

Recycling of fishing nets

Danish invention 2009 with global perspective and tons of new plastic can be substituted with regenerated plastic

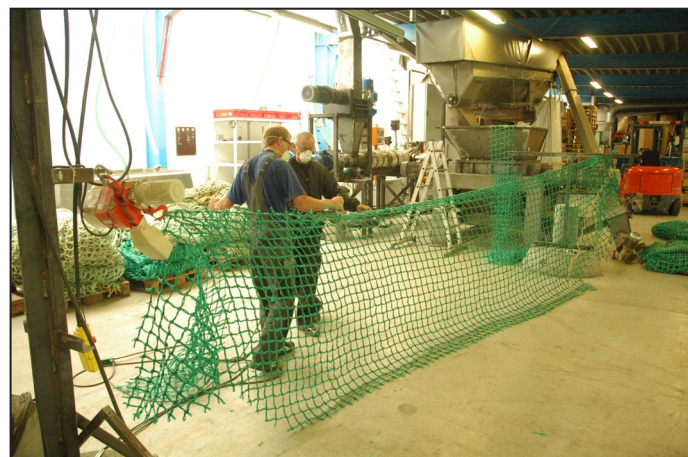
In the summer of 2009 Frandsen Industri in the small DanAish town Aalestrup introduced a pioneering invention which makes it possible to separate plastic types that are otherwise inseparable. All fishing harbours in Denmark have signed agreements with the company Frandsen.

As the first country in the world Denmark has thus abolished the practise of many years of depositing fishing nets. Used Danish fishing nets of all kinds have up till now been deposited in amounts up to 700 tons a year. Most of these nets have been deposited as recycling has been impossible because



the trawls and nets consist of different types of plastic. The new plant from Frandsen, however, is able to shred and separate the fishing nets so that the plastic afterwards can be reused for many purposes, from car ventilation systems to district heating pipes. The nets are fed through a receiving hopper at one end of the production plant and in a system of pipes, rollers, vessels etc. are treated with heat, water and pressure. At the other end of the plant the ready-to-use fibres come out sorted in fractions of nylon, polythene and the like.

- That is indeed revolutionary as the production of 1 kg of new plastic would require 2 kg of oil. Thanks to this new technology nearly all plastic materials can be recycled that up till now have been deposited and this will mean a really significant saving of oil resources. In principle milk crates, carpets, packaging



and household plastic can be fed into the plant and come out at the other end separated in fractions, says manager Johan Frandsen. Frandsen Industri today has its own extruders and produces plastic raw materials that for example are sold to the automotive industry. It is the strategy of Frandsen Industri to have its own production of

recycled materials and also to sell modular production plants to customers all over the world.

- It is a technical solution that can be used all over the world and we will never ourselves be able to meet the demand for recycled materials in this gigantic market, says Johan Frandsen.



Used fishing nets are a growing environmental problem, because up till now it was not possible to recycle them effectively. The plant from Frandsen Industri, however, can shred and separate the different plastic types in one process. The black heap in the middle is plastic granulate ready for use and produced from separated and extruded fishing nets. The density of the material can be adjusted.

