



FishNoWaste

Waste reduction and management in fishing ports
of the Adriatic Sea to promote sustainable fisheries

D.3.1.1. REPORT ON JOINT TRAINING SCHEME

Project Acronym	FishNoWaste
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Summary

This report summarizes the outputs of training activities in the four fishery ports in Italy (Chioggia and Rimini) and Croatia (Brižine and Tribunj). The training program is conducted as part of the project FishNoWaste Interreg Italy – Croatia which aims to develop a synergistic strategy for comprehensive collection of litter generated in coastal fishing and deposited in fishing ports. The training program serves the purpose of raising awareness among stakeholders (fishers, fishing organizations, fish markets, ports, local and national authorities, and the public) about issues related to waste reduction, its reusing, and recycling in fishing ports.



1. Project activities

1.1 Project activities in Italy

1.1.1 Report on the Joint training for the fishery sector conducted at the fishery port of Chioggia

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the outputs of training activities (Activity 3.1) conducted at the Fishery port of Chioggia. The training program is conducted as part of the project FishNoWaste Interreg Italy – Croatia which aims to develop a synergistic strategy for comprehensive collection of litter generated in coastal fishing and deposited in fishing ports. The training program serves the purpose of raising awareness among stakeholders (e.g. fishers, fishing organizations, fish markets, ports, local and national authorities, and the public) about issues related to waste reduction, its reusing, and recycling in fishing ports.

ACTIVITIES

The training programs covered a range of activities:

- 1. A MEETING TO DISCUSS AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES, TOOLS, AND IDEAS FROM THE FISHING SECTOR TO REDUCE AND IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE COLLECTED AT SEA**

Day 1 training began with an introductory presentation on the FishNoWaste project including its target issue (marine litter with its multiple impacts) and project goals, upcoming activities, participant roles, and the overall structure of the program. Then a presentation briefly touching legal regulations and then illustrating some waste management solutions implemented in other ports (national and international) like plastic crates, ecological islands, cleaner seas and plastic recycling with Norwegian technology, etc, was shown to the participants. It was the starting point for an interesting and interactive discussion. It was useful to understand the needs of the fishers. This meeting highlighted some important requests and opinions from the stakeholders, such as the urgent need for an area in Chioggia in which they can dispose of marine litter and discarded fishing nets. The



substitution of single use polystyrene crates with reusable plastic boxes was also indicated as a sustainable intervention.



2. CREATION OF A WASTE COLLECTION AREA: SHARING IDEAS FROM THE FISHING SECTOR TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE CAUGHT AT SEA AND OF WASTE GENERATED BY THE FISHING SUPPLY CHAIN

In the Day 2 training the pilot activity to implement in the port of Chioggia was presented to the stakeholders. All the participants were involved in the discussion through questions like which method do you prefer to access to the area, which is the best location for the area, what waste they can deliver in the area for recovery/recycling/, etc. The importance of the recycling of marine litter, discarded fishing nets (nets, steel cables, etc.), used mussels' nets, and paint cans were explained. Discarded fishing nets and mussels' nets can create a circular economy that could lead to savings on purchasing nets made of recycled material. In this meeting emerged some criticality:

- Need to have an accessible location to land the waste directly from the boat
- Need to have the correct depths and spaces for the bigger boats
- Finding the correct access system
- Create a system structured to be logistically and economically sustainable in the long term.





3. IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF A COLLECTION AREA TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE CAUGHT AT SEA AND WASTE GENERATED BY THE FISHING SUPPLY CHAIN

During the third training the final project for the new ecological area was presented to the stakeholders. It was explained where the area is located, how to access and what and when they can deliver the waste. An important discussion started to define the opening time of the area that must be aligned with the fishers' working hours. Critical issues were identified with respect to the operating hours of the facility, as waste disposal will only be permitted in the presence of an on-site operator.





SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS

- **Location:** Meeting Room "Sergio De Antoni" – SST, Via G. Poli, 1, 30015 Chioggia (VE).
- **Number of participants:** 13 (Day 1); 19 (Day 2); 15 (Day 3)
- **Date of the activity:** 23.05.2025, 15.11.2025, 16.01.2026
- **Key Activities:**



Educational presentations: Introduction of the FishNoWaste project and presentation of examples of waste-reduction solutions from other ports and legal regulations. Introduction of the pilot activity in the Port of Chioggia and presentation of the benefits of recycling marine litter, particularly fishing and mussel nets, to support a circular economy. Presentation on the new ecological area.

Discussions with stakeholders: Active involvement of stakeholders via discussions where they could highlight their needs and where their requests and suggestions are taken into account on the pilot activity and the new ecological area.

- **Outcomes:**

Three interactive training sessions were conducted within the FishNoWaste project to engage fishery related stakeholders in the port of Chioggia and support the implementation of an ecological area. The activities helped identify fishers' key needs, including a dedicated space for marine litter and end-of-life fishing gear, sustainable alternatives to single-use polystyrene crates, and efficient access for waste delivery. Stakeholders contributed to defining the pilot activity, waste streams, and operational requirements, highlighting the potential for circular economy solutions through recycling. A critical issue emerged regarding the facility's operating hours, which must be aligned with fishers' working schedules, as waste disposal will only be permitted in the presence of an on-site operator.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The training activities and stakeholder engagement process under the FishNoWaste project had a significant positive impact on awareness, participation, and co-design of sustainable waste management solutions in the port of Chioggia. Fishers and port stakeholders increased their understanding of marine litter management, recycling practices, and circular economy opportunities related to end-of-life fishing gear and port waste. The collaborative and participatory approach adopted during the trainings enabled the identification of concrete operational needs and constraints, ensuring that the design of the ecological area is aligned with real working conditions in the port. This stakeholder-driven process is expected to enhance acceptance, effective use, and long-term sustainability of the facility.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



Future initiatives should maintain strong stakeholder involvement, making room in decision-making also for their useful suggestions, ensure flexible and accessible waste management systems, and support long-term sustainability through clear management structures. Greater emphasis should be placed on circular economy solutions and the reduction of single-use materials.

CONCLUSION

The three training sessions represented a progressive and participatory process that allowed stakeholders to move from awareness to concrete co-design and planning for the implementation of a sustainable waste management system in the port of Chioggia. The initiative successfully stimulated open dialogue and active engagement among fishers and stakeholders. This exchange was essential to identify real operational needs and priorities, particularly the urgent demand for a dedicated and accessible area for the disposal of marine litter and discarded fishing gear. While the project was positively received and useful suggestions emerged, some critical issues remain to be addressed, particularly the need for easy boat access, adequate depths for larger vessels, and operating hours compatible with fishers' working schedules. Ensuring long-term sustainability and resolving constraints related to on-site operator availability will be key factors for the successful implementation and adoption of the pilot system. Overall, the training process confirmed the strong interest and commitment of local stakeholders and provided a solid foundation for the realization of an effective, shared, and sustainable waste management solution in the port of Chioggia.

1.1.2 Report on the Joint training for the fishery sector conducted at the Lavoratori Del Mare Fishery Cooperative, Rimini fishing port

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the outcomes of the training activities conducted at the facilities of Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative, based in the Fishing Port of Rimini, Italy. The training programme was delivered over three training days and addressed key topics related to ecosystem protection and marine litter pollution, with a particular focus on waste management priorities, waste reduction strategies, and the principles of reuse and recycling. The sessions



combined regulatory and technical content with participatory discussion. Participants were introduced to the relevant legal framework governing waste management in the fisheries sector and explored the main operational challenges encountered in daily activities. Through open and practice-oriented exchanges between fishers and presenters, the training created a constructive space to jointly identify, discuss, and evaluate potential solutions for improving waste management practices within the port. By actively involving fishers and other relevant stakeholders in this collaborative process, the training fostered shared reflection and collective learning, supporting the development of concrete and feasible approaches to sustainable waste management and waste reduction tailored to the specific context of the fishing port.

ACTIVITIES

The training program covered a range of activities:

1. INTRODUCTORY TRAINING

Training Day 1 of the FishNoWaste programme for fishers of the Rimini fleet was held Sunday, 27 April 2025, at the premises of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. The session opened with a brief presentation of the Interreg project objectives and an update on the implementation status of the planned activities. The workshop was facilitated by two members of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative, Massimo Bellavista and Gian Maria Balducci, with the programming of the day jointly developed in collaboration with M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop.

The first part of the workshop focused on the concept of sustainability and followed the structure suggested by the Joint Educational Training Programme guidelines, ensuring the involvement of different perspectives. In this context, Giorgia Gianni of Legacoop Romagna contributed from a civil society perspective, while Anna Montini, Councillor for the Environment of the Municipality of Rimini (project associated partner), participated in her institutional role in environmental protection. Their contributions supported an interactive exchange of views, reflections, case studies, and field-based experiences, helping to connect theoretical aspects of sustainability with practical challenges observed in the fishing sector and encouraging participants to reflect on their daily activities and the broader environmental context in which they operate.

The second part of the workshop addressed marine litter and waste generated on land in connection with market operations and port-related activities. The session on marine litter



was specifically led by Gian Maria Balducci, in his role as a biologist of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. Participants engaged in practice-oriented discussions to identify operational criticalities related to waste collection and disposal, while jointly assessing potential measures to improve the management of both landed waste and waste generated within the port area.

In line with the Joint Educational Training Programme guidelines, it was considered more appropriate for the representative of stakeholders in the fisheries sector to participate in the final training day, which was specifically designed to facilitate direct dialogue among multiple actors involved in waste management in ports, including fishers, based on shared experiences and operational practices.

At the conclusion of the training day, the participating fishers presented a set of proposals and initiatives aimed at improving existing waste collection and disposal practices. These proposals were further analysed by the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative, in collaboration with M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop., and were also discussed and assessed during subsequent workshops, in order to evaluate their feasibility and potential implementation in line with the objectives of the Interreg programme.



2. GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONAL APPROACHES IN PORT WASTE MANAGEMENT



Training Day 2 of the FishNoWaste programme for the Rimini fishing fleet was held on the morning of Saturday, 10 May 2025, at the premises of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. The session was facilitated by one representative of M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop., Francesca Barberi, together with Massimo Pesaresi of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. The facilitators encouraged an open and direct exchange with the participating fishers on the topic of sustainability in relation to port-level waste management legislation. This initial discussion aimed to assess participants' existing knowledge of the regulatory context and to link legislative requirements with their practical experience and day-to-day activities within the port.

Building on this exchange, M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop. and the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative provided an overview of the European and national legal framework governing waste management in fishing ports. The training then focused on the specific protocols implemented at the Rimini fishing port, based on Resolution No. 1219/2023 of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Waste Management Plan. In this context, Massimo Pesaresi illustrated the role of the Cooperative in the application of these procedures and highlighted the key role of fishers in ensuring the effective functioning of the system. The session also included a presentation of the logistical role of Hera S.p.A., the company responsible for waste collection and disposal in the port of Rimini. In this context, the actions carried out by the company in cooperation with the Municipality of Rimini were outlined, together with a schematic overview of the decision-making processes involving the relevant authorities during the operational phases of waste management. At the conclusion of the session, the ML-Repair project video, which had not been shown during the first day of training due to time constraints, was screened. ML-Repair is a past project on which FishNoWaste builds as a capitalization initiative.

The video presented the experiences of fishers involved at the time in Fishing for Litter activities, including their testimonies regarding the types and quantities of waste collected at sea, and served as a stimulus for further discussion.





Although the training programme guidelines originally suggested the participation of representatives at national, regional, and local levels involved in port waste management legislation, as well as the representative of Hera S.p.A., in the second session, it was ultimately considered more appropriate for them to attend the final session, which was specifically designed to foster direct dialogue among all key actors in port waste management, together with fishers, to share insights and discuss operational approaches. Throughout the session, participants demonstrated a high level of engagement and interest, actively contributing to the discussion through questions and exchanges facilitated by representatives of M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop. and the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. As a concrete follow-up to the discussions and in response to the practical needs expressed by the fishers, M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop. provided 200 white raffia bags to support the collection and on-board storage of marine litter during fishing activities.





3. BEST PRACTICES, STAKEHOLDER AND FISHER ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Training Day 3 of the FishNoWaste project, aimed at fishers of the Port of Rimini, took place on Saturday, 13 December 2025, at the conference hall of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative. The session was facilitated by three representatives of M.A.R.E. Soc. Coop., Francesca Barbieri, Andrea Gugnali and Fulvia Vanni, together with two members of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative, Massimo Bellavista and Gian Maria Balducci. During the session, the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative and Coop M.A.R.E. presented the FishNoWaste pilot projects as examples of best practice. The pilot projects implemented in Rimini, including the digital handheld system for the computerised management of fish crates at the Rimini Fish Market and the reorganisation of the ecological area on the left side of the port with appropriate equipment and facilities, were presented by Gian Maria Balducci. In addition, the FishNoWaste pilot project



in Tribunj, managed by IZOR, was presented by Francesca Barbieri using materials provided by the IZOR team.



The presentations were followed by a moderated discussion led by Massimo Bellavista of the Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative, focusing on waste management in ports, with particular attention to legislative frameworks, roles and responsibilities, and operational challenges. The debate involved several key stakeholders. Giuseppe Prioli, member of the project Advisory Board and representative of the Emilia-Romagna Mussel Farmers Consortium, was identified as an appropriate contributor to provide an overview of the national legislative framework on port waste management, in light of his consolidated experience in the field. In his role as President of AMA (Mediterranean Aquaculture Association), he has participated in technical working groups organised by the Italian Ministry for the Environment (MITE) and ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), focusing on the transposition and implementation of EU port waste legislation (Directive (EU) 2019/883), implemented through Legislative Decree No. 197/2021 and subsequently amended by Legislative Decree No. 46/2024.



These activities also covered the principles for the development of port waste management plans and the implementation of Law No. 60/2022, known as the “Salvamare



Law". Sergio Caselli of GALPA CER addressed the regional legislative framework, while Anna Montini from the Environment Department of the Municipality of Rimini provided insights into waste management regulations and responsibilities at the local level. The discussion also included Guido Puccinotti, Head of the Rimini Area – Central Directorate for Environmental Services and Fleets of Hera S.p.A., as well as the fishers participating in the session. This exchange was followed by a dedicated reflection with the fishers, focusing on their vision of a sustainable fishing port and on the resources, partnerships and tools they consider necessary to support the transition towards more sustainable port management practices. In particular, the discussion addressed the design of the ecological area on the left side of the port, exploring how it should be structured to facilitate fishers in bringing and depositing waste. Participants also emphasized that the waste collection services provided by fishers should be properly recognised and supported. The issue of mussel socks in the sea was revisited, highlighting the large quantities collected during fishing activities. Both Anna Montini and Giuseppe Prioli confirmed that measures are being taken in this regard, including the recycling of used socks, which are returned to mollusc farmers to limit environmental pollution, as well as research, although challenging, on the use of more environmentally sustainable materials. Guido Puccinotti actively listened to the requests and concerns raised by the fishers, highlighting the need for a well-organised schedule for emptying the marine litter containers, including seasonal adjustments to prevent odours and other issues during warmer months, while ensuring that fishers can continue to deposit accidentally caught waste and have sufficient storage space. Hera S.p.A. committed to collaborating with the Municipality of Rimini to identify appropriate solutions that facilitate and support the waste collection service provided by fishers. During the day, Giorgio Lucchi from Lucchi R. Srl presented alternative electric engine solutions for fishing vessels, highlighting an innovative and environmentally sustainable approach for the sector. The session concluded with final remarks by Cristian Maretti, President of Legacoop Agroitticoalimentare, who participated as a representative of stakeholders in the fisheries sector. He summarised the main outcomes of the discussions and highlighted key takeaways to support the improvement of sustainable waste management practices in fishing ports.





Following the formal session, a shared lunch was held with all participants, providing an additional opportunity for informal exchange and networking. On this occasion, backpacks produced using waste recovered from the sea and rivers were distributed to participants. The day concluded with final reflections and exchanges with the participants, further reinforcing dialogue and shared commitment to the objectives of the FishNoWaste project. Participation certificates for the course were produced and subsequently distributed to the fishers.

SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS

Fishery Cooperative

- **Lavoratori del Mare Cooperative Headquarters (Via Fratelli Leurini n.1, 47921 Rimini)**
- **Number of participants: 17 (Day 1), 8 (Day 2), 17 (Day 3)**
- **Date of activity: 27.04.2025, 10.05.2025 and 13.12.2025**



- **Key Activities:**

Educational presentations: The concept of sustainable fisheries and current practices in managing waste in fishing ports were presented. European and national waste management legislation and specific protocols implemented at the port were introduced. The role of the cooperative in applying these procedures was highlighted, and the logistical role of the port waste management company was explained. Pilot initiatives in Rimini and Tribunj were presented as examples of best practice.

Discussions with stakeholders: Fishers shared experiences on passively collected marine litter and operational challenges, and potential measures to improve waste management were discussed and later analysed in follow-up workshops. Discussions with fishers also focused on sustainability and practical challenges in daily operations. In addition, a moderated discussion explored legislative frameworks, responsibilities, operational challenges, and fishers' perspectives, including ecological area design, recognition of their waste collection role, and marine litter management. Lastly, informal exchanges were also carried out to reinforce dialogue on sustainable port management.

- **Outcomes:**

Across the three training sessions, participants strengthened their understanding of sustainability principles applied to fisheries and ports, with a particular focus on marine litter and port-generated waste. They gained clearer awareness of European, national, regional, and local legislative frameworks governing port waste management, as well as of roles and responsibilities within the system. Practical knowledge was reinforced through examples of operational protocols in the Port of Rimini, the presentation of FishNoWaste pilot projects in Rimini and Tribunj, and exchanges on effective organisational and logistical solutions for waste collection, disposal, and recycling. The training fostered the development and consolidation of concrete solutions, including pilot actions such as the digital system for managing fish crates, the reorganisation of the port ecological area, and improved coordination between fishers, port authorities, and waste management operators. Discussions also generated shared proposals on how to better structure waste collection areas, optimise container emptying schedules, and recognise the environmental service provided by fishers through the collection of marine litter. Participants identified several critical issues, including the need for clearer operational arrangements at port level, adequate infrastructure and equipment to facilitate waste delivery by fishers, and more efficient and seasonally adapted waste collection services to avoid operational and sanitary problems. The persistent presence of mussel socks in the marine



environment emerged as a significant concern, alongside the need for viable recycling solutions and more sustainable materials. Overall, the discussions underlined the importance of stronger coordination among stakeholders, formal recognition of fishers' environmental role, and continued investment in tools, partnerships, and governance mechanisms to support sustainable port waste management.

IMPACT ASSESMENT

Participants provided generally positive feedback, valuing the practical and interactive approach of the training sessions. Fishers particularly welcomed the opportunity to openly discuss daily operational issues, regulatory aspects, and concrete examples such as pilot projects. They found the direct link between legislative requirements and real port practices to be especially beneficial, as well as the possibility to engage in direct dialogue with institutions, waste management operators, and other relevant stakeholders. A high level of motivation for future project activities was observed throughout the training programme. Fishers expressed interest in continuing their involvement, especially in relation to pilot actions, improvements to port infrastructure, and initiatives supporting the collection of marine litter. The recognition of their role in waste management and environmental protection emerged as a key factor in sustaining engagement and commitment. Several challenges were identified, including the complexity of the regulatory framework and the difficulties related to its effective implementation, as well as operational constraints linked to port infrastructure and the need for more efficient coordination among the actors involved in waste management. Additional practical issues emerged concerning waste storage, container capacity, collection frequency, and the management of specific waste streams such as mussel socks. Ensuring long-term solutions that are both environmentally sustainable and operationally feasible remains a key challenge moving forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Based on the analysis of the training sessions, it is recommended to enhance the organisation of port waste collection and optimise related infrastructure to streamline waste delivery. The provision of practical guidance and illustrative examples of sustainable practices can further support these improvements. Future steps should focus on the continued development and monitoring of pilot projects, the implementation of digital management tools, innovative recycling solutions for specific waste streams, and environmentally sustainable technologies. Strengthening collaboration among all actors involved in port waste management



will be essential to achieve both operational efficiency and environmental benefits. Additional support may include practical tools for waste collection, improved infrastructure, and enhanced coordination between relevant authorities. Ongoing technical guidance and active stakeholder engagement will be crucial to ensure the long-term effectiveness and scalability of these initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS

The FishNoWaste training programme implemented in the Port of Rimini provided a structured and progressive learning pathway that combined theoretical knowledge, practical experience, and multi-stakeholder dialogue. Across the three training sessions, the programme strengthened awareness of sustainability principles applied to fisheries and port activities, with a particular focus on marine litter and port-generated waste, while enhancing understanding of the regulatory framework governing port waste management. The training fostered constructive exchanges among fishers, cooperatives, institutions, and waste management operators, enabling the identification of concrete operational needs and the development of shared solutions. Pilot actions and best practices presented during the sessions demonstrated the potential of coordinated approaches, digital tools, and improved infrastructure to support more efficient and sustainable waste management in fishing ports. The active involvement of fishers throughout the programme reinforced their role as key actors in environmental protection and highlighted the value of recognising and supporting the service they provide through the collection of marine litter. Overall, the programme contributed to strengthening cooperation among fishers, cooperatives, institutions, and waste management operators, promoting a shared vision for more sustainable port management. The outcomes highlight the need to continue investing in pilot actions, operational improvements, and stakeholder engagement, alongside the importance of ensuring that port waste management legislation is fully and properly implemented. A consistent and effective application of existing regulatory frameworks is essential to translate policy objectives into concrete practices, support day-to-day port operations, and enable waste management solutions that are both environmentally sustainable and operationally viable.



1.2 Project activities in Croatia

1.2.1 Report on the Joint training for the fishery sector conducted at the Fishery Cooperative FRIŠKA RIBA in the fishery port of Brižine, Kaštel Sućurac

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the outputs of training activities conducted in the facilities of Fishery Cooperative FRIŠKA RIBA in the Fishery port of Brižine, Kaštel Sućurac. The training program is conducted as part of the project FishNoWaste Interreg Italy – Croatia which aims to develop a synergistic strategy for comprehensive collection of litter generated in coastal fishing and deposited in fishing ports. The training program serves the purpose of raising awareness among stakeholders (fishers, fishing organizations, fish markets, ports, local and national authorities, and the public) about issues related to waste reduction, its reusing, and recycling in fishing ports.

ACTIVITIES

The training programs covered a range of activities:

1. INTRODUCTORY TRAINING

The introductory training was led by 2 members of Sunce, 2 members of Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and two members of WWF Adria. It began with an introductory presentation on the FishNoWaste project including its goals, upcoming activities, participant roles, and the overall structure of the program. Next was a presentation on trawl fishing and passively fished waste. Afterwards, an informative video from the ML-REPAIR project was shown and a presentation was given on sustainable fisheries. The presentations were given by a member of Sunce. A representative of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries gave a presentation on the amount of waste collected from fishing activities in the fishery port of Tribunj and, afterwards, a member of Sunce gave a presentation on the process of managing waste in the same port.



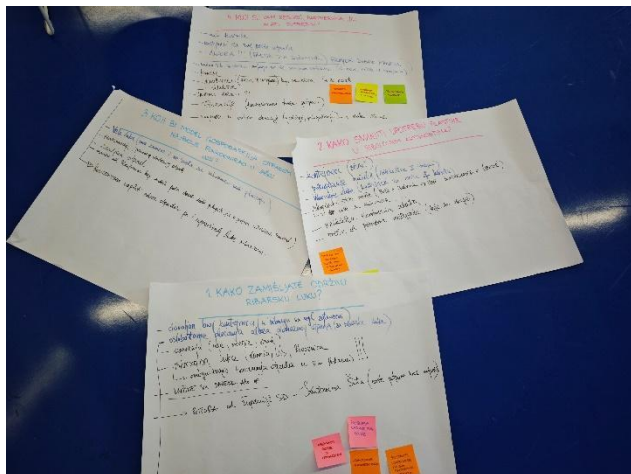


2. GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES AND WORLD CAFFE

This training focused on creating a vision on how to best manage collected waste in the port of Brižine and was led by 2 members of Sunce. It included 2 presentations and an exercise and discussion in the “World caffe” format. The introductory presentation and the presentation on examples of good waste management practices were given by members of Sunce. The good practices presentations focused on the ports of Rimini in Italy and Tribunj in Croatia. The “World caffe” exercise and discussion was carried out with the participants. It focused on four questions:

- 1) How do you envision a sustainable fishing port?
- 2) How to reduce the use of plastic in fishing activities?
- 3) Which model of waste management would function best in your port?
- 4) Which resources, partnerships and/or tools do you need?





3. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

This training focused on educating workers of the fishery sector on the legislative rights and obligations of managing waste collected on fishing boats on national, regional and local scales and offering a space for discussing them with regards to the observed practices in the field. The training was led by 3 members of Sunce and was comprised of five presentations and a final discussion. The event was introduced by a member of Sunce. Next, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia presented an overview of the legal framework, evaluation and waste management implementation system. This presentation was followed by one from the representative of the Split Port Authority who presented the legal framework and obligations of the Split Port Authority itself, the implementation of waste management in the port of Brižine, examples of good practice in Europe, a new innovative waste management concept called Eco-islands, and future steps they intend to implement. Afterwards, a representative of the fishery sector (an active fisherman) presented the active situation in field, sharing a detailed overview of many challenges that practicing fishermen encounter in the process of managing waste collected during fishing. The last presentation was given by a representative of the Split-Dalmatia County on their new project with the aim of accelerating the transition to an inclusive and circular economy in the aquaculture sector while strengthening cooperation among stakeholders. Lastly, a discussion was held including both the noted presenters and the participants (including 12 active fishermen and 3 employees of the Fishery Cooperative FRIŠKA RIBA) on how to align the theoretical and in-field practical aspects of the current legislative framework.





SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS

1. Fishery Cooperative

- **Name and location of the fishery cooperative: Fishery Cooperative FRIŠKA RIBA (Fishery port of Brižine), Ribarska luka Brižine, Put Brižina 5, 21212 Kaštel Sućurac.**
- **Number of participants: 19 (Day 1), 15 (Day 2), 22 (Day 3)**
- **Date of activity: 22.1.2025, 13.2.2025 and 17.7.2025.**
- **Key Activities:**

Educational presentations: FishNoWaste project and its goals, upcoming activities, participant roles, and the overall structure of the program were presented. Current knowledge on the issue of passively collected marine litter; the concept of sustainable fisheries; good practices in managing waste in fishing ports; legislative rights and obligations of managing



waste collected on fishing boats on national, regional and local scales; and the experiences of the fishermen in dealing with the collected waste were presented.

World coffee: The fishery sector explored the issues, brainstormed solutions, and envisioned the necessary steps to make their port sustainable and to reduce the amount of plastic materials used in fishing activities. They also described a waste management model that would best function in their port and highlighted the resources, partnerships and tools they would require.

National legislation discussion: The discussion served as a valuable space for the fishery sector to communicate the challenges they encounter and the need for assistance in waste management with representatives of the national, regional and local authorities. Conversely, these authorities were made familiar with issues that arise from the lacking implementation of the legislative framework in the field.

- **Outcomes:**

The fishery sector learned about the theoretical background of collected waste management, the concept of sustainable fishing ports, known good practices and the legislative framework. They developed a vision of a system that would make the fishing port of Brižine sustainable and capable of appropriate waste management. Direct communication between the fishery and scientific sectors and national, regional and local authorities was enabled and served as a stage to highlight existing issues that need to be addressed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The feedback from the fishery sector highlighted the educational presentations and the World coffee event as useful and interesting. This means that the educational goals of the training were successful as were those of creating a shared vision for a sustainable fishing port. However, the fishery sector was critical of the level of involvement and support coming from national, regional and local authorities. While this is lamentable, the fishery sector successfully engaged in a balanced dialogue with the authorities and were empowered to voice their opinions and needs.



RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

Given that the fishery sector in the port of Brižine is now, at least in part, adequately educated on the waste management issues, future activities should be focused on furthering the communication between them and the national, regional and local authorities. There is a strong need to facilitate such interactions and make them more frequent. Following these, all actors should be incentivized to co-design solutions and together implement them. In practical terms, more events should be organized so that the fishery sector and the relevant authorities can engage in further discussions, jointly develop solutions and implement them.

CONCLUSION:

The training program raised the theoretical knowledge on port-based waste management of the fishery sector and enabled them to brainstorm solutions and envision a sustainable fishing port. It enabled direct communication between them and the relevant authorities. However, to alleviate the highlighted issues, future efforts should be focused on enabling and promoting more frequent interactions between them while incentivizing them to jointly design and implement the necessary solutions. Overall, the program laid a strong foundation for improving waste management in the fishing port of Brižine but needs to be further bolstered so that these improvements can be implemented.

1.2.2 Report on the Joint training for the fishery sector conducted at the Fishery Cooperative ADRIA in the fishery port of Tribunj

INTRODUCTION



This report summarizes the outputs of training activities conducted in the facilities of **Fishery Cooperative Adria (FC Adria)** in the **Fishery port of Tribunj**. The training program is conducted as part of the project FishNoWaste Interreg Italy – Croatia which aims to develop a synergistic strategy for comprehensive collection of litter generated in coastal fishing and deposited in fishing ports. The training program serves the purpose of raising awareness among stakeholders (fishers, fishing organizations, fish markets, ports, local and national authorities, and the public) about issues related to waste reduction, its reusing, and recycling in fishing ports.

ACTIVITIES

The training programs covered a range of activities:

1. INTRODUCTORY TRAINING, GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES AND WORLD CAFFE

Day 1 included both the introductory training and the world coffee activity. It was led by 2 members of Sunce and 1 member of Oceanography and Fisheries. It began with an introductory presentation on the FishNoWaste project including its goals, upcoming activities, participant roles, and the overall structure of the program. Next was a presentation on trawl fishing and passively fished waste. Afterwards, an informative video from the ML-REPAIR project was shown and a presentation was given on sustainable fisheries. The presentations were given by a member of Sunce. A representative of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOR) gave a presentation on the amount of waste collected from fishing activities in the fishery port of Tribunj and, afterwards, a member of Sunce gave a presentation on the process of managing waste in the same port. Next, a member of Sunce gave a presentation on examples of good practices in waste management. Lastly, a World coffee style dialogue was carried out between the participants.

2. MARINE LITTER CLEANUP AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Activities during Day 2 included cleanup of marine litter in which fishermen, among other participants, also took part. Afterwards, a panel discussion titled “Passive Catch, Active



Responsibility: Legislation and Practice in Fisheries” was held at the Cultural Centre Tribunj. It involved representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Šibenik-Knin County, World Wildlife Fund, IOR, and the fishery sector. The panel discussion was managed by a member of Sunce. The aim of the panel was to identify challenges and opportunities to improve waste management systems in fisheries. The panel opened with a focus on the importance of proper handling of passively collected waste. Participants discussed the current legislative framework, the challenges of its implementation in the field, and concrete solutions that could facilitate proper waste disposal and ensure a more efficient system.



3. DEMONSTRATION ON USING PROCURED WASTE MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT

Day 3 included a demonstration for the fishery sector on how the equipment, that was procured through the Interreg Italy-Croatia FishNoWaste project and intended to facilitate waste management, should be used. The equipment is installed on the premises of FC Adria.





SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS

1. Fishery Cooperative

- **a) Name and location of the fishery cooperative: Fishery Cooperative Adria (Fishery port of Tribunj Jurjevgradska 6, 22212 Tribunj;**
- **b) Cultural Centre Tribunj, Gornja riva 2, 22212 Tribunj.**
- **Number of participants: 10 (Day 1 at location a), 18 (Day 2, at locations a and b), 7 (Day 3 at location a)**
- **Date of activity: 28.1.2025, 22.5.2025 and 26.1.2026.**
- **Key Activities:**

Educational presentations: FishNoWaste project and its goals, upcoming activities, participant roles, and the overall structure of the program were presented. Current knowledge on the issue of passively collected marine litter; the concept of sustainable fisheries; good practices in managing waste in fishing ports; legislative rights and obligations of managing waste collected on fishing boats on national, regional and local scales; and the experiences of the fishermen in dealing with the collected waste were presented. In addition, fishery sector



workers learned how to use the equipment intended to facilitate waste management in the FC Adria.

World coffee: The fishery sector explored the issues, brainstormed solutions, and envisioned the necessary steps to make their port sustainable and to reduce the amount of plastic materials used in fishing activities. They also described a waste management model that would best function in their port and highlighted the resources, partnerships and tools they would require.

National legislation panel discussion: The discussion served as a valuable space for the fishery sector to communicate with representatives of the national and regional authorities, scientific and civil society organizations with the aim of identifying challenges and opportunities to improve waste management systems in fisheries.

- **Outcomes:**

The fishery sector learned about the theoretical background of collected waste management, the concept of sustainable fishing ports, good practices and the legislative framework. A vision of a system that would make the fishing port of Tribunj sustainable and capable of appropriate waste management was created and equipment intended for facilitating this goal was procured and installed at FC Adria. The fishery sector workers were educated on how to use this equipment. Direct communication between the fishery and scientific sector, national and regional authorities and civil society organizations was enabled and served as a stage to highlight existing issues that need to be addressed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The feedback from the fishery sector highlighted the educational presentations and the World coffee event as useful and interesting. This means that the educational goals of the training were successful as were those of creating a shared vision for a sustainable fishing port. However, the fishery sector was critical of the level of involvement and support coming from national, regional and local authorities. While this is lamentable, the fishery sector successfully engaged in a balanced dialogue with the authorities and were empowered to voice their opinions and needs.



RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

Given that the fishery sector in the port of Tribunj is now adequately educated and equipped on effective waste management, future activities should be focused on furthering the communication between them and the national, regional and local authorities. There is a strong need to facilitate such interactions and make them more frequent. Following these, all actors should be incentivized to co-design solutions and together implement them. In practical terms, more events should be organized so that the fishery sector and the relevant authorities can engage in further discussions, jointly develop solutions and implement them.

CONCLUSION:

The training program raised the theoretical knowledge on port-based waste management of the fishery sector and enabled them to brainstorm solutions and envision a sustainable fishing port. It also enabled direct communication between them and the relevant authorities. Lastly, the fishery sector was educated on how to use the waste management equipment procured through the projects and installed at the premises of FC Adria. Future efforts should be focused on enabling and promoting more frequent interactions between them while incentivizing them to jointly design and implement the necessary solutions. Overall, the program laid a strong foundation for improving waste management in the fishing port of Tribunj but needs to be further bolstered so that these improvements can be implemented.

