** by dragging or diving. Passive fishing gears and sport fishing gears and accessories.
- **Collection of end-of-life gear**, and recycling possibilities.
- **Preventive actions** by involving stakeholders, education and training. Collection of citizen based-knowledge.

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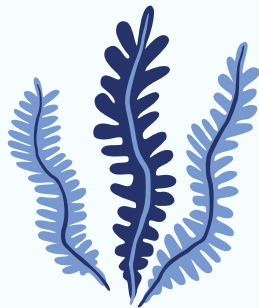
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Dragging operations

Conducted in Finland (outside Rauma) and Estonia (Pärnu Bay)

Area cleaned: 228 km²

Total length of nets: 8763 m



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Diving at hotspots

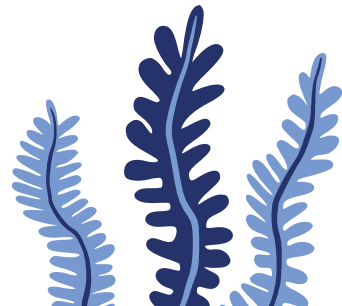
Conducted in Finland and Sweden

Sweden 6 dive sites, 2024 and 2025

An average of 24 new lures were recorded for a dive site.

The variance was high, between 5 and 54 lures.

Other fishing gear were also found on the sites.



End-of-life fishing gear

Conducted in Finland and Estonia

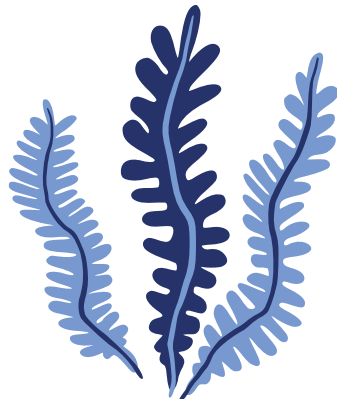
Finland 9 collection points in the Archipelago Sea:

2024: 30 kg

2025: 39 kg

Estonia 5 collection points in harbours in Pärnu municipality

In total: 1261 kg



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Preventive measures and more...

Communication/Information/Education;
SoMe, traditional media, short movies

Sport fishing fairs

Events

Workshops

Final conference

Reporting systems

Guidelines and best practices

Web site:

<https://centralbaltic.eu/project/refish/>

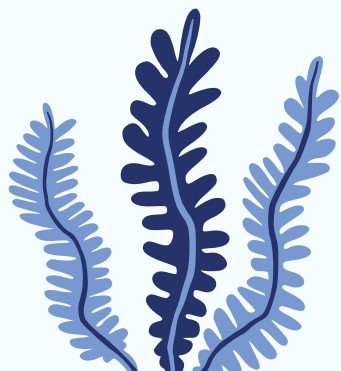


Additional impacts

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- HELCOM RAP ML

Thanks for listening!

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