

INdIGO

INnovative fishing Gear for Ocean



EUROPEAN UNION



INnovative fishing Gear for Ocean

NEWSLETTER 4
November 2021



**FOCUS ON AGEING TESTS OF
THE NEW MATERIAL**



**A NEW EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR
FISH&CLICK USERS**



**PORTRAITS OF SARAH JOHNSON
AND DALYAL COPIN**



**PROJECT COMMUNICATION
ACTIVITIES**

Interreg



France (Channel
Manche) England

Fonds européen de développement régional

Université
Bretagne Sud
ubs:

NaturePlast
L'expert en Bioplastiques

Smel
Synergie Mer et Littoral
Recherche & développement

filt.
1860
Fabricant de filtres et de cordons

**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

Cefas

**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**

IRMA

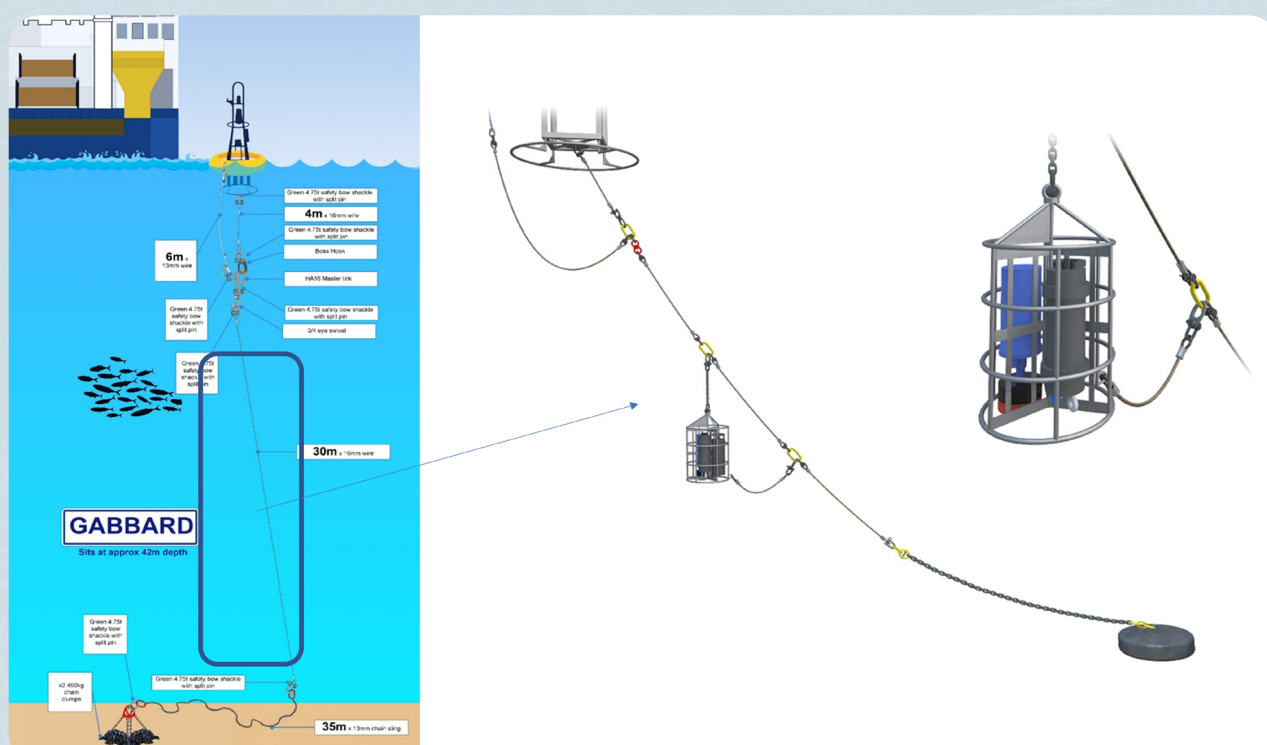
Ifremer

**MSE
INTERNATIONAL**

Focus on ageing tests of the new material

Microplastics scientist Adil Bakir works at Cefas, the UK's Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences. He explains how, as part of the INdIGO project, scientists will try to better understand the long-term performance of the biodegradable material used to make the prototype nets. To do this, they will study, among other things, the possible formation of microplastic by immersing the samples in the marine environment and studying them in the laboratory.

Cefas colleagues are working hard to finalise all the preparations ahead of the deployment of the biodegradable materials at sea during a survey on *RV Cefas Endeavour* in November. The materials, formulated by NaturePlast and manufactured by University of Southern Brittany (UBS), will be deployed on a mid-tether frame attached to the Cefas SmartBuoy at 'West Gabbard' ([see the interactive map](#)). SmartBuoy sensors collect high frequency timeseries of surface (at 1 metre) parameters (e.g. salinity, temperature, turbidity, oxygen saturation...). Data loggers will also be deployed in the mid-tether frame to collect the same parameters at 15m depth and relate ageing of the biodegradable materials at the water surface and in the water column.



Deployment of the materials at sea using a mid-tether frame (15 m depth) attached to a Cefas SmartBuoy.

IN THE NEWS

In parallel to the natural ageing of the materials at sea, the biodegradable materials will also be artificially aged using a Q-SUN Xenon test chamber replicating sunlight exposure. Marine ageing of the biodegradable materials is an important step to understand the durability of the materials and subsequent environmental impacts in the marine environment.



The different materials will be artificially aged using a Q-SUN Xenon test chamber.

Fragmentation rates and production of secondary microplastics (resulting from the degradation of larger debris) will also be investigated from both natural and accelerated ageing using the Q-SUN Xenon test chamber to further assess the environmental impacts of the new proposed biodegradable materials.



Microplastic analysis using a Bruker LUMOS II micro-FTIR.

Adil Bakir, Senior Microplastics Scientist at Cefas Laboratory

A new educational tool for Fish&Click users



To facilitate the identification and classification of fishing gear reported via Fish&Click, the Ifremer team in charge of the programme has developed an identification guide.

This educational document describes in images and short texts each fishing gear from the Fish & Click protocol. This tool provides observers with information on the type of equipment to be included in the various categories.

Overview of the identification guide.

This identification guide is now available on the website in the «[Guideline](#)» section and on the [Fish & Click](#) mobile application in the «Help» section.

European legislation on used fishing gear

A new article published on the project website provides an update on the legislation on used fishing gear.

[Visit our website](#) to find out more about the Single-Use Plastics Directive and the Port Reception Facilities Directive.



Fishing nets in the port of Keroman in Lorient



Sarah Johnson

Marketing and Communications Manager at Marine South East



Sarah has worked in the UK marine sector for over 30 years, initially selling luxury cruising yachts and then working for the UK trade federation, British Marine for over ten years visiting many of the overseas boatshows while assisting British businesses to export their products. For the past 17 years Sarah has been involved with Marine South East, a marine cluster, as Marketing and Communications Manager, where she works on a large number of European projects looking at innovative solutions to marine sustainability and technical development to aid maritime decarbonisation. Sarah is responsible for the website, newsletter and events for Marine South East and has been active in the communications and dissemination activities for the INdIGO project. Sarah is a keen watersports enthusiast and sails dinghies and cruisers as well as sea swimming, paddle boarding and kayaking.

Dalyal Copin

Research and development engineer at IRMA



After obtaining a master's degree in biotechnology and marine environment resources development, Dalyal joined the Laboratory of Marine Biotechnology and Chemistry at the University of Southern Brittany to study the in situ effectiveness of antifouling coatings and to evaluate their ecotoxicological impact on organisms and micro-organisms in the marine environment.

He then joined the «Environmental Impact» unit within IRMA, which enabled him to develop skills relating to the study of the biodegradability of polymeric materials, particularly in the marine environment. Within the framework of the INdIGO project, Dalyal, supported by SMEL, is in charge of developing protocols for monitoring the biodegradability of new fishing nets. It must also certify their harmlessness for aquatic organisms.

Filming at ComposiTIC and IRMA

In mid-July, ComposiTIC and IRMA welcomed the Canadian company Nova Média Production for two days of filming on INDIGO as part of a documentary on the sustainable management of fisheries resources. This documentary will be broadcast in Canada and Europe from 2022. We will keep you informed!



Return to face-to-face communication activities

Since September, the French project partners have been able to resume face-to-face communication activities.



Smel was present in Granville on 25 and 26 September for the festival «Toute la mer sur un plateau».



ComposiTIC and IRMA had a stand from 6 to 8 October at ITECHMER, the trade fair for maritime professionals.

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Please encourage your colleagues and contacts to join the INdIGO Interest Group to be kept up to date with the project, its events and activities and research.



[Register to the newsletter](#)

CONTACT



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SOCIAL MEDIA



INdIGO project partners at a meeting in Normandy in September 2021.

