Fisheries and aquaculture practices contributing to marine litter and plastic pollution

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An important factor influencing the composition of benthic litter is the type of activities carried out in the vicinity

Main **drivers** for ALDFG* are:

- limited life span of some items used at sea
- waste mismanagement
- inadequate facilities for waste handling at sea
- inadequate reception and storage facilities for waste and consignment
- lack of operators to handle waste or gear
- lack of incentives to recycle or reuse gear
- accidental and sometimes irretrievable loss of discarded fishing gear

End-of-life for vessels and recreational boats

1-2 % of the 6 million boats maintained in Europe reach their end-of-life each year.

Approx. 80 000 vessels, of which



2 000 vessels were registered as dismantled

Fisheries management

Lack of incentives to recycle or reuse gear

Port waste mismanagement

Inadequate reception and storage facilities for waste and consignment.

Lack of operators to handle waste or gear. Dumping at sea due to the high cost of waste handling in ports.

Floating debris

At sea, 10 per cent of all worldwide floating marine debris is lost or discarded fishing gear.



Potentially dumped at sea



Waste from ships, including fishing vessels and recreational craft

Fisheries-related litter



The largest single category by volume found in beach litter

*ALDFG: Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear

United Nations Environment Programme (2021). From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution. Nairobi.

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