



HEALTHY  SEAS<sup>®</sup>

**Activity & Communications Report 2023**

## Letter of Director

### Charting New Horizons: A Year of Consolidation, Celebration, and Commitment at Healthy Seas

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

*As we reflect on the remarkable journey of Healthy Seas throughout 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering dedication of our team, the steadfast support of our partners, and the boundless enthusiasm of the countless volunteers who stand alongside us in our mission.*

*In the past year, we have **fortified our presence in key regions**, solidifying our commitment to making a lasting impact in areas where our work is most needed. Building upon the foundation laid in previous years, our efforts in Asia and the United States have continued to grow, strengthened by meaningful collaborations with local entities and communities.*

*Central to our ethos is the **unwavering dedication to action**. In 2023, we proudly upheld our promise to invest partner donations directly into tangible missions, further solidifying Healthy Seas as a beacon of transparency and efficacy in the realm of environmental conservation. Through a strategic balance of clean-up operations, educational endeavours, and preventative measures, we have sustained a diverse portfolio of projects, each contributing to our overarching goal of marine preservation.*

*This year marked a significant milestone in our journey as we **celebrated a decade of tireless commitment to our cause**. Our 10-year anniversary was commemorated with a memorable gathering in Slovenia and Croatia, where partners from across the globe convened for a series of impactful activities. From clean-up dives to educational workshops, and visits to our partner's recycling facilities, the event served as a testament to the collective strength of our global network and the enduring impact of our collective efforts.*

*Our **educational initiatives** reached unprecedented heights in 2023, with record numbers of children engaged in a myriad of projects both in schools and community settings. Through interactive sessions and outreach programs, we continue to empower the next generation with the knowledge and tools to champion the cause of marine conservation. These efforts underscore our steadfast commitment to nurturing a culture of environmental stewardship among youth worldwide.*

*Looking ahead, the dawn of the new year brings with it a sense of anticipation and excitement as we embark **on ambitious new projects** that draw upon our accumulated expertise and insights. With steadfast resolve and unwavering determination, we are poised to unveil initiatives that promise to redefine the landscape of marine conservation in the years to come.*

*As we stand on the cusp of a new chapter in our journey, I am filled with optimism for the road ahead. Together, let us continue to forge ahead, guided by the shared vision of a healthier, more sustainable future for our oceans and planet.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*



Veronika Mikos, Director, Healthy Seas

# Mission Statement

## Empowering Change, One Wave at a Time

At Healthy Seas, headquartered in the Netherlands, our mission transcends borders: to liberate our seas from the grip of marine litter, focusing on the **removal of abandoned fishing nets**. Thus breathing life into the depths and shores of our oceans. With the invaluable support of our dedicated partners, we are able to transform reclaimed marine debris into high-quality textile products, forging a path towards cleaner seas and a sustainable future.

Our footprint spans the globe, **from the coastlines of the United States to the waters of Korea and the shores of New Zealand**. Fuelled by the generosity of our business partners, we chart a course towards a healthier marine ecosystem, one expedition at a time.

Central to our endeavours are **three pillars** that form the bedrock of our work:



**1. Clean-ups:** Guided by the skilled hands of volunteer divers from Ghost Diving, we embark on underwater missions to recover discarded fishing nets. On land, our collective efforts extend to beach clean-ups, uniting communities in a common goal of preserving our coastal habitats.



**2. Education:** Collaboration is at the heart of our educational initiatives as we partner with local organizations to craft engaging programs for both kids and adults. Through interactive activities and awareness campaigns, we strive to illuminate the perils of marine litter and inspire a collective commitment to conservation.



**3. Prevention:** Our impact reverberates beyond the shores as we collaborate with stakeholders across the fishing industry to ensure responsible waste management practices. From harbour authorities to fishing communities, we forge alliances aimed at stemming the tide of marine debris at its source.

At Healthy Seas, our strength lies in our unwavering commitment to a singular mission: to cleanse our seas and safeguard their future. We are more than a foundation; we are a **nexus of collaboration**, bridging industries from fishing to fashion and design, marine conservation to education. Together, we form a united front against the scourge of marine litter, turning the tide towards a brighter tomorrow.

# 2023 Activity Results



**14942**  
school children  
and adults

**355**  
active days  
in the field in  
**20** countries  
within  
**7** regions

**257**  
diving days  
clean-ups and  
surveys

**98**  
days of  
education  
events

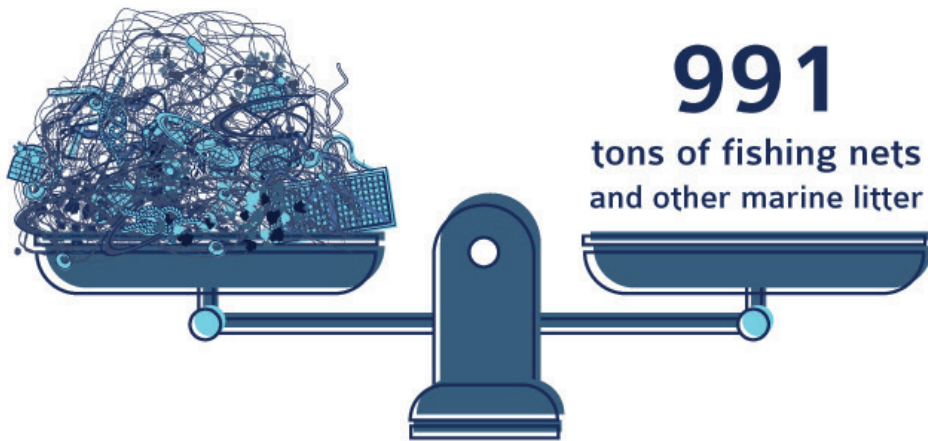
**550**  
volunteer  
divers

**86,5**  
tons of waste  
collected

**1250**  
fishers and  
fish farmers

## Total Figures

Since our founding in 2013, together with volunteer divers and fishing communities, we have collected



This amount is equivalent to the weight of



# Highlights

In 2023, our efforts to expand geographically and in impact continued, **building upon our initiatives in the USA and Asia from the previous year**. Notable highlights include various clean-up initiatives in California, Hong Kong and South Korea where we partnered with DWS, Hyundai and local Ghost Diving chapters to remove ghost gear from coastal areas and raise awareness about marine litter through public events.

Ghost Diving USA led efforts to remove ghost gear in various diving missions, including from the wreck of the San Vito, in Los Angeles, California. Additionally, a collaboration between Ghost Diving USA, Healthy Seas, and Hyundai Motor America facilitated a beach clean-up involving employees and their families, initiating further diving missions in California.

In Los Angeles, a public clean-up event hosted at the Heal the Bay Aquarium, supported by DWS ambassadors in conjunction with their partner, the Los Angeles Lakers, raised awareness about marine litter through educational activities and live mural painting.




 **2023 Ghost Net Clean-ups Kicked off in the USA, 16 March.**

 **Diving Into Sustainability: Hyundai Motor America, Healthy Seas, and Ghost Diving USA Join Forces for Ocean Conservation, 20 Dec.**

 **Joint Awareness-Raising Event for Marine Conservation in Los Angeles, 15 Aug.**




In Hong Kong, school children participated in beach clean-ups, while divers undertook underwater clean-ups, all as part of a broader educational initiative supported by DWS. Additionally, Healthy Seas engaged with the public at the Diving, Resort, and Tourism show.


 **Healthy Seas Making Waves in Hong Kong: A Tale of Clean-up, Education, and Commitment, 13 Dec.**


Healthy Seas achieved remarkable success **at film festivals with its self-produced documentary**. The short film titled «Journey to Ithaca,» directed by Michael Westreicher, won the Best Environmental Film award at the Cannes World Film Festival. Spanning 15 minutes, the documentary narrates the story of Healthy Seas’ largest clean-up operation to date, focusing on the abandoned fish farm on the island of Ithaca, a cause close to our hearts.

Healthy Seas conducted a Spectacular Clean-up Mission in South Korea with Hyundai’s support, resulting in the retrieval of 500 kilograms of ghost gear from small islands near the shore.

 **Diving into Action: Healthy Seas’ Spectacular Clean-up Mission in South Korea, 29 Dec.**

Following its recognition at Cannes, the documentary continued to garner acclaim and accolades at various other festivals.

 **Best Environmental Film Prize Awarded to Healthy Seas at the Cannes World Film Festival, 12 May.**

 **Dive into an Award-Winning Story with “Journey to Ithaca”, 26 Sept.**



In 2023, Healthy Seas also embarked on its **inaugural lake clean-up dive mission at Lake Ohrid**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled between Northern Macedonia and Albania. Our mission, supported by our partner Hyundai Motor Europe, aimed to address environmental challenges threatening this ecological gem. Our team ventured into the depths of the lake, removing 64 gillnets, anchors, lures, and ropes, freeing the lake from the grip of ghost fishing gear and pollution. Additionally, we organized a roundtable event with government officials and environmental organizations to raise awareness and foster community engagement in conservation efforts.



**Saving Lake Ohrid: A Remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site, 6 Nov.**





**Healthy Seas celebrated its ten-year anniversary** with a profound reflection on its decade-long journey, encompassing its impact and successes. The milestone was commemorated with a two-day event, uniting volunteers and partners.

The first day emphasized clean-up activities, with divers from Ghost Diving groups worldwide joining efforts in Croatia. Concurrently, educational initiatives engaged a local school in interactive activities and virtual reality experiences. Adults also had the opportunity to participate in a workshop led by our partner Bracenet. Together, participants collaborated in creating a stunning piece of art in the form of a jelly fish using recovered fishing nets, turning waste into art and fostering a sense of collective effort and creativity among all involved.

On the second day, participants visited the Aquafil warehouse, where our founding partner collects nylon waste from across the globe, including nets recovered by Healthy Seas. The visit culminated in a tour of Aquafil's recycling plant, witnessing the transformation of waste material into new nylon for innovative products.

The event provided an invaluable opportunity to reconnect with longstanding friends and collaborators, offering firsthand insight into the journey of fishing nets from the seas to new products, and fostering exchanges of ideas and aspirations for the next decade.





A Decade of Impact: Celebrating Growth and Building a Cleaner Future Together, 25 Sept.

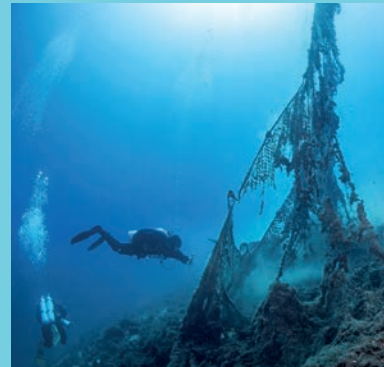


PODCAST EPISODE:  
Celebrating a Decade of Healthy Seas: 2023 Highlights and 10 Years of Marine Protection

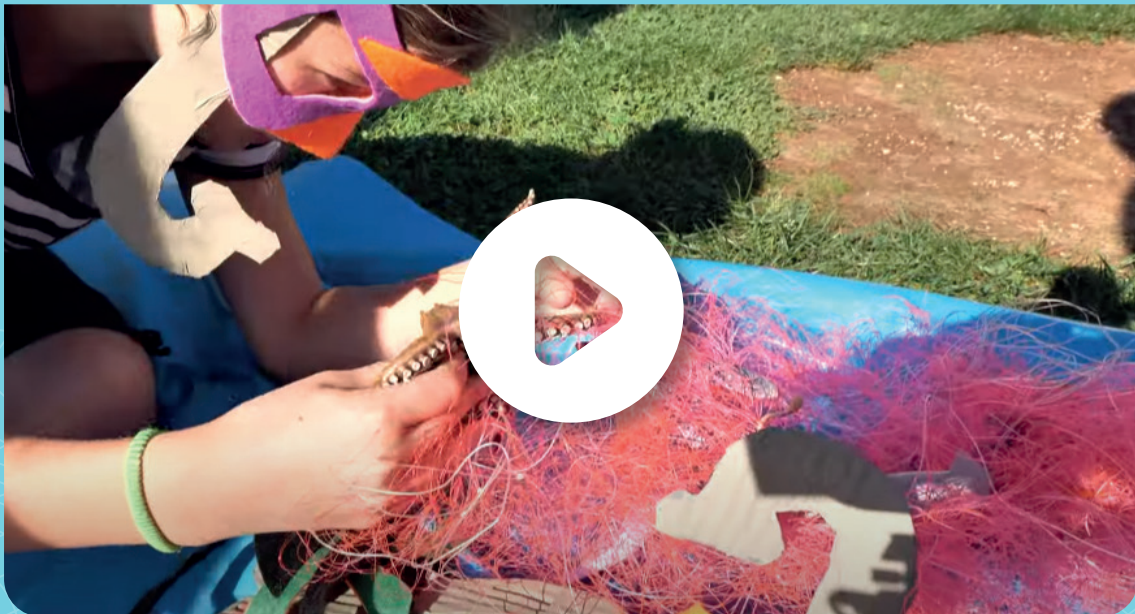
© Carlino Photo



© Carlino Photo



© Yongkyu Kim





# Clean-ups





At the core of the Healthy Seas Foundation’s mission are three pillars: Clean-ups, Education, and Prevention. Clean-up activities represent a fundamental aspect of our efforts, symbolizing our commitment to restoring the health of our oceans and seas.

Our clean-up initiatives extend **beyond the depths, encompassing coastal areas where we engage the public and frequently collaborate with schools.**

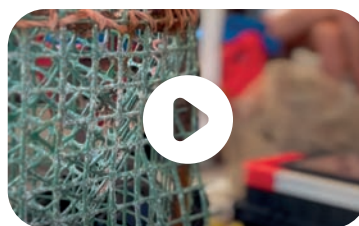
In 2023 alone, our dedicated team of **550 volunteer divers contributed a total of 257 diving days**, conducting both survey dives and active clean-ups. Together with Ghost Diving, we continue to tackle marine litter and remove ghost fishing gear, embodying our dedication to preserving marine ecosystems for future generations.

 **2023 Ghost Net Clean-ups Kicked off in the USA, 16 March**

 **World Environment Day: Beach & Underwater Clean-up in Saronida, Greece, 2 June**

 **Massive Effort to Protect the Environment and Historical Wrecks Takes Place off Lampedusa, 7 July**

 **Sailing into a Greener Future: Healthy Seas and Zibel’s Long-Term Partnership Against Marine Pollution in Malta, 14 Nov**



 **Press release: Healthy Seas Foundation Announces Strategic Partnership with Ghost Diving Portugal and Ambibérica to Tackle Marine Pollution in Portugal, 12 Dec**



© Stephen Au



© Derk Remmers



© Yongkyu Kim



© Ghost Diving

## North Sea

Partners:



## Mediterranean Sea

Partners:



© Ghost Diving



© Ghost Diving Adriatic

## Adriatic Sea

Partners:



## Red Sea

Partners:



© Ghost Diving Egypt



© Ghost Diving Poland

## **Baltic Sea**

Partner: 

## **Pacific Ocean**

Partners:   




© Ghost Diving New Zealand



© Pedro Almeida - Ghost Diving Portugal

## **Atlantic Ocean**

Partner: 



### **"Did you know?"** **Crucial Role of Beach Clean-ups in Combating Ocean Plastic Pollution**

A recent study has highlighted the crucial role of beach clean-ups in combating ocean plastic pollution, drawing on groundbreaking research that underscores their effectiveness. Findings from experts at Norce, Norway's leading research organization, reveal that within just one year of volunteers removing large plastic debris from a coastal area near Bergen, microplastic pollution plummeted by an astonishing 99.5%. This evidence underscores the urgent need for global efforts to clean up coastlines worldwide.

The article emphasizes the importance of initiatives like those also organized by Healthy Seas, which engage the public and partners in beach clean-ups to protect marine ecosystems and mitigate plastic pollution.

 **Why beach cleans matter as new research gives scientists hope for polluted oceans**



# Education



The education pillar of Healthy Seas has seen remarkable growth in 2023, with **four times more children engaged compared to previous years**, thanks to collaborations with numerous educational partners worldwide.

**Nearly 15,000 individuals participated in almost 60 educational events** organized by Healthy Seas' dedicated educational team in 2023.

These events, held in collaboration with schools and the public, encompassed a diverse range of activities aimed at raising awareness about **marine litter, climate change, marine animals, circular economy, and sustainable consumption**.

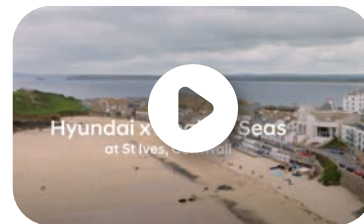
Presentations delved into the dangers and consequences of marine litter, while the more practical activities included beach, park, and river clean-ups, art and craft workshops utilizing collected litter, and activities related to the preparations of divers for clean-up missions.


Participants gained insights into the impact of entanglement in fishing nets on marine animals and had the opportunity to experience our **virtual reality simulation**, immersing themselves in the role of a diver on a mission to clean a shipwreck from fishing nets.

 **World Biodiversity Day celebrated with 900 kids in Croatia**


 **Cultivating Ocean Custodians: Healthy Seas and Hyundai's Educational Expedition, 17 Oct.**

 **World Oceans Day Education Workshop in Spain, 17 June**



 **Educating for a Sustainable Tomorrow: Empowering 800+ Students with the "Circularity is our Opportunity" Program, 29 Sept.**

 **Empowering the Next Generation of Ocean Guardians: Healthy Seas' Educational Initiative with Hyundai Canarias, 26 Oct.**

 **Educational program with Eco-School in Slovenia**



 **Healthy Seas and Tate St Ives teamed up to support our Great British School Trip initiative**





© Carlino Photo



© Mariusz Czajka - Ghost Diving Poland



“Did you know?”

**Oxford Children’s Word of the Year 2023: Climate Change**

The Oxford Children’s Word of the Year for 2023 is ‘Climate Change.’ This annual report by Oxford University Press tracks changes in children’s language, vocabulary, and self-expression, providing insights into their evolving engagement with various topics.

We like to believe that the selection of ‘Climate Change’ as the Oxford Children’s Word of the Year for 2023 is indicative of the growing awareness among children about pressing environmental issues. This underscores the importance of our work at Healthy Seas in educating and engaging young minds, as evidenced by our stellar results and numbers this year.

🎧 Word of the Year 2023: climate change



# Prevention

Prevention stands as the third pillar of Healthy Seas, often overlooked yet crucial in addressing the pressing issue of marine litter. While clean-ups play a vital role, it's equally essential to **address the root cause** and prevent further pollution.

At Healthy Seas, we're committed to 'closing the tap' of marine litter flooding into the ocean through various approaches. With **circular economy principles embedded in our DNA**, thanks to our founding partner Aquafil, we've pioneered a journey from waste to wear. The nylon nets recovered by Healthy Seas are collected by Aquafil, along with other nylon waste, to create new textile yarn and nylon material for innovative products. This emphasis on circular economy is just one aspect of our prevention efforts, alongside promoting reduced consumption and advocating for sustainable product choices.



© Kian Farin - Ghost Diving USA

Moreover, our **collaboration with the fishing industry** plays a significant role in **waste management processes**. Working closely with fisherman communities, harbour authorities, and the fish farming industry, we strive to recover old nets, recycle them, and educate industry stakeholders on best practices for net use and disposal.



© Isadora Abuter - Ghost Diving Poland

- **Den Oever** - Through a fruitful collaboration initiated in 2014 between the municipality, harbour personnel, and Healthy Seas, **40 fishing boats based at the port of Den Oever in The Netherlands** actively collect their waste fishing nets for our cause. This partnership not only facilitates the collection of fishing nets but also actively engages the fishermen from this community in our mission and journey from waste to wear. Moreover, they graciously include us in their annual harbour festival, which serves as a heartwarming gathering for the entire community, welcoming the public and the families of fishermen



**Another 15 tons of waste fishing nets shipped for recycling by C.I.V Den Oever, 6 February**

- **Diopas** - Our partnership with Diopas, a distinguished Greek expert in the **fish farming industry**, continues to thrive as we jointly pursue sustainable solutions for the sector. Our collaboration extends beyond the mere collection and recycling of old nets; it encompasses a shared commitment to innovation and progress in the industry.

- **ENALEIA** - Healthy Seas has been Enaleia's first upcycling partner in 2017. Thanks to our joint efforts, **fishers in Greece and Italy** are collecting waste from the seas to give them to Healthy Seas.
- **Ambiberica** - Our valued partner, with whom we have collaborated for the past year, provides crucial support for our **fishing net collection and transportation efforts, particularly in Portugal and Spain**. Their dedication and assistance have been instrumental in our mission to remove marine litter from these regions, contributing significantly to the health of our oceans.
- **Croatia** - We shipped materials to our partner Aquafil from several harbours in Croatia (Krnica, Plomin, Zadar harbours)

## The Netherlands

Partners:



## Greece & Italy

Partners:



## Spain & Portugal

Partner:

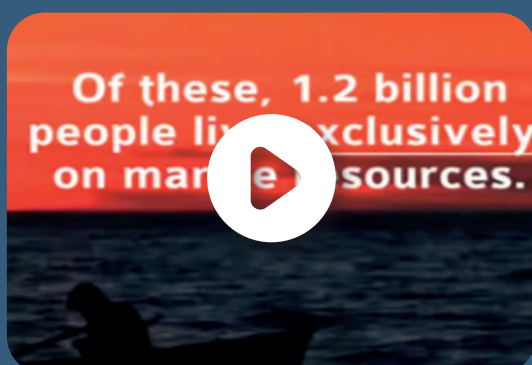


**"Did you know?"**

**Our lives are intrinsically linked to the sea,  
and we benefit from it every single day.**

Our 2023 World Fisheries Day video delves into the fascinating intricacies of the fishing industry, revealing its pivotal role in maintaining healthy seas and fostering a sustainable future for society.

Through engaging visuals and informative insights, Healthy Seas invites viewers to explore the vital connection between the fishing industry and the well-being of our oceans, inspiring collective action for a cleaner, safer marine environment and a brighter tomorrow.

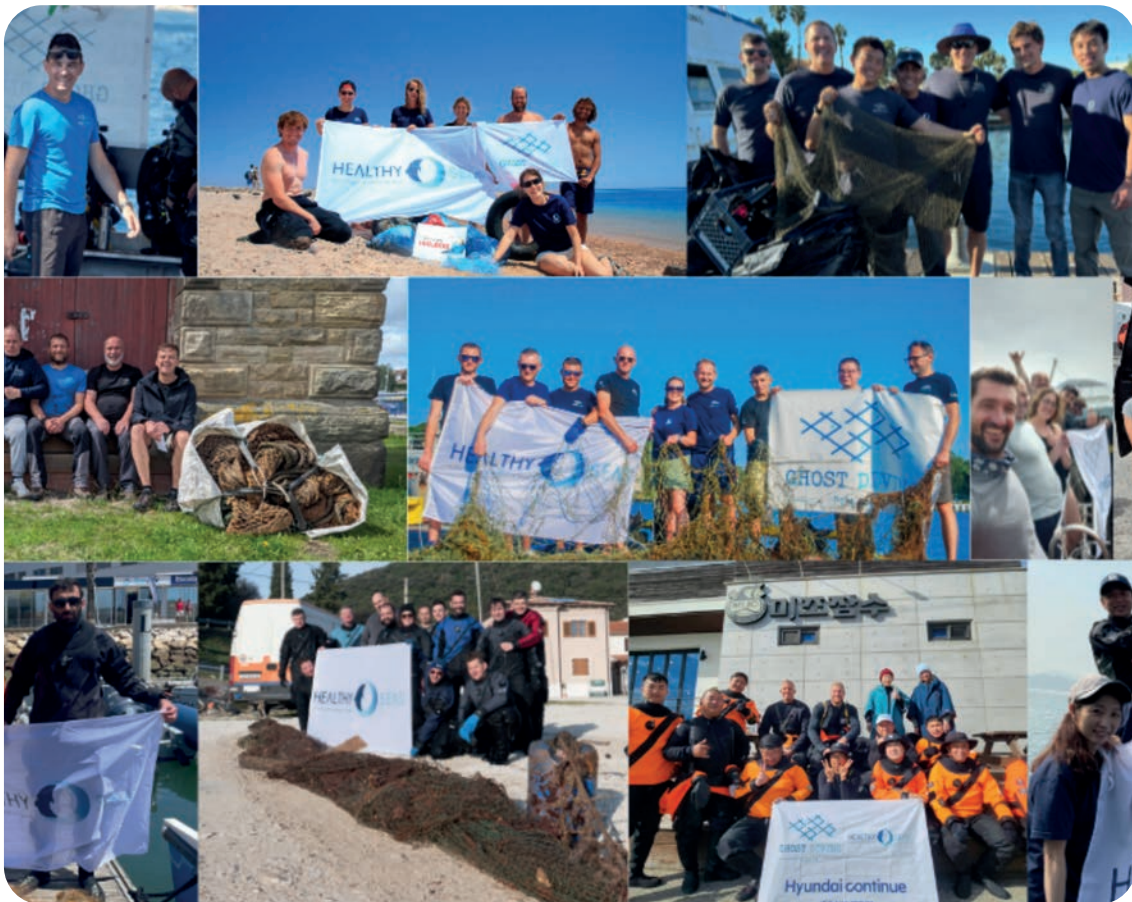


# Our Volunteers

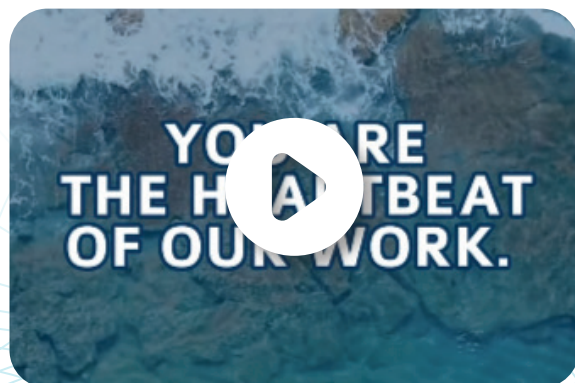
In 2023, for International Volunteer Day, we took the opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their time and efforts to support Healthy Seas' mission.

From the courageous divers from Ghost Diving to our dedicated **educators, capturers of moments, global ambassadors, and community champions**, each volunteer plays a vital role in driving positive change for our oceans.

As part of our commemoration, we released a video highlighting the diverse contributions of our volunteers.



Celebrating Our Heroes: A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Volunteers, 5 Dec.



# Events, Talks and Exhibitions

Events, talks, and exhibitions serve as invaluable platforms for Healthy Seas to raise awareness and educate audiences about our mission to protect marine ecosystems. From engaging in discussions with organizations dedicated to marine conservation to showcasing our initiatives at exhibitions, these activities allow us to **share the Healthy Seas story and foster collaboration across various industries**. Moreover, they provide opportunities to appreciate the beauty of the marine world and highlight the urgency of addressing marine litter through the impactful work of artists.



© Jon Schutte



**Traveling exhibition on biodiversity at the Toulouse Museum, France.**



**A long overdue conference and race to hit global targets., 22 April - UN Water Conference, March 22-24 in New York**



**Healthy Seas Dives into the Future with Svan Project by Hyundai presented at the Hyundai Sustainability Day, 27 Sept.**



**Nurturing Ithaca's Shores: Oly Rush's Swim and Our Commitment to Marine Conservation, 12 Oct.**



**Designing for Circularity: 6 Precious Lessons from the Re:Style Event by Hyundai, 30 Oct.**



© Hyundai Motor Europe

## ○ **International Conference on Ghost Gear, Norway Nov 2023.**

Healthy Seas was honoured to participate in the inaugural International Conference on Ghost Gear 2023, a groundbreaking event focused exclusively on addressing the pervasive issue of ghost fishing gear. The conference brought together an array of experts from diverse fields, including marine biology, ecology, fisheries, technology, and politics, underscoring the multidisciplinary approach needed to tackle this complex problem. From discussions on the latest scientific findings and management strategies to showcasing innovative technologies for gear removal and recycling, the conference provided valuable insights and fostered collaboration among stakeholders.

Healthy Seas remains committed to leveraging this knowledge to enhance our efforts in marine protection and waste management.

# Communication Highlights

In the realm of communications, 2023 marked another year of robust efforts to amplify the mission and impact of Healthy Seas across diverse channels. Beyond our ongoing commitment to disseminate information about our missions and partnerships, this year saw significant strides in our multimedia outreach. Our podcast, launched in 2022, continued to flourish with **new episodes that delved into pressing issues related to marine conservation**. Additionally, our **online presence** flourished, with growing communities rallying behind our cause from every corner of the globe. Moreover, we received noteworthy press coverage, further amplifying our message and extending our reach. As we reflect on the year gone by, we're excited to share the highlights of our communications endeavours and the impact they've had in advancing our mission for healthier seas.

## The Healthy Seas Podcast, with Crystal DiMiceli Episodes in 2023:

- **Octopuses Revealed:** Exploring Their Intelligence, Sentience, and the Controversy of Octopus Farming with Dr. Elena Lara
- **Racing for KGs:** From Flawed Metrics to Impact Measurements with Pascal Van Erp & Kelsey Richardson
- **Unveiling History's Secrets:** Conservation and Discovery in the Mediterranean Sea with Mario Arena & Pascal Van Erp
- Changing the Perception About **Sharks** with Cristina Zenato
- **D(r)iving the Change** for Oceans with Alana Alvarez & Manuel Bustelo
- Making **Packaging Disappear:** A chat with Earthshot winner, Notpla



2023 podcast results



## Online Presence

We understand the pivotal role that online platforms play in driving positive change. Social media has become an indispensable tool for Healthy Seas, allowing us to actively engage with a global audience and advocate for environmental awareness. Through these channels, we strive to **shed light on the pressing issue of marine litter and underscore the paramount importance of preserving our oceans**. As a foundation with a global footprint, we recognize the influential role of social media in complementing our on-site initiatives, extending their reach, and engaging with a diverse audience worldwide.

In 2023, Healthy Seas experienced **significant growth across various social media platforms**. Through our digital presence, we showcased the awe-inspiring beauty and ecological significance of the seas and their marine ecosystems, aiming to instil a deep appreciation among the public. Social media serves as a conduit for disseminating knowledge about the oceans and the dire



**Healthy Seas**  
4,444 followers  
1mo •

**#Fisheries** use colorful nets, such as green, blue, or grey, not only to seamlessly blend into the water.

The choice of net color is influenced by factors like net type, material, and manufacturing preferences, with gill nets often being transparent and crafted from monofilament nylon.

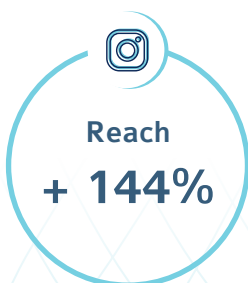
Additionally, the rainbow of colors seen in **#polyethylene (PE)** trawl nets is a brand and factory identifier, while **#nylon (PA)** and **#polyester (PES)** nets are typically white for material-related reasons.

By repurposing discarded nets, we cannot only reduce **#marinepollution** and promote **#regeneration** , but also support **#circulareconomy** initiatives.

To learn about our mission and activities:  
<https://lnkd.in/dRp2dGV3>

consequences of marine litter, empowering individuals to make informed decisions in their daily lives. Furthermore, our social media strategy enables us to inspire and mobilize people worldwide to take concrete actions toward marine conservation.

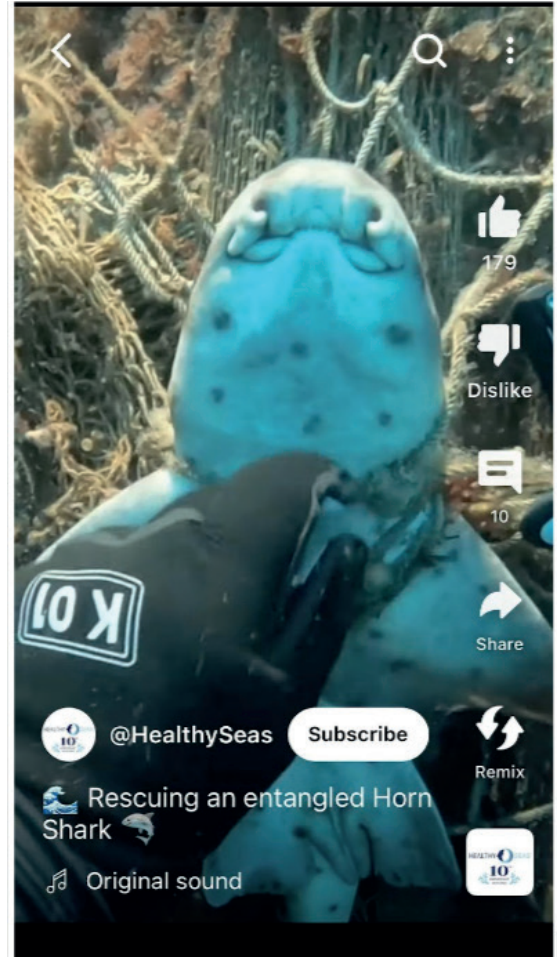
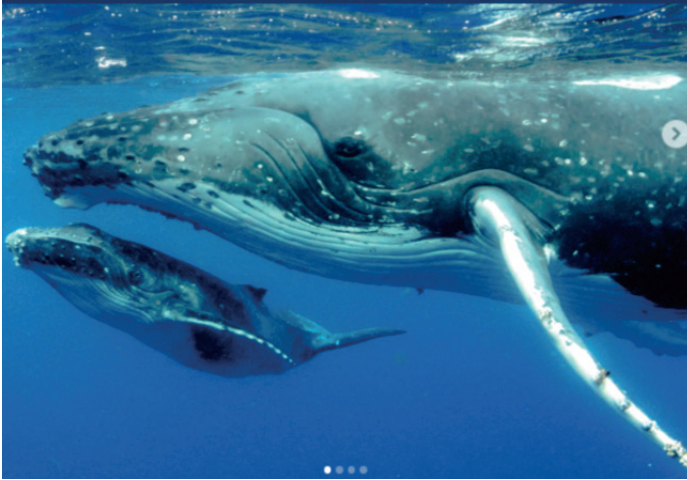
The support from our burgeoning community on social media platforms is a testament to the collective commitment to safeguarding our oceans and highlights the potential for positive change when a global audience rallies behind a common cause. By following and engaging with us on social media, individuals have played a crucial role in expanding our reach and amplifying awareness.





# Why do Whales ingest plastic?

Read More



# Significant Press

## BBC Oilly



### Dorset based eco campaigner to swim around Greek island

14 August 2023



Oly Rush, from Dorset, is expected to complete the swim in around 24 hours

An eco campaigner is set to swim around a Greek island to raise money for charities that fight plastic pollution.

Oly Rush, from Upton in Dorset, will be swimming around the coast of Greek island Ithaca in September.

The 60km challenge is the latest in a series he has taken on, including a 37-hour swim around Grand Cayman.

Mr Rush recently gave up his job to commit to charity efforts full time, and is expected to complete the swim in about 24 hours.

## Il Sole 24 Ore, Italy



### Dal fondale alle piogge.

Dalle reti da pesca in disuso Aquafil ricrea nuovi filati, che potranno essere usati per swimwear come questi. In basso, di Arena

nece 2023, prosegue. Aquafil si rivolge ai produttori, ma «entrate lavorando per diffondere il marchio Econyl» con piani di comunicazione su mercati come la Cina - nota Bonazzi - «Orapuntiamo sulla nostra piattaforma di e-commerce, messa a disposizione dei produttori che utilizzano il nostro nylon: gli diamo un milione di contatti annuali, vogliamo essere per arrivare quanto velocemente, aprendo anche ai grandi marchi, in modo da fornire un marketplace comune per i prodotti a marchio Econyl».

Intanto nell'impianto di Lubiana si lavora anche all'Econyl di prossima generazione, concepito di derivazione fossile, ma biologico, prodotto dalla trasformazione di maccheri. Un impianto pilota svilupperà una società californiana di bioengineering ha prodotto le prime cinque tonnellate di filato nylon. Nel frattempo, Aquafil punta ad aumentare la produzione da fonti tradizionali, con una joint venture in Cina (secondo base al mondo per miccoltura), che prevede il riciclo delle reti degli impianti in Puglia. E da qui verrà la materia prima per i costumi da bagno (e non solo) del futuro.

## INDepth



### Anniversary Event of the Healthy Seas Foundation Celebrates a Decade of Marine Protection and Industry-Wide Partnerships

Published 6 months ago on October 4, 2023

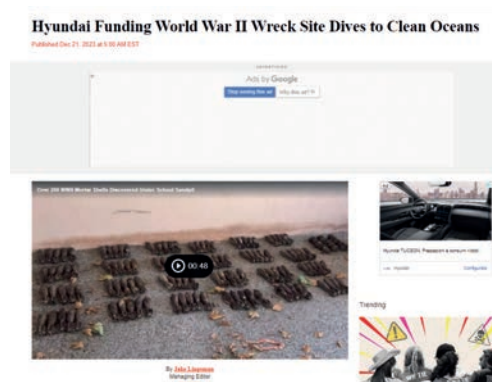
#### PRESS RELEASE



September 20, 2023

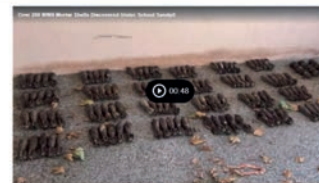
Croatia and Slovenia – The Healthy Seas Foundation, a pioneering organization dedicated to marine conservation and education, commemorated its 10-year anniversary with a remarkable three-day event held from September 4th to 6th, 2023. The event brought together a diverse array of partners, collaborators, journalists, and environmental enthusiasts who have collectively contributed to the foundation's journey towards cleaner seas.

## Newsweek



### Hyundai Funding World War II Wreck Site Dives to Clean Oceans

Published Dec 21, 2022 at 5:50 AM EST



By John L. Bonomo  
Marine News Editor

## Mirror, UK



Over half of youngsters are keen to get their hands on the latest toys and games - no matter what they are made of. Image: Pinflop

NEWS POLITICS FOOTBALL CELEBS TV CHOICE ROYALS

### Over a third of kids don't know whether their plastic toys are recyclable, research finds

## Scuba Diver Mag

### Hyundai partners with Healthy Seas and Ghost Diving USA

Scuba Diver Mag - Healthy Seas & Ghost Diving on December 13, 2022 at 12:52 pm



Photo: Jason Aronoff, Healthy Seas and Ghost Diving USA. Group of environmental partners in the water with a beach cleanup at Huntington Beach.



### Proteggiamo i nostri mari

Festival, mostre, appuntamenti e interventi di salvaguardia. Obiettivo: sensibilizzare grandi e piccoli sulle necessità di proteggere la nostra più grande risorsa

#### Aspetto con arte in città

Un'esperienza di arte e natura per le vie della città, con installazioni e opere di street-art a uno degli appuntamenti di MareDelfino, il festival dell'oceano in corso a Trieste fino al 10 giugno. Tra i punti salienti della manifestazione sulla salvaguardia della costa, la festa per i 50 anni del Parco di Miramare, la mostra "Dentro e fuori dall'acqua", la rievocazione del 5. Obiettivo dell'Autonomia, il progetto di coinvolgimento "Acqua e arte" e la mostra "Leggere la scienza al mare". Info: [maredelfino.it](http://maredelfino.it)



Un'installazione dell'artista Elisabetta Biondi a Trieste. 18 MARZO - 2 DICEMBRE 2022

#### Facciamo pulizie

Dai 10 anni Healthy Seas si occupa di ripulire i fondali marini dalle reti abbandonate e dagli altri materiali usati per la pesca, grazie al lavoro di volontari volontari. Secondo i dati dell'Onu, ogni anno vengono scaricati negli oceani più di 900 milioni di chili di rifiuti per la pesca. Tutti oggetti molto pericolosi per i pesci, che vi entrano impigliati. L'obiettivo di Healthy Seas è di non solo di dare una mano a ridurre il problema dell'inquinamento (spesso a mare, ma anche rigenerando le reti e le plastiche recuperate, in un'ottica di economia circolare e sostenibile. In particolare le reti e gli altri scarti di nylon vengono trasformati in un nuovo filato che viene utilizzato per la pesca e gli zavorri. Nelle zone Hymalai, ad esempio, per una parte degli zavorri, come i tappeti di alcuni modelli.

### News in natura più

a cura di Cristina Luzzini

#### Parliamo del tempo

Si inizia il Festival della Pesca alla Fondazione Trevisani (fino al 26 novembre) nella sede di CA Conoscere della Regione. Il titolo prende spunto da un manifesto del 1960 con Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels e Vladimir Lenin e lo slogan che dice: "Tutti parlano del tempo. Noi no". A 50 anni di distanza, l'artista Anna-Cristina Klumpp ne ha realizzato una nuova versione con Judith Ellena, Carla Ricatta e Greta Homburg e la scritta: "Tutti parlano del tempo. Anche noi". Come spiega il curatore Enrico Roderich, al tempo era l'ultima cosa di cui si parlava nel 1960, ma oggi è chiaro che tutti dovrebbero parlare, per la semplice ragione che l'attuale crisi climatica potrebbe essere la più grande minaccia economica che l'umanità abbia mai dovuto affrontare. La mostra espone le relazioni tra tempo meteorologico e arte intronando una parte artistica - con più di 50 opere contemporanee e una selezione di lavori classici - e una parte scientifica, con immagini e dati, in collaborazione con l'università Ca' Foscari di Venezia. A ottobre il festival confluirà nel tema: [fondazione-trevisani.org](http://Info: <a href=)

#### Atteatro con i bambini

Il 3 giugno alla Fondazione Foja di Napoli, il tema lo spettacolo teatrale gratuito per famiglie *La straordinaria avventura di Giulio e Gianna*, ispirato al libro omonimo, realizzato da Rio Mare e West in collaborazione con Folletti Libreria, nell'ambito del progetto di sensibilizzazione lanciato per gli Ocean. Ulteriormente diversamente per avvicinarsi al tema della salvaguardia del mare e della pesca sostenibile. Info: [www.fondazionefoja.com](http://www.fondazionefoja.com)

#### Alla scoperta della biodiversità

Stanno riavvicinando i contadini le banche a valle che partecipano alla campagna Life A-Ma Natura 2000, un progetto di Federpesci, Tuttoscuola e Lega Nord. Gli studi - equamente alla criminalità organizzata - fanno tappa in alcuni tra i 200 siti europei indicati dalla rete europea Natura 2000. Per ogni tappa vengono organizzati eventi aperti a tutti, per far conoscere le coste e gli interventi di tutela della biodiversità. Dopo la Sicilia, vi si fermerà in Toscana, poi in Sardegna e nel Lazio, dove la campagna si concluderà il 28 giugno. Info: [www.naturain2000.it](http://www.naturain2000.it)



Healthy Seas recupera le reti abbandonate in mare. 18 MARZO - 2 DICEMBRE 2022



Il numero 48 del magazine di Materia Rinnovabile è online. Prevede eventi speciali, pianifica la transizione energetica, guida e infrastruttura e città intelligenti, energia pulita e rinnovabile. Sono disponibili anche gli audiolibri in lingua italiana e i video degli esperti (aggiornati nei prossimi mesi) su temi come: 100 idee per la sostenibilità, il ruolo del design e il futuro, guidando per arrivare ai loro impatti e al loro ruolo sociale nella materia.

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### DAL NYLON RIGENERATO UNA LINEA DI ARREDAMENTO STAMPATA IN 3D

LA PRODUTTRICE AQUAFIL, COLLABORA ANCHE CON HEALTHY SEAS, CHE FESTEGGIA 10 ANNI, PER IL RECUPERO DELLE RETI DA PESCA DISPERSE IN MARE



#### ARTICOLI CORRELATI

Dalla collaborazione con il centro di progettazione Profil Facility di Trentino Sviluppo a Rovereto e l'azienda trentina Aquafil, produttrice del nylon rigenerato ECONYL®, nasce una nuova linea di arredamento sostenibile e stampato in 3D.

#### ECONYL® e la linea di arredamento in nylon riciclato

Una nuova linea di arredamento stampato in 3D. Aquafil è realizzato con il polimero rigenerato ECONYL®, di Aquafil: è questa la novità, derivante da Arco di Trento, leader di mercato nella produzione e distribuzione di polimeri e per il settore flooring, tessile e compound. La polimerizzazione è un processo resistente, stabile, facilmente tingibile e colorabile, e impiega circa il 70% dell'energia della polimerizzazione tessile nel settore contract e automotive, ma di natura fossile.

Tuttavia stanno nascendo delle alternative più sostenibili come ECONYL®. Dal 2011, infatti, una parte del nylon prodotto da Aquafil viene realizzata partendo dai rifiuti degli scarti e dei rifiuti di nylon e su pre che post consumo. Il nylon, grazie alle sue proprietà chimiche intrinseche, può tornare a essere materia prima. Ed è ciò che ha fatto Aquafil, implementando un impianto di rigenerazione che trasforma i materiali di rifiuto di nylon in ECONYL®.

Secondo l'azienda di Arco di Trento, questo nuovo processo permette di riciclare infatti oltre il materiale, senza alcuna riduzione della qualità del polimero e senza dover introdurre materiale vergine, come invece necessario nel processo di riciclo meccanico.

#### Una borsa di dottorato per sviluppare il progetto

Il progetto di ricerca è reso possibile grazie alla collaborazione con il centro di progettazione Profil Facility di Trentino Sviluppo a Rovereto, dotato di un innovativo robot per la stampa di grandi dimensioni, e con l'Università di Salerni, che con Aquafil Spa finanzia dallo scorso gennaio una borsa di



TERMSZET

### Hatalmas lépést tettek az egészségesebb és tisztább tengerekért

2023.06.25. | JERK GABRIELLA

HEALTHY SEAS | SPADNYESTÉTEL

A Healthy Seas segítségével új életre kelnek a tengerbe került halászhalók; a szellemhalók súlyos fenyegetést jelentenek a tengeri élővilágra.



A szellemhalók gyakran eldőlhetnek a sodródóka nyílt vízen, foglyul ejtik a tengeri állatokat, miközben súlyos biológiai károkat okoznak.

FORBÉK: BERTS DEIVINA POJAND



OPINIÓN CANARIAS POLÍTICA NACIONAL INTERNACIONAL ECONOMÍA SOCIEDAD CULTURA MOTOR ULLAS

### Hyundai Canarias, junto a la organización de conservación marina Healthy Seas, impulsan la educación medioambiental en Gran Canaria

07/06/2022



17 Octubre / Millagros Regalado | <https://www.elperiodico.com> | Hyundai Canarias y Healthy Seas se han unido para organizar una jornada de concienciación, diversión y sostenibilidad que contó con la participación de más de 70 niños y niñas del colegio Mariposa de la capital gran Canaria.

Healthy Seas es una organización medioambiental fundada en 2013 que realiza iniciativas con apoyo voluntario y otros profesionales del sector pesquero para prevenir la basura marina y proteger el medio de pesca que ha sido devastado.

El pasado lunes 16 de octubre fue un día de concienciación, diversión y sostenibilidad. Una ocasión que Hyundai Canarias, junto a la organización medioambiental Healthy Seas, vieron perfecta para organizar una jornada con el objetivo de sensibilizar a los más pequeños sobre la importancia de mantener limpio nuestro entorno natural y proteger el medio ambiente, especialmente marino, océanos y costas.

Sobre esta última, la situación con las corrientes del mar y la acumulación de microplásticos en Canarias es preocupante. En el caso concreto de las Islas Canarias, las corrientes marinas atraen una gran cantidad de residuos que la superficie. Lo que ocurre es la



The NGO will be closing off the year with success and anticipation to kick off 2024 with a bang. In 2023, Zibel, the environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Maltese archipelago, achieved remarkable success in fulfilling its mission to safeguard and preserve the marine environment. Demonstrating unwavering commitment through a series of impactful projects, collaborations, and initiatives, Zibel emerged as a frontrunner in addressing urgent environmental issues and championing sustainability.



Successful Coastal Cleanups: Zibel's commitment to environmental conservation was vividly demonstrated through the organization's execution of numerous highly successful cleanups in 2023. During this period, an impressive 13 tonnes of waste were meticulously removed from the sea, making a substantial contribution to the reduction of marine pollution. These cleanups are the foundation of the NGO, which brings together multiple stakeholders, including the general public, to come together and clean the sea. It is this exact joy and determination that helps us achieve success and motivation to conduct more cleanups consistently.

# Our Partners

In the realm of partnerships, Healthy Seas stands firm in its commitment to **collaboration as the cornerstone of our mission**. While our roster of partners remained steady in 2023, their unwavering support continued to serve as the bedrock of our initiatives. Their backing, both financial and strategic, provides us with a broader platform to disseminate our message of marine litter mitigation, circular economy, and biodiversity preservation across various sectors worldwide. With their enthusiastic involvement, our partners amplify our reach, engaging their employees, customers, and investors in the cause.

This synergy was palpable during our 10-year anniversary celebrations, where partners played a pivotal role, not only in providing support but also in actively participating in educational activities and clean-ups. As we honour their commitment, we **showcase their voices through selected quotes**, a testament to the collective spirit driving Healthy Seas forward.

## AQUAFIL GROUP

*«We've been being partner from the beginning. It means that now happily we are celebrating the 10th anniversary, and we are super excited. We are partnering with the other businesses and founded the Healthy Seas because it's important to understand that we have problems that we can solve and through our activities together we can communicate that the fishing nets can be, not only a problem, but an opportunity if we treat the m properly.»*

Giulio Bonazzi, CEO

## BRACENET

*«When Benjamin and Madeleine, our founders, were looking for people who were already active against ghost nets, they found Health Seas, and they met Pascal and Veronica and it was the beginning of a wonderful friendship, because they basically encouraged Benjamin and Madeleine to continue with what they were doing.»*

Maja Löwedej, Chief Operating Officer

## OBJECT CARPET

*«Healthy Seas brings visibility to what happens to the oceans and the impact human have on it and this is very crucial. We are happy to support the organization and to give something back to the ocean.»*

Martin Böhringer, Marketing Director



© Carlino Photo

## HYUNDAI MOTOR EUROPE

*«At Hyundai, we are partners with Healthy Seas since 2021 and we decided to partner with them because we really believe in our vision of progress for humanity. We don't only want to make cars, but we also want to do something good for the planet and good for the communities where we operate. This is why, when we met Healthy Seas, we knew that we could work together towards a better future. We have our fingers crossed for more and we are very sure that we will have great time together and that we can really change something as a community.»*

Adriana Cerami, Head of Corporate & Brand PR  
Elvira Herrera, Corporate Communications Expert



**DWS GROUP**

«From the very beginning when we started our partnership with Healthy Seas, the personal relationship has been a very special one and it's just fantastic to see how passionate and with all the energy Healthy Seas is pursuing their goals. My wish for the next 10 years would be that whoever I speak to in our company or in the street, that they would be aware of Healthy Seas mission and who they are.»

Simone Brandes, Head of CSR

**ASSOCIATED WEAVERS EUROPE N.V.**

Associated Weavers has been working with Healthy Seas now for five years and we really saw a big growth, a big development in activities and partners worldwide. I hope they continue to grow with the same pace, at the same level to keep doing fantastic work!

Emmanuel Lioen, Marketing & Corporate Communications Manager

**ARENA**

«Sometimes what the Healthy Seas team does sounds simpler than what it is. The divers need to be super skilled and well equipped and then there is Aquafil's industrial recycling machinery, which is amazing. When you see it and you go through all this journey, you really realize how complex and amazing this organization is»

Filippo Antoniello, Global Consumer Marketing Manager



## Founding Partners



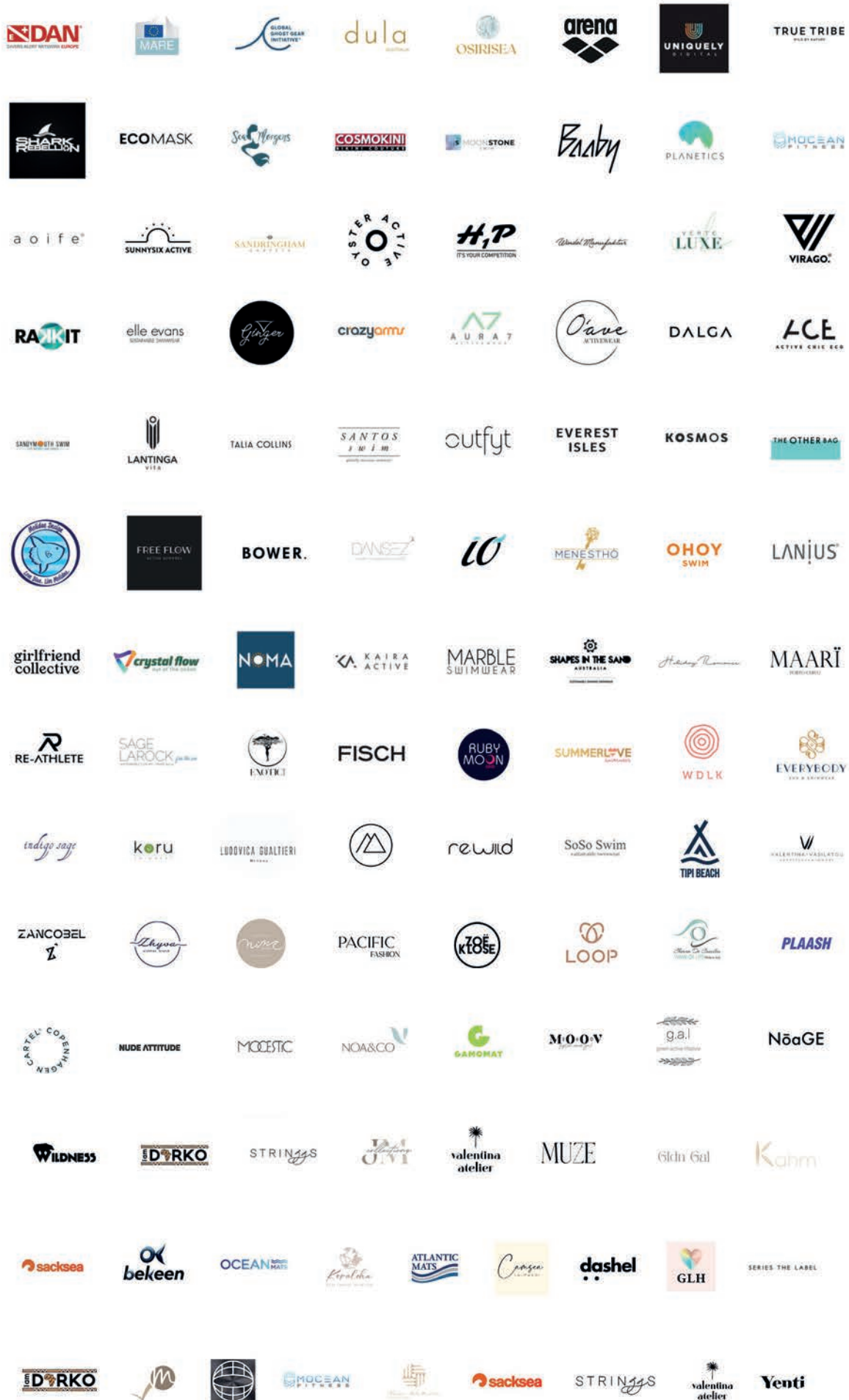
## Associate Partner Members



## Associate Partner Donors



# Supporting Partners



## A Look Into 2024

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our partners and the dedication of our volunteers. Looking ahead to 2024, our commitment to the health of our oceans remains steadfast. We are excited to announce **our plans for enhancing communication through the launch of a new website** during 2024 and a refined message that encompasses the essence of our foundation's pillars.

Furthermore, we are embarking on **novel operations that will see us exploring historical sites in the high seas** while also addressing the pressing issue of **ghost farms**. With an array of missions planned alongside our partners worldwide, we are eager to expand our reach and engage with new audiences, particularly **focusing on education and prevention initiatives**. We invite you to join us on this journey by staying tuned to our website and following us on our social media platforms, including Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook, and our podcast.





# How to get Involved

To our valued readers of the 2023 report, your involvement is crucial in shaping the future of our oceans and the success of Healthy Seas' mission.

- For business, we invite you to join us in reshaping the future of business by transforming marine litter into innovative products. Collaborate with us to amplify your CSR engagement and connect with a network of like-minded partners across industries, driving sustainable solutions that leave a positive legacy.
- Technical partners in the fishing or waste management industry, we call upon your expertise and operational support to help us in our missions on the front lines. Together, let's explore innovative solutions, share knowledge, and collectively contribute to a cleaner and healthier marine environment.
- And to the public, we urge you to dive into awareness! Learn about our mission, spread the word, and be a conscious citizen advocating for ocean protection, responsible waste management, recycling, circular solutions, and sustainable business practices.

**Together, we can make a difference for our oceans and future generations. Join us on this journey by staying engaged through our channels. Your support is invaluable in safeguarding the health and vitality of our oceans for generations to come.**





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# Thank you for your attention!

[www.healthyseas.org](http://www.healthyseas.org)



Thank you to the Healthy Seas core team for data and contribution to each chapter, to Kristen Sarra as a volunteer reviewing our content for this report and to Fábio de Sá for the graphic design and illustrations.