



**HEALTHY
SEAS®**

a journey from waste to wear

Healthy Seas

**An introduction to our mission and what we
can do together**



Who we are

Healthy Seas is a global foundation whose mission is to remove marine litter from the seas, in particular fishing nets, for the purpose of creating healthier seas and recycling marine litter into textile products with the help of our partners.

We operate all over the world (from the US to Korea or New Zealand) and our funding comes from business partners.

Since its founding in 2013, Healthy Seas has collected over 1,228 tons of fishing nets and other marine litter with the help of volunteer divers and fishers.

Beyond cleanup, our pillars encompass prevention and education.



What we do

Healthy Seas' work is based on three pillars:

- **Clean-ups** – with volunteer divers from Ghost Diving recovering nets **underwater or with beach-clean ups** with the public.
- **Education** – with local partners we create **educational activities for kids and adults** for awareness raising on the problem of marine litter, plastic pollution, biodiversity and circular economy.
- **Prevention** – in collaboration with the **fishing industry** to make sure the waste stream of the industry is well managed (harbour authorities, fishing communities or associations or waste collection entities).



CLEAN-UP



EDUCATION



PREVENTION

Why we do it

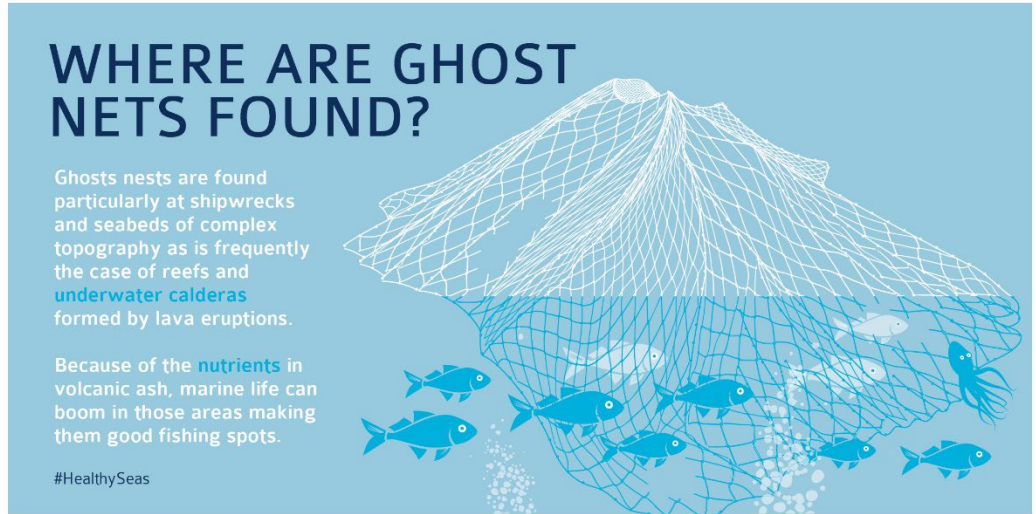
The problem of marine litter & ghost gear

- **The curtain of death** – ghost nets remain in the seas for hundreds of years and continue to catch and kill marine life needlessly, contributing to biodiversity loss and the overexploitation of fish population (70% of it is already overexploited)
- **Microplastics** – The nets left on the bottom of the sea for a long time start degrading and then break into pieces that eventually can become microplastics.
- **Costs of marine litter** – Marine debris is estimated to cost the international community more than 60 billion euros in cleanup, repairs, and losses. The problems are connected to entanglement of boats, of other nets, pollution on beaches, loss in tourism.



Where we find marine litter

- **Floating** – This is more common for some plastic litter like bottles, but less for ghost gear that is designed to stay on the bottom. Floating marine litter has proven to be a danger also with regard to invasive species that can be carried on the floating litter to different parts of the world, as well as pollutants that are absorbed by the degrading plastic.
- On the **bottom of the sea** – Some estimate that only a very small part of the marine litter is floating, and the rest is underwater where it is subjected to «ocean blindness» - what people don't see, doesn't exist.
- In **shipwrecks or reefs** – It's very common for fishing gear to be stuck in greater amount on shipwrecks, either because they got stuck while fishing or because they are carried there by the currents. Unfortunately, these spots are also the richest from a biodiversity standpoint and where different species take shelter.



Who we collaborate with

Ghost Diving

Ghost Diving is a registered charity founded in 2012 and run by technical divers who have specialized in the removal of lost fishing gear and other marine debris since 2009.

Ghost Diving is the largest and most experienced global diving organization focused on the "ghost fishing" phenomenon with a track record in a wide variety of countries and international waters.

Ghost divers are operating in their free time and carry out innovative and challenging nature conservation projects also with the help of Healthy Seas.

<https://www.ghostdiving.org/>



Aquafil, the company, & the ECONYL® brand

Aquafil is a synthetic fiber manufacturer with its headquarters in Italy and production and recycling plants in many countries in the world.

In 2013, Aquafil co-founded Healthy Seas, so it is one of the 3 founding members and also a key player in the value chain of Healthy Seas.

The various nylon fishing nets collected by Healthy Seas are in fact sent and later recycled, together with other nylon waste, into ECONYL® yarn, thanks to the ECONYL® Regeneration System. This is a chemical process that can transform nylon waste into new nylon without any loss of quality or performance.

The new nylon, called ECONYL®, is used by many of Aquafil's customers in different industries: fashion, sportswear, swimwear, carpets, car mats, injection molding.



<https://www.aquafil.com/magazine/co-founder-of-healthy-seas-foundation/>

<https://www.econyl.com/it/healthy-seas/>

Bracenet

Bracenet is a company based in Hamburg, Germany, that creates sustainable bracelets and other accessories by upcycling old fishing nets, many of which are recovered by Healthy Seas.

Their bracelets are much more than fashionable accessories: they are a statement promoting the protection of the world's oceans.

They have been a partner of Healthy Seas for seven years.

<https://bracenet.net/en/our-mission/>



Note to the reuse of the nets

After the transport, sorting and cleaning of the nets, the nylon parts are sent to Aquafil's factory in Slovenia to enter the ECONYL® regeneration system while other types of plastic nets are given to others for recycling, for example Bracenet, a company that uses other type of fishing nets (polyethylene, polypropylene).

The rest of the materials can be reused (by fishermen or for displays, exhibitions, school programs) or can become waste-to-energy (through incineration).

The nylon cleaned fishing nets are delivered to an Aquafil plant in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where they are prepared for the ECONYL® Regeneration System. The recycling in Slovenia is an innovative process to regenerate waste fishing nets and other nylon waste and make new nylon yarn. The regenerated nylon yarn is called ECONYL® and has the same qualities as virgin nylon from fossil raw material.



Other partners - Hyundai

Hyundai has been a partner of Healthy Seas for three years with different activities, mostly in Europe but also in the US and Korea.

We share a vision for making the world a better place for future generations.

Hyundai's first clean-up activity with Healthy Seas started on World Oceans Day - 16th June 2021 - in Ithaca, Greece. This was the biggest clean-up initiative to date for Healthy Seas.

Hyundai also uses ECONYL® nylon yarn in the car mats of some of their car models.

<https://www.hyundai.com/eu/about-hyundai/sustainability/healthy-seas.html>



Other partners - DWS

DWS is a German asset management company. It previously operated as part of Deutsche Bank until 2018 where it became a separate entity through an initial public offering on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

The mission and goals of Healthy Seas align with DWS' CSR goals, especially with the efforts to combat climate change and biodiversity loss.

Through the support of DWS, in 2021 Healthy Seas was able to purchase 'MAKO', its first boat.

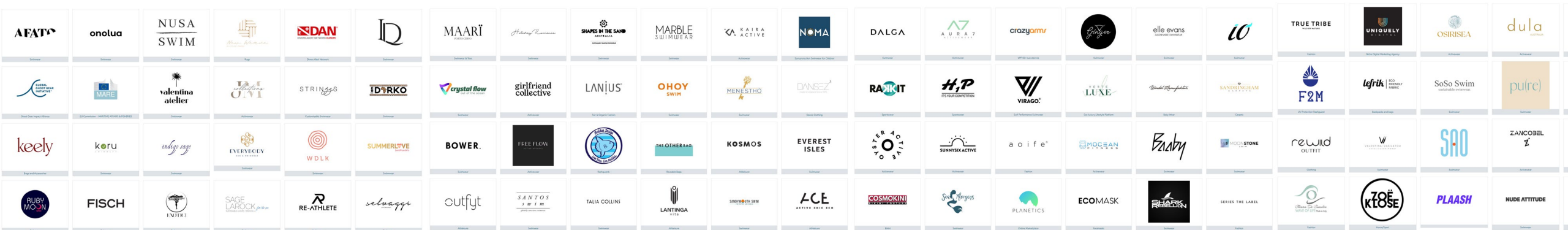
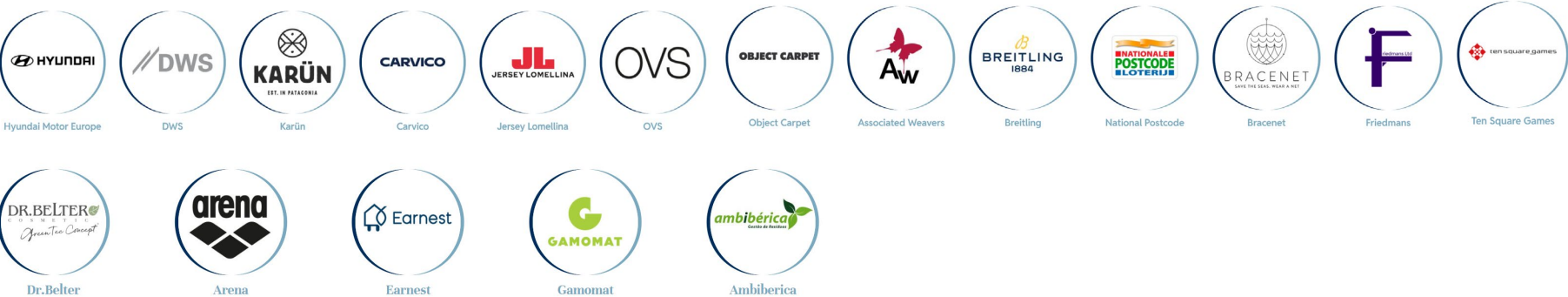
MAKO is now based in Ithaca in Greece and is used for salvage missions departing from there.

<https://www.dws.com/en-it/our-profile/corporate-social-responsibility/healthy-seas/>



Other partners...

150 partners in different industries and growing...



[LINK partner page](#)

Impact

HEALTHY  SEAS®

2024 Activity Results

healthyseas.org

nearly
10,000
school children
and adults

76
educational
events

202
active days
in the fields
(in **20** countries
and **7** regions)

126
diving days

550
volunteers

237
tons of waste
collected

1,250
fishers and
fish farmers

Collected Marine Litter

healthyseas.org

Since our founding in 2013,
together with volunteer
divers and fishing communities,
we have collected:

This amount is
equivalent to
the weight of:



8
blue whales
the largest animal
on earth

or

279
orcas

Online resources

Social Media Presence

- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Our hashtag: #HealthySeas

Website: <https://www.healthyseas.org/>

2023 official report:
<https://www.healthyseas.org/assets/uploads/2024/03/Healthy-Seas-Report-2023-final-compressed-1.pdf>



Our podcast

“The Healthy Seas Podcast” is not just a podcast; it’s a dive into the heart of ocean conservation. The show brings you stories from divers, fishers, experts, partners, and other unsung heroes actively contributing to healthier seas and oceans.

From the surface to the depths below, we explore the beauty, secrets, dangers, and solutions that lie beneath the waves to combat the apathy and blindness that allow marine litter to persist. We stand united against the mindset that treats the ocean as an infinite dumping ground and urge everyone to recognize the urgency of the situation.



[LINK](#) to podcast and live video on our website

Documentaries/Video

A documentary series about the **MAKO**, our boat donated by **DWS**.

With a lot of information about our diving missions and what is behind.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn1oU6_KlaA&list=PL5Umo8rJP2KFUjyEGwUqXvfRsTxhEDa-H&index=1

Going Circular by Hyundai.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Umo8rJP2KHb4b7IMsnln5Ng1MNxN9Ux>

Journey to Ithaca, the documentary (with funding by Hyundai).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGIRy7HhUGg&t=824s>

Earthrise/Al Jazeera

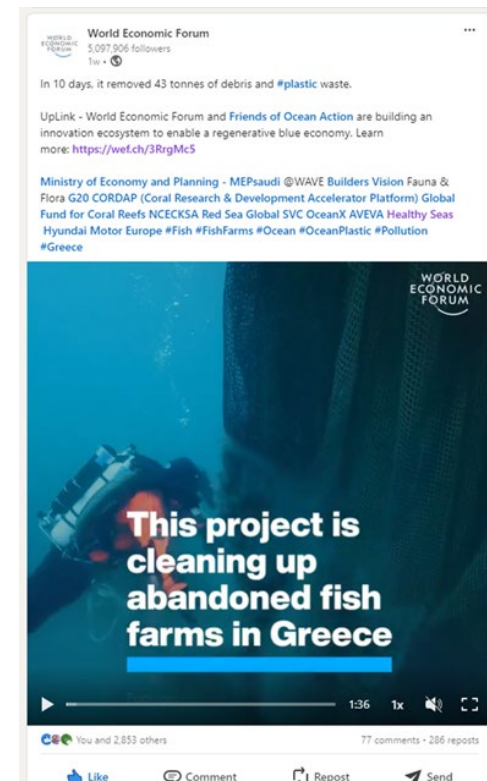
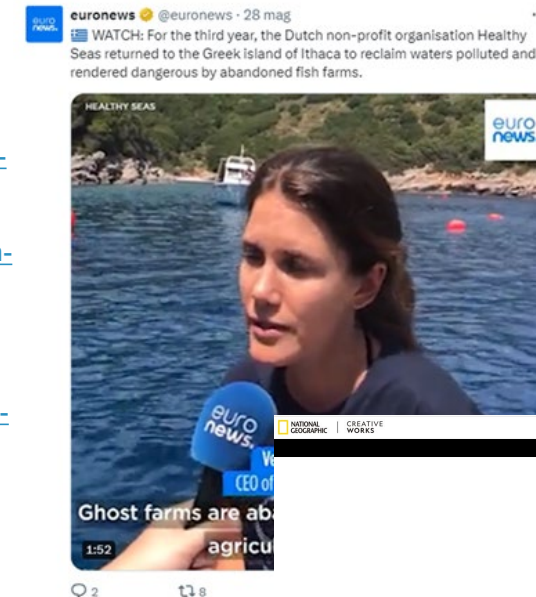
<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/earthrise/2015/5/15/the-power-of-a-calm-sea-fish-net-fashion>

Spiegel Video

<https://www.spiegel.de/video/griechenland-taucher-bergen-alte-plastik-fischernetze-video-99027455.html>

Other press coverage

- World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/07/abandoned-fish-farms-greece-ocean-pollution/>
- Euronews 2024 <https://www.euronews.com/2024/05/28/non-profit-healthy-seas-cleans-up-contaminated-greek-oceans>
- National Geographic <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/paid-content-prada-renylon-wellington-new-zealand> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBtRnsTTR2w>
- Euronews 2022 <https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/06/01/volunteer-divers-clear-tons-of-dangerous-ghost-nets-from-the-greek-coastline>
- Reuters <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-environment-shipwreck-fishing/divers-haul-ghost-nets-from-submarine-wreck-in-greeces-ionian-sea-idUSKCN24W2G0/>
- Vogue <https://www.vogue.com/slideshow/the-green-carpet-fashion-awards-2019>
- Sky News <https://news.sky.com/story/tourists-visiting-mediterranean-sea-leaving-toxic-legacy-of-plastic-waste-11398110>
- Recycling Today <https://www.recyclingtoday.com/news/abandoned-fishing-nets-recycled-into-nylon/>
- Newsweek <https://www.newsweek.com/hyundai-funding-world-war-ii-wreck-site-dives-clean-oceans-1819667>
- Huffington Post https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ocean-plastic-fishing-waste_n_5bc47dc9e4b0bd9ed55c1f60
- Mirror <https://www.mirror.co.uk/lifestyle/family/children-toys-plastic-environment-recycling-30986714>
- BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66570399> & <https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/future/the-journey-to-ithaca/the-race-to-save-ithacas-seas->



Stay with us for more!



www.healthyseas.org

