



Market analysis for End-of-Life (EOL) fishing gear

One of the ways SEARCULAR is tackling marine litter and microplastic generated by European fisheries is by facilitating the collection, characterisation, sorting and conditioning of EOL fishing gear. This summary report provides an overview of the key findings of SEARCULAR's internal market analysis on EOL fishing gear in Europe.

Background

A market analysis assesses the landscape of a specific industry. To better support SEARCULAR's work to process and recycle EOL gear, we conducted a market analysis to estimate the volumes of EOL fishing gear waste collected in European fishing ports. The results of this report aid in identifying exploitation opportunities for the EOL recycling market, guide the scaling of technologies and help target policy recommendations.

Key findings and trends

- The annual amount of EOL fishing gear in Europe can be estimated based on the assumption that the same quantity of new products entering the market leave as EOL gear.
- The most accurate estimates are determined using local data. At this scale, the amount of waste varies greatly between countries, for example:
Spain: 1,643 tonnes per year (AZTI, 2019)
Iceland: 2,172 tonnes per year (SFS, 2024)
Norway: 4,000 tonnes per year (NTNU, 2024)
- **The market is in decline** and the amount of new fishing gear coming into **the market is expected to continue to decrease in future years**, due to the declining trend in the number of fishing vessel fleets, coupled with tighter fish stock regulations.
- However, **the value of fishing gear is expected to increase**, due to material and production improvements and stricter requirements for fishing gear equipment regarding marking, tracing, or bycatch prevention.

A mean value of 25,450 tonnes of gear are estimated to have been placed on the European market annually between 2015 and 2024.

This summary provides a high level overview of an internal report and market analysis conducted within SEARCULAR (D5.4 – unpublished).

More information about our work on recycling EOL gear can be found [on our website](https://www.searcular.eu) or get in touch at info@searcular.eu

