



Co-funded by the European  
Maritime and Fisheries Fund

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY:  
A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO TACKLE MARINE LITTER  
EMFF marine litter projects closing event  
11 February 2021

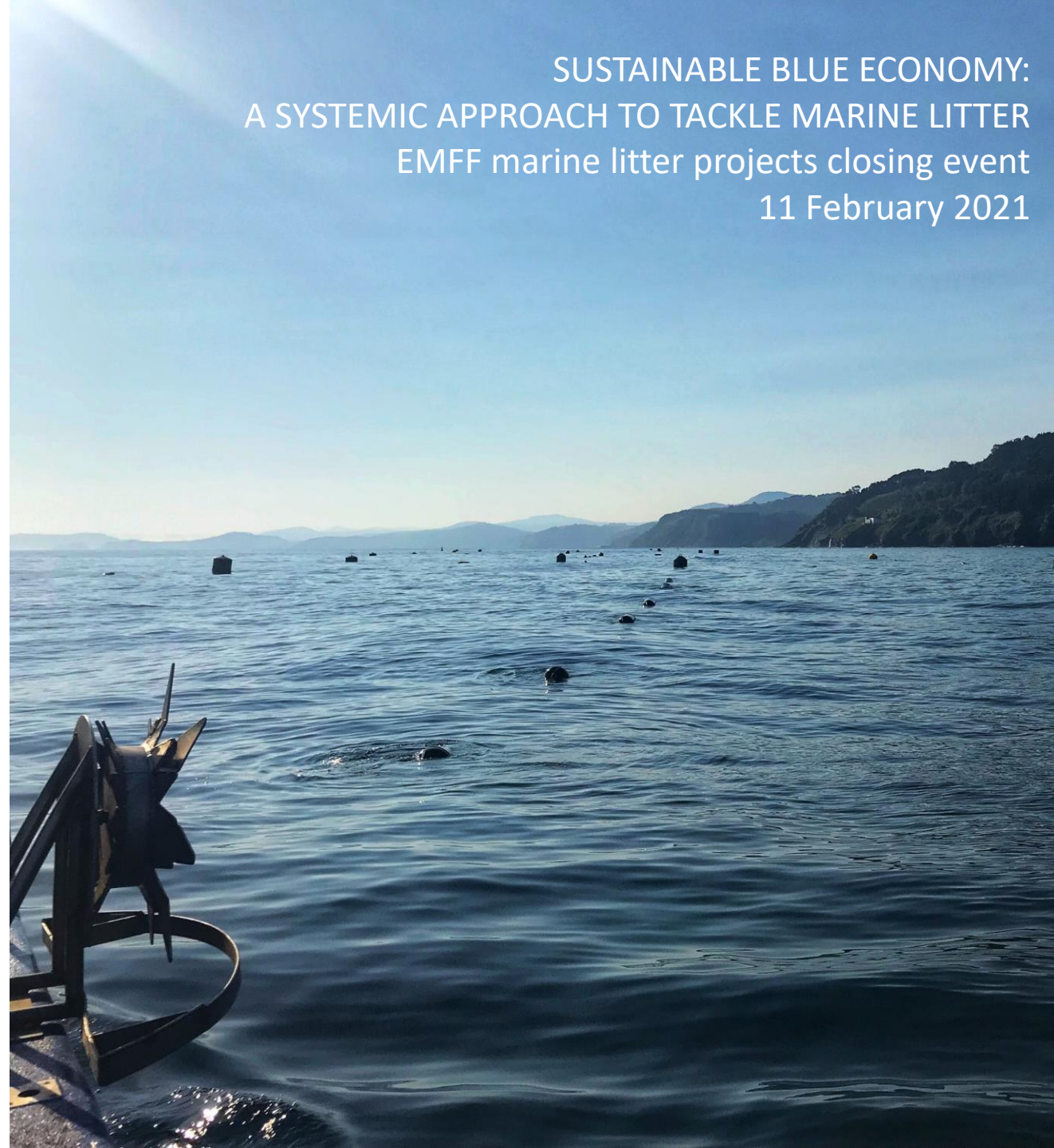
# BLUENET

**CREATING NEW LIFE**  
**for discarded fishing and**  
**aquaculture gears to prevent**  
**marine litter generation**

Oihane C. Basurko  
(AZTI)

[ocabezas@azti.es](mailto:ocabezas@azti.es)

#BLUENET\_EUproject





# BLUENET

Creating a new life for abandoned, lost or discarded fishing and aquaculture gears to prevent marine litter generation



Spain + Italy (testing location: SE Bay of Biscay)



01/01/2019 – 31/12/2020 + 6 months



688.364 € (80% co-funded by the EU)



1. AZTI (Coordinator) (SP) Research centre
2. GAIKER (SP) Research centre
3. Itsaskorda (SP) SME
4. Next Technology Tecnotessile (IT) Research centre



EASME/EMFF/2017/1.2.1.12/S2 – MARINE LITTER  
Sustainable Blue Economy

## COORDINATOR

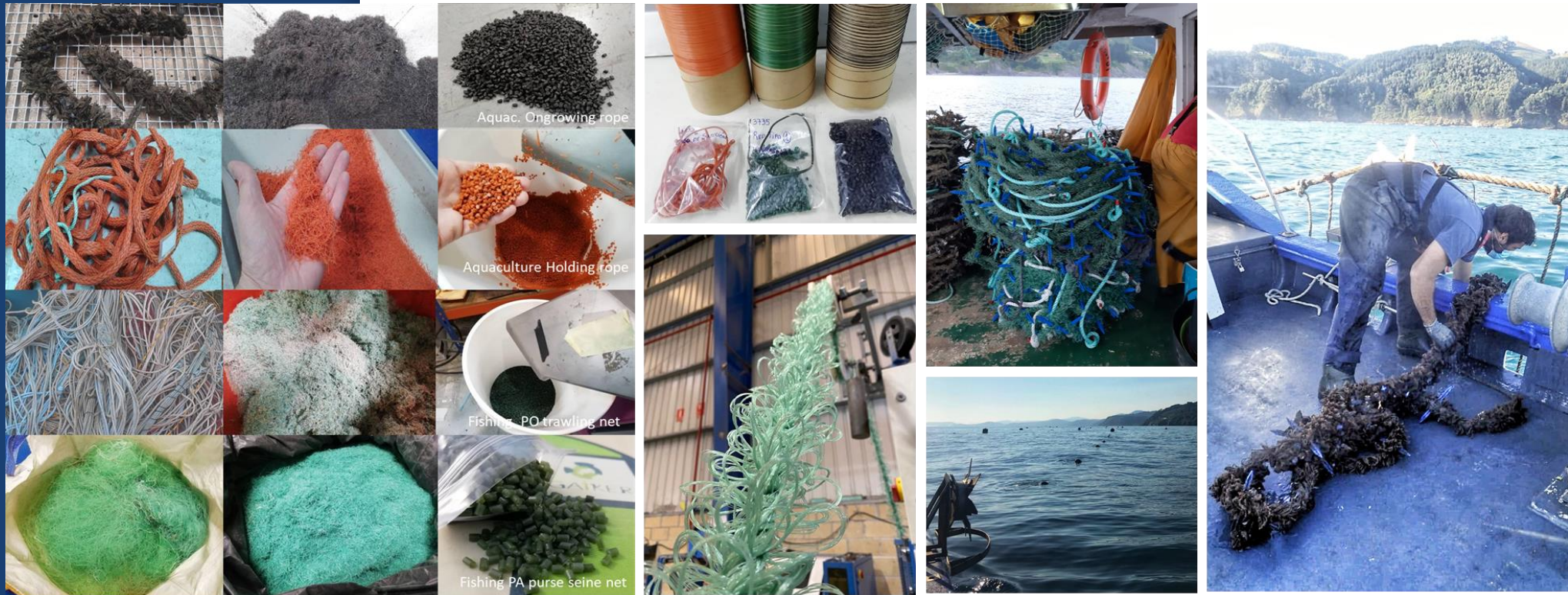


## BENEFICIARIES



# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

## 1. Longline ropes for mussel aquaculture manufactured from recycled discarded fishing nets



DISCARDED NETS,  
ROPES

LONGLINES AT SEA

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



## 1. Longline ropes for mussel aquaculture manufactured from recycled discarded fishing nets

- Provide alternative designs for F&A gears, promoting **sustainable designs**
- Test the suitability of the **inclusion of recycled materials** in net and rope-making designs (at lab-scale and at sea)

*Locally discarded, locally recovered*

## 2. Establish the Fishing for Litter initiative in the Basque Country (SP)

Involving: 150 fishers // 24 vessels // 3 ports

Producing: 1 Regional management plan for marine litter

## 3. Engagement with local “future professionals”

Marine college students + University students

- 80 students
- 1 Scientific paper in collaboration

# MAIN CHALLENGES



## FISHING FOR LITTER

- No collaboration with waste managers
- Few engagement of fishers



### No collaboration

- Tight communication with Port Dept. of the Basque Government - Weekly photo reporting
- *Directive Port Rec. Facilities*

### Few engagement from fishers

- Joining their trips and doing characterization onboard
- **Designing with fishers** the procedure to store the litter onboard and in port
- **Incentives**: t-shirts, hats



## LONGLINE TESTS at SEA

- Series of heavy weather conditions at sea
- Loss of mussels



### Bad Weather

- New batch of ropes launched in a protected raft
- **Collaboration with local aquaculture site manager**

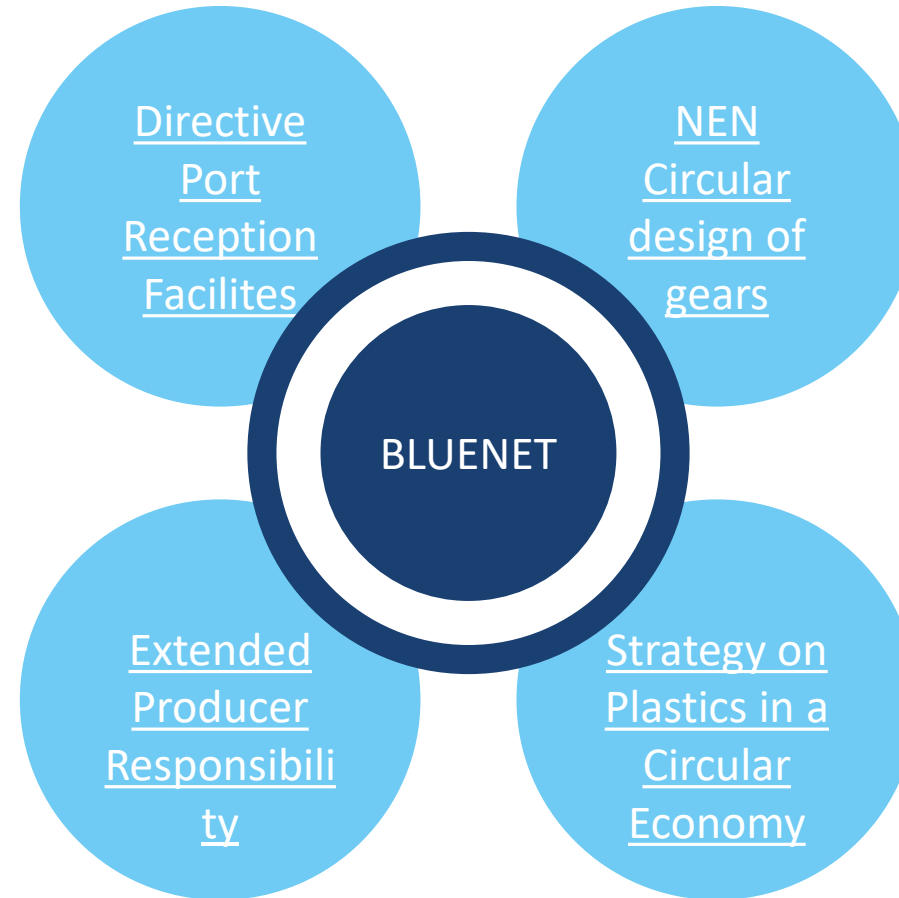
### Loss of mussels

- Ropes were cleaned and re-seeded
- Inclusion of a protected mesh to avoid mussel loss

Problem solving  
& lessons learned

# CONTRIBUTION TO EU POLICIES

Feedback (2 pager)  
recommendations for  
the implementation of  
the directive regarding  
to Fishing for Litter



Participation of  
the process and  
feedback on the  
lessons learned

Feedback on the  
lessons learned to  
incorporate  
recycled materials  
into rope  
manufacturing

Scientific papers (2) related to the stakeholders viewpoint on the recycling potential of aquaculture gears and use of recycled materials within aquaculture as a way to reduce its contribution of marine litter



Thank you very much for  
your time

If you have any questions, contact us at:

 <https://www.bluenetproject.eu/>

 #BLUENET\_EUproject

 [ocabezas@azti.es](mailto:ocabezas@azti.es)



BLUENET VIDEO: <https://www.bluenetproject.eu/bluenet-video-goes-online/>