

Checklist for Ghost Gear Retrieval



STEP 1 : Collect Data

- Obtain GPS or map location of the site
- Determine the compass bearing and any nearby landmarks
- Record the depth of the site
- Identify the type and size of ghost gear
- Note any entangled marine life and nearby hazards
- Take photos of the site



STEP 2 : Build a Team

- Form a team of three experienced divers
- Ensure divers have over 50 logged dives and good buoyancy skills
- Assign a diver with prior experience in ghost gear retrieval to each group
- Include extra personnel on the boat to assist with lifting retrieved gear



STEP 3: Prepare Tools

- Collect necessary diving gear
- Gather cutting tools such as scissors, knives, and shears
- Obtain lift bags, gloves, rope, GPS device, and mesh bags
- Ensure the boat can carry the retrieved gear



STEP 4: Safety

- Prioritize the safety of the dive team and the marine environment
- Identify risks and plan a safe operation
- Brief all divers about potential hazards and environmental damage
- Stay close to buddies and follow the dive plan
- Be aware of air consumption and avoid dangers such as corals and venomous marine life
- Stick to the timeframe and do a headcount at the end of the operation



STEP 5: Planning and Briefing

- Brief divers on the dive plan and action plan
- Assign teams and buddy groups
- Allocate tasks such as cutting and data collection
- Remind divers not to damage marine life, maintain neutral buoyancy, and leave overgrown sections
- Identify local fishing nets and traps to avoid damage



STEP 6: Retrieval

- Follow the dive plan based on the size of the ghost gear
- Cut small gear without using lift bags
- Attach lift bags to larger gear and ensure they are evenly distributed
- Cut the net from the seabed and place any pieces in mesh bags
- Keep body away from the gear and coral reef
- Safely release any marine creatures caught in the net
- Lift the gear from the water using the boat



STEP 7: Post retrieval

- Send the ghost gear for cleaning, sorting, and recycling if possible
- Check local disposal options and do not burn any gear
- Report the retrieved ghost gear to a relevant authority and share photos