



For immediate release

Brussels, 25th November 2011

Waste Free Oceans- official launch in Spain (Barcelona)

The launch of WFO Spain on the 17th of November in Barcelona turned out to be a very successful event with the appearance of MEP and Chairwomen of WFO Anna Rosbach who renewed her commitment to support innovative solutions for the issue of marine litter, expressed her confidence in WFO future actions and stated:

" (...)there is a need for an action towards the issue of marine litter at the global level. Waste Free Oceans proves that if we educate people, train fisherman and use innovative solutions we can start making visible and meaningful changes"

The WFO launch in Barcelona was already the 3rd successful launch of WFO this year, with great audience participation of nearly 150 people. The main idea behind the WFO launch in Barcelona was to train Spanish fisherman, so that they are well prepared and equipped for cleaning up the Spanish coastal waters.

Bernard Merx, WFO Project Manager, responsible for all WFO actions in Europe stated:

" (...)today you could witness how much effort is being done by the fisherman to collect marine litter and how effective the trawl system is. We are constantly developing our ideas and we hope for even better results during our next demonstrations, which are already being organized"

Waste Free Oceans (**WFO**) is an industry led initiative that aims to work together with fishermen in cleaning up floating marine debris in European coastal waters. The official launch took place in Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, France in May 2011. Following this launch WFO has set planned pilot projects in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Greece.

A broad media attention was gained at the WFO launch in Spain. Here the press had the opportunity to see how the THOMSEA trawl and the Spanish fishermen operate in order to collect floating marine debris. Similar WFO demonstrations/launches have already been planned for early 2012.

To find out more about Waste Free Oceans, Europe and planned projects for 2012 please visit our website at <http://www.wastefreeoceans.eu/> , here you may find out where we are conducting trials and follow our progress.

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First on the left - Bernard Merkx – WFO Project Manager

