



**WFO**  
WASTE FREE OCEANS

**WE COLLECT AND RECYCLE OCEAN  
& OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC**

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# OUR MISSIONS

## A global presence



Fishing For Litter  
Beach/river clean ups



Closing The Loop  
Creating Iconic products



Raising Awareness  
& Education



# A global WFO presence



# Closing The Loop

- Marine litter has gained global awareness and issues around pollution are in the media on a daily basis
- Aiming to find a balance between providing concrete solutions at source, while acting on remediation actions together with local and regional partners
- Started collaborating with brand owners on “Closing the loop” projects



A man in a dark suit and white shirt is sitting on a chair made of recycled plastic. The chair is orange and has a complex, lattice-like structure. He is sitting in a large pile of plastic waste, including bags and bottles, which is the background of the image. The text "DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION" is written in blue, outlined letters at the top of the image.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

BERNARD MERKX

- Entrepreneur
- CEO GreenWavePlastics
- Co-Founder WasteFreeOceans
- Honorary President  
PlasticsRecyclersEurope
- Vice President
- Global Diplomatic Council

# A Brief Overview of WFO

- Non-profit foundation based in Brussels (B), founded in 2011
- Engaging in prevention and remediation actions on marine litter since the beginning



- Participated in numerous stakeholder meetings, resulting in improved EU waste legislation
- Instrumental in the modification of the proposals for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

# Waste catcher Technology

- Identifying waste hotspots based on selection by partners and analysis of recent news and studies
- Collaborating with fishermen and waste pickers to collect plastic waste & litter



- Fishing boats are fitted with trawls which can collect between 2 and 8 tonnes of marine litter each journey
- Trawls can also be placed statically on rivers



FISHING FOR LITTER – TACKLING EXISTING MARINE DEBRIS



# Waste Free Danube River Basin

PROJECT STARTED 2012 !





RIVER AND BEACH CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS

# rPET DANUBE

Project Ongoing



## Data Collection & Surveys

Ongoing Project WFO Litterati & GoClean NL – land based (Rhine river)



# Animal Protection & Education

Project Participation With Aquaria / Zoo s -> 65 million visitors per year



## FISHING GEAR CLEAN TECH RECYCLING PLANT IN DENMARK



## FISHING GEAR CLEAN TECH RECYCLING PLANT IN DENMARK



# PLASTICS IN THE SPOTLIGHT – MANY EU LEGISLATIONS ONGOING

