



ABANDONED, LOST AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR (ALDFG) LOCATION AND MAPPING WITH THE SUPPORT OF MARITIME SECTORS

TITLE: Free LitterAT: Advancing towards litter- free Atlantic coastal communities by preventing and reducing macro and micro litter

PROGRAMME: Atlantic Area Transnational Program 2021-2027

DURATION: 3 years (1/11/23 – 31/10/26)

CONSORTIUM: 14 partners and 9 associated partners from 4 European countries (Portugal, Spain, France and Ireland)

COORDINATOR: Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Fundación CETMAR



© Manuel E. Garci_Bioimaxe

Main aim

To **protect and preserve biodiversity and reduce pollution** through innovative approaches that prevent and reduce marine litter.

This project places a special emphasis on **Abandoned Lost Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG)** and **microplastics**, in an effort to understand their location, sources and abundances.

Expected results

Free LitterAT will focus on **improving waste management, the enhancement of monitoring and modelling capabilities, facilitate access to knowledge and technologies, increasing stakeholders' awareness and supporting marine litter retrieval practices** when appropriate.



- Production of guidelines, protocols and good practices.
- Development of monitoring and modelling capabilities.
- Implementation of actions plans for reducing marine litter, especially ALDFG.

main **outcomes** will be transferred to **key end users** and disseminated to public

the ALDFG problem

ALDFG are a very concerning type of marine litter due to its effects on species and habitats as well as in human activities.

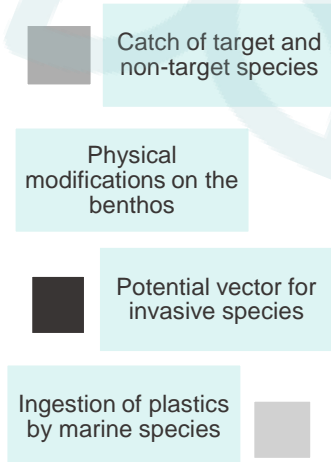
It is considered one of the major litter items from sea-based activities and the source of a significant amount of the plastic found in benthic ecosystems.

common causes of ALDFG

- Entanglement during fishing operations
- Bad weather conditions
- Illegal or unregulated fishing
- Gear conflict
- Vandalism
- Etc.

main ALDFG concerns

Environmental impacts



Impacts upon maritime users



join **Free LitterAT** project to tackle ghost fishing!



Co-funded by the **European Union**

Quantitative costs of ALDFG represent a considerable charge related to clean-up, retrieval operations and a direct impact on business activities.

how to detect ALDFG

Data on the **presence of ALDFG** are obtained from different sources:

- Scientific campaigns using remote operated vehicles (ROV, tow cameras, sonar technologies, etc.).
- Diverse modalities of diving (recreational or professionals).
- Fishing vessels that report the loss of their gear or that entangle in their fishing gears the remains of other ghost nets.



Free LitterAT facing ALDFG

Within the framework of the Free LitterAT project, special attention is paid to the ALDFGs location and mapping. In this scope, **local stakeholders** operating at sea (coastguards, fishermen, divers and NGOs) can play a prominent **role in detecting and reporting** their presence and strongly **contribute to tackle ghost fishing and protect the marine ecosystem**.

join Free litterAT by sharing and reporting your ALDFG findings

how to report ALDFG findings

To facilitate the findings inventory and information sharing, a **form will be distributed** to the participating stakeholders, on paper or on an online format.

main objective

to collect key information regarding

- ALDFG locations
- approximate dimensions
- characteristics
- potential environmental impacts

A **form will be distributed** during meetings to the **maritime stakeholders** involved in locating ALDFG. A direct link to the **online version** will be available.



Stakeholder collaboration in ALDFG location and mapping will be visible through Free LitterAT communication channels

full partners



associated partners



Interreg Atlantic Area



Co-funded by the European Union

C/ Eduardo Cabello 21, 36208, Vigo (Pontevedra)
 986 247047 - (Ext: 3105) - 674017901
www.freelitterat.eu
freelitterat@cetmar.org
 @clean_atlantic
 @cleanatlanticproject

