

The ISE ECO BAG project - how and why?
by Alain Dobbelaere

On a BOD meeting Innerspace Explorers we were thinking/brainstorming about how we could organise something about our chapter "Project P.O.N.D." which stands for Protect Our Natures´ Demands. ISE has always been very involved, which our nature and we see that a lot of federations now a day organizes some sort of cleanup day, which is fine, but we were thinking we need to re-educate a lot of divers in their way of handling themselves in this fragile environment. We already have the ECO diver and this is created to point out to divers why we need to adjust our way of diving.

Achim suggested it would be nice if all divers could clean up stuff every dive with a bag and we talked a bit and the idea was born, we are a small federation with a small budget :- (so we needed a partner for this.

The sending of the bags worldwide had been already a huge part of our budget, but we had some luck with people who wanted to help with this, my appreciation goes out to all of them for the aid they provided.

As I dive now for quite a while with Tecline materials and I find it awesome stuff: rigged, strong and no nonsense which goes perfect with our ways too, and decline has been involved in quit some Eco projects now so I knew they were also Eco friendly.

We worked out the idea out to a workable project and we contacted Tecline thru the Belgian distributor Karel Levrau (which is a friend of mine) with coop Bartek from Tecline who saw potential and channelled this to Tecline world and after that we had a coop for the ECO Bag and ECO diver program.

To make this a hot topic, I also connected a contest to it and sponsored myself some prizes like and R2 regulator and an Alien light.

The first go was with 500 Eco bags which are distributed to more than 30 countries and I hope that the project is going on long after the contest is finished because the main goal is to make all divers aware of the garbage that is floating around. We can do something about it, take your ISE Eco bag with you every dive and you don't have to search just take with you what you see at the moment.

As we had only 500 bags I had to disappoint a lot of people because we were out of the bags, but Tecline already promised a new bunch of 1000 bags which is awesome.

Photos are coming in every day so we know this project is already a success. If I take a quick look there is already a few 100kgs of garbage out of the water thru this project.

Everyone I talk to about this project wants to get involved, which is our final goal making everyone protectors of our nature!!

Greets,
Alain
Vicepresident Innerspace Explorers