

THE HEALTHY SEAS INITIATIVE INVITES THE PRESS TO ITS OUTSTANDING EVENT IN A UNIQUE LOCATION IN GREECE

From 18th – 20th May 2019, the [Healthy Seas](#) initiative will carry out its 2nd mission in Stratoni, a coastal town in Northern Greece, making good on its promise to return to complete cleaning up the seabed of ghost fishing nets. Last November, during a 3-day mission, the team removed over 1 ton of ghost nets, but many more are continuing to pollute the area close to a unique seahorse colony.

The recovery mission is being carried out in collaboration with [Ghost Fishing Greece](#), [Ghost Fishing Netherlands](#), [AquaTec](#) and [UFR Team](#) diving teams as well as [Northern Greece Underwater Explorers](#), with valuable support from the local community. An interactive education program for the local children will also be carried out aiming at supporting the residents of the environmentally degraded area, whose livelihoods depend on working in the mining or fishing industries.

This is the first of 4 main events Healthy Seas will carry out during 2019, doing its part to protect the marine environment through ghost net cleanups and raising public awareness besides the regular activities organized throughout the year. The initiative is responsible for the recovery of ghost nets from the seas for the purpose of creating healthier seas and recycling marine litter into textile products.

Ghost nets are destroying the marine ecosystem by remaining in the water and continuing to fish without human involvement for hundreds of years, attracting predators that are potentially a threat for the local population of seahorses. Their removal will help restore the habitat's previously held ecological balance, thus aiding the survival of the species which is currently classified as near threatened by the [IUCN Red List](#).

The fishing nets will be transported to [Diopas S.A.](#), a partner of Healthy Seas in Northern Greece. From there, they will be sent to [Nofir A.S](#) for cleaning and sorting and then on to Aquafil's plant in Slovenia to be regenerated, together with other nylon waste, into [ECONYL®](#) yarn, the infinitely recyclable material. This will provide the basis for beautiful new products such as socks, sportswear, swimwear, and carpets. **Healthy Seas** is an excellent example of the circular economy, where waste is a resource.

Saturday, May 18th

WHAT: Deep sea dive ghost net retrieval near unique seahorse colony

WHO/WHEN: Healthy Seas, Ghost Fishing / **arrival 10 am local time**

WHERE: Stratoni, Chalkidiki (Greece) - **Press invited to the harbor**

Sunday, May 19th

WHAT: Deep sea dive ghost net retrieval near unique seahorse colony

WHO/WHEN: Healthy Seas, Ghost Fishing / **arrival 9 am local time**

WHERE: Stratoni, Chalkidiki (Greece) - **Press invited to the harbor**

Monday, May 20th

WHAT: Deep sea dive ghost net retrieval near unique seahorse colony

WHO/WHEN: Healthy Seas, Ghost Fishing / **arrival 9 am local time**

WHERE: Stratoni, Chalkidiki (Greece) - **Press invited onboard boat**

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Background

The mission of 'Healthy Seas, a Journey from Waste to Wear' initiative, is to remove waste from the seas, in particular fishing nets, for the purpose of creating healthier seas and recycling marine litter into textile products. The recovered nylon fishing nets will be transformed and regenerated by Aquafil into ECONYL® yarn, a high-quality raw material used to create new products, such as socks, swimwear or carpets. Healthy Seas is a non-profit initiative.

<https://healthyseas.org/>

This is the 1st of maximum 4 main events the Healthy Seas initiative will host throughout the year.

Seating on board the guest boat is limited. Reserve your place by contacting jenny.ioannou@healthyseas.org