



Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel Unite to Combat Marine Pollution and Promote Sustainability in Malta

Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel have joined forces to combat marine pollution in Malta by recovering discarded fishing nets and marine litter. The strategic partnership emphasizes recycling efforts, contributing to a cleaner marine environment, and will expand into educational events, engaging diverse stakeholders for a sustainable future.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14/11/2023, MALTA, St Julians - Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel, prominent organisations dedicated to environmental conservation and waste reduction, proudly announce a groundbreaking collaboration to combat marine pollution and promote sustainable solutions in Malta. This strategic partnership aims to recover discarded fishing nets and marine litter, working with various partners to recycle them, thereby contributing to a cleaner and healthier marine environment around the Maltese islands.

The collaboration between Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel, which began with an initial joint activity several years ago, has now evolved into a comprehensive cooperation. This launch signifies a significant step towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution and waste on the islands of Malta and in its surrounding waters.

On September 20th, marking the commencement of a dedicated one-week mission, this collaborative effort unfolded with a pioneering project that included a series of diverse diving activities conducted by teams from Zibel and Healthy Seas. Volunteer divers from Ghost Diving joined in the initiative, emphasizing the commitment of both organizations to take tangible actions in restoring Malta's natural marine habitats by recovering abandoned fishing nets and marine litter from the seas.

The diving expedition successfully retrieved 16 gillnets and 22 octopus cages, representing dangerous remnants of marine activity. These abandoned or lost nets and cages pose as deadly traps, needlessly harming marine life and continuing to fish animals even after being discarded.

In addition to the first diving expedition, the teams conducted two clean-up missions in Xemxija Bay, resulting in 1.6 tons of marine litter removed (mostly fishing gear but also metal and plastic fragments).

Zibel, a registered Voluntary Organisation and NGO, has been making significant progress since its establishment in 2017. Their mission revolves around reducing waste and preserving natural ecosystems on Maltese islands. Through partnerships and collective efforts, Zibel aims to raise awareness about waste issues and actively engage in cleanup initiatives. Their collaboration with Healthy Seas underscores their dedication to creating a cleaner and more sustainable future for Malta.

Healthy Seas, an international non-profit organisation founded in 2013, is committed to removing marine litter from the seas, focusing on fishing nets. They actively create partnerships with fishing communities and conduct educational projects to raise awareness about this issue, all in an effort to foster healthier oceans. The organisation works diligently to recycle as much marine litter as possible into valuable raw materials or new products by collaborating with various partners. To date, Healthy

Seas has successfully collected over 905 tons of fishing nets and other marine litter, thanks to the efforts of volunteer divers and fishers.

The collaboration between Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel has commenced with diving activities and the exchange of knowledge between the two teams. This collaboration will soon expand to encompass more diving expeditions and extend into educational and awareness-raising events. The involvement of various stakeholders, such as authorities, diving centres, fishermen, institutions, schools, and the general public, will play a pivotal role in raising awareness and fostering a sense of community engagement in environmental conservation efforts within Malta.

By leveraging their combined expertise, resources, and passion for a cleaner environment, the Healthy Seas Foundation and Zibel are committed to making a lasting impact in the fight against marine pollution in Malta. Together, they are dedicated to creating a brighter, sustainable future for Malta's oceans and its communities.

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About Healthy Seas Foundation:

Healthy Seas is an international non-profit organisation whose mission is to remove waste from the seas, in particular fishing nets, for the purpose of creating healthier seas and recycling marine litter into textile products. The recovered fishing nets will be transformed and regenerated by Aquafil, together with other nylon waste, into ECONYL® yarn, a high-quality raw material used to create new products, such as socks, swimwear, sportswear, or carpets. Since its founding in 2013, Healthy Seas has collected over 905 tons of fishing nets and other marine litter with the help of volunteer divers and fishers.

About Zibel:

Zibel was founded in March 2017 and is a homegrown Maltese environmental non-profit. In the six years of operation, the organisation has grown from simple clean-ups to remote marine clean-ups, ghost nets removals, microplastic research and surveying and most recently, artificial reefs. Everything done at Zibel is done with a holistic mindset that ensures funds are utilised as effectively as possible to maximise not just the organisation's time, but every contributor's impact. The NGO is on a long-term growth plan to expand its local impact and continue to safeguard the natural environment by empowering volunteers and establishing long term solutions to ocean waste on the Maltese Islands.

Pictures from the event>

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