

## Alliance for the Blue's Project: Recycling of Discarded Fishing Nets —Toward the achievement of the SDGs—

Since 2020, Suminoe Textile Co., Ltd. has participated in Alliance for the Blue\* and worked on a project to reduce marine plastic waste.

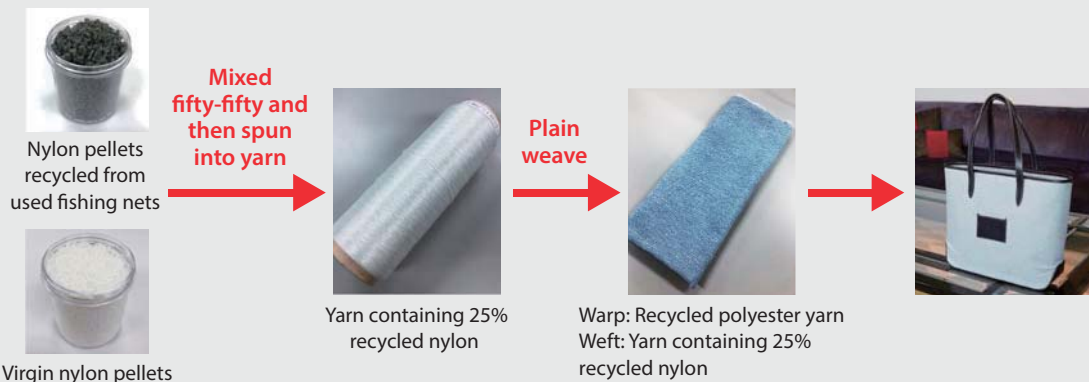
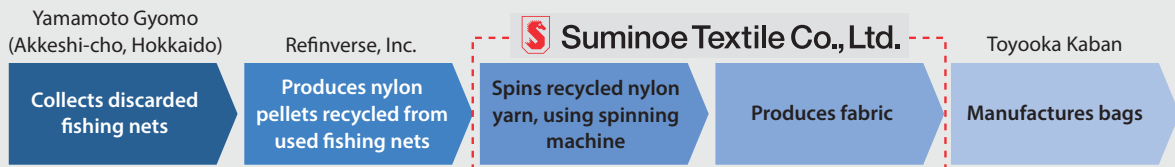
According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of the Environment, approximately 6,000 tons of fishing nets have been discarded each year, and fisheries-related waste, including fishing nets and ropes, accounts for around 30% of the total amount of marine plastic waste generated in Japan. Also, a report of the World Economic Forum predicts that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish (750 million tons) in the ocean in terms of weight. In this context, the issue of ocean plastic litter has attracted worldwide attention.

To address this issue, Alliance for the Blue has promoted a project to produce bags using nylon recycled from discarded fishing nets. In the bag manufacturing process, as a project member, the Company has played its role in spinning yarn using nylon pellets recycled from fishing nets discarded in Hokkaido and then weaving the yarn into a fabric. About 30 years ago, we commercialized スミトロン® (SUMITRON) polyester yarn made from recycled PET bottles. Our recycling technology developed through this experience is effectively applied in this project. Going forward, we aim to utilize the recycled nylon yarn in our Group's products and also work together with other companies to commercialize new products made from this yarn.

We will continue our endeavors for "upcycling" of waste materials in collaboration with our partners, in order to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society from various angles, while helping achieve the SDGs.

\* Alliance for the Blue is a general incorporated foundation that promotes activities with the objective of "passing on bountiful seas to future generations by producing products that protect the bounty of the ocean and by implementing a sustainable system through co-creation between companies and residents. Its membership comprises companies in various industries, such as petrochemicals, manufacturing of daily goods and packaging materials, retail, and recycling.

### Production processes of bags made of discarded fishing nets



### Editorial Postscript

Thank you very much for reading our CSR Report 2021.

We organized the information about the Group's ideas and projects related to CSR activities and expressed them in an easy-to-understand manner. While we receive growing demands for tackling international social challenges, we are determined to continue steady implementation of CSR activities to become a corporate group to be trusted. In this respect, we would be grateful if you could give us your candid opinions and comments about the Group's CSR activities by answering the questionnaire, for future reference.

CSR Report Editorial Team