

# Fishing For Litter

Scotland 2014 – 2017



# 2015



Welcome to the Fishing for Litter Scotland 2015 update. Lets start with a big thank you to the fishermen, harbour staff and funders who have worked so hard to make the project the great success it has been for the last ten years. Over the period we have collected more than 900

tonnes of litter and made an enormous difference with more than 200 vessels and 15 harbours participating.

It has been a mixed year for the project with some great achievements tempered by a lower than hoped for volume of litter collected.

The highlight of the year must be the winning of the RSPB's prestigious Nature of Scotland Award for Marine Conservation with stiff competition from the three other great projects on the short list. The award was collected by the KIMO UK's Chairman Project Coordinator and at a ceremony in the Grand Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh.



## The Numbers

### At the start of 2015:

Litter landed 814 Tonnes  
No. of Vessels: 212  
No of Ports: 14

### At the end:

Litter landed: 908 Tonnes  
No. of Vessels: 214  
No of Ports: 15



FFL Scotland picks up the Marine Conservation Award.



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## Net Recycling

Fishing for Litter Scotland is now working with the Danish plastics company Plastix Global to trial the recycling of both end of life fishing nets and those landed as part of Fishing for Litter activities. Plastix Global take the gear, shred, clean and separate it and then extrude it back into material that is sold for plastic product manufacture — perhaps even new fishing nets!! That really would be a 'circular economy' solution. A major leap forward is that all types of net can now be recycled — not just the more valuable nylon. This has the potential to vastly reduce the cost of net disposal as well having a fantastic environmental advantage over disposal to landfill. A trial batch of nets left Peterhead in late November. The value in the recycled material is unlikely to cover the cost of collection and transport to Denmark but will be much cheaper than landfill. This initiative will also help us towards our target of recycling litter landed as part of the project.



First nets leave Peterhead bound for Denmark and a new life

## Celebrations

As well as reaching our tenth anniversary, in March Fishing for Litter Scotland celebrated reaching 800 tonnes landed with Scottish Minister Richard Lochhead visiting Eyemouth for a photocall.

## Another TV Appearance

FFL Scotland featured on the BBC's popular prime time production The One Show. Watched by 4 Million viewers, the feature was broadcast live from Peterhead Port and highlighted the benefits to both the fishing industry and the environment.



## Pick up 3 Pieces

As part of our education activities, the project is supporting the launch of KIMO UK's 'Pick Up 3 Pieces'. This is a simple idea where visitors to our beaches are invited to collect and take home three pieces of litter. If every resident in our coastal communities did this once every month, we would remove 55 million pieces each year. School pupils will be invited to participate during our marine litter education sessions.

## New Website

The long awaited Fishing for Litter UK website was launched. Visit us at: [www.fishingforlitter.org.uk](http://www.fishingforlitter.org.uk)

## Skippers' Expo

Fishing for Litter Scotland shared Stand 52 at Skippers Expo Aberdeen 2015 with Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Maritime Academy on 29 and 30 May. Preparation for the event included producing an updated 'Fishing for Litter Scotland' leaflet and promotional material including pens, beanie hats and shirts to ensure that our brand was clearly displayed. Two new skippers joined 'on the day' and information was provided to a number of others. Many skippers — most of whom turned out to be inshore fishermen fishing from small harbours—visited the stand. Discussions were held with the Harbour Masters of both Scalloway and Lerwick. Participating fishermen reported problems (past and ongoing) with getting bags. Perhaps it is time for a 're-launch' to refresh the project? All in all a good event with lots learned.



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#### Education

Our long awaited education programme took a giant leap forward when students at the Scottish Maritime Academy heard all about marine litter and Fishing for Litter in November. Pupils at Slains School in Aberdeenshire will, we hope, enjoy the first outing of our new one metre long mascot 'Freddie the Fulmar' when he visits 14th January 2016. He is currently 'migrating' from afar and will arrive in the UK early January. The youngsters will hear all about the effects of marine litter through playing games and watching a fun video. It is hoped that the programme can be extended quickly throughout the network.



Freddie the Fulmar

#### OSPAR's RAP and the Scottish Marine Litter Strategy

The Scottish Marine Litter Strategy Steering Group got underway just before Christmas 2014 and has met twice and the Project Coordinator is a member of the group. The strategy has the clear purpose to develop current and future measures to ensure that the amount of litter entering the marine and coastal environment is minimised to bring ecological, economic and social benefits. Five 'Strategic Directions' set out the new actions that will be taken to implement the strategy. These actions include the implementation of the OSPAR recommendation to promote the establishment of KIMO Fishing for Litter initiatives in fishing harbours and will facilitate:- the raising of awareness of the social, economic and ecological impacts of marine litter among fishermen and within the fishing industry, a change in waste management practices within the fishing industry and the direct removal of marine litter from the marine environment in the course of normal fishing activity. A revision to the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter is being proposed to promote the landing of litter collected during normal fishing activity at any participating port and this is something that we already encourage in Scotland.

All the best for 2016,

*Graham Humphries*

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Thank you to all of our funders:



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