GHOST GEAR

Abandoned, Lost or otherwise **D**iscarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)

As fishing gear is designed to be durable, if it becomes lost in the ocean, it persists for a **very long time** and can continue to capture marine life.

This is very dangerous since the gear continues to catch animals and **damage** habitats which can **deplete fish stocks** that people rely on for food and livelihoods.

Ghost gear has caused a 5-30% decline in some fish stocks.

For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have found that ghost gear is directly responsible for a 5 percent reduction in total cod catch in the Baltic Sea and a 30 percent reduction of Greenland halibut off the coast of Norway.

You can avoid the risk of ghost gear!

Fishers are part of the solution

Fishers and vessel operators play the most important role in preventing and solving this major threat to their livelihoods and the natural environment.

Ghost fishing.

WR 12<3 Fish

... occurs when lost gear continues to catch fish and other marine life with no benefit to fishers.

Fish and other animals get trapped in lost gear which will often face the same fate.

like pots, nets or floating ropes, becoming injured or dying and attracting predators and scavengers

\ostat sea >

It has been suggested that...

640,000 tonnes

of fishing gear may be lost each year.

Average 15m

fishing vessel

This is the equivalent of more then

three times the size of the world's

largest cargo ship



- Avoid fishing in high-risk areas or situations i.e. rough weather or areas with rocky obstructions
- Where possible, follow gear zoning initiatives
- Share information about local conditions and underwater obstructions with others to prevent damage or loss of gear

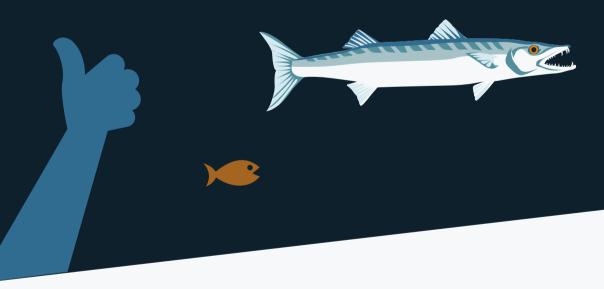
Respecting equipment

Repair and maintain gear regularly

Time to replace gear?

Set the example. Become an:

End-of-life fishing gear champion!



Mark and report!

A responsible

minimum time to get a good catch

... only sets the amount of gear

they can responsibly manage

...matches fishing methods

... avoids setting gear near

to or on other fishers' gear

to fishing conditions

fisher ...

... limits soak time to the

- ► Include your ownership details so gear can be returned
- ► Mark static gear to make it visible and easy to recover
- ► If possible, report lost fishing gear to authorities to improve chances of recovery



Recycle and reuse fishing gear components whenever possible

Small scale applications exist alongside industrial solutions



When lobster traps are no longer repairable, some fishers will give/sell them to restaurants to use as decor.













14.5407° N 74.9676° N







Seen lost gear?

► Retrieve any lost gear if you can do so safely

Share the location of ghost gear with other

vessels when it could pose a risk to others

Equip your vessel and crew with retrieval equipment

► Make sure there's always space to store recovered gear





