

CIRCULAR PLASTICS IN AQUACULTURE

Plastic has quickly become one of the most used materials worldwide, and because of its durable and versatile nature, it's hard seeing a world without it. These wastes are a serious problem in marine litter. This data was collected to help the mapping of how much plastic flows into the aquaculture sector in 2024.

Legislations assigns responsibility for plastic waste to producers. The perspectives of actors in the entire value chain will influence how effectively these are accepted, and finally how much plastic from aquaculture that ends up as marine litter.

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AFFILIATIONS


In **2023**, the aquaculture sector in Norway was responsible for generating **31 000 tonnes** of plastic waste.

In **2024**, at least **18 500 tonnes** of plastic equipment was introduced to the market. Significant contributors to the total mass were...

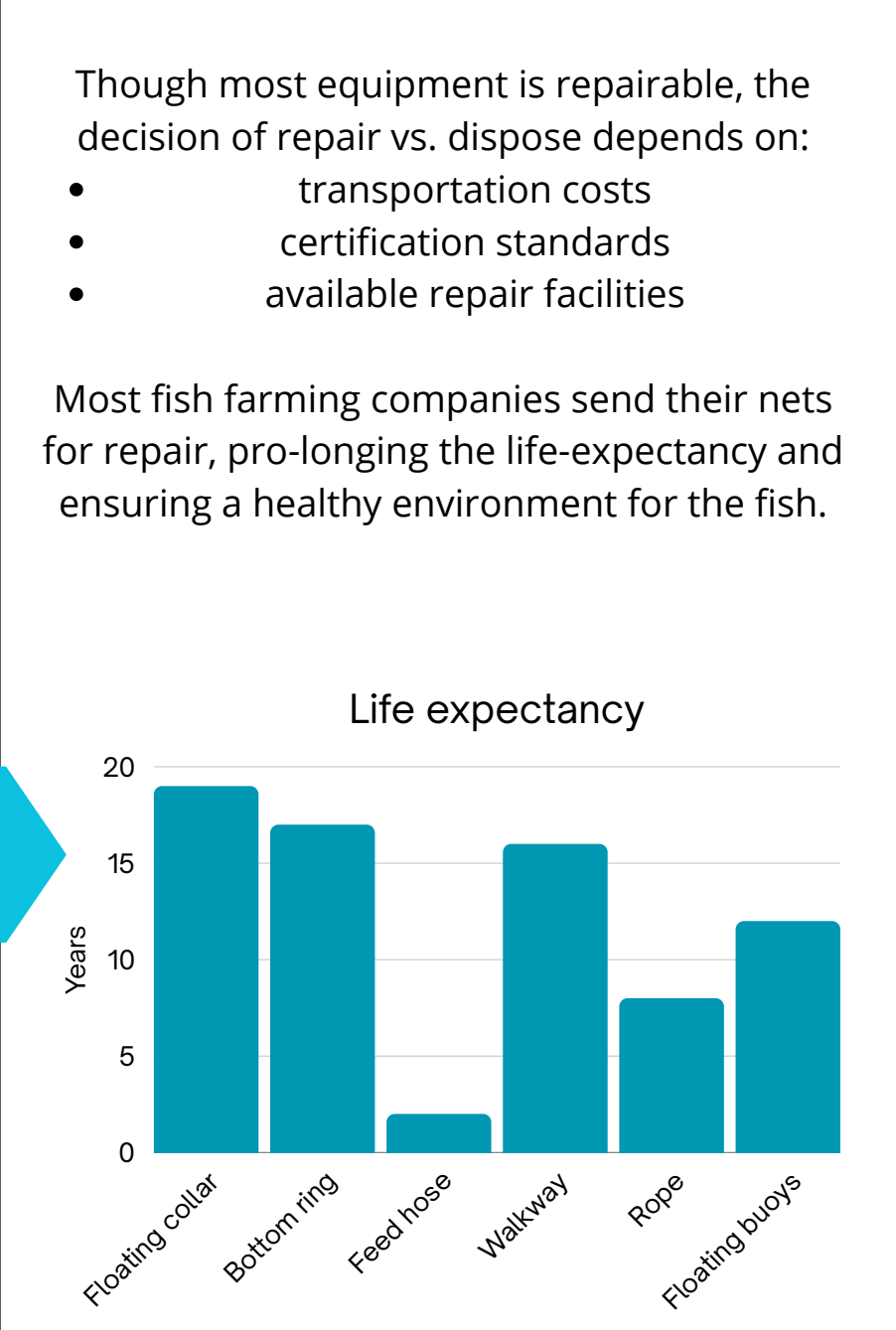
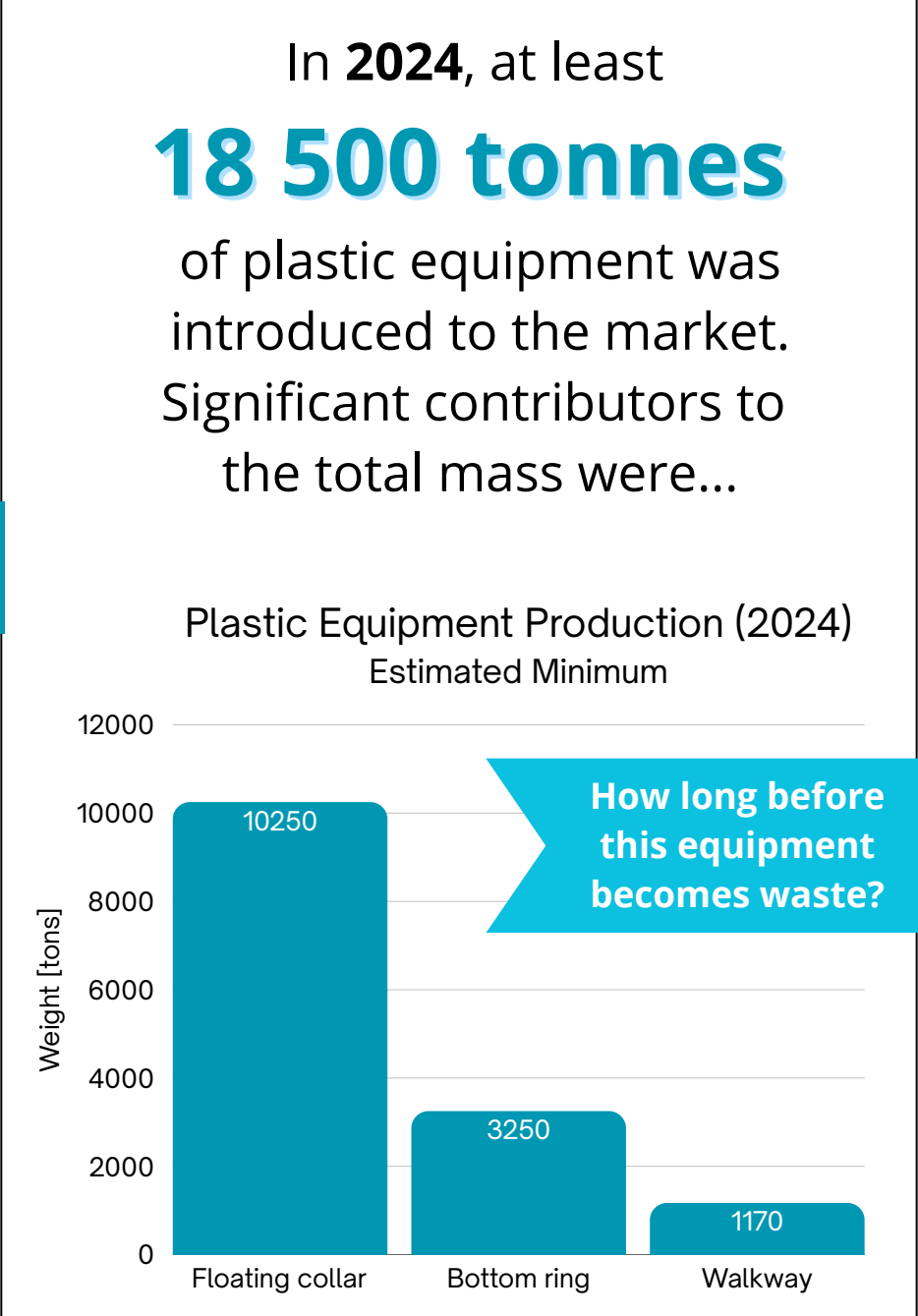
Though most equipment is repairable, the decision of repair vs. dispose depends on:

- transportation costs
- certification standards
- available repair facilities

Most fish farming companies send their nets for repair, pro-longing the life-expectancy and ensuring a healthy environment for the fish.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation is a policy instrument that assigns financial and/or physical responsibility to producers for their products throughout their entire lifecycle. **EPR is now being extended to Fisheries & Aquaculture sector.**

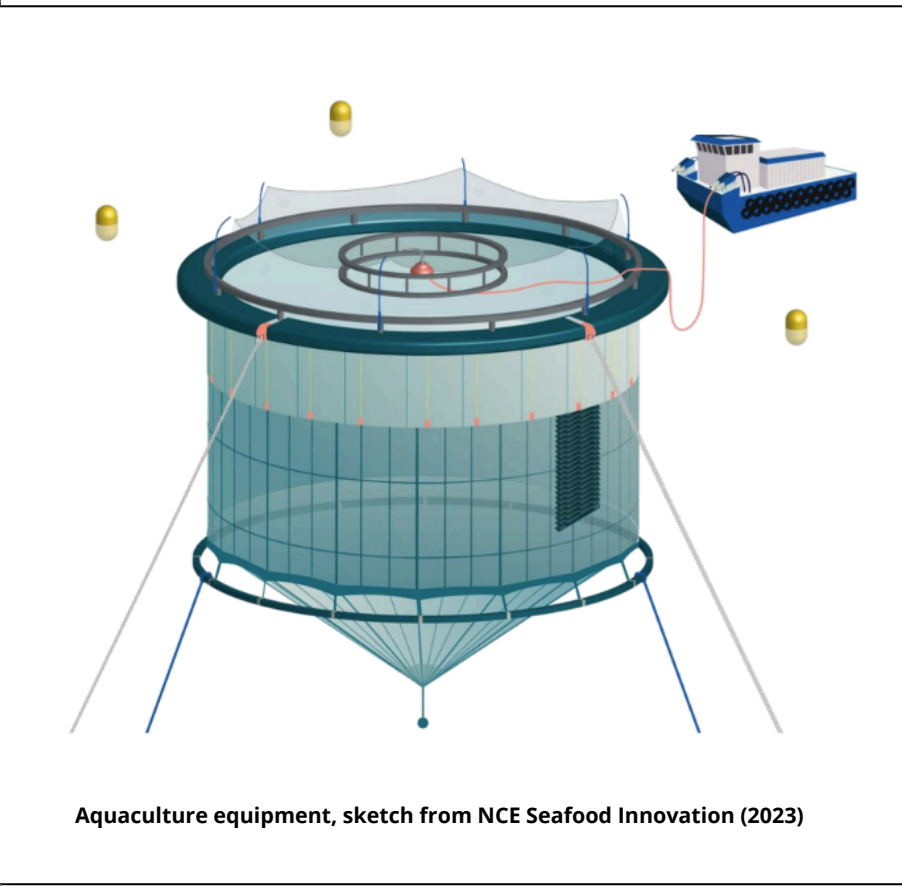


EPR for Aquaculture & fisheries was introduced to address significant environmental concerns, particularly related to marine litter and the promotion of a **circular economy**.

The legislation has invoked mixed reactions from the stakeholders.

What stance do they have?

Which equipment contributes the most per piece?	
Flotation rings	15.5 t
Bottom	7.1 t
Net	5.4 t
Hamster wheel	2.0 t
Hand rail pipes	1.0 t



POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROFA• INNSKIT• SALT• Norsirk• Directorates of Fisheries• Norske Havner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Wildlife Fund• Wilhelmsen• Seafood Norway• ScaleAQ• NXT Catch AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard Norway• Norwegian Fishermen's Association

HDPE was identified as the most commonly used polymer.

HDPE flotation rings are **recycled** and used to make

- Handrail pipes
- Walkways
- Walkway pipes
- Feed hoses