



EU project develops biobased and biodegradable ropes prototypes for offshore aquaculture.

The EU-funded BIOGEARS project has developed its first biobased and biodegradable rope prototypes for offshore aquaculture. **The prototypes are a significant step towards the project's contribution to a more eco-friendly aquaculture industry.**

BIOGEARS aims to provide the European aquaculture sector with innovative products and a value chain to challenge the existing gap of biobased ropes (biogears) for offshore aquaculture, which are currently manufactured with 100% non-biodegradable (petrol-based) plastics.

The next step is to test the prototype in field trials for validation at sea. Test facilities have been identified in different sea environments, including offshore high energy conditions in a longline system; low energy conditions in a raft system; and an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) system. Once started, the field demonstrations will test and monitor at least two production cycles with biobased ropes under best practices for eco-friendly aquaculture.

These prototype biogears and pilot tests taking place in the **BIOGEARS** project aim to reduce the current technological gaps and extend the potential use of sustainable materials in the sector. The results of the project support creating a biobased value chain under the EU Bioeconomy Strategy framework.

To read more about the prototype development please visit: biogears.eu, [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [subscribe to news](#)

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The **BIOGEARS** project will run from 2019 – 2022 with an EU contribution of €945,000, funded by the European Union EASME EMFF programme under the EMFF-0102018 Blue Labs call.



Caption: BIOGEARS prototype rope in production in ITSASKORDA, Biscay, Spain