

Spain's Satlink launches project to give second life to devices for sustainable fishing

The firm has launched 'Project ReCon', a pioneer circular economy program that aims to give a second life to devices for sustainable fishing

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Spanish technology firm Satlink has launched 'Project ReCon', a circular economy program that aims to give a second life to devices for sustainable fishing.

More specifically, the company aims to give a second life to echosounder buoys used in tropical purse seine tuna fishing, as many may drift out of the fishing areas at the end of their useful life due to sea currents.

"This makes their recovery impossible for the fishing companies," said Satlink in a statement. "Thus, In order to prevent them from being beached and becoming technological waste, we are leading a worldwide collaborative network of fishing companies and local partners to collect these devices and refurbish them for new uses, giving them a second life for scientific and environmental purposes."

In addition to marking their position, these buoys have an integrated echosounder that reports the amount of biomass present under the buoy.

Therefore, they can be reused for small-scale scientific studies, marking and monitoring of marine debris, or prevention of natural disasters, among other projects proposed by NGOs and local communities that join up to the project.

The plan, which has the support of several fleets -- including Spain's Association of Large Tuna Freezers -- takes its first steps in Australia.



Satlink has been working with Tangaroa Blue Foundation, an Australian NGO and founder of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative which, with the support of the Australian community and government, is carrying out crucial work in cleaning up its coasts and removing and preventing marine debris.

"Working together, we aim to repurpose the collected ReCon buoys for protecting the Great Barrier Reef, setting the stage for additional re-purposing projects and collaborations both within Australia and beyond," Satlink concluded.

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