



## Your sea, the living sea

Project for the collection and characterisation of marine waste

### MARVIVA PROJECT

#### How does it work?

Fishing fleets bring to land the marine debris that becomes trapped in their nets while they are out at sea. They do so on a voluntary basis.

This debris is placed in a container that is unloaded when they reach harbour.

The contents of the container from each boat are weighed, quantified, photographed and sorted. The characterised waste is then treated and classified separately.

#### Why?

Every year, vast amounts of waste are dumped into the Mediterranean.

We are aware of this problem, but we don't have enough knowledge about the amounts or types of marine debris found in our ocean and where it comes from.

Marine debris poses a major threat to marine life, commercial fishing, tourism and sea transport, and can have serious consequences, such as:

- Degrading the quality of marine waters that affects flora and fauna
- Reducing fishing catches
- Introducing pollutants throughout the food chain (including humans)
- Impacting on the image of tourist areas
- Increasing spending on cleaning coastal waters

#### What is the aim?

We want to find out the type and characteristics, as well as the sources and origins, of this pollution and raise awareness about the problem among the public as a whole, and fishermen in particular.

We aim to set up routine collaborations between professional fishermen and staff working at the ports in the coastal towns responsible for waste-management. We hope this project will be implemented in other fishing ports in Catalonia.





## Benefits of the project

**Environment:** Reduction of the impact of waste on marine fauna, from the ingestion and potential toxicological effects and even physical harm caused by suffocation and entanglement with plastic debris.

**Health and safety:** Better quality, cleaner waters help avoid putting bathers at risk. The reduction of marine debris can make sailing safer.

**Economy:** There is a reduction in the risk of direct damage to boats, as well as the time devoted to cleaning and maintaining fishing nets. There is also a reduction in the costs incurred by local authorities to clean up the beaches and floating solid waste.

**Tourism:** Cleaning up beaches, coastal waters and the seabed can increase visitor numbers and revenue generated by this sector.

And initiative of:

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