

**EASTERN &  
SOUTHERN  
PLASTICS  
COALITION**

# Purpose

## Structure

- **EEPC formed in 2019, became ESPC in 2025**
- **Marine Debris WG and Unflushables WG**
- **4x working group meetings per WG (online) a year (8 total)**
  - Networking and information exchange
  - Hosting speakers
  - Project initiation and co-ordination
- **1x Coalition Meeting (online) a year**

## Marine Debris WG:

- **Initiated in 2021**
- **Tackle plastic items of marine debris (including ADLFG) by:**
  - **Removing them from the marine environment, and providing sustainable end of life pathways for them**
  - **Preventing items from entering at source**
  - **Hearing from expert speakers**



# Who we are

- EEPIC formed in 2019
- Marine Debris WG
- Unflushables WG



# Beach Litter Counts 2017-2026 – Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) data

## YEAR BY YEAR LITTER REMOVED (KG)

Data from beach clean and survey activities along the Lincolnshire coastline.



### 10 YEAR SUMMARY (2017-2026)

TOTAL LITTER REMOVED  
**4,019.35 KG**

RUBBISH REMOVED  
**3,939.35 KG**

PLASTIC REMOVED  
**99.5 KG**

AVERAGE PER YEAR  
**401.94 KG**

YEARS OF DATA  
**10**

### KEY INSIGHTS



#### PEAK YEAR

2018 saw the highest amount of litter removed at 920 kg.



#### LOWEST YEAR

2020 recorded the lowest amount at 187.5 kg.



#### PLASTIC CONTRIBUTION

Plastic made up 2.5% of total litter removed over the 10 years.

### NURDLES COLLECTED IN 2026

- 24 LWT staff – 355 hours
- 24 volunteers – 183 hours
- 105 members of the public – 210 hours
- Over 16 tonnes** from Lincolnshire beaches



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## Waves of Waste Beach Cleans

We recruit, train and support volunteers along the Yorkshire coastline to run beach clean events and conduct litter surveys. In 2025 we:

- Ran **51** beach clean events
- Carried out **82** litter surveys
- Cleaned **42** miles of the Yorkshire coastline
- Had **724** people come to help
- Removed **376** bags of litter



### Top 5 items found along the Yorkshire coastline

1	Unidentified plastic & polystyrene
2	Cigarette stubs & filters
3	Plastic food packets & wrappers
4	Lobster pot pieces
5	String, cord & rope

# Beach Litter Counts 2025 – EastMe Area

Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Beachwatch data

## EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK



AVERAGE LITTER ITEMS  
PER 100M OF BEACHES  
SURVEYED

**157**

UK AVERAGE:  
141 PER 100M



SURVEYS  
UNDERTAKEN

**98**

IN 2025



VOLUNTEERS  
TOOK PART

**1,274**



LITTER ITEMS  
RECORDED

**22,321**



LITTER REMOVED

**753** KG

### TOP 5 ITEMS FOUND

1



PLASTIC/  
POLYSTYRENE  
PIECES  
2.5–50cm

2



PACKETS  
(Crisps, sweets  
lolly sticks,  
sandwiches)

3



PLASTIC  
CAPS/LIDS

4



STRING/CORD  
(thickness  
0–1cm)

5



CONTAINERS:  
FOOD  
(inc. Fast food)

### LITTER MATERIALS AND ORIGIN



OF LITTER WAS  
MADE OF  
PLASTIC/  
POLYSTYRENE



**49%**

OF LITTER CAME FROM  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC  
Bottles, cans,  
smoking litter etc.



**11%**

WAS FISHING AND  
AQUACULTURE LITTER



# ESPC projects



## 1. Championing Coastal Co-ordination (2022)

- Collaborative workshops with fishers and interested parties to scope quantities and solutions
- Funded by EA

## 2. Marine Debris Recycling Pilot Project (2022)

- 6 week timeline
- 10 collection points along Norfolk coast and fisher amnesty day



## 3. Pot Tagging Scheme (2023 ongoing)

- EEPCC sourced WWF funding for partner EIFCA
- Feasibility study to inform regulatory byelaw for fishing in Cromer Shoals MCZ
- Material and technology trials



## 4. Expansion of marine debris collection (2024 – ongoing)

- Expanding NBC and KBT beach cleaning, sponsored by RWE as part of benthic compensatory measures



# EETC projects



## 4. Marine Debris recycling project (2025 – ongoing)

- 3 end of life fishing gear events held to date, 2 in 2025, and 1 in 2026
  - Fishers invited to deposit end of life gear for it to be recycled for free
  - Events varied from a week to 3 weeks in length
  - Locations of Lowestoft, Southwold and King’s Lynn
- Aim: Improve source control, provide viable end of life pathway and support local fishing community
- KBT, relevant councils, and EIFCA delivering, sponsored by RWE as part of benthic compensatory measures
- ESPC responsible for reporting
- Future: 1 further event planned for 2026, most likely again in King’s Lynn

**We need your old fishing gear!**

<p><b>What?</b> Opportunity to deposit <u>plastic</u> end of life gear in <u>Lowestoft</u>,</p>	<p><b>Where?</b> <u>Lowestoft</u>: car park facing Hamilton Dock, Hamilton Rd, NR3 2 1XJ</p>
<p><b>When?</b> Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please come between 09:00-12:00</p>	<p><b>Contact</b> Stephen Bunn (EIFCA) 07425 161685</p>

dead fish/crab, as much as possible  
no grease/oil covered rope

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY. EAST OF ENGLAND PLASTICS COALITION

**We need your old fishing gear!**

<p><b>What?</b> Opportunity to deposit <u>plastic</u> end of life gear in <u>Southwold</u>, and have it <u>recycled for free</u>. We accept the following gear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trawl and dolly net</li> <li>• Monofilament net (gill net)</li> <li>• Rope (no metal)</li> <li>• Plastic pots</li> <li>• Pot markers and fish crates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Where?</b> <u>Southwold</u>: Fisherman’s Compound, 3 Southwold Harbour.</p>
<p><b>When?</b> Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.</p>	<p><b>Contact</b> Stephen Bunn (EIFCA) 07425 161685</p>

**Instructions**  
Net: Remove all metal, rubber materials, rope, heavy weed, dead fish/crab, as much white string on gill net as possible  
Rope: Remove all metal, no metal rope or lead lined rope, no grease/oil covered rope  
Pot markers: Drums with no fuel/oil/solvents  
Pots: Pots with concrete removed  
Deposit the material in the bulky bags. Please only deposit fishing gear in the bags.

RWE EIFCA OCEAN RECOVERY PROJECT KEEP BRITAIN TIDY EAST OF ENGLAND PLASTICS COALITION EASTSUFFOLK

# Marine Debris recycling project (2025 – ongoing)

Results: Quantities of gear collected and recycled

Event	Amount recycled (kg)	Amount to landfill (kg)
Lowestoft	1214	1286
Southwold	1005	350
King's Lynn	3085	1660
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>3296</b>



Event	Recycled material				
	Rope (kg)	Rigid plastics (kg)	Nets (kg)	Pots (kg)	Fishermans swaps (kg)
Lowestoft	1214	1286	994	n/a	n/a
Southwold	1005	350	625	n/a	n/a
King's Lynn		1780	65	840	400

# Marine Debris recycling project (2025 – ongoing)

## Material types and encountered complications

### Nets

- Primarily sorted into PA6 nylon (monofilament nets) and HDPE (trawl nets, including float ropes, ground gear, and “dolly nets”)
- Whilst HDPE is very recyclable, it often comes heavily contaminated, complicating processing.
- A major contaminant encountered was braided PET string, which is used in nets for added strength and grip
- Recycled by Millspeed in Cotswolds. Clear nylon is more versatile and valuable.
- *Waves from Waste*: Some recycled pellets molded into durable bodyboards for recreational use – high strength so will not snap or fragment like cheap alternatives. Each board contains approx. 50% HDPE net.



### Rope

- MyGroup, a recycler based out of Hull, accepted the rope and hard rigid plastics.
- These gear types are typically challenging to process through conventional means.
- Typically shredded, melted and transformed into a product called “MyBoard”—a composite 8'x4' sheet.

### Pots

- Unrecyclable until King's Lynn, where found suitable recycler – Goldstar, a metals trader.

# Marine Debris recycling project (2025 – ongoing)

## Post event promotion

- Advertised and success promoted on Facebook, LinkedIn page, and relevant organisation's websites
- Lowestoft and Southwold events promoted on local radio station Suffolk Sounds
- Fishermen who engaged with event gifted fisherman's knife with handle made from recycled net

## Lessons learnt

- Holding the event during the fishing season reduced availability of gear and participation. Winter events may be preferable, but bring weather risks...
- The timing of the Southwold scheme in Autumn brought with it additional challenges because of the weather, with material handlers having to contend with Storm Amy which was particularly challenging given the site's proximity to the water.
- Monofilament in particular is extremely time-consuming to prepare, reducing throughput. It is a similar case for pots, although changes to tool use could improve efficiency.



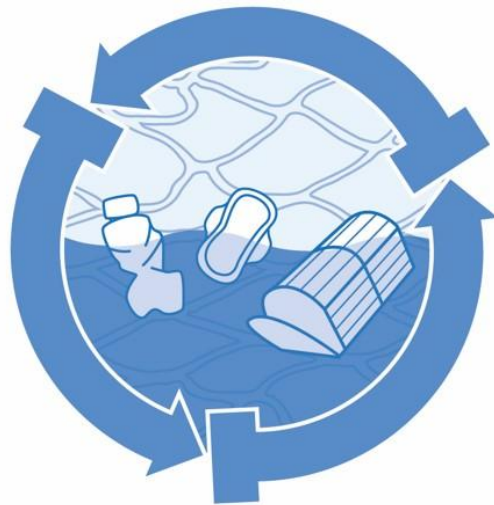
# Marine Debris recycling project (2025 – ongoing)



# Contact

- Interested in joining the ESPC?
- Want to know more about the ESPC's work?
- Want to know more about Eunomia?

[william.fitter@eunomia.co.uk](mailto:william.fitter@eunomia.co.uk)



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 eunomia