

Design for Circular Fishing Gear

Each year, a significant amount of fishing gear is **lost in the ocean**, posing a problem for marine life. Lost nets and traps can continue "ghost fishing" for many years, and when the materials eventually break down, they contribute to microplastic pollution.

To meet this challenge the project "Design for circular fishing gear" has developed a prototype for a new shrimp trawl and proposed new business models that can pave the way for **increased circularity**, extending the lifetime of the fishing gear, better possibilities for recycling and prevent lost equipment from becoming a source of marine litter.

A new shrimp trawl has been developed and produced based on circular design principles, to promote the circularity of fishing gear:

- ✓ **Reducing mixed material usage** for increased resource efficiency.
- ✓ **Constructing the trawl with panels of mono-material** allowing for easier disassembly and repair to extend the gear's lifespan and easier pre-sorting before material recycling.
- ✓ **Identify labelling solutions** to enhance traceability of fishing gear.
- ✓ **Identify circular business models** to make the use as circular as possible and to increase the number of trawls that are properly recycled and cared for at the end of their lifespan.

Project Information

Period: September 2022 - December 2023

Project Leader: Chalmers Industriteknik

Partners: Sotenäs Municipality, Fiskareföreningen Norden

Program: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Link to the project's webpage:

[Design for Circular Fishing Gear - Chalmers Industriteknik](#)

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Swedish Agency
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