

THE GHOST FISHING FOUNDATION RETRIEVING ABANDONED AND LOST FISHING NETS

The international [Ghost Fishing Foundation](#) will retrieve abandoned or lost fishing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris from local wrecks and reefs in Ireland. The ghost gear removal operation ([Operation Stone & Pots](#)) will start in September 2018 in the W. Coast of Ireland in collaboration with the [Ghost Fishing UK](#).

According to the Foundation website, Ghost fishing is what fishing gear does when it has been lost, dumped or abandoned, killing millions of marine animals each year. Lost fishing gear are among the greatest killers in our oceans, and not only because of their numbers. Literally hundreds of kilometers of nets and lines get lost every year and due to the nature of the materials used to produce these types of gear, they can and will keep fishing for multiple decades, possibly even for several centuries.

The issue of "ghost fishing" was first brought to the attention of world at the [16th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries](#) in April 1985. In 2009, the FAO Secretariat published the Report [Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear](#), jointly produced with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The report estimates that abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear in the oceans makes up around 10 percent (640 000 tonnes) of all marine litter. Gill nets, fishing pots and traps are most likely to "ghost fish," while longlines, are more likely to ensnare other marine organisms and trawls most likely to damage sub-sea habitats. The main impacts of abandoned or lost fishing gear are:

- continued catches of fish, known as "ghost fishing", and other animals such as turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, who are trapped and die;
- alterations of the sea-floor environment; and
- the creation of navigation hazards that can cause accidents at sea and damage boats.

The Ghost Fish Foundation has been [created in 2009 involving a group of professionals](#) coming from Netherlands, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom and United States. Established in the Netherlands, the Ghost Fishing Foundation is a non-profit organization driven by technical experts that promotes lost fishing gear removal initiatives worldwide, showing the problem to a wide audience.

The Foundation works exclusively with volunteers, establishing collaboration with other diving teams to start or participate in existing projects all over the world. By 2009



Ghost Fish removed a very large amount of nets, fishing gear and other marine debris from shipwrecks, reefs and the seabed, gathering comprehensive experience and building own techniques.

In particular, the Ghost Fishing Foundation operates with the following activities: Physically removing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris; Investigating and documenting local situations (photo/video); Ensuring diving safety; Recycling marine debris; Sharing knowledge and best practices and Giving educational presentations, exhibitions and shows.

Since 2009, the Ghost Fishing Foundation has been collaborating worldwide with various local groups of technical divers and salvage companies to remove lost fishing gear. With projects in the North Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea, Pacific Ocean and Scapa Flow, the Foundation works on existing projects, set up new ones and document these through visual media, informing a wide audience and raising social awareness.

Some types of marine debris such as fishing nets and weights (lead) can be used in recycling processes and the [Ghost Fishing Foundation established cooperation](#) with the [Healthy Seas Initiatives](#) whose goal is to remove waste, in particular fishing nets and other marine litter, from the seas for the purpose of recycling these into textile products in collaboration with specialized companies. Since 2017, over 32 tons of old fishing nets from Greek fishermen and fish farmers have gone into the recycling process thus ensuring that less waste nets might end up in the Greek seas.

The Ghost Fishing Foundation collaborates in the framework of the [Global Ghost Gear Initiative](#) (GGGI), aiming to improve the health of marine ecosystems, protect marine animals, and safeguard human health and livelihoods. GGGI was launched in September 2015 with several organizations like the [Healthy Seas Initiative](#), [World Animal Protection](#), [Greenpeace](#) and the first initiative has been dedicated to tackling the problem of ghost gear at a global scale. The GGGI's involves the fishing industry, the private sector, academia, governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

In the web site of the Ghost Fishing Foundation extensive information on current activities and links to many organizations with which collaborates in his extraordinary work to clean up and improve marine ecosystems is available.

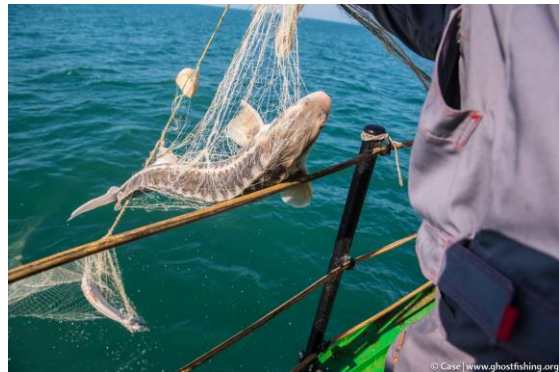
To know more

[Ghost Fishing Foundation website](#)

[Ghost Fishing in Facebook](#)

[Ghost Fishing Photo Gallery](#)

[Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear FAO-UNEP Report](#)



[Fishing gear in FAO website](#)

[Ghost Fishing UK](#)

[Ghost Fishing Malta in Facebook](#)

[Ghost Fishing Lebanon in Facebook](#)

[Ghost Fishing New Zealand](#)

[Video on Youtube - Santorini Greece](#)

[Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine \(GRD\)](#)

[Project Ireland in Facebook](#)

[Ghost Fishing in UN Ocean Atlas website](#)

