Developing ghost net solutions in Arafura Sea

GhostNets Australia™
saltwater people working together

ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS ATSEA ECOSYSTEM ACTION PROGRAM

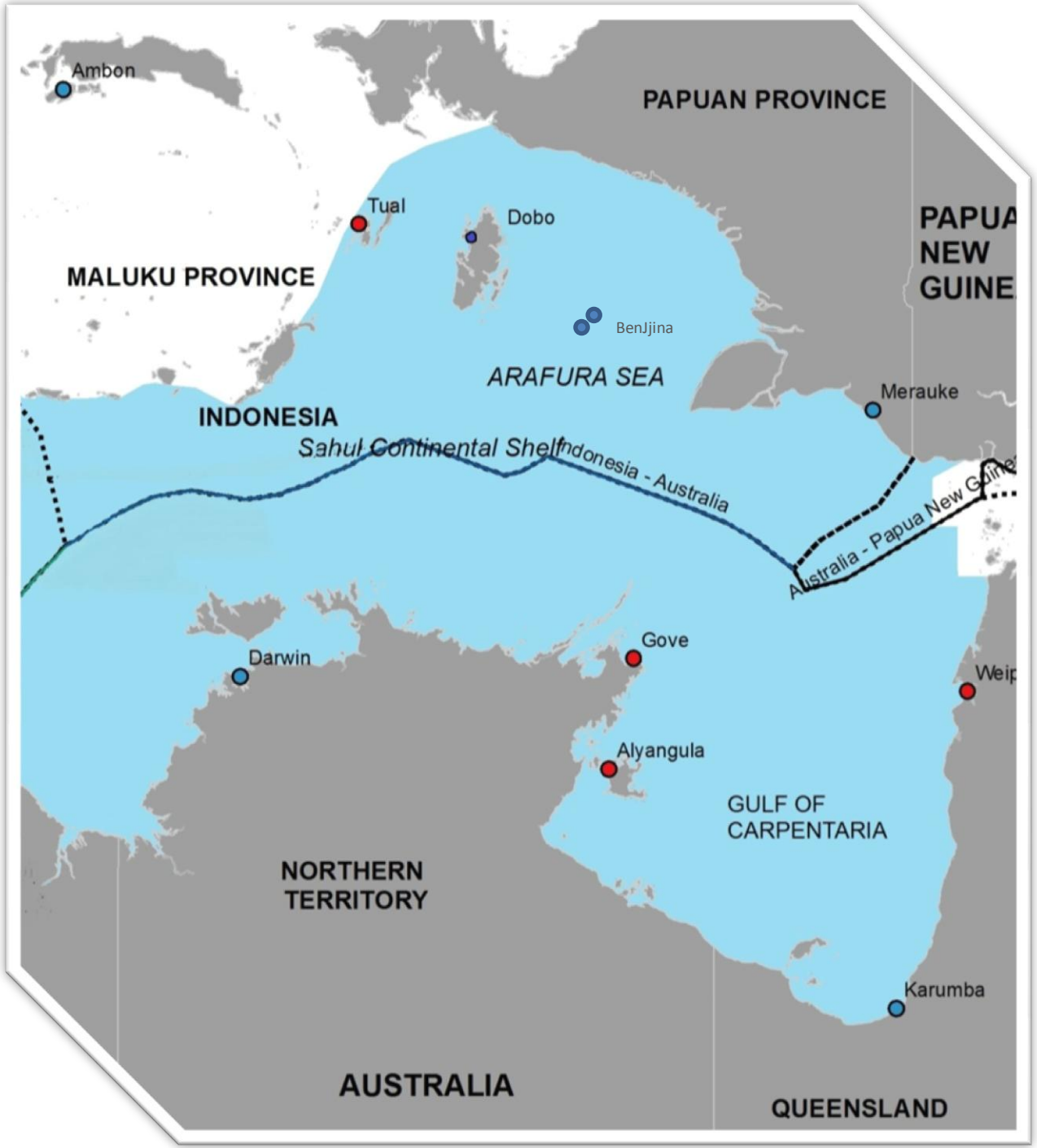
Australian Government

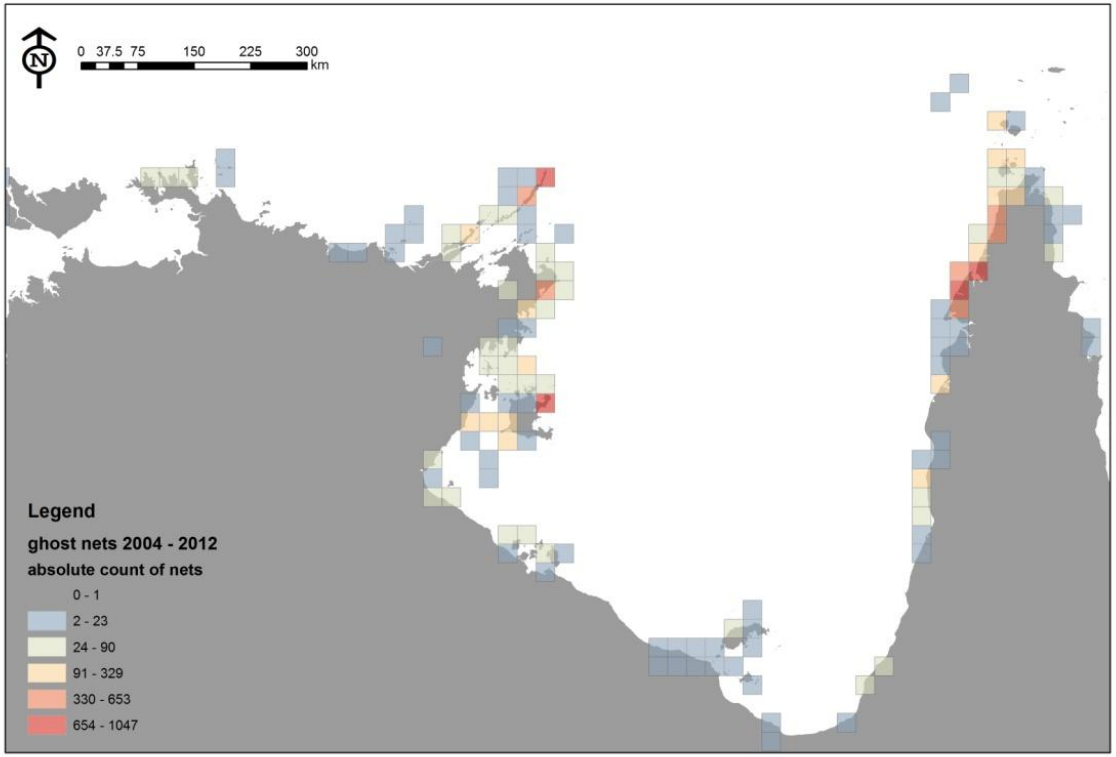
Journey to find three solutions:

How to clean up piles of rubbish

How to dispose of it, and

How to reduce it





Ghost net abundance and distribution ©GNA

Ghost Net removal, rescue & data collection by Indigenous rangers…

During one three week period on a 42km beach:

34 Olive Ridley Turtles

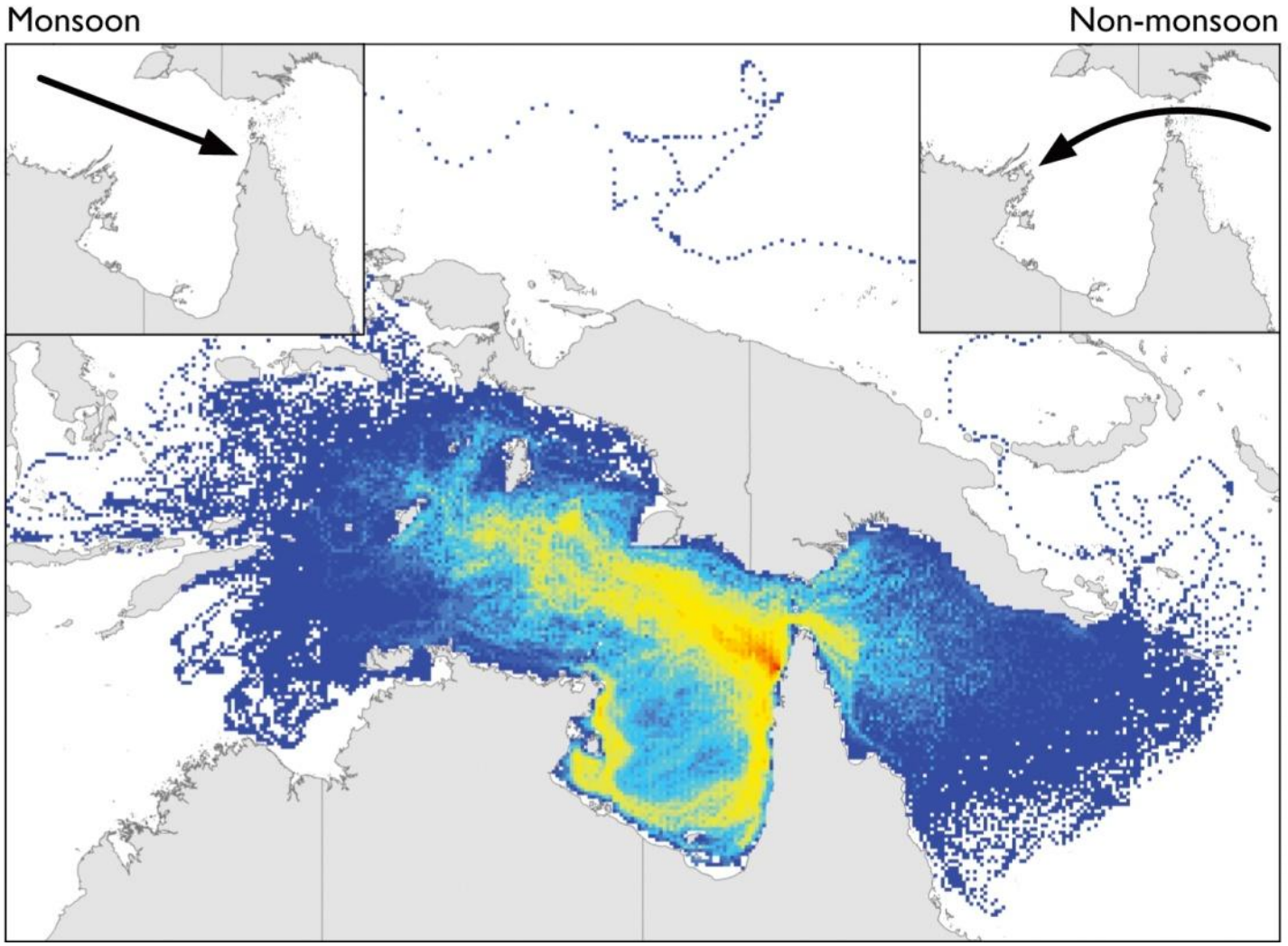
19 Hawksbill Turtles

6 Green Turtles

3 Flatback Turtles

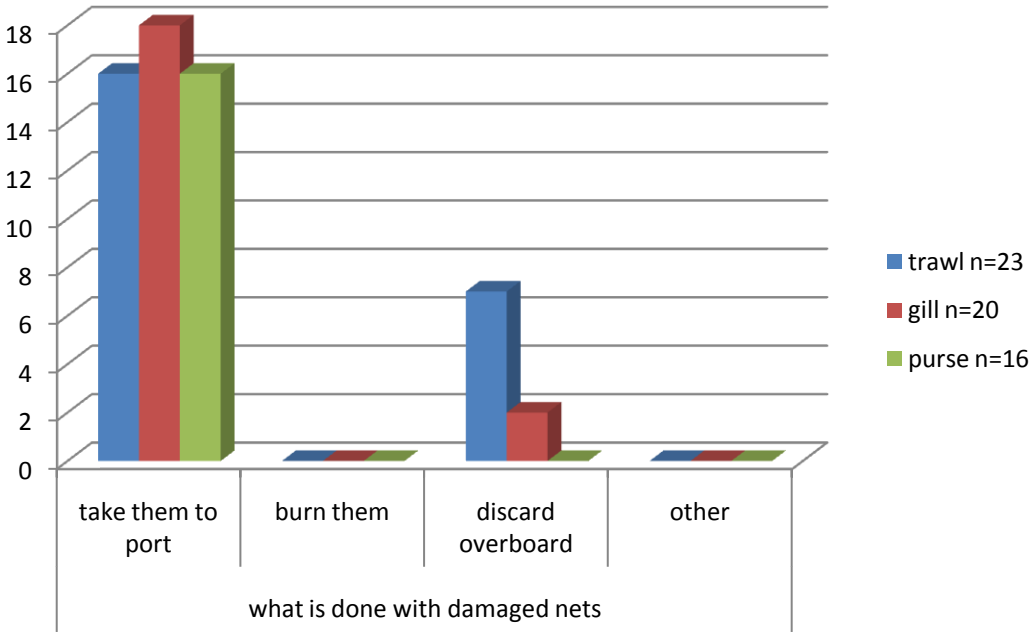
- The disposal story…..

Where do the nets come from?

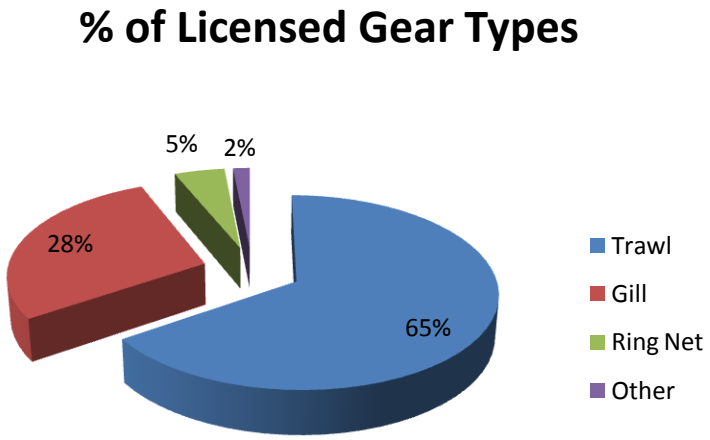


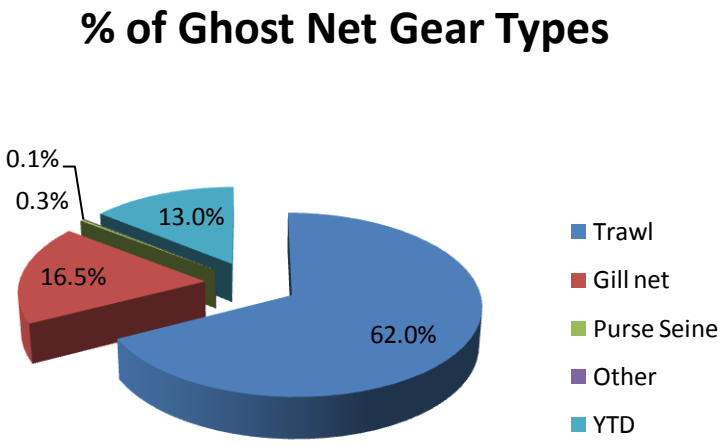
©CSIRO

Why are most ghost nets trawl nets?

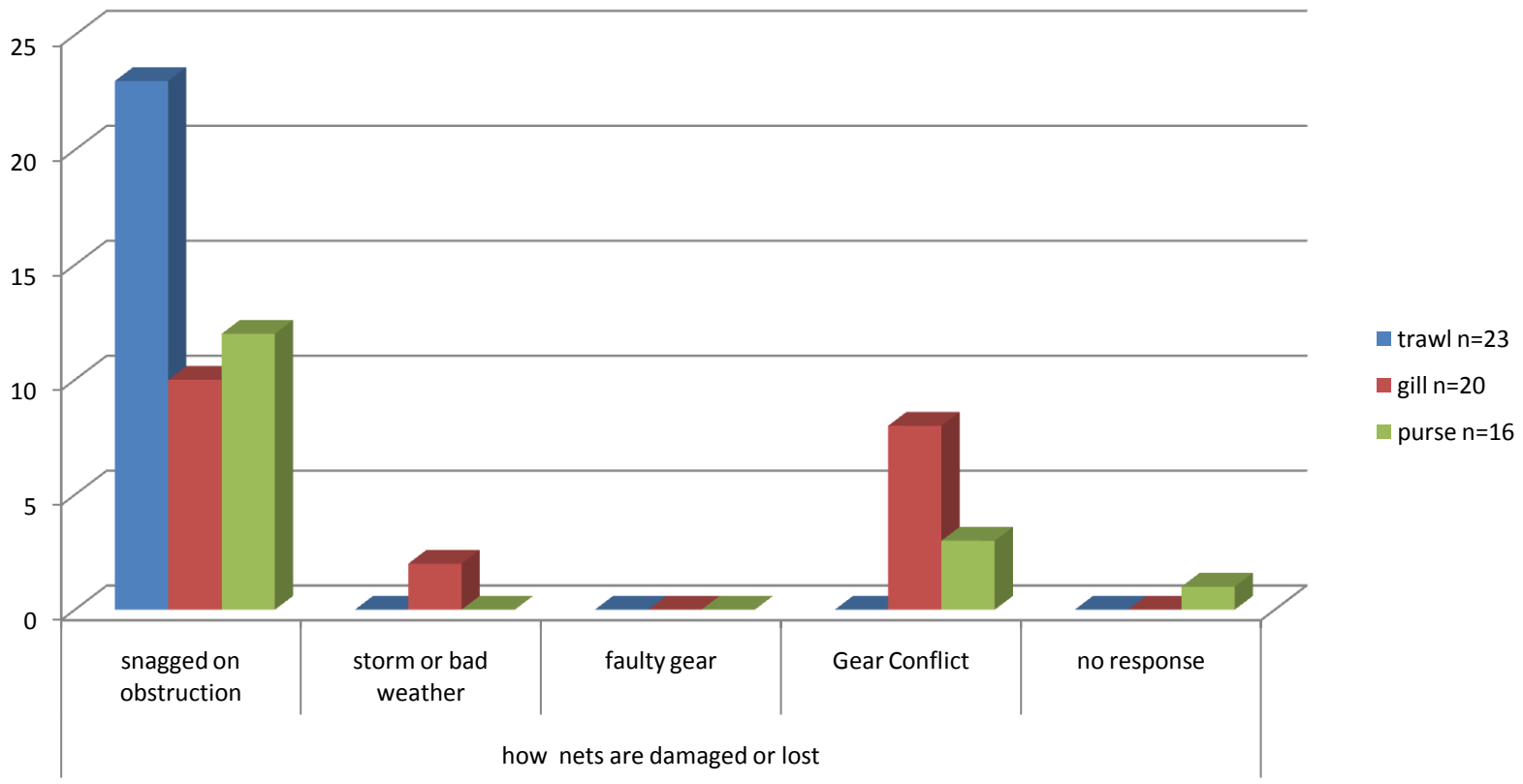


1. Trawl fisheries have the most vessels (licensed)
2. They operate in the largest area
3. They discard more nets

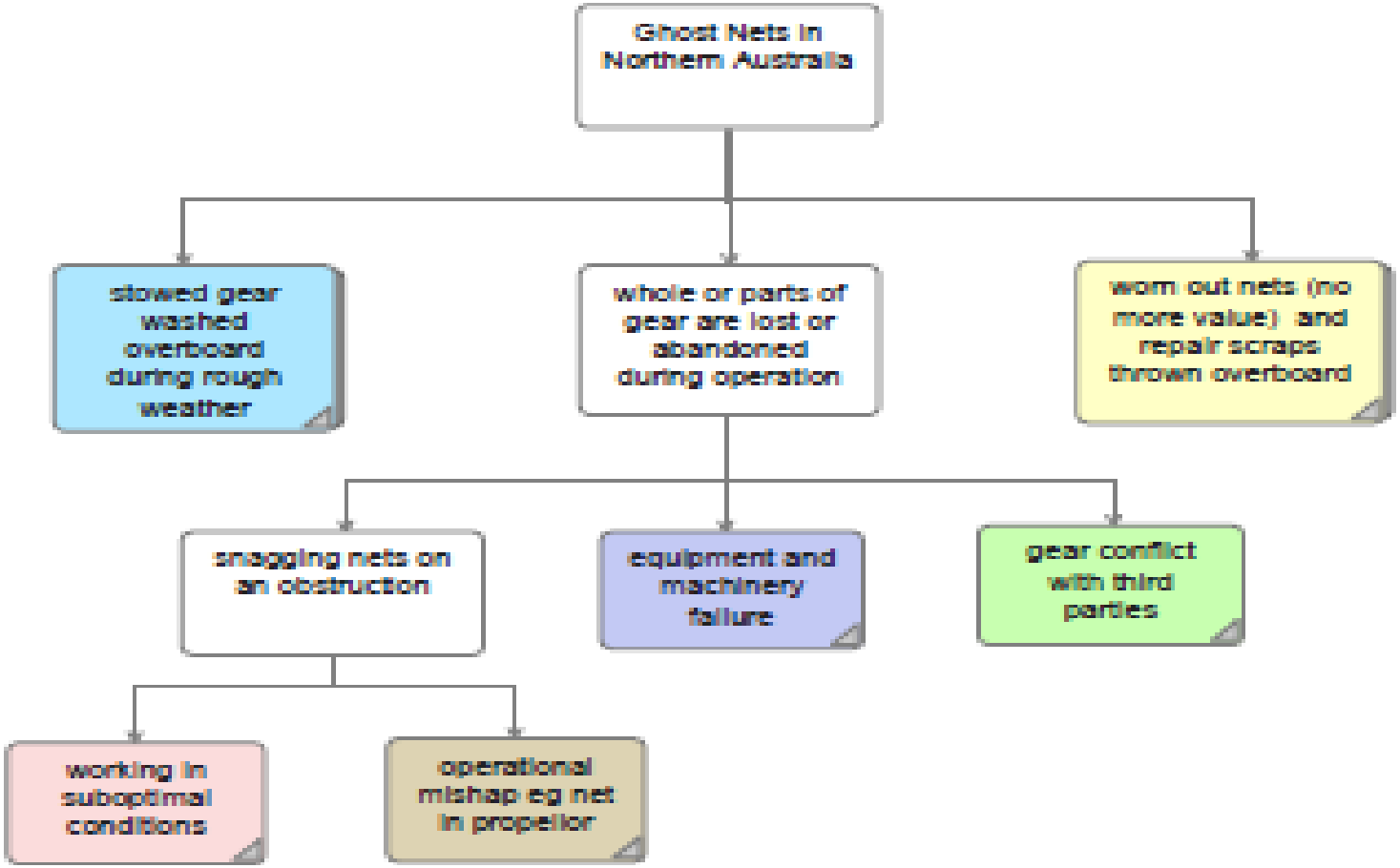




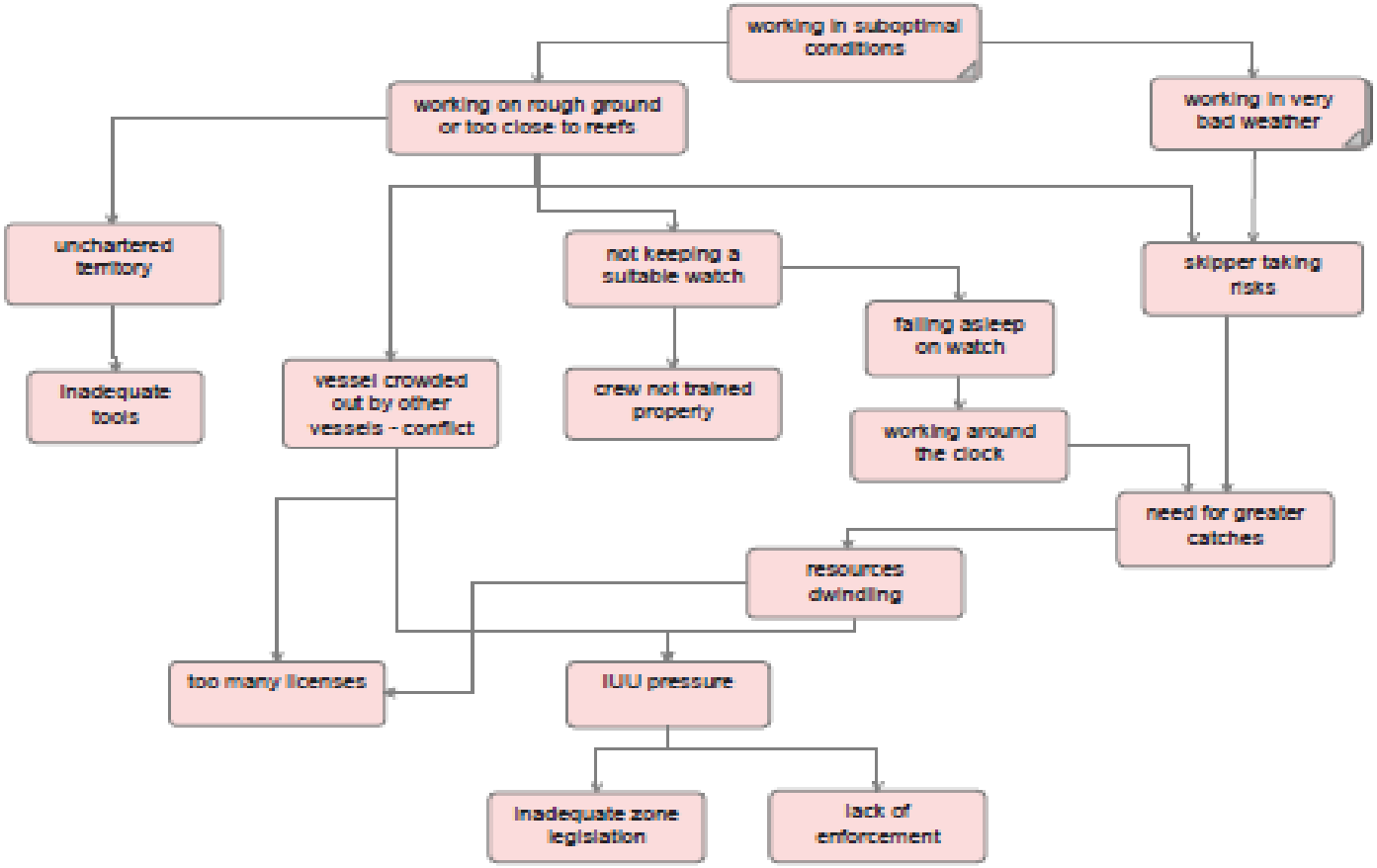
How are nets Damaged or Lost?



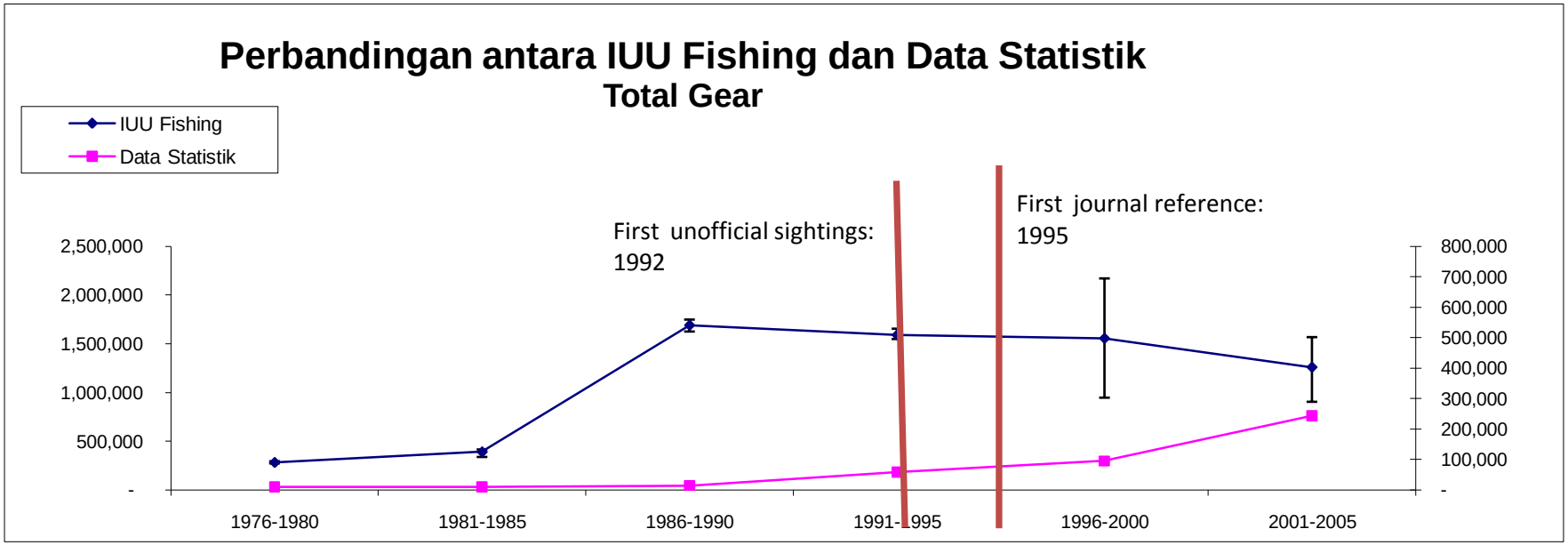
Ghost net causal tree



Snagging nets on obstruction(76%)



When did it start?



Courtesy MMAF, Indonesian government

Next Steps

- Workshop in Bali October 22-24th
- Launch of Arafura Fisheries Management Plan early 2014 by MMAF, Indonesia
- Development of Ghost Net Reduction Plan