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**Deliverable 2.5.2
Gillnets circular supply-chain
database**

**Activity 2.5 – Feasibility Study for Nylon
gillnets
(Version 1.0 – August 2025)**

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BlueDiversity

Shared BLUE knowledge and skills to sustain BIODIVERSITY in mariculture

Project Details

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ABOUT THE **BlueDiversity** PROJECT

The **BlueDiversity** project is part of the Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027 Programme, co-funded by the European Union. The **BlueDiversity** project's priority is priority 2 (Green and resilient shared environment). The Specific Objective is SO2.2: improve the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reduce all forms of pollution. In light of this, the **BlueDiversity** project aims at enhancing the ecosystem services-based practices, which allow the sustainment of local ecosystems' preservation through reducing human activities' impacts on biodiversity, while enhancing and developing economic and territorial opportunities.

To achieve the project's objectives, the Project Partners have the need to assess the State of the Art about the main biodiversity threats identified in the pilot areas, by analysing biodiversity, non-indigenous species, marine litter, and lagoon litter. The State of the Art analysis will also target, experiment and screen existing practices, innovations, resources available and attitudes of the ecosystem services end users in the context of the Adriatic Sea.

The Adriatic socio-eco-cultural features represent the common thread for the project actions, bringing relevant stakeholders of the blue economy and blue research to work together towards best and innovative practices with the common scope to develop a green and sustainable transition in the blue sector. In particular, the **BlueDiversity** project targets small and medium enterprises aiming to establish "living laboratories", providing institutional support on the one hand, and placing them as didactic examples at the much-needed interface with schools and younger generations, enhancing the framework of the blue economy with a multilateral approach that includes institutional actors and citizens.

The Adriatic Sea, shared by Italy and Croatia, represents one of the best examples of natural backgrounds in ecological terms, where the dynamics of co-creation, based on an intertwinement of tradition and innovation, can be established. The project aims to develop pilot activities that will experiment with innovative fishing gear to tackle the presence of non-indigenous species that seriously threaten the Adriatic coasts' aquatic ecosystems.

The **BlueDiversity** project is modular, aiming at fully replicable successful experiences, representing the actions' legacy and the core of a shift towards the blue economy. Such elements will be strategically disseminated targeting different institutional and non-institutional entities focusing on the capitalization of the knowledge, know-how and innovative instruments developed throughout the project and aimed at building a sound ground for future major innovative developments.



D 2.5.2 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The database is structured in two main sections, the first one including all stakeholders involved in the logistical flow of recovery and recycling activities of disused nylon fishing nets and the second one listing the best practices and the most relevant projects in the field of net recycling that can be considered best practices.

Based on the activities carried out in their respective pilot areas, the PPs must insert into the database the data collected on the actors in the supply chain of the possible recycling of disused fishing nets identified during the investigation activities, carried out in the ports chosen as reference. Moreover all PPs will be involved in order to engage their stakeholders network in identifying already in place good practices or projects.

D 2.5.2 - LINKS WITH OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The activities of this deliverable are directly linked to D 2.5.1.



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1. DELIVERABLE 2.5.2 - INTRODUCTION

1.1. Deliverable overview

1.1.1. OBJECTIVES

Through this open source database PPs will collect all business related to the recycling supply-chain identified in the D.2.5.1. It will be accessible from the project website and updated along the whole duration of the implementation.

The file is structured in two lists, one for the description of the main actors/stakeholders involved in the possible recovery chain (public bodies, port authorities, specialized companies, environmental associations, fishermen's associations); and a list of projects and best practices possibly identified during the investigation activities in the pilot area.



2. Gillnets circular supply chain database

Based on the activities carried out in their respective pilot areas, the PPs will be required to enter into the database the data collected on the actors in the potential recycling chain of discarded fishing nets, identified during the surveys conducted in the selected reference ports. Furthermore, all PPs will be involved in engaging their stakeholder network in identifying good practices or existing projects.

2.1. List of the stakeholders

The Stakeholder List table, available publicly on [BlueDiversity website](#), provides a detailed list of stakeholders involved in circular economy projects, collection, and recycling of fishing nets and marine plastic materials, primarily in the Adriatic region and Europe. The entities are classified according to their role in the supply chain, geographical area of operation, and other key information.

2.1.1. STAKEHOLDERS SPECIALIZED IN RECYCLING AND PRODUCTION OF REGENERATED MATERIALS

These stakeholders are key to the transformation of plastic waste and fishing nets into new materials (such as regenerated nylon or pellets), namely: Mediterranea Reti Srl, FibrXL Italy, Omegaplastic Srl, Aquafil SLO (Slovenia), Aquafil S.p.A. (Italy), and Maritimo Recycling (Croatia). The value chain includes both industrial and non-profit entities, covering the entire supply chain from recovery to transformation.

2.1.2. ACTORS ACTIVE IN THE COLLECTION AND REDUCTION OF MARINE LITTER

These organizations operate directly in the field, removing nets and plastic from the seas and promoting awareness campaigns, such as WWF Adria, MareVivo, Plastic Free, Krnica Dive Center, The Gravity Wave, and Enaleia.

These organizations cover both the operational and awareness levels. Their common focus is on "ghost fishing" and the reduction of marine plastic pollution.

2.1.3. PORT AUTHORITIES AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER.

Port authorities are crucial for managing waste generated by maritime activities and the logistics of recovery operations. For example, the Central Adriatic Sea Port Authority and the Chioggia Fish Market are essential for establishing effective logistics for the collection and separation of marine waste (e.g., decommissioned equipment).



2.1.4. LOGISTICS, COLLECTION, AND WASTE TRANSPORT.

Technical actors involved in the collection, transport, and disposal of waste, often with special authorizations; such as SIPRAM and Milivoj Blaslov fishing trade. These stakeholders ensure that the collected material can then be transferred to recycling centers.

2.1.5. ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS.

These are support organizations that provide advice, advocacy, and local or regional coordination, such as Legambiente Marche. Legambiente's presence ensures ties with citizens and local institutions.

2.1.6. SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW

PP6: Includes most Italian entities involved in recycling, port management, and associations (Mediterranea Reti, FibrXL, Enaleia, Gravity Wave, etc.).

PP2: Includes international and Balkan stakeholders active in collection and processing (Milivoj Blaslov, Aquafil SLO).

PP4: Croatian stakeholders active in gear removal and environmental protection (Krnica Dive, WWF Adria).

PP5: Maritimo Recycling – clear focus on Croatia.

LP1: Actors with a broader or national focus (Plastic Free, SIPRAM, MareVivo).



3. Conclusions

The table highlights a complete value chain, from marine litter collection to logistics and material regeneration. Strong Italian and Croatian presence, with complementary players: Italy is stronger in industrial recycling, Croatia in collection and cleanup. Active involvement of NGOs and local authorities is essential for sustainable, long-term environmental projects. Circular economy and innovation: Aquafil's ECONYL initiative is the most advanced example of high-tech regeneration.

