



2nd International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region

Net cuttings waste from fishing: developing best practices in the fishing industry

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What is KIMO?

International network of coastal municipalities working together to prevent marine pollution.

KIMO collects and shares best practices and influences international, regional and local policy.





Bits of waste **cord** and **rope**, as well as bits of **net** from the reparation of **fishing gear**



Net cuttings: what is the problem?

Nets and ropes comprise from 23 % to 32 % of the total marine litter items found in both the southern and northern North Sea and in the Arctic waters.

Within the top ten items found on North Sea beaches (OSPAR beach surveys)

Net Cuttings

Action B.4.3 OSPAR
RAP-ML 2

Action RS5 –
HELCOM RAP-ML

Both target net cuttings as
waste from the fishing sector

Aim to develop, disseminate
and promote best practice for
waste management.

Promote practical solutions for
reducing the impact of fisheries
related items.



Net Cuttings

Project Methodology

- Conducted a desktop background study
- Questionnaires, for face-to-face interviews with harbour staff and fishers
- Harbour authorities and fishers in Denmark, the Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden were interviewed
- Collected information on perceptions, current practices for waste management, best practices, barriers and solutions to the issue of collection and disposal of waste net cuttings

Project Report
and
Best Practices Guide
commissioned by

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management



Survey of harbours & fishers

Main conclusions: focus areas

- Practices to collect net cuttings need to be as simple and effective as possible
- Good practices should be adopted into daily routines and tailored to conditions on board
- Fishers point to a need for better education of the crew about personal responsibility and waste management
- Awareness raising is rated as an effective practice. Both stakeholders feel that social media and posters at harbours would be effective information campaigns



Survey of harbours & fishers

Main conclusions: Waste Management opportunities

- Net cuttings are not included in the majority of harbours' waste management plans
- Prioritize cleaning after repair work and more frequent sweeping and collecting on board and at the harbour would reduce cuttings
- More practical waste collection bins on ships was also an area that could be improved

Best Practices onboard: Simple effective tools



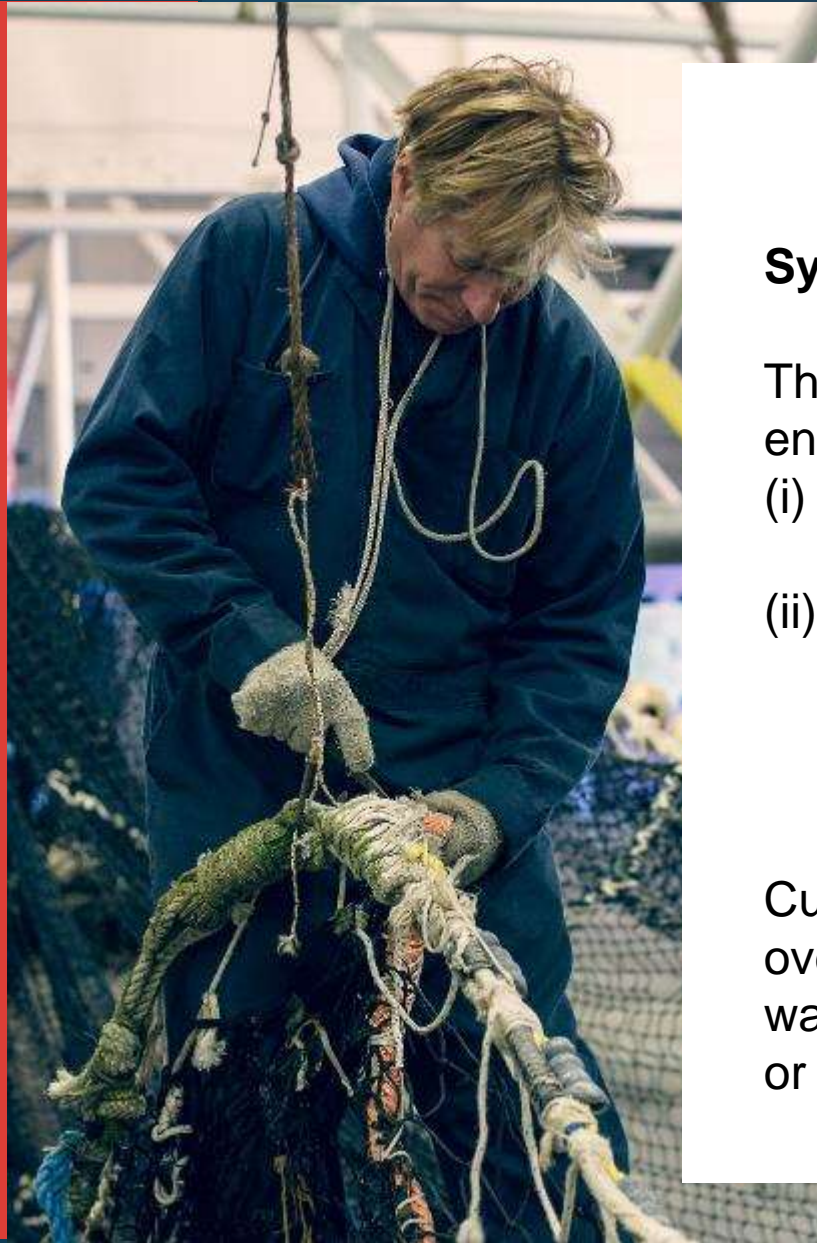
Litter traps / pockets and pouches / enclosed work area

The design must fit the fishers' needs not be a hindrance



Effective waste management on board

- What type of waste containers are necessary and practical?
- Is there an adequate number of waste containers on board?
- Are they placed such that they can easily be accessed during work?
- Are they properly secured?



Systematic Clean-up Routines

The skipper is responsible for ensuring that:

- (i) the crew is aware of and follows the procedure and
- (ii) the vessel is properly equipped with brooms, shovels, dustpans and bins to facilitate this

Cuttings should never be washed overboard by using buckets of water or water hoses.

Best practices: harbour



Frequent inspection and cleaning

Inclusion of net cuttings waste in port management plans

Clear information and signage



Dedicated waste containers/ bins

Free access to cleaning equipment

Awareness campaigns

Enforcement



Raised borders at the quayside

Reducing net cuttings waste

Set of principles to motivate for change

- Good dialogue between stakeholders fosters collaboration
- Awareness raising and fisheries education to change attitudes, work habits and routines and properly manage waste
- Waste management information that is clear, simple and accessible
- Designated waste storage that is clearly marked
- Facilities, relevant bins, bags and equipment at low or no cost
- Positive rewards for good waste management practices



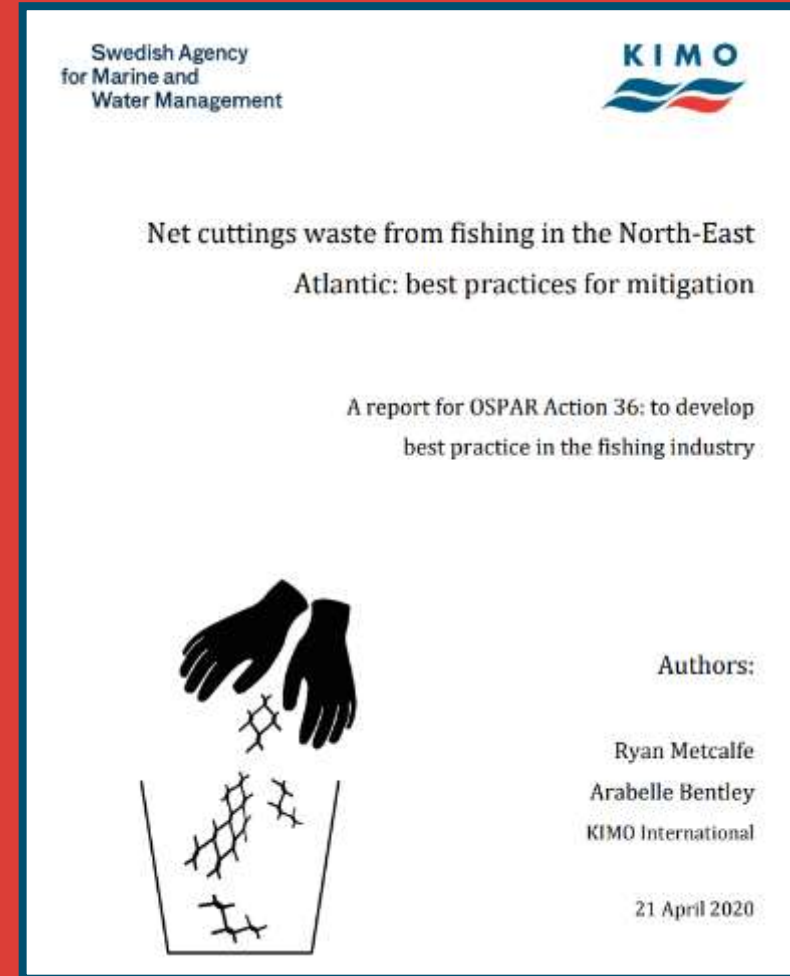
Recommendations

There is a need to change attitudes about the collection of waste
Individual crew awareness: their action for prevention is key.

- Waste management practices for fishing nets including repairs, mending and end of life must be integrated into sustainability education for fishers.
- Collaboration with fisheries associations to reach captains and crews to improve awareness and implementation of effective waste management practices on board and at the harbour.
- Net cutting waste should be a separate/mandatory waste stream in harbours waste management plans with dedicated signage and containers – Legislative change is necessary (IMO and nationally)
- Support innovative ideas that can prevent net cuttings loss to the sea.
- Support and promote the collection and recyclability and circularity of net waste to new nets.



Available to download here:



Thank-you for
your attention!

