

Requirements and procedures for the collection, return to the producer and recovery or disposal of waste from fishing gear and components containing plastic, as well as collection rates and deadlines for achieving the collection rates¹

The Regulation is established on the basis of § 26 (3) and (8) of the Waste Act.

§ 1. Scope of application

The Regulation applies to waste generated from fishing gear and parts thereof containing plastic referred to in § 25 (2) 7) of the Waste Act (hereinafter waste fishing gear).

§ 2. Definitions

In this Regulation, the following definitions are used:

- 1) fishing gear containing plastic is an object or part of equipment wholly or partly made of plastic used in fisheries or aquaculture for the purpose of luring, catching or rearing biological resources of a water body;
- 2) plastic is plastic within the meaning of paragraph 2 of § 7³ of the Waste Act;
- 3) waste fishing gear is waste fishing gear within the meaning of § 26²¹ paragraph 2 of the Waste Act;
- 4) fishing gear user is a natural or legal person using a fishing gear;
- 5) producer of fishing gear is the producer of fishing gear within the meaning of § 23 paragraph 1¹⁰ of the Waste Act;
- 6) port reception facilities are port reception facilities within the meaning of § 26²¹ paragraph 3 of the Waste Act.

§ 3. Requirements for the collection, transport and return of waste fishing gear to the producer

- (1) Pursuant to § 25¹ paragraph 1 of the Waste Act, a producer is required to ensure the handling of waste resulting from its fishing products.
- (2) A producer must take measures to prevent and reduce marine litter from fishing gear.
- (3) The collection and transport of waste fishing gear shall be carried out avoiding mixing and contamination with other waste or materials which would prevent the subsequent recycling of waste fishing gear or pose a risk to the environment.
- (4) In order to ensure better quality of waste material, increase its recovery possibilities and reduce the amount of waste generated from waste fishing gear, the user of a waste fishing gear shall make use of all possibilities for separate collection of waste fishing gear at the moment of its generation and for its delivery to the waste management operator separately from other waste.
- (5) In order to ensure separate collection of waste fishing gear referred to in subsection (3) of this section, the producer shall organise the collection and return to the producer in such a way as to encourage the user of the fishing gear to hand over the waste and to make it as convenient as possible for them to give up the waste.
- (6) A producer must establish adequate public access collection facilities for the collection of waste fishing gear separately from other waste and ensure that they are discharged on a need-

by-demand basis or organise a national collection round at least once a year.

§ 4. Take-back of waste fishing gear

A producer is obligated to take back the waste fishing gear up to the quantity placed on the market during the previous calendar year free of charge:

- 1) from users of fishing gear;
- 2) from distributors of fishing gear;
- 3) from the managing body of port reception facilities;
- 4) from waste handlers managing the waste collection centres of local governments under a contract.

§ 5. Rate of collection of waste fishing gear

(1) A producer is required to collect waste generated from fishing gear during the calendar year to the amount of at least 10 % of the weight of fishing gear placed on the market in the previous calendar year.

(2) The producer shall also be obliged to receive waste from fishing gear once the collection rate laid down in paragraph 1 has been achieved, but not more than the weight of the fishing gear placed on the market in the preceding calendar year.

§ 6. Recovery and disposal of waste fishing gear

(1) The recovery of waste fishing gear must be carried out by sorting out waste for which recycling as material is technically feasible and economically feasible, i.e., does not entail excessive costs.

(2) Waste arising from waste fishing gear which cannot be recycled or otherwise recovered shall be disposed of in accordance with the Waste Act.

§ 7. Implementation of the Regulation

(1) As set out in § 3 (2) to (4) of this Regulation, the separate collection requirements shall apply from 31 December 2024.

(2) The collection rate provided for in § 5 (1) of this Regulation shall be achieved by 31 December 2026 at the latest.

§ 8. Entry into force of the Regulation

The Regulation will enter into force on 31 December 2024.

Kaja Kallas
Prime Minister

Kristen Michal
Minister of Climate

Taimar Peterkop
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Directive 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, pp. 1–19);

Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, pp. 1–15).