



# HEALTHY SEAS<sup>®</sup>

a journey from waste to wear

[www.healthyseas.org](http://www.healthyseas.org)



## A journey from waste to wear



## Mission

Healthy Seas was founded in 2013 to tackle the ghost fishing phenomenon which is responsible for the needless death of marine animals.

Through cleanups with volunteer divers and by working with stakeholders of the fishing sector toward marine litter prevention, Healthy Seas collects waste nets and ensures they become a valuable resource.

Nylon fishing nets are regenerated together with other nylon waste by Aquafil into ECONYL® yarn while the other types of plastics are also reused or recycled.

Founded on the principles of circular economy, Healthy Seas champions the three pillars of sustainability and strives to make a positive and long-lasting impact to the marine environment, as well as the development of society, through education and awareness raising.

Healthy Seas was founded by Ghost Diving, a non profit organisation of volunteer divers and 2 sustainable businesses: Aquafil and Star Sock.

## Award

On September 22, 2019, Healthy Seas was presented with the Circular Economy award at the Green Carpet Fashion Awards that closed Milan Fashion Week at Teatro Alla Scala.



# The Issue

The discarded, lost, or abandoned fishing nets are sometimes called “ghost nets”, often found on and around shipwrecks and reefs which are highly important places for marine wildlife. Millions of marine animals, including dolphins, seals, turtles and birds suffer because of entanglement in these nets which leads to serious injuries and death eventually.

According to UNEP and FAO reports, every year some 640,000 tons of fishing gear are left or abandoned in the seas and oceans. It is a global problem that requires urgent action.

Healthy Seas is operating in Europe, focusing on the North, Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas and recently expanded its activities to the Pacific Ocean. All these regions are important for biodiversity and tourism. Waste fishing nets are collected with the involvement of various stakeholders such as divers, salvage companies, fishermen and fish farms.





North Sea



Adriatic Sea



Mediterranean Sea



Pacific Ocean

## Facts & Figures

Since we started in 2013, together with divers and fishermen, we have collected over 510.000 kilos of nets and other debris from the seas and oceans. Many marine animals have been rescued and many cases of trapped animals have been prevented.

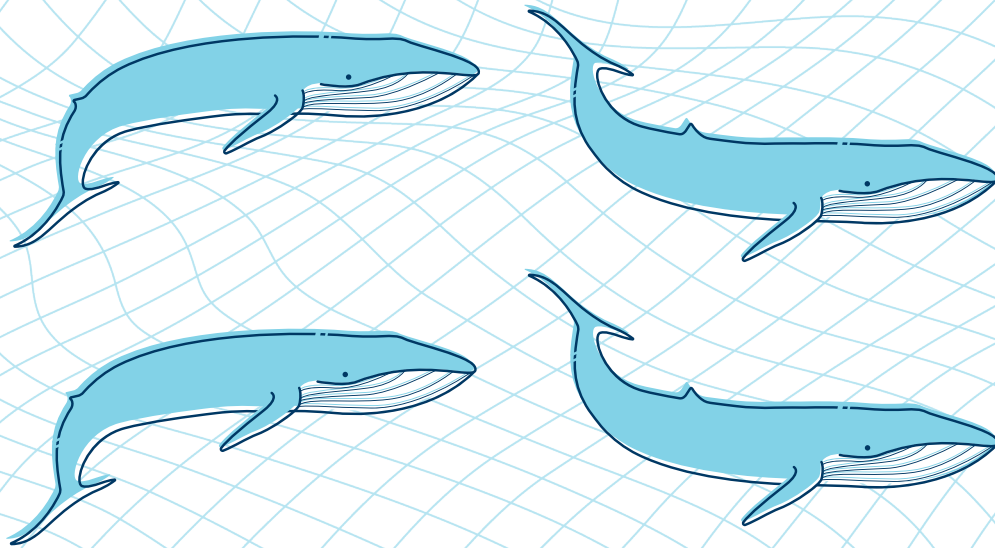
Effectively tackling the problem of derelict fishing gear and, more generally, marine litter, will clearly require long-term, co-ordinated action at the local, regional and global level. Healthy Seas showcases how the regeneration of fishing nets can support business models that offer a self-sustaining and scalable solution to the problem of waste fishing nets across Europe. Healthy Seas has the potential to be expanded and replicated more widely.

Healthy Seas is currently active in a number of countries in Europe as well as New Zealand, and continuously expanding.

# Total Figures

Since our founding in 2013 we have collected

**510** tons of fishing nets



This amount is equivalent in weight to

**4 blue whales**  
the biggest mammals on Earth

## 2019 Results



**738** school children  
engaged in education programmes

**620** fishermen  
& fish farmers  
involved



**57,200** kg  
fishing nets collected  
working with divers  
and fishermen

**170** volunteer divers





# Circular Economy

Linear industrial processes are about "Make, Use, Dispose" and create products that eventually end up in landfills or in incinerators. It's a loss which comes with a price both for the economy and for the environment. In a circular economy 'waste is a resource'. The fishing nets collected by Healthy Seas, together with other nylon waste, enter into the ECONYL® Regeneration System.

## THE ECONYL® REGENERATION SYSTEM



1 ton of fishing nets  
provides enough recycled nylon yarn for



**23.000**  
pairs of socks

or



**900 m<sup>2</sup>**  
of carpet tiles





# Partnerships

There are several important initiatives to clean up and safeguard the seas. The nets that are collected by Healthy Seas are not dumped into landfills or burned in waste processing facilities. Instead, they are recycled in order to create high-quality products, available to the public. By making a choice to buy something good, consumers support a good cause and this way help us organise more sea clean-ups, for example.

Sustainability is the focus, from both the environmental and economic point of view. The strength of Healthy Seas lies in its partnership of NGOs and businesses working towards the same aim: a better planet and healthier seas, while learning-by-doing and being open to new partners and creative ideas.