
NEWS RELEASE

November 17, 2025
Refinverse Group, Inc.

November 21 is World Fisheries Day

[Survey of 1,000 People on Ocean Plastic and Fishing Net Recycling]

78.1% View Recycling by Fishermen Positively; 92% Want to Support It

Refinverse Group, Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director: Chuji Kondo) launched a business in 2019 to collect waste fishing nets from across Japan and recycle them into a regenerated nylon material called REAMIDE®. This material is now used in a variety of products, including building materials, home appliances, apparel, and office furniture.

In advance of World Fisheries Day on November 21, the company surveyed 1,000 men and women in Japan aged 20–60 to understand public awareness of ocean plastic waste and fishing net recycling.

The results revealed that while awareness of the ocean plastic issue is growing, only 25% of respondents knew about “fishing net recycling” as a concrete solution. However, more than 90% expressed support for fishermen engaging in recycling activities—indicating a shift in public consciousness from awareness to empathetic action.

Refinverse Group will continue raising awareness about fishing net recycling, expand its circular resource initiatives that transform waste into valuable materials, and contribute to building a more sustainable society.

Summary of Survey Results

- 1. 55.3% were aware that fishing nets contribute to ocean plastic waste**
- 2. Only 25% knew about the existence of fishing net recycling technology**
- 3. 71.3% viewed positively the idea of recycling used fishing nets** into new products
- 4. 69.5% said they would choose products made with recycled fishing nets**
- 5. 78.1% had a positive impression** of fishermen engaged in recycling efforts.
92.1% wanted to support these efforts

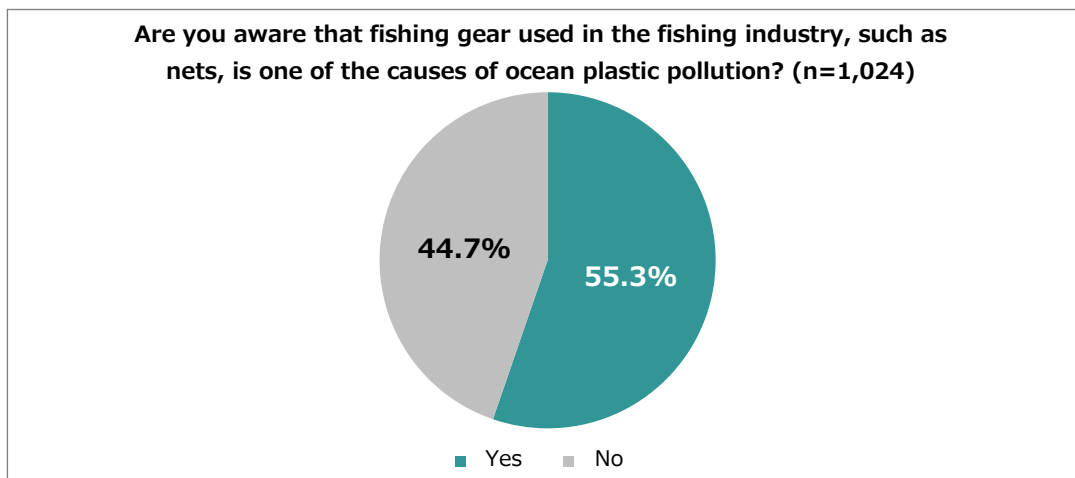
■ Detailed Findings

1. 55.3% Over Half Knew That Fishing Gear Contributes to Ocean Plastic

Roughly 30% of marine plastic waste along Japan's coasts is said to originate from fishing gear*. In this survey, 55.3% of respondents answered that they were aware that fishing nets and lines are a source of ocean plastic pollution.

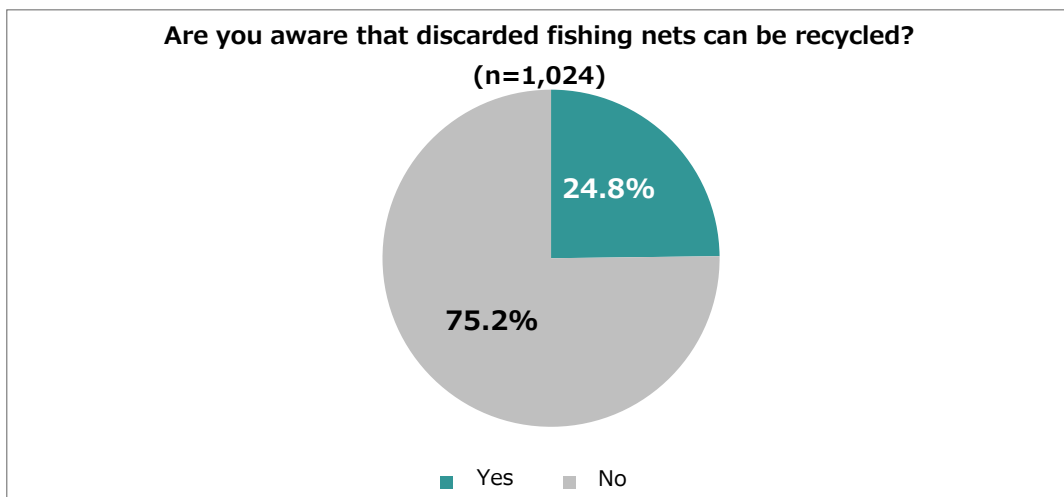
This suggests that while recognition of the plastic issue is growing, many still lack awareness of specific sources and countermeasures.

*Source: Ministry of the Environment, "FY2022 Results of Coastal Waste Composition Survey"



2. Only 25% Aware of Fishing Net Recycling Technology

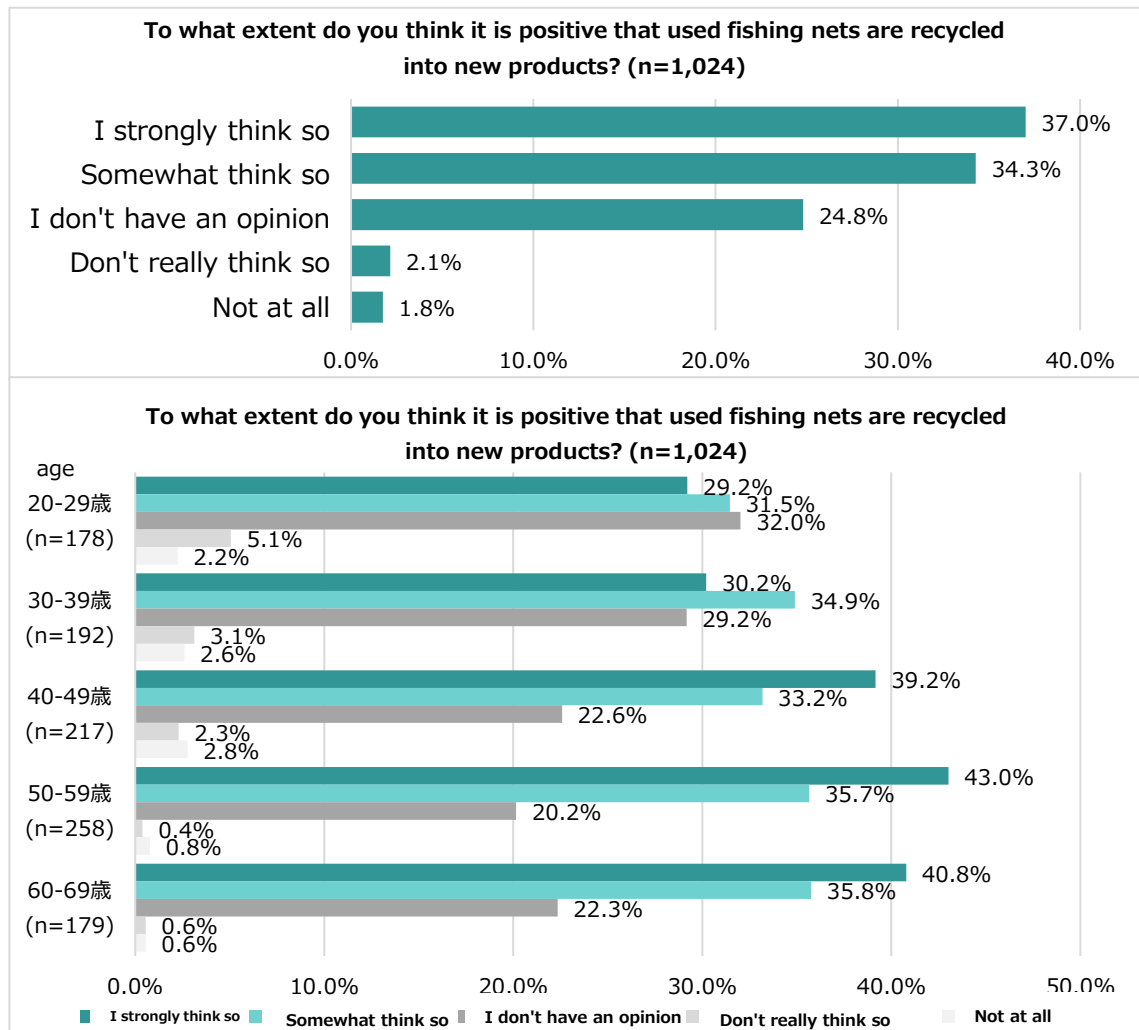
Since 2019, Refinverse Group has been collecting used fishing nets and recycling them into regenerated nylon pellets under the name REAMIDE®, now used in furniture, apparel, and stationery. Yet only 24.8% of survey participants were aware of such technology—highlighting the need to better communicate the presence and expansion of these solutions.



3. 71.3% Positively Viewed Fishing Net Recycling

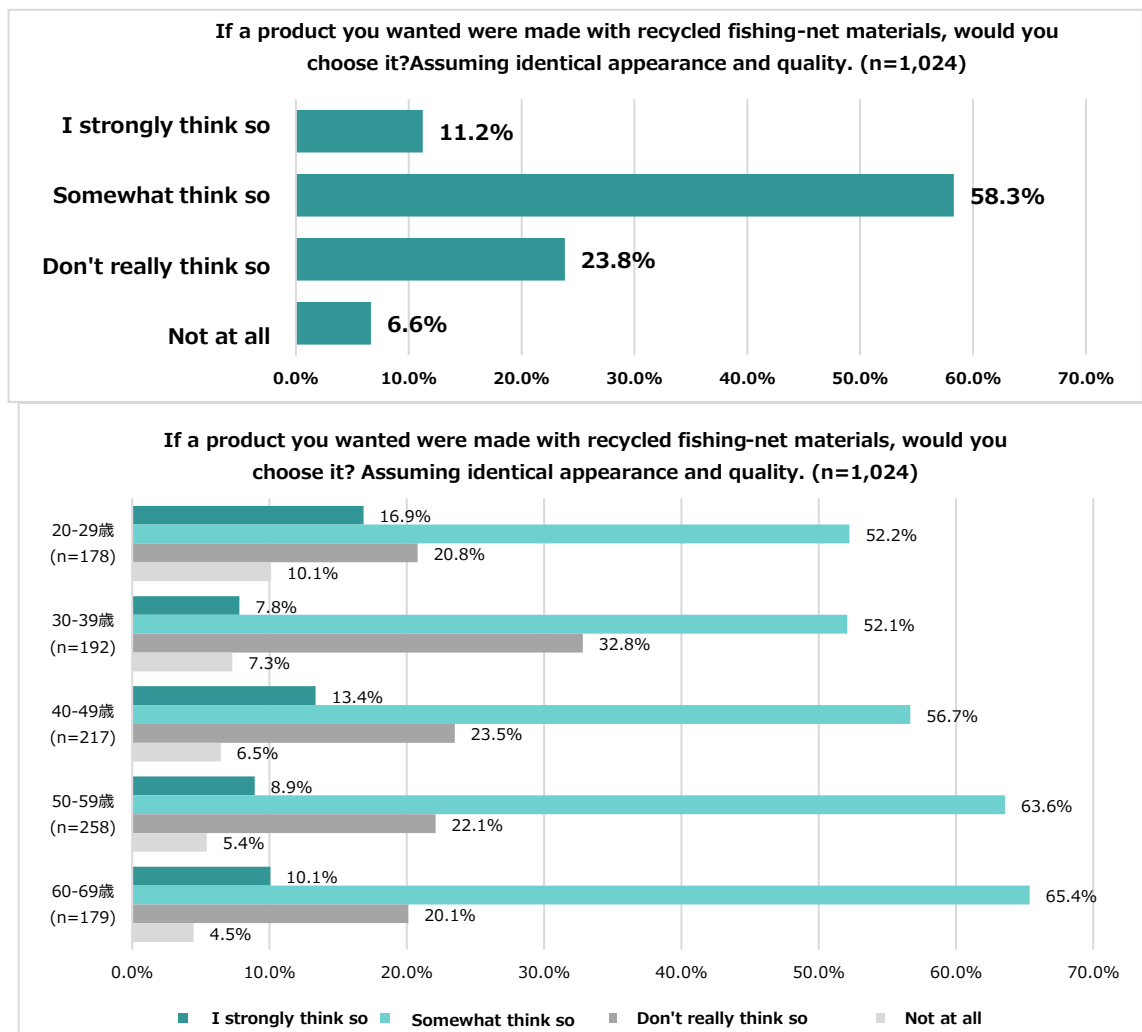
71.3% of respondents said they “support” or “somewhat support” the idea of transforming used fishing nets into new products.

Among those in their 50s and older, support exceeded 70%, indicating broad generational empathy for realistic environmental solutions.



4. 69.5% Would Choose Products Made from Recycled Fishing Nets

When asked if they would choose products made from recycled fishing net materials, **69.5%** responded positively. Support was particularly strong among those in their 20s, suggesting that environmentally conscious purchasing behavior is growing among Gen Z. However, support was also high in the 50s and 60s age groups, showing broad market potential for sustainable products. Refinverse will continue expanding the use of **REAMIDE®** in collaboration with manufacturers.

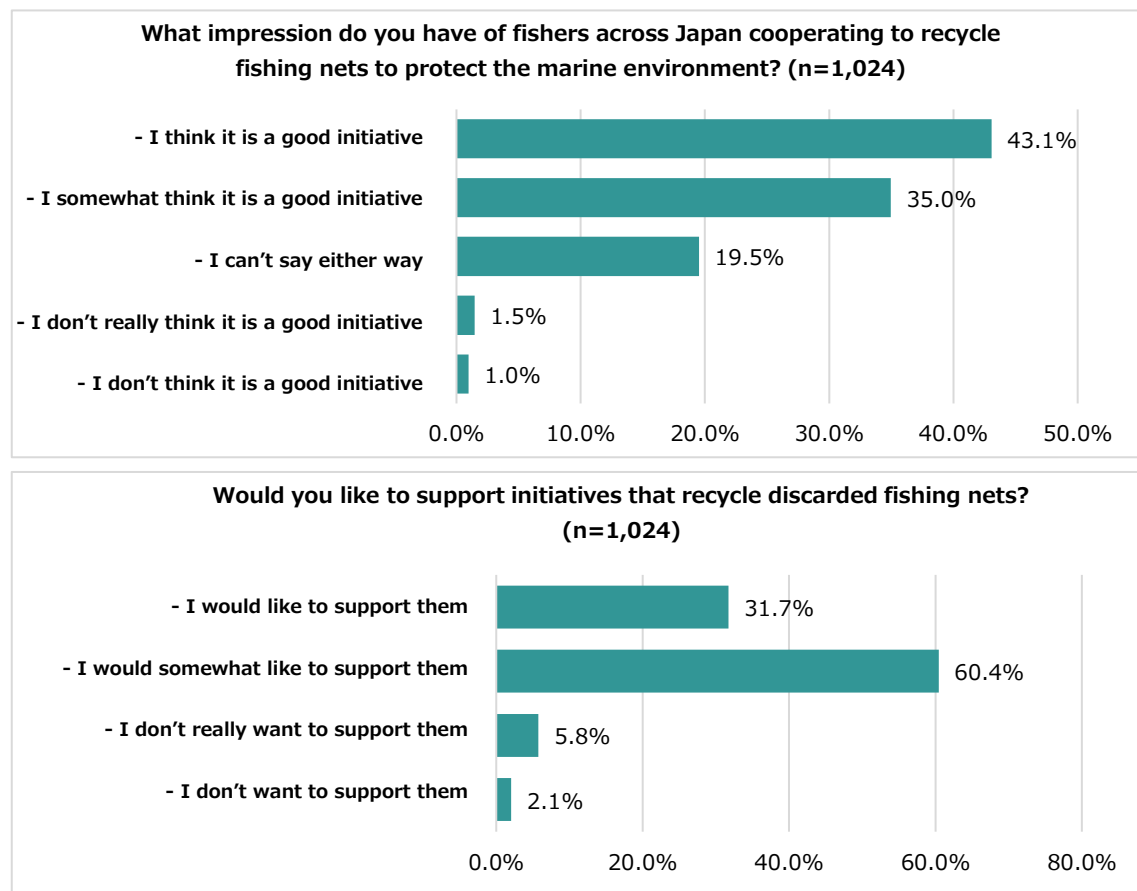


5. 78.1% Viewed Fishermen's Efforts Positively; 92.1% Want to Support Them

Refinverse has built a network with over 26 fishing regions across Honshu, collecting more than 1,500 tons of discarded fishing nets to date.

In the survey, 43% responded that they "strongly support" the efforts of fishermen to protect the marine environment through recycling, and 78% expressed a positive impression overall.

Moreover, 92% said they want to support these recycling initiatives, showing widespread public empathy for fishermen taking environmental action.



■ **Comment from Goro Tamaki, Executive Officer, Materials Business, Refinverse Group**

“At the beginning, some people said, ‘Is recycling really possible?’ or ‘It’ll just add more work.’ But through ongoing dialogue at each site, we were able to co-create this system and now operate in over 26 locations. This network would not have been possible without the cooperation of regional fishing associations, fishermen, net manufacturers, and vendors.



Our goal is to change how society views fishing nets—not as waste, but as valuable resources. Just like PET bottles, we believe fishing nets can become a symbol of circularity.

These survey results confirm that many people empathise with fishermen’s efforts and the potential of recycling. Encouraged by this, we aim to scale this initiative from Japan to the world.”

■ About REAMIDE® – Recycled Nylon Pellets from Waste Fishing Nets

REAMIDE® is a high-quality recycled nylon pellet primarily made from used fishing nets. Nets are collected nationwide, washed, and filtered to remove contaminants.

The material performs comparably to virgin (new) materials, yet reduces CO₂ emissions by approximately 85%. It offers consistent quality and physical properties with minimal cost difference, making it suitable for a wide range of products—from building materials and appliances to fashion and office furniture.

Refinverse is also actively working in areas such as Inatori and Shimoda, Shizuoka Prefecture, to raise awareness and promote fishing net collection.



■ Survey Overview

Conducted by: Refinverse Group

Method: Online survey

Period: September 12–16, 2025

Participants: 1,024 people aged 20–60 in Tokyo, Aichi, and Osaka

■ About Refinverse Group, Inc.

"With unique perspectives and technologies, we carry wealth into the future."

For over two decades, Refinverse Group has been committed to the principles of a circular economy. We focus on reclaiming and developing sustainable materials, including Refine Powder, a recycled material for horizontal recycling of carpet tiles, and REAMIDE®, a high-quality nylon pellet recycled from waste fishing nets and car airbags. In 2023, we expanded our efforts by launching a new biomaterial, ReFEZER®, developed from bird feathers.

【Press Contact】

Corporate Planning Department, Refinverse Group, Inc.

E-mail: pr@r-inverse.com Phone: 080-3568-7041 (Public Relations: Ms. Nishikawa)