

# You can avoid the risk of GHOST GEAR

## Time to replace gear?

Set the example. Become an:

## End-of-life fishing gear champion!



Train crew on proper gear storage and disposal methods



Dispose of end-of-life fishing gear at on-shore facilities where possible

### 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.

Find out more at:  
[www.ghostgear.org](http://www.ghostgear.org)

# GHOST GEAR

## Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded 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.**

## Ghost fishing...

... 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 like pots, nets or floating ropes, becoming injured or dying and attracting predators and scavengers which will often face the same fate.

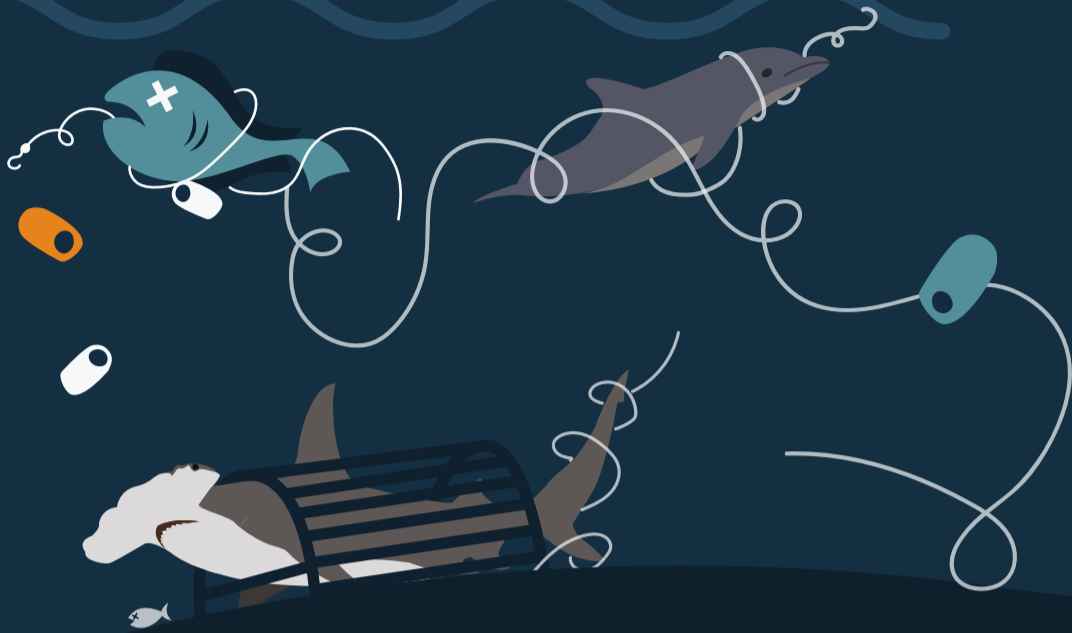
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# You can avoid the risk of GHOST GEAR

# 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.



## A responsible fisher...

- ▶ ...matches fishing methods to fishing conditions
- ▶ ... limits soak time to the minimum time to get a good catch
- ▶ ... avoids setting gear near to or on other fishers' gear
- ▶ ... only sets the amount of gear they can responsibly manage



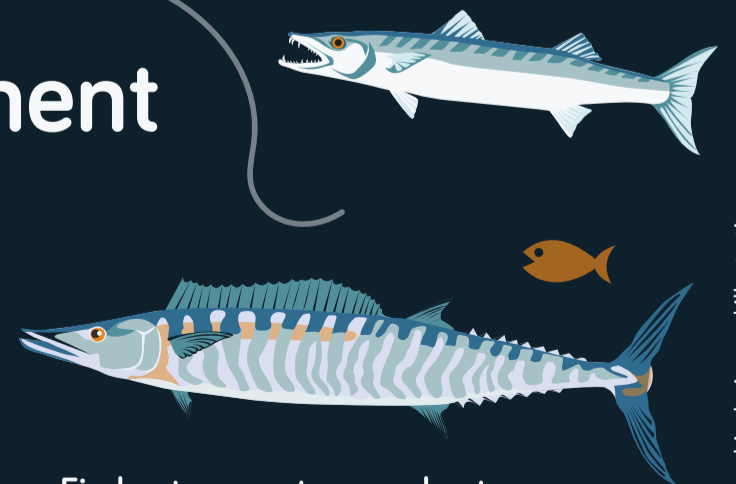
## Location, Location, Location

- ▶ 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



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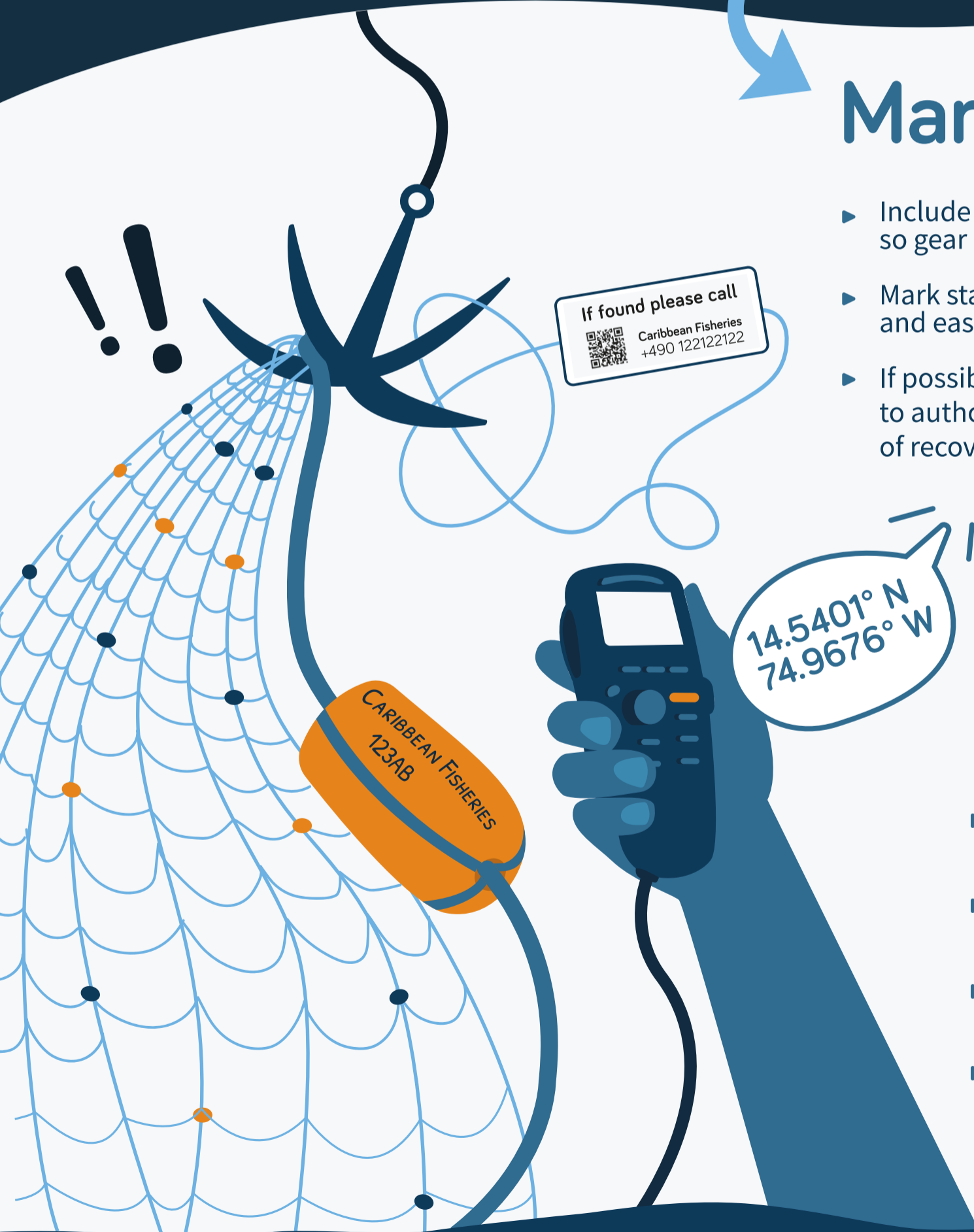
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## Mark and report!

- ▶ 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

## Seen lost gear?

- ▶ Equip your vessel and crew with retrieval equipment
- ▶ Retrieve any lost gear if you can do so safely
- ▶ Make sure there's always space to store recovered gear
- ▶ Share the location of ghost gear with other vessels when it could pose a risk to others



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