GLOBAL GHOST GEAR INITIATIVE

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative

Driving Solutions to the Problem of Lost and Abandoned Fishing Gear Worldwide

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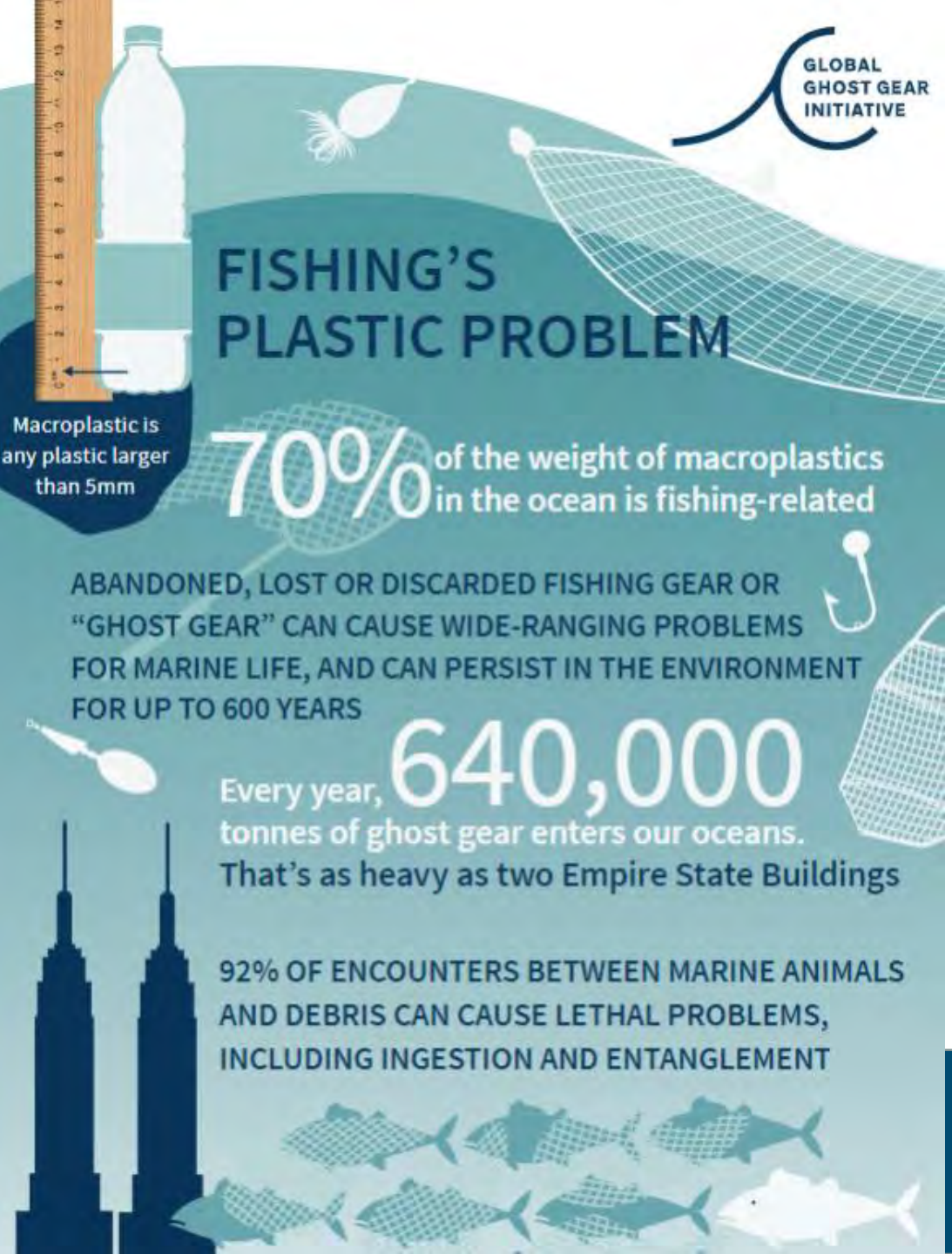
www.ghostgear.org



A Global Problem

In 2009, UNEP & FAO estimated that at least **640,000** tonnes of fishing gear is abandoned, lost or discarded in our oceans every year – this figure is likely to be **much higher** today.

Being purposely designed to capture marine life, "ghost gear" is **the most harmful form of marine debris.**

An estimated **5-30%** of global harvestable fish stocks (depending on fishery / geography) are killed by ghost gear every year, making ghost gear a major threat to global **food security**, **coastal communities**, and **fisher livelihoods**.

Recent studies suggest that ghost gear could consist of as much as ~ **46% - 70 % of all macro-plastic** in our ocean when measured by weight.

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Global Frameworks on ALDFG

- **MARPOL Annex V 73/78** - Prevention of disposal of garbage from ships
- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)** - Fishing gear should be marked
- **International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards (FAO 2011)** - reducing the impact of lost fishing gear.
- **Port State Measures Agreement** to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2009)
- The United Nations **2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development** (A/RES/70/1):
  - Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1: Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, including ALDFG
- **FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear** (2018)

A Global Solution

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) is a collective of NGOs, private sector, fishing industry, academia and governments, all contributing to tackle this problem on a global scale in an inclusive, holistic and circular way, focusing on:

- **Reducing** the amount of gear lost in the oceans;
- **Removing** the gear that is already there;
- **Recycling** the gear that is recovered or at end of life.

Aims:

- To improve the health of marine ecosystems
- To protect marine life from harm
- To safeguard human health and livelihoods

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A Global Reach

99 participant organizations

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A Global Reach

14 supporting governments

6 high level global affiliates

CSIRO

NOAA — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

European Commission — Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

OSPAR Commission — Protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources

UN environment — United Nations Environment Programme

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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GGGI Projects

GGGI / FAO Workshops

GGGI – A Strong Team

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GGGI Outputs 2018/2019

GGGI Working Group Outputs

Build Evidence Working Group

- Launch of global data portal and Ghost Gear Reporter app for reporting and tracking lost gear.

Define Best Practice and Inform Policy Working Group

- Roll out of Best Practice Framework for Management of Fishing Gear to certification bodies, governments, and companies.

Catalyse and Replicate Solutions Working Group

- 10 new GGGI solution pilot projects underway around the world in 2018/2019 – 7 completed in 2016/2017.

GGGI Global Data Portal

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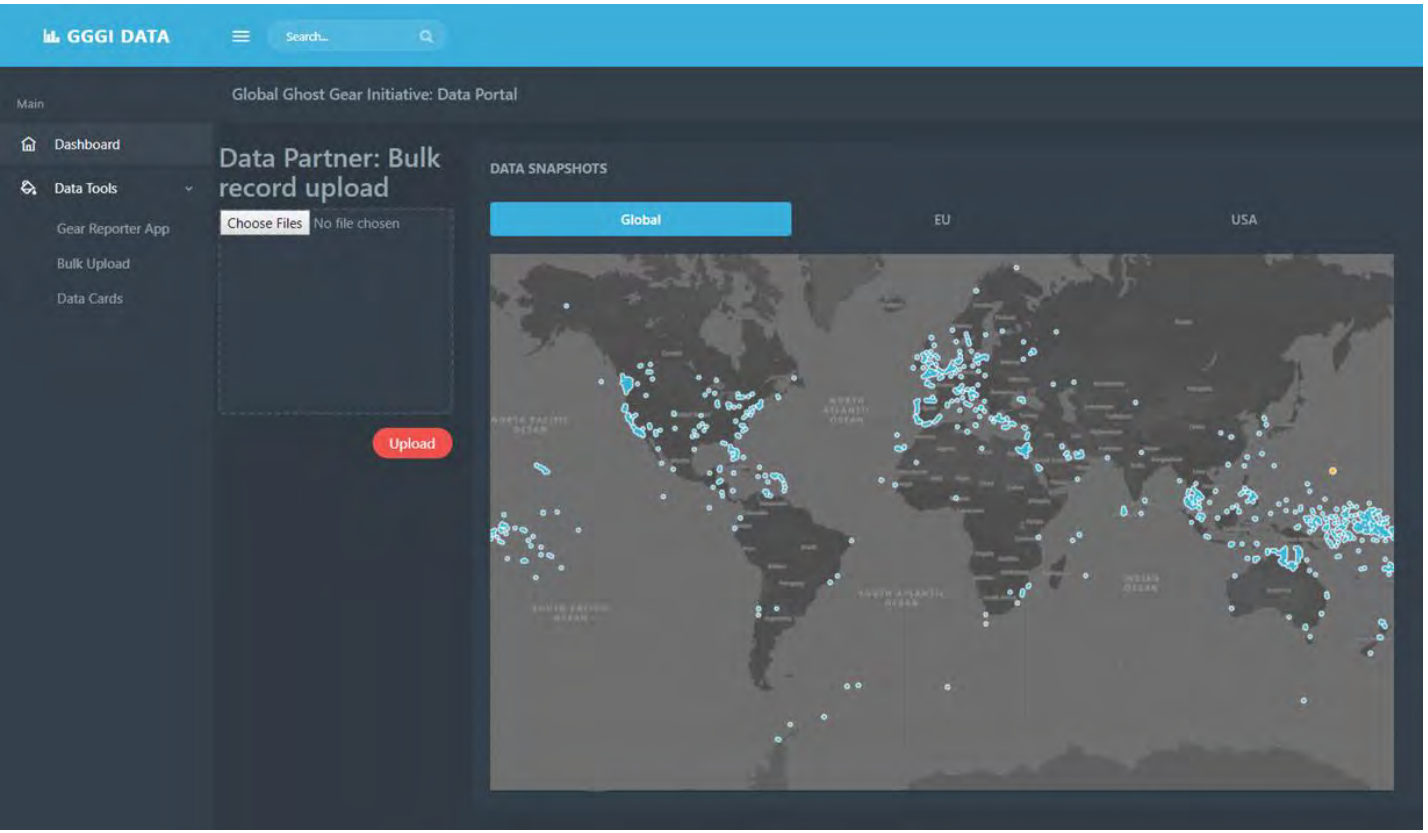
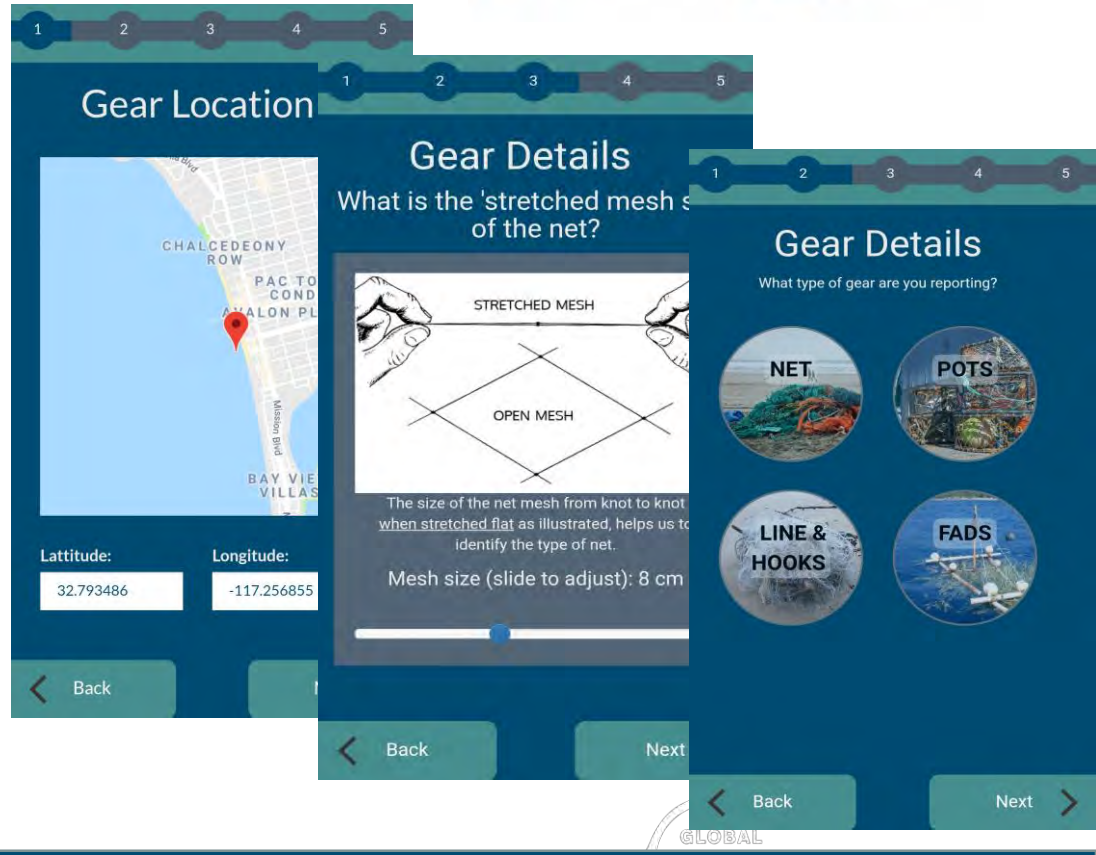
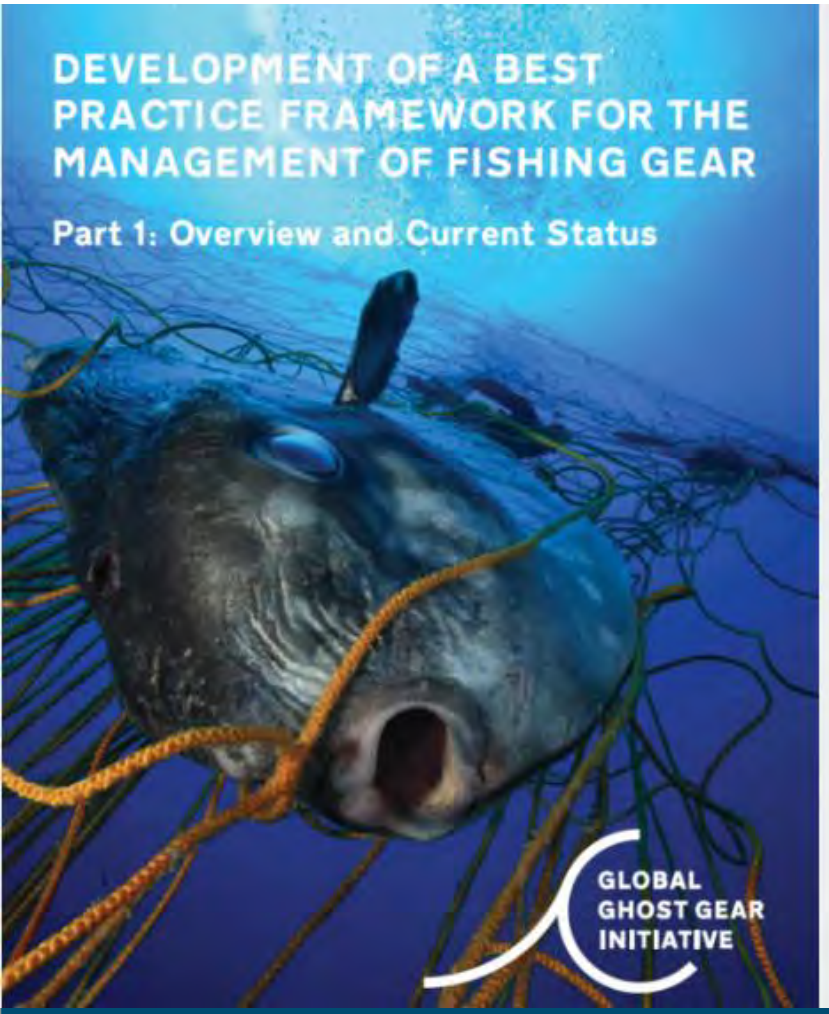
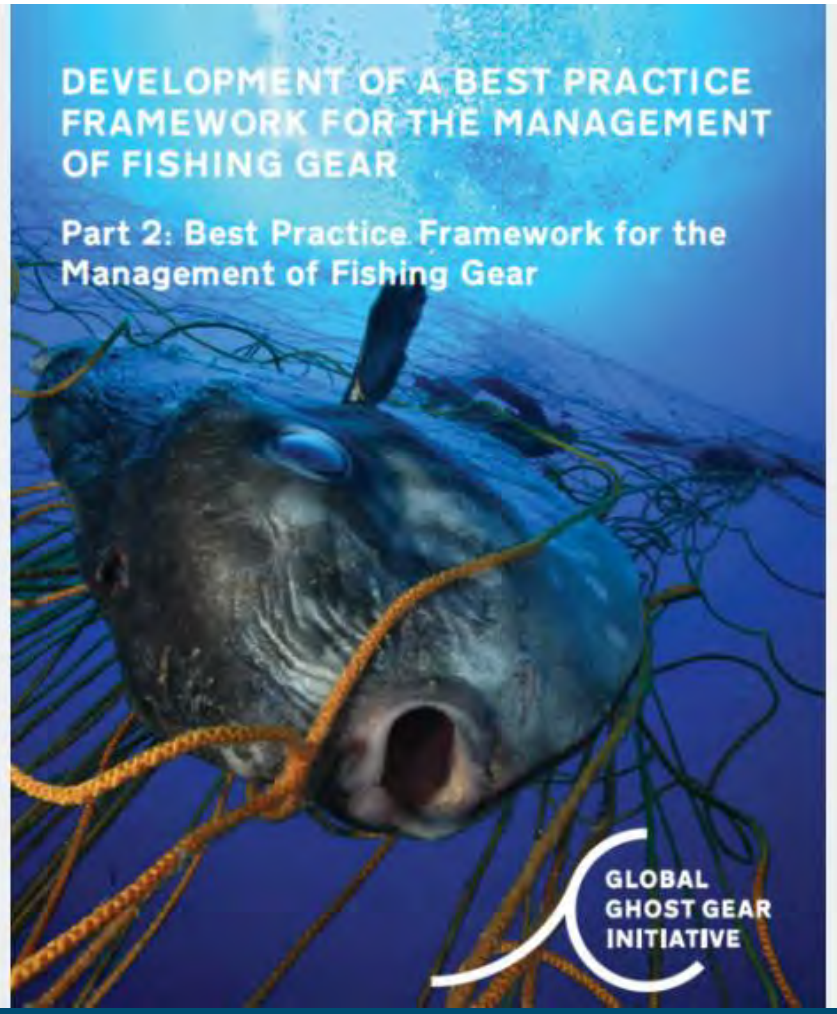
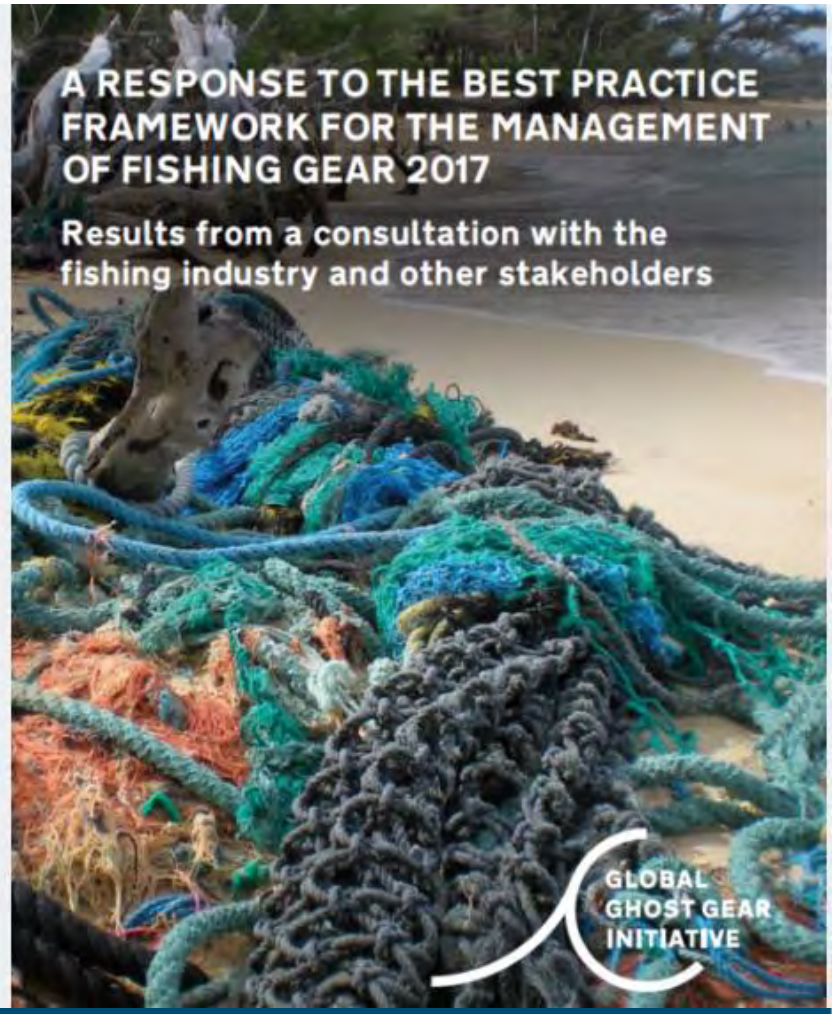




Best Practice Framework for Management of Fishing Gear (BPF)







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Best Practice Framework

Gear Risk Assessment

GEAR CLASS	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	TOTAL RISK
Gillnets	5	5	25
Traps and pots	4	4	16
Fish Aggregating Devices	4	3	12
Hooks and lines	3	3	9
Bottom trawls	2	3	6
Mid-water trawls	1	2	2
Seine nets	1	2	2

Best Practice Framework

Stakeholder Actions

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ROLE	BEST PRACTICE AREAS
Gear designers and manufacturers	Design, production and sale of fishing gear	Embedded traceability; research into, and use of / integration of biodegradable materials for use in the marine environment; incentives to return redundant / used gear.
Fishers	Individuals and crew catching seafood at sea	Reduced soak times; gear use limits in high-risk areas and during high-risk times; marking and identification of fishing gear; responsible storage of gear; reporting of lost gear, guidance on lost / abandoned gear location and retrieval.
Fisheries organisations	Non-statutory organisations representing fishers	Code of practices specific to fisheries; spatio-temporal agreements with other metiers; monitoring of fishing gear losses; communication protocols.
Port operators	Bodies operating and managing fishing ports	Accessible, low-cost gear and litter disposal facilities; integration into recycling initiatives; better awareness of responsible disposal opportunities; implement 'check out-check in' gear inventories where appropriate.
Fisheries managers and regulators	Management bodies setting policy, plans and regulations for fishing activities	Designation of spatio-temporal restrictions in high risk areas; development of appropriate gear marking and identification regulations; development of technical regulations to reduced ghost fishing potential in high risk areas; conducting impact assessment to gauge unintended consequences of management actions on gear loss and ghost fishing.

Scaling up solutions around the world

Industry Engagement

We will continue to positively engage with the fishing industry to:

- Raise awareness about the ghost gear issue;
- Educate the industry on its global effects;
- Learn from the industry about how and why gear gets lost;
- Educate the public on the realities of gear loss (fishers are not villains in this story!);
- Develop innovative solutions to minimize gear loss and its impact if it is lost;
- Develop appropriate disposal options for recovered and end-of-life gear;
- Ensure solutions are viable, lasting and make sense for the industry.

Recycling and Circular Economy

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Most fishing gear is made of highly recyclable material

(i.e. PA6, PE, PP)

Biggest challenges are: consistency of supply, ensuring a clean enough feedstock to be recycled, transportation logistics to get material to recycling facilities

Case Study – Bureo

Net Positiva - Chile

- Engaging with local fishers to provide an end-of-life solution for fishing nets
- Local fishers prepare the nets for recycling (cleaning, debris removal)
- Development of Netplus material (recycled PA6 pellets made of fishing nets)
- Innovative product design: sunglasses, skateboards, frisbees, Jenga Ocean, etc.
- Expansion into fishing communities in Brazil, Peru 2019/2020

Case Study – Steveston Harbour

Steveston Harbour Net Recycling Initiative - Richmond, BC

- Engaging fishers to clean, strip and bag end-of-life fishing nets (both PA6 and PE)
- No local recycling option at the time, so PA nets were shipped to Aquafil in Ljubljana, Slovenia; and PE nets were sent to Plastix Global in Lemvig, Denmark
- Now, local options are available in BC (SOP Recycle and Ocean Legacy Foundation)
- Potential to expand this program up the coast of BC and potentially Canada-wide

Case Study – Ocean Legacy Foundation

Ocean Legacy Foundation – Delta, BC

- Working with processors, fabricators and engineers to put together a line specifically focused on recycling marine debris, including end-of-life fishing gear.
- Working with businesses in the marine sector to identify sources of leakage along the coast.
- Providing a high tech recycling plant in BC to be able to process fishing gear and other marine debris would be a huge step forward in Canada.

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Some Gear Can be Recycled

But Opportunities Remain...

- Crab/lobster traps/pots
- PP rope
- Multi-filament rope/line
- Steel rings
- Cable
- Cork line
- Lead line

Innovation is Needed

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PLASTIX

fourth element

axiom CYCLING GEAR

Ocean Legacy

gwr polymers

BLUECYCLE
BEYOND MARINE PLASTIC WASTE

NETGAIN RECYCLING

isa

HEALTHY SEAS®
a journey from waste to wear

Contact Info

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