



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



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# What is Ghost Gear?

- ‘**Ghost gear**’ is the common name for abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).
- Being purposely designed to capture aquatic life, “ghost gear” is **the most harmful form of marine debris**.
- Much of it is made of modern plastics that can last **up to 600 years** in the ocean, continuing to capture and kill marine life and fish stocks, and damage the marine environment for much of its lifespan.

- In 2009, UNEP & FAO estimated **~10%** of marine debris is fishing gear.
- More recent studies suggest that fishing gear could make up **46%-70% of the floating macroplastic** in the ocean gyres by weight.
- An estimated **5-30%** of global harvestable fish stocks (depending on fishery / geography) are killed by ghost gear every year, which is a major threat to global **food security, coastal communities, and fisher livelihoods**.



# Impacts of Ghost Gear

## Potential Impacts of ALDFG

Mortality of harvestable aquatic species, vulnerable marine animals and birds via entanglement and ingestion.

Habitat and benthic damage from nets and heavy structures e.g. on coral reefs.

Social impact of fishing debris (e.g. recreational value of coastal waters) and impact on social license to operate.

Potential vector for aquatic alien species (i.e. transport of nonindigenous species across ecological barriers).

Navigation hazards including fouling and entanglement of propellers and rudders.

Contribution to aquatic microplastics: lost plastic items, nets, ropes, etc. will abrade over time, contributing to micro- and nano-plastics.



# Effects on Marine Wildlife



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# Effects on Marine Wildlife



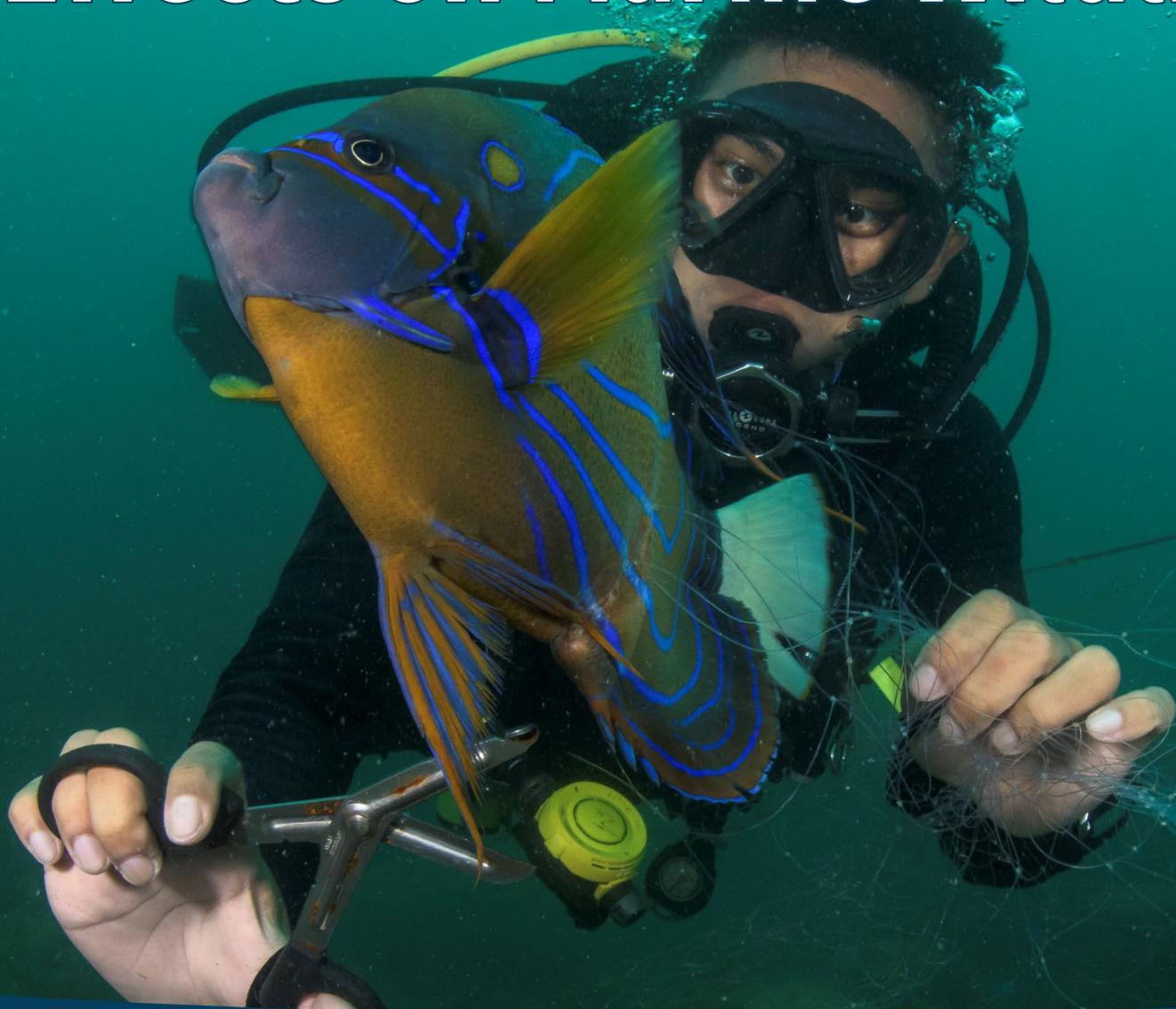
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# What Causes Ghost Gear?

## DIRECT CAUSES

- Adverse weather conditions or strong currents
- Marine traffic (shipping, transport, recreation) unintentionally running over deployed gear
- Spatial pressures – resulting in gear conflict & resulting in vessel conflicts with gear
- Malfunctioning of tracking systems
- Snagging on submerged features or damage by marine organisms
- Improper gear design or upkeep with repairs
- Improper fishing methods
- Intentional discard – often linked with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

## INDIRECT CAUSES

- Lack of disposal facilities
- Inaccessible disposal facilities
- Expensive disposal facilities



# What is the GGGI?

Housed under host organization **Ocean Conservancy**, the **Global Ghost Gear Initiative® (GGGI)** is the only cross-sectoral alliance committed to driving solutions to the problem of lost, abandoned and otherwise discarded fishing gear worldwide.

## Aims:

- To **improve** the health of aquatic ecosystems;
- To **protect** aquatic life from harm;
- To **safeguard** human health and livelihoods.

## Approach:

- **Preventing** gear from becoming lost by promoting best management practices
- **Mitigating** the impacts of gear that does get lost
- **Remediating** the effects of lost gear via targeted removal efforts

# A Global Reach

**135 member organizations**  
**20 supporting governments**  
**4 high level global affiliates**

-  1-3 members
-  4-8 members
-  9+ members

**GGGI Projects** 

**GGGI / FAO Workshops** 



# OUR MEMBERS

We have over 100 member organisations from the fisheries sector, industry, retail corporations, academia, NGOs and government.



# Industry Engagement

- Raise awareness about the issue and learn from the industry about causes of gear loss.
- Develop innovative solutions with industry to minimize gear loss and reduce its impact if lost.
- Work with industry to appropriate disposal options for end-of-life gear.
- Ensure solutions are viable, lasting and make sense for the industry.



# Best Practice Frameworks for the Management of Fishing/Aquaculture Gear



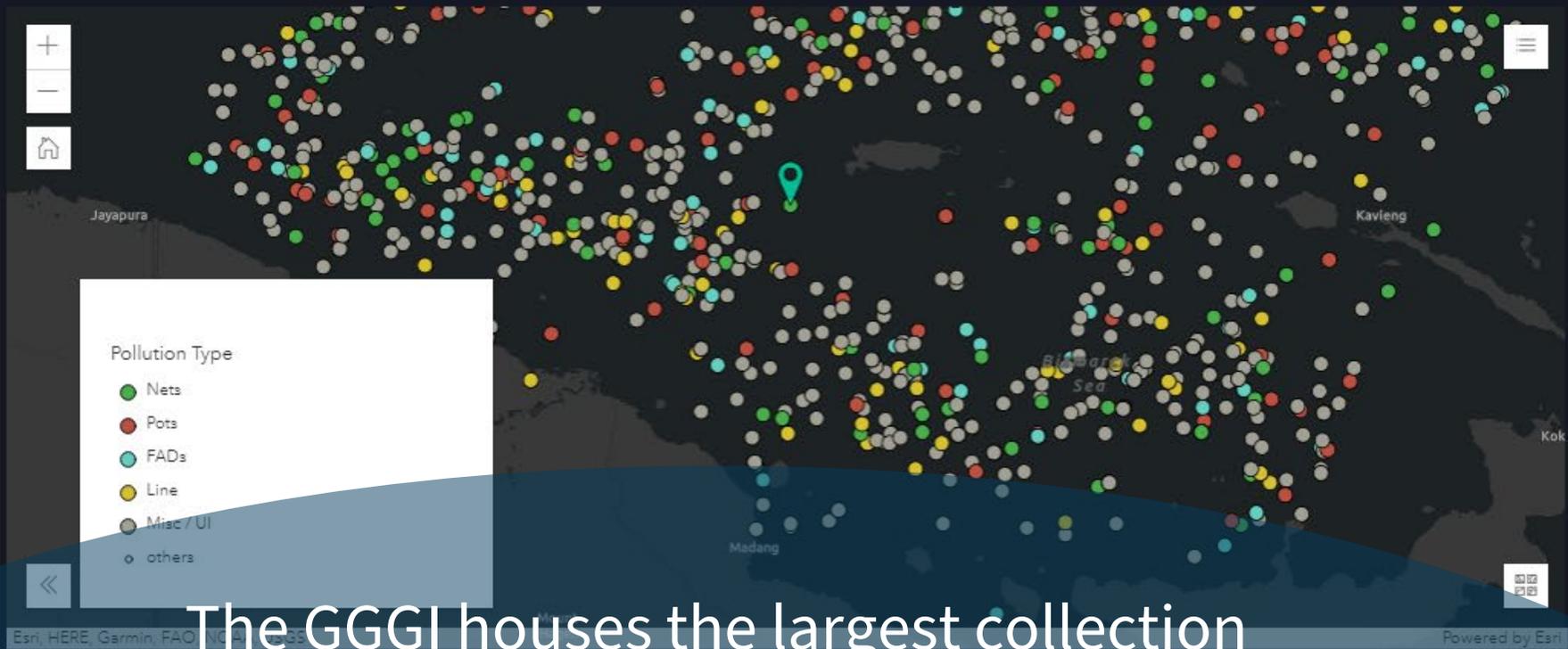
- Comprehensive guidance documents referencing all major actors in the seafood supply chain for wild capture and aquaculture.
- Guidance is across prevention, mitigation and recovery strategies.
- Designed to be incorporated into sourcing policies, CSR documents, fisheries management plans, seafood certification programs, voluntary guidelines, workshops and more.



# GGGI Data Portal

- Dashboard
- Resources
- Provide Data
- Reporting
  - Public Access Reporting
  - My Reporting
  - Organizational Reporting
- Org Admin
- Site Admin

## Map Viewer



## Toolbox

### Filter by attributes

- Fishing gear type
- Search description
- Event date
- Gear recovered?
- Gear has image?

### Filter by area (optional)

### Search and results

The GGGI houses the largest collection of ghost gear data on earth at:  
<https://globalghostgearportal.net/>

# Solution Projects



Nigeria



Indonesia



Mexico



Caribbean



Canada



United States



Vanuatu





# Contact Info

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