

# FAO Effort on Combating Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)



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# ALDFG – What Is It?

- ❖ **ALDFG: Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear**
- ❖ **Significant component of marine litter**
  - Impact on ecosystem and wildlife
  - Navigation and safety hazard
- ❖ **Causes of ALDFG include:**
  - Bad weather, gear conflicts
  - Too much gear for the vessel/crew
  - Snagging on living and inert structures
  - Operator error, abandonment
  - IUU – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
- ❖ **Currently no reliable global estimates of ALDFG**
- ❖ **FAO published a Technical Paper on ALDFG in 2009**




# International Instruments Recognizing the Need to Address ALDFG and to Mark Fishing Gear

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Agreement of Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2009)**
- ❖ **UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1 on Sustainable Development Goals (2015)** - Sustainable Development Goal 14.1: Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, including ALDFG



**SDG 14 TARGETS:**

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**14.1** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.

**14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts.

**14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

**14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices.

**14.5** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas.

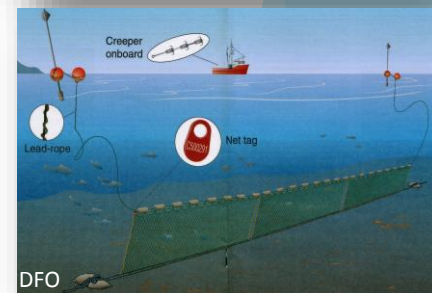
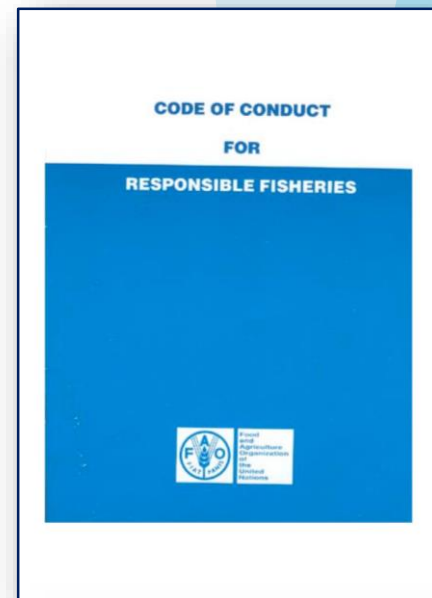
**14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

**14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
NERELLS PROGRAM

# Marking of Fishing Gear

- ❖ **The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO 1995)** states:
  - Fishing gear should be marked so that the owner of the gear can be identified
  - Marking requirements should take into account internationally recognizable gear marking systems
- ❖ **Potential Benefits of Marking Fishing Gear**
  - Assist in the prevention of gear loss and ghost fishing
    - Less marine litter
  - Reduce time spent trying to recover lost gear
  - Help the recovery of lost gear
  - Enhance the ability to apply fisheries regulatory measures, including those for the control of fishing capacity and the prevention of IUU





# FAO Progress on Gear Marking

- ❖ The first **Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear** took place in July 1991 in Sydney, British Columbia, Canada
- ❖ The recent **Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear** took place in April 2016 at FAO
- ❖ The outcome was **Draft Guidelines on Marking of Fishing Gear** for consideration for COFI 32 (2016)
- ❖ COFI 32 endorsed the work and mandated further development of the Draft Guidelines via **Technical Consultation**
- ❖ COFI 32 also encouraged FAO to conduct **pilot projects** to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines:
  - Pilot project on gillnet (Indonesia)
  - Pilot project on Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) (Global)



# What Kind of Gear Marking System Is Needed?

## ❖ System that is simple and affordable

- Easy identification of ownership, fishery of origin, and position of gear
- Easily attached or embedded to fishing gear
- Easily recognizable and identifiable
- Acceptable cost to implement

## ❖ System that is flexible

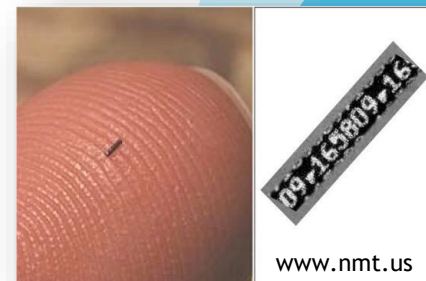
- Dependent on risk assessment
- Tailored to different fisheries, including small scale fisheries, and developing countries
- Utilizing emerging technologies



[www.ellsworthamerican.com](http://www.ellsworthamerican.com)



Patton and Cromhout, 2011



[www.nmt.us](http://www.nmt.us)

# Managing Life Cycle of Fishing Gear

- ❖ Gear marking is part of the solution to combat ALDFG
- ❖ ALDFG mitigation should include measures that prevent gear loss, prohibit discards and abandonment, mitigate impact, and remove existing ALDFG, especially from sensitive and productive areas
- ❖ The entire life cycle of fishing gear manufacture and use has to be addressed
  - Gear material manufacture
  - Gear design and fabrication
  - Storage on land and aboard vessels
  - Use, recycle, and disposal
- ❖ ALDFG must be recognized in the context of the SDGs, particularly in relation to sustainable fisheries, biodiversity and food security.
- ❖ FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, once ready, should be promoted by the Regional Seas Programs, RFMOs and RFBs,





# Pilot Projects

## ❖ Currently x2 official FAO funded projects

- Gillnets in Indonesia (project managed by World Animal Protection/Global Ghost Gear Initiative
  - Initial planning workshop
  - Field trials of gear marking methods
  - Establishment of gear marking system and lost gear reporting system
  - Use of surveys with fisheries to assess behaviours and attitudes
  - Partners include: Indonesian government, fisheries research institutions, Universities, NGOs
- FADs (globally) project managed by Safina Centre
  - Global feasibility study via worldwide survey of purse seine industry and their stakeholders

## ❖ Other projects also testing Draft Guidelines and best practice

- i.e. via Global Ghost Gear Initiative [www.ghostgear.org](http://www.ghostgear.org)



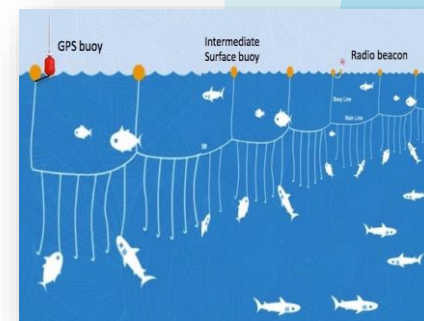


## Pilot Projects

- ❖ Provide practical case studies to demonstrate the implementation of the Draft Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear
- ❖ Provide information relating to the application of gear marks for different types of gear
- ❖ Provide practical case studies to demonstrate the implementation of other forms of fishing gear management and operations best practice
- ❖ Gather feedback that can be used to further refine the guidelines
- ❖ Enhance technical understanding
- ❖ Include capacity building elements
- ❖ Raise awareness of ALDFG and its prevention and mitigation
- ❖ Collaboration with relevant partners

# FAO's Future Work on Gear Marking and Combating ALDFG

- ❖ Holding of **FAO Technical Consultation on Marking of Fishing Gear** in February 2018 at FAO to elaborate and finalize the Guidelines
- ❖ Adoption of the International Guidelines by the **FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33)** in July 2018
- ❖ FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear became a part of **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**, and incorporated into action plans and implemented by governments and relevant RFMOs
- ❖ Collaborate with States and other relevant organizations to **develop capacity for gear marking systems** and recycling of old and unusable fishing gear
- ❖ Develop better estimates of a **global ALDFG baseline quantity** and monitoring mechanisms



Modified from: [www.kanuhawaii.org](http://www.kanuhawaii.org)



(in Farqah Abdi by A. Ouhic (ICB))



[www.osop.com.pa](http://www.osop.com.pa)

# FAO Collaboration with Other Organizations on ALDFG and Marine Litter

## ❖ Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

- Collaboration with UNEP, IMO and others
- FAO focus: reduced levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris
- Technical advice to the GPML on the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and aquaculture

## ❖ Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)

- Information exchange
- Pilot projects and workshops

## ❖ Fishing Industry, including gear manufacturers

- Advice on practical gear marking means and methods
- Engagement through workshops and projects
- Encouraging new innovations and technologies in gear marking and retrieval of existing marine litter and ALDFG



Global Partnership  
on Marine Litter

A large, stylized dark blue graphic element consisting of a thick, curved line that forms a partial circle, framing the text 'GLOBAL GHOST GEAR INITIATIVE'.

**GLOBAL  
GHOST GEAR  
INITIATIVE**



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**Thank You**

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