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PRESS RELEASE – HEALTHY SEAS

ECNC Land & Sea Group, Aquafil and Star Sock

Healthy Seas socks available in Kaufland stores

The European retailer Kaufland will be the first partner to sell Healthy Seas socks. From the 23th of June onwards, the socks will be available in all Kaufland stores. The socks are unique and produced with regenerated yarn made from waste, such as fishing nets also recovered by the Healthy Seas initiative. The ECONYL® polyamide used to manufacture the socks is a first quality yarn, which offers a high wearing comfort.

Kaufland operates more than 1.150 self-service stores in Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria. They offer many and various brand products, attractive private labels and a broad variety of regional products. Kaufland strongly focuses on sustainability and continuously expands its range of sustainable products, such as the Healthy Seas socks. Social and ecological responsibility is an integral part of Kaufland's corporate policy. The company is committed to the conservation of the seas and the global fish stocks.

www.kaufland.com

The issue of marine waste is vast. According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), there are approximately 640,000 tons of abandoned fishing nets in the oceans, accounting for one-tenth of all marine litter. These discarded nets can remain in the sea for centuries continuing to catch or injure marine life such as fish, dolphins, turtles and marine birds (known as ghost fishing). Healthy Seas aims to provide a solution by bringing together businesses, NGOs, divers, fishermen and other stakeholders to recover the fishing nets and recycle them into ECONYL® yarn that can be used for a wide range of textile products, including carpets, swimwear, high-tech clothing, sportswear and socks.

www.healthyseas.org

END OF MESSAGE

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About Aquafil

Since 1969, the Aquafil Group has been a leading player, both in Italy and globally, in the production of Nylon 6. In 2011 Aquafil developed and launched the ECONYL® Regeneration System. Thanks to this groundbreaking process, the fishing nets recovered by the Healthy Seas initiative can be regenerated into ECONYL® nylon yarn. The yarn is used for the production of sustainable apparel and carpet products.

www.aquafil.com and www.econyl.com

About the ECNC Group

The ECNC Group is the leading European Expertise Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainability. The Group provides tailor-made expertise on marine conservation and mobilizes its wide international and local networks for Healthy Seas. With the help of dedicated dive teams, the ECNC Group coordinates the recovery of abandoned fishing nets and runs regular activities to raise awareness among the fishing industry and local communities.

www.ecncgroup.eu

About Star Sock

Star Sock, established in 1996, has become a trusted sock-partner for the international retail market. With a focus on sport and lifestyle, it holds licenses for several well-known brands. Respect for the environment forms an integral part of the company philosophy, and an innovative and sustainable approach is behind its long-term success. Star Sock was the first company to give new life to the recovered fishing nets by using ECONYL® regenerated yarn in its socks.

www.starsock.nl