

**End of life and management of fishing nets**  
Lebanon

It is possible to link the Earth to the Moon using nets cast by fishermen in the port of Abdeh in 20 years (400.000 km)

Would you like to image your data in this way to better engage your community?  
Take a look at the White Paper from the project led by Lucia Fanini from the University of Salento (Italy).  
[Link](#)

**LEBANESE CONTEXT**  
55% of the Lebanese population lives in the region  
44 fishing ports, including 30 legal ports  
10,000 fishermen for 3,000 small boats  
120 tonnes of used fishing nets / year in Lebanon

Since 2026, the aim has been to recycle used nets collected via fishing cooperatives (North, Beirut, South, Metn/Kes/Bell) and to encourage fishermen not to leave nets at sea.



**Feedback from Lebanese developers**  
On the whole, the machines are easy to use. The shredder comes from Italy.  
**Interested?**  
Contact Mr Roy Agnathos Abijaoude  
[info@lebanesedevelopers.org](mailto:info@lebanesedevelopers.org)

**Bioplastics alternatives to fishing nets**  
Cyprus



**WHAT ARE BIOPLASTICS ?**  
Bioplastics are a family of materials that are either biosourced, biodegradable or both. A material may be biosourced but not biodegradable, just as a biodegradable material may not be biosourced.  
To find out more, consult the BeMed factsheet on bioplastics.  
**• Biobased:** Product made in whole or in part from materials of biological origin.  
**• Biodegradable:** Material that can be broken down by micro-organisms under certain conditions.  
**• Bioplastics:** A plastic can be called a bioplastic if it is biosourced or biodegradable, or if it is both biosourced and biodegradable.  
**There are several generations of bioplastics:**  
• 1st generation made from crops and plants (e.g. maize, cane sugar, etc.)  
• 2nd generation made from crops and plants that cannot be consumed by humans.  
• 3rd generation made from algae.

**CONTEXT IN CYPRUS**  
Fishing nets are not effectively addressed through the waste management system :  
**• Traditional recycling companies cannot manage this type of waste.** Collection through the normal recycling routes is often problematic.  
**• Most ports and fishing shelters do not have skips or bins specifically for the collection of fishing nets,** as the nets can get caught in the clamps of collection trucks, causing damage.  
**• Fishermen have to transport the nets themselves to "green points",** which in most cases also refuse to collect the nets, as they do not have an end-of-life solution for them.  
As a result, an estimated **15 tons a year of old fishing nets accumulate at fishermen's premises.**

**THE PROJECT / SEALIVE**  
SEALIVE ([www.sealive.eu](http://www.sealive.eu)) is a European-funded project, in which ISOTECH is partner, alongside 27 other organizations from 13 different countries. **The project aims at reducing plastic pollution in aquaculture, fishing and everyday life (flexible food film, rigid food containers, etc.) by developing biobased products with alternate end-of-life solutions, including recycling and biodegradability.**  
**• One of the products developed by SEALIVE is biobased, marine biodegradable and industrially compostable fishing nets.**  
◦ The nets are made using biobased material made with 1st and 2nd generation feedstock from the French company SEABIRD and sewn in Italy by CITTADINI.  
**• Ten fishermen volunteered to test the nets.** They received training on plastic pollution and the negative effects of 'conventional' fishing nets, as well as on how to report feedback and manage the end-of-life of biodegradable nets.  
**• The test lasted 12 months.** Fishermen reported their experience with the nets through a specially developed template, whereas regular debriefing meetings were held between the fishermen and the researchers so that any questions or difficulties could be raised.  
**• In the event of problems, the fishermen were asked to fill in forms describing the incidents and the areas in which they occurred.**

**FEEDBACKS (NOT TO BE DISCLOSED OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY)**  
**The project is not yet finished, so it's too early to draw any final conclusions,** but a number of points stand out:  
**• The nets are less strong/resistant to fish pull than conventional nets and tend to become stiffer after several hours of use.**  
◦ These are common issues with biobased nets reported in literature.  
**• Some fishermen also noted that the nets were more visible in water than their conventional nets.**  
◦ This might be a colouring issue that can be relatively easy to resolve.  
**• The fishing nets used in this project are designed to last as long as conventional nets but degrade much faster in the marine environment.**  
◦ Degradation studies are underway. **ISOTECH will share the final results later.**  
**Fishermen were receptive** to the use of biodegradable nets, which have less impact on the marine environment than conventional nets. They also recognized the importance of alternative, more sustainable fishing gear, and welcomed diverse and more effective end-of-life solutions for their gear.  
**When choosing biodegradable nets, it is essential to consider the fishing conditions in order to select the most suitable nets** (e.g. water salinity levels, etc.). However, the **price of biodegradable nets compared with conventional nets is a deterrent without financial aid.**  
While biodegradable fishing nets are not the only solution, they remain a solution to the challenge of plastic pollution generated by fishing nets, and all the underlying effects.

**Interested ?**  
Don't hesitate to contact Mrs Demetra Orthodoxou  
[project@isotech.com.cy](mailto:project@isotech.com.cy)