

CEN TC 466

Circularity and recyclability of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment

Announcement of the publication of the;
EN 17988, Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment- series.

Stakeholder meeting: 28 November 2024

Background

In 2019 the European Commission unveiled the European Green Deal, which comprised of a set of policy initiatives set out to reshape the economy of the European Union (EU) and help move forward in the green transition, with climate neutrality in 2050 as the end goal. One of the pillars of the Green Deal is the move to a circular economy, where the amount of waste released on the environment is reduced by:

- **decreasing** the amount of waste generated;
- **increasing** the amount of waste collected;
- **re-introducing** the materials regenerated from waste into the production of new products.

Specifically, the accumulation of plastics in marine and other aquatic environments were addressed in two EU Directives:

- The revised **Port Reception Facilities** (PRF) Directive ((EU) 2019/883)
- The **Single Use Plastics** (SUP) Directive ((EU) 2019/904)

In 2021, **CEN/TC 466**, Circularity and recyclability of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment was founded in order to take up the Standardization Request, 'Commission Implementing Decision M/574 on the circular design of fishing gear. The work of CEN/TC 466 resulted in the development of the EN 17988 "**Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment**" series of standards.

The EN 17988-series

The EN 17988, **Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment** -series aims to provide stakeholders in the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment sector with requirements, recommendations and guidelines to address six aspects of circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment containing plastics from the design phase across the entire life cycle.

The series addresses the stakeholders involved in:

- the **fishing gear and aquaculture** sector;
- the **collection and re-processing of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment** in order to re-introduce it into the (circular) economy.

Balanced trade-offs between all relevant criteria need to be taken into account when designing circular fishing gear and aquaculture equipment. While the **EN 17988-series focuses on plastics**, the documents can also be applied to other materials. Fishing or farming efficiency were not addressed in the series.



The EN 17988 series consists of six parts:

The EN 17988-series is accompanied by CEN/TS 18101, Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment - Terms and definitions, which provides the common language used in the different parts of series.

Part 1: General requirements and guidelines, providing requirements, recommendations and guidelines to move from a linear economy to a circular one, introducing the general principles of circular design for fishing gear and aquaculture equipment in the current European context, also highlighting the stakeholders and their relationships in the value network.

Part 2: User manuals and labelling, addresses the requirements, recommendations and guidelines for user manuals and labelling (and other information) that accompanies circular designed fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, supporting traceability and proper management during the lifetime of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

Part 3: Technical requirements and guidelines, addresses the technical requirements, recommendations and guidelines to be applied from the design phase across the entire life cycle of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, including repair, remanufacturing and refurbishing, storage and transport; and finally end-of-use, including recycling.

Part 4: Environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines, addresses the environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines together, as these two are interrelated and interdependent. The aim of which enables the reader to use materials and resources more efficiently and reduce the amount of plastics lost as waste while delivering the best environmental outcome.

Part 5: Circular business models, addresses development of circular business models which are intended to keep a product in its original intended use for as long as possible and also provide business opportunities with other sectors. This also includes supporting guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

Part 6: Requirements and guidelines for digitalization of information of components of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, addresses requirements for the hardware, software and systems for digitalization of product information of circular designed fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, including marking, labelling and information sharing.

