

Nofir – Resources astray

Studies show that 640 000 ton of fishing equipment is dumped or lost at sea each year. Estimations tell that 64 000 ton of this equipment comes from Europe. In addition to this equipment adding to the growing plastic soup it also causes 'ghost fishing' where the fishnets keeps catching fish and posing danger to passing vessels. According to the UN Environment Program, plastic debris causes the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year as well as more than 100 000 marine mammals.

The substantial waste volumes on a European level from the fishing and fish farming industry creates the need to coordinate a collection and recycling system.

Both the fishing industry and the waste companies have long indicated that the equipment from the industry represents a major problem. This often ends up on landfills, dumped at sea or burned. The wasteowners do not wish to pay huge sums to get rid of it and the waste companies do not want this on their landfills as it gets entangled in their machines. Most of the equipment is plastic and not suitable for incinerators as it burns at approximately the same temperature as oil.

As a result the waste companies and the vessel owners have big amounts of ropes and nets waiting to be handled.

Nofir was established in 2008 with the purpose to establish a nationwide system for collecting discarded equipment from fishing- and fishfarming industry. The company has experienced a tremendous growth over the past years. From 1000 tonns in 2010, Nofir has collected 2500 tonns of discarded equipment in 2011 and more than 5000 tonns in 2015.

Nofir aims to recycle not only the most valuable fractions, but to find solutions for all

equipment collected from this sector.

Nofir has three main goals; preventing equipment from the fishing and fish farming industry from being dumped at sea or being put on landfills causing pollution, reduction in oil consumption (for each kilo plastic recycled, almost two kg oil will be saved); reduction in CO2 emission (there is a reduction in CO2 emission of 3,6 kg CO2 per kg recycled plastic).

Nofir first milestone came in 2011 when Nofir was named environmental organization of the year by the organization "Hold Norge Rent". This award was a big motivation to work harder and to be more effective. In 2012 Nofir was as first Norwegian company granted a support from the European Union through the Eco Innovation Project. The goal of this initiative is to help good, innovative ideas that protect the environment become fully-fledged commercial prospects, ready for use by business and industry. In doing so the initiative not only helps the EU meet its environmental objectives but also boosts economic growth. With this support Nofir was able to map and execute an expansion from Norway to Europe.

In 2014 Nofir was awarded the title "The name of the year in seafood industry" by the media house Intrafish and Fiskeriblandet Fiskaren. We were also awarded the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries "Environmental Prize 2014".

We are now able to offer a recycling scheme to all fishfarming in Europe collecting both nets and ropes. For all material we issue an environmental receipt. From this material new products are made and i.e the carpet in the German Bundestag is made from recycled nets.

We also offer to dismantle and grind floating cages on site along the entire Norwegian coastline.