DeFishGear

# DERELICT FISHING GEAR AND FISHING FOR LITTER PROJECT GUIDELINES

## Introduction

Derelict Fishing Gear collection (DFG) and Fishing for Litter (FFL) are initiatives that aim to reduce marine litter by involving the fishermen and to collect derelict nets directly by fishermen including the removal of the so called "ghost nets" at sea. The initiatives want also raise awareness of the significance of the problem amongst fishing community.
In order to ensure that these kind of projects reach the required level of success, project coordinator need to include some essential elements:
Strategic planning
The first stage of any DFG/FFL project is to understand the need for the project and what it is trying to achieve. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely,) objectives and the related results need to be established along with measures of success and key milestones where progress can be reviewed.
Project development
The benefits of a DFG/FFL project should be well clear from the beginning so there is a link to the success of the project and the impact on fishermen. The activities in these projects are wide-ranging and varied, and can include many processes and services. The development of any of these needs to be closely linked to meeting defined objectives and adding value to the project.
Communication
Implementing a DFG/ FFL project requires that fishermen understand why the project is beneficial and potential need to be convinced by the advantages of the action. In essence, communicating the message of why new or different is good will help counteract the typical reluctance to change.
People
There are many key stakeholders involved in a DFG/FFL project who all have a specific role to play and who all have a vested interest in the project's success.

## Objectives

The objective of these Guidelines is to collect the issues that fishermen manager or a responsible of fishery port should consider when setting up any kind of DFG/FFL project and how they should overcome problems that could occur.
It is important to point out that the fisheries sector is very diverse and the problems that fishermen will encounter in each port will be different depending on the local reality. A detailed understanding of the fisheries sector is required to design effective measures, tailored to particular locations and fisheries.
These Guidelines therefore aim to provide also an initial understanding of the various causes and impacts of marine litter, and of the categories of stakeholders that should be targeted when designing FFL project and measures to realize.

## Methodology

These Guidelines adopt the "Five Ws and One H" problem solving method that helps to explore the problems by challenging them with these set of common questions. These are: Who, What, Where, When Why and How. Every DFG/FFL project is structured in:
WHY? Objectives.



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After starting the project, it is important to define the overall and specific objectives of the project. This will help to ensure that the project activities contribute to achieve objectives that should be realistic and based on local situation.

WHAT? Results

Defining a set of results will help to monitor whether the project is on track to meeting its objectives and should be specified using quantitative indicators. If this is not practical, results can be described in a qualitative manner. Targets can also be established by setting out the value for each indicator that you expect to achieve in your project by a given point in time.

WHO? Responsibilities

Appointing fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port as the project coordinator will help to ensure overall success of the DFG/FFL project. The composition of the project team will depend on the size and demands of the project, but some key stakeholder can never be absent. They are: fishermen, port authorities, waste management and recycling companies and policy maker.

The role of the project coordinator should involve the following steps:

- establishing a project team,
- developing a project plan, including objectives and results using indicators and targets for monitoring and evaluation,
- identifying and contacting participants in the DFG recovery (and develop agreements with them) sourcing and ordering services and supplies (equipment, containers, etc.) and distributing them,
- organizing meetings for participating fishermen,
- monitoring and evaluating project progress and results,
- communication the results of monitoring and evaluation reports and modifying the project approach as appropriate.

WHERE? Locations

Identification and subsequent selection of the most appropriate areas at the port to manage DFG/FFL project is vital to making your activities efficient and effective, depending on the specific project. In order to guarantee marine environmental protection, every port must be equipped with the appropriate facilities for gear and waste collection and storage.

The site at port where collect ML, DFG and ghost net must be in a port area under the jurisdiction of the relevant local authority (Coast Guard or Port Authority). DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC concerning waste, repealing some prior directives foresee that "*Preliminary storage of waste within the definition of collection is understood as a storage activity pending its collection in facilities where waste is unloaded in order to permit its preparation for further transport for recovery or disposal elsewhere. The distinction between preliminary storage of waste pending collection and storage of waste pending treatment should be made, in view of the objective of this Directive, according to the type of waste, the size and the time period of storage and the objective of the collection.*"(Paragraph 16). The site must be classified as a temporary/preliminary storage site or, in accordance with the legislation on waste, as R13 or D15, or ecological waste collection site or a private area of the fishing company. In both cases, the area must be fenced off and access permitted only to authorize people. R13 is "*Storage of waste pending any of the operations numbered R1 to R 12 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced*" (Annex II Recovery Operations, Dir. 2008/98/EC). The storage of waste pending an operation determines the end of waste, establishing the first step in material recovery and recycling. D15 is a "*Storage pending any of the operations numbering D1 to D 14 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced*" (Annex I Disposal Operations, Dir. 2008/98/EC).

Otherwise, objective of DFG/FFL project could be an identification and realization of a gear and waste collection point at port.

WHEN? Sequence/Planning

In order to organize a successful project, a plan should be developed, following specific information that have been developed under the project. It's important to assess the specific local situation in order to

define the timing of implementation of the project. Understanding the local situation should be the starting point for the project plan. A situation analysis should give a clear understanding of the problem of the area, which is needed to develop the objectives and to select and design project activities that fit well in the project area and that will allow to achieve objectives and to identify obstacles.

When planning a DFG/FFL project, the project coordinator should consult the key stakeholders to identify the best measures to the needs of fishermen. The plan should include information on location, types of gear or ML that will be retrieved; methods and equipment that will be used; participants in the project.; environmental impacts of the operation (related to sensitive vegetation on the sea bed; risk of destroying spawning areas, etc.) and any mitigation measures that will be taken; potential health and safety risks and how they are being addressed; notifications that must be given and all permits that must be obtained; arrangements for landing, disposal and/or recycling of the gear and reporting arrangements that will be followed.

HOW? Activities

This section will include information that project coordinator should provide fishermen on activities to be done for different kind of project.

These Guidelines are divided in three sections:

1. Marine litter management caught from fishery activity
2. Derelict fishing gear management at port
3. Ghost net recovery project at sea.

# 1. Marine litter management

**WHY? Objectives**

Marine litter (ML) is defined as any solid, persistent, manufactured or transformed material which is later dumped, abandoned or lost at sea or along the coast. Thus, marine litter are objects made and used daily and then abandoned or lost along the coastline or at sea, including those materials which, abandoned on land, eventually reach the sea by means of rivers, wind, runoff and urban waste water. Marine litter is collected by fishermen during fishing activities. From that point, the fisherman is the person responsible for its appropriate management and treatment.

Specific project objectives could be:

- general improving the marine environment in the intervention area by reducing ML,
- promoting behavioral change in the fishing industry,
- achieving an effective disposal system for ML in the port area,
- raising awareness of ML issues and reducing the impact of ML on the tourism industry in the port area,
- improving understanding of the characteristics of the ML problem in the fishing area.

**WHAT? Results**

The results of ML retention projects are not only about the number of tons of litter removed from the sea – they can also encourage changes to attitudes and working practices in the fishing industry. Marine litter projects can contribute to industry-wide changes so that fishermen no longer routinely discard ML caught in their nets at sea. This still widespread practice is mostly a result of the limited storage capacity on board as well as the potential additional costs for specific waste receptacles and fees for landing the litter in ports. ML projects can help remove these financial and practical obstacles that prevent fishermen from retaining ML on board and discharging it in an environmentally sound manner. The projects do this by setting up an effective waste management system in fishing ports, so that fishermen can discharge ML at no additional charge to them.

Some examples of expected results, qualitative and quantitative indicators that the fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port, as a project coordinator could consider in a ML retention project, are the following:

- better community awareness of the causes and impacts of the marine litter problem in the area.
- Improved knowledge of the type and location of marine litter in the area
- ML is managed in an environmentally sound manner. Indicators could be: % of ML disposed of at a licensed engineered landfill, % of ML incinerated in a licensed facility with energy recovery or % of ML recycled.
- ML is removed from the sea. Indicators could be the tons of ML collected,
- fishermen collect marine litter. Indicator could be the number of vessels participating in the project by year.

**WHO? Responsibilities**

The success of the ML project will depend on the daily management of the project and on regular contact with participating fishermen, either through individual contact with the vessels or through fishermen's

organization. Appointing fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port as the ML project coordinator will help to ensure overall achievement of the objectives.
In general, this may require the following actions:

- developing a project plan, including indicators and targets for monitoring and evaluation,
- identifying and contacting other participants in the project,
- developing agreements with other project participants,
- sourcing and ordering supplies (bags, containers, etc.) and distributing them,
- organizing meetings for fishermen,
- contacting the firms authorized to collect, manage and treat the waste for its eventual disposal of, companies dealing with recycling
- contacting the firms authorized to transport waste and to organize the transporting of the material, guaranteeing compliance with the correct procedures,
- complying with the legal requirements regarding waste traceability,
- recruiting fishermen to participate in the project,
- monitoring and evaluating project results.

**WHERE? Locations**

The site where ML nets should be in a port area under the jurisdiction of the relevant local authority (Coast Guard or Port Authority). The area must be equipped with the appropriate facilities for waste collection and storage.

**WHEN? Sequence/Planning**

A ML project can be activated at any time, but it depend on the fishing season. Project coordinator should verify a present of a site on land to be used as a preliminary storage area for the waste. If it not present, the ML project could consist in identifying and classifying a site as a specific area according to the regulations on waste.
A project plan should include information on:

- management team.
- objectives, results, indicators and targets for monitoring and evaluation,
- types of waste that will be recovery,
- participants in the recovery operation,
- arrangements for disposal and/or recycling of the ML.
- measures to be done for the recovery and management activities.
- manner of filling Weekly data collection form (Annex 1).

**HOW? Activities**

Fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port inform fishermen on activities to be done for DFG recovery. Activities should take into account are the following:
<u>Storage on board</u>

- Separating the fishery product from the marine litter, to avoid contact between the product for human consumption and the waste for disposal, placing it in the appropriate containers, bins or big bags. Separate the fishery product from the marine litter, to avoid contact between the product for human consumption and the waste for disposal, placing it in the appropriate containers, bins or big bags. Only litter caught in the net should be considered marine litter. The garbage produced on board during fishing activity should be disposed as usual. No object of marine litter will be collected if there is suspicion of hazard or adverse effect on the stability of the vessel.

<u>Management and storage on land</u>

- Carrying ML at a site on land dedicated for waste collected. Assessing the quantity and condition of materials to establish if they are to be recovered and recycled or disposed. If earmarked for

recycling: separate the different types of litter using the appropriate containers for sorted waste collection (plastic, glass, metal, etc..). If earmarked for disposal: store the material in a D15 classified area for later collection by the company responsible, using the appropriate containers for non-sorted waste collection.

Communication

- Informing the Port authority if in the fishing area the marine litter is present in quantities that create danger to fishing activity.
- Informing other fishermen about collection of marine litter and encouraged them to do the same.

## 2. Derelict fishing gear management at port

**WHY? Objectives**

Fishing gear that the fisher/company decides to replace because it is worn out or damaged or no longer usable in fishing became derelict fishing gear (DFG). This also includes nets and other materials that are a part of cages for fish farming at sea and the plastic nets (mussel socks) used in bivalve mollusk farming.
Once they are no longer used, this gear becomes waste and as such must be treated according to European and national legislation. In this case, the producer of the waste is the fishery or aquaculture operator and is therefore responsible for the correct management, recovery and treatment.
The most important impact is related to the clean-up costs that local or port authorities and tourism sector need to pay to make port areas free from DFG.
Involving fishermen in the retrieval of DFG can promote their role as guardians of the marine environment, helping them contribute to protecting their working environment and reducing the problem of DFG in their fishing area.
Specific project objectives could be:

- improving the understanding of the problem of DFG in the fishing area,
- raising awareness of the DFG problem and of the negative impacts of DFG in the environment and on the various stakeholders,
- behavioral change among the various stakeholders,
- retrieval of DFG from fishing areas.

**WHAT? Results**

Possible indicators and targets could be:

- increase knowledge of the DFG problem (causes and impacts of DFG; types, amounts and location) and awareness (Number of DFG workshops organized; Number of fishermen that participated in DFG training workshops; Number of project website visitors),
- set up DFG prevention, mitigation and remedial measures to the relevant stakeholders (fishermen, port authorities, gear manufacturers, recycling companies and policy makers), and encourage actions and changes to attitudes and working practices, to reduce the impact of DFG,
- recovery DFG at port (number of fishermen participating in DFG retrieval operations; total amount of nets collected (tons, meters) by year; average amount of nets collected per fisherman per day. Possible environment indicators could be: Waste management rates (% of total amount of DFG collected), recycling (%); landfilling (%) and Incineration with energy recovery),
- development of an effective waste management system, with adequate and affordable port reception facilities in all fishing ports so that fishermen can properly discharge their old nets. European law provides that fishing ports authority should ensure that convenient and ‘friendly’ reception facilities are available for the disposal of disused fishing gear and other wastes from vessels (DIRECTIVE 2000/59/EC).

**WHO? Responsibilities**

Appointing fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port as the DFG project coordinator will help to ensure overall achievement of the objectives. He will be responsible of the correct actions that the stakeholders should carry out for a successful of the project.

**WHERE? Locations**

The site where DFG can storage may be in a port area under the jurisdiction of the relevant local authority (Coast Guard or Port Authority) or areas of the cooperative.
In any case, both solutions must be fenced off and allow access only to authorized persons.

**WHEN? Sequence/Planning**

A DFG project can be activated at any time, regardless of the fishing season or bad weather condition.
He should verify a present of a site on land to be used as a preliminary storage area for the DFG. If it not present, the DFG project should consist in identifying and classifying a site as a preliminary store according to the regulations.
A project plan should include information on:

- area where gear should be placed,
- types of gear that will be recovery,
- participants in the recovery operation,
- arrangements for disposal and/or recycling of the gear.
- measures to be done for the recovery and management activities.
- reporting arrangements for DFG and filling Weekly data collection form (Annex 1).

**HOW? Activities**

Fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port inform fishermen on activities to be done for DFG recovery. Activities should take into account are the following:

<u>Dismantling of fishing nets/gear from vessels</u>

- Dismantling fishing nets and gear which is no longer intended for use on the fishing vessel.
- Collecting the socks for mussels used and kept on board the vessel until docking in port.
- Collecting the nets and materials used for sea farming which are to be replaced and which are kept on board the vessel until docking in port.

<u>Management and storage on land</u>

- Assessing the quality and condition of the recovered nets and other materials making up the recovered fishing gear (rigging, weights, etc…) to establish if they are to be recovered and recycled or disposed.
    - If marked out for recycling: separating the Nylon nets pieces from other materials and store them separately for further transporting.
    - If marked out for disposal: storing the material for later collection by the contracted company.

<u>Collection and transporting</u>

- Contacting firms authorized to collect, manage and dispose of waste or, companies that deal with recycling and agree on the system, time period and quantities to be handled.
- Contacting firms authorized to transport waste and to organize the transporting of the material, guaranteeing compliance with the correct procedures in order to avoid administrative sanctions or fines and to agree on the system, time period and quantities to be transported.
- Complying with the legal requirements regarding waste traceability (Waste Identification Form, loading/unloading log), in cooperation with the firms handling the material collection.

<u>Communication</u>

- Informing other fishermen about collection of DFG and encouraged them to do the same. Small-scale fishing communities should also be encouraged to recycle nylon and synthetic nets, using the proceeds for the benefit of the community.

# 3. Ghost net management

**WHY? Objectives**

Ghost nets are nets lost during fishing activities due to obstacles, grounding dangers or particularly adverse weather and sea conditions. As far as "ghost nets" are concerned, the actual number lost at sea over the years and their location still remains uncertain, as well as the time needed for them to become ineffective in catching fish. Sometimes, when gears are used or old, the fisherman decides to abandon them at sea due to absence of adequate and affordable port reception facilities or when facing the complexity and cost of the relocation and recovery operations.

Once recovered from the sea, the ghost nets are classified as waste where the producer and fishing company is not known, and the scuba-diving association or other subjects involved in their recovery become those responsible for their management and treatment.

Specific project objectives could be:

- raising awareness of the DFG problem and of the negative impacts of DFG in the environment and on the various stakeholders,
- increasing knowledge of the problem of ghost nets in the marine environment and of the negative impacts in the intervention area and on the various stakeholders
- behavioural change among the various stakeholders. The project may raise the awareness of fishermen on the measures that they can take to reduce the presence of ghost nets at sea.
- recovery of ghost nets from fishing areas. This objective could be realize if fishermen are already aware of the consequences of the presence of ghost nets at sea for marine environment.

**WHAT? Results**

Possible indicators and targets could be:

- increase knowledge of the problem (causes and impacts of ghost nets; types, amounts and location) and awareness (number of workshops organized and number of fishermen that participated in workshops; number of project website visitors),
- set up prevention, mitigation and remedial measures to the relevant stakeholders (fishermen, port authorities, gear manufacturers, recycling companies and policy makers), and encourage actions and changes to attitudes and working practices, to reduce the impact of ghost nets at sea,
- recovery ghost nets (number of fishermen participating in ghost nets recovery operations; total amount of nets collected (tons, meters) by year; average amount of nets collected per fisherman per day. Possible environment indicators could be: Waste management rates (% of total amount of ghost nets collected), recycling (%); landfilling (%) and Incineration with energy recovery),
- development of an effective waste management system, with adequate and affordable port reception facilities in all fishing ports so that fishermen can properly discharge their old nets. European law provides that fishing ports authority should ensure that convenient and 'friendly' reception facilities are available for the disposal of disused fishing gear and other wastes from vessels (DIRECTIVE 2000/59/EC).

**WHO? Responsibilities**

Appointing fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port as the project coordinator will help to ensure overall achievement of the objectives.

**WHERE? Locations**

The project coordinator should identify fishing area where lost nets have accumulated and the site where ghost nets will be storage at port.

The first location could be identify through desk research that provide basic information on ghost nets lost in the fishing area. These information can be combined with detailed information coming from consultation with fishermen and divers. Finally, it is possible to verify correct data using underwater inspection equipment, such as remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

The site where collect ghost nets must be in a port area under the jurisdiction of the relevant local authority (Coast Guard or Port Authority).

**WHEN? Sequence/Planning**

A ghost net recovery project is better activated during the summer, when the weather and sea conditions are better and the visibility in the water allow divers to recovery ghost net at sea Project coordinator should verify a present of a site on land to be used as a preliminary storage area for the ghost net. If it not present, the project could consist in identifying and classifying a site as a preliminary store according to the regulations, because when ghost nets recovered from the sea, they became waste.

A project plan should include information on:

- area at sea where ghost nets should be recovery,
- types of gear that will be recovery,
- participants in the recovery operation,
- arrangements for disposal and/or recycling of the gear.
- measures to be done for the recovery and management activities.
- manner of reporting for ghost nets and filling Ghost net collection form (Annex 2).

**HOW? Activities**

Activities that project coordinator (Fishermen manager or the responsible of fishery port) should take into account and inform fishermen on how ghost nets management have to be done, are the following:

<u>Localization at sea</u>

- Collecting information on the areas and stretches of sea where the presence of ghost nets, grounding dangers, derelicts or obstacles are known and where fishing nets could be snagged, through interviews with fishermen, questionnaires, and indications from scuba-divers and bibliographical studies.
- Plotting on a nautical chart the geographical coordinates of the relevant area perimeter and, thereby, be able to mark the exact location and organize a ROV (Remote Operating Vehicle) monitoring.

<u>Ghost net recovery organization</u>

- Informing the relevant local authority (Port Authority) of the recovery activity for nets lost at sea, communicating the reason for the survey, information about the vessel, the geographical coordinates of the areas concerned and the technical personnel on board. If a fishing vessel is used, to fulfil all obligations required for the authorizations for on board technical personnel. If a recreational vessel is used, this procedure is not required.
- Organizing a preparatory meeting with the vessel owner, the technicians and the scuba-divers to establish and agree on the recovery methods and times.

<u>ROV Monitoring</u>

- Using suitable equipment necessary to record and check the presence of the nets to be later removed: a ROV and a GPS interfaced with a data gathering and navigation system, as well as a support vessel for the technical operators. The monitoring will have to provide a series of geo-referenced videos and images of ghost net presence in the selected areas.

Management and storage on land

- Verifying a site on land to be used as a preliminary storage area for the recovered nets, which, once retrieved from the sea become waste and as such must be dealt with in accordance with European and national legislation. In both cases, the area must be fenced off and access permitted only to authorized people.
- Assessing the quality and condition of the derelict nets and other materials making up the recovered fishing gear (floaters, sinkers, etc…) to establish if they are to be recovered and recycled or disposed of.

Collection and transporting

- Contacting firms authorized to collect, manage and treat waste for disposal or, companies which deal with recycling and agree on the system, the time period and quantities to be handled.
- Contacting firms authorized to transport waste1 and organize the transporting of the material, guaranteeing compliance with the correct procedures to avoid any administrative sanctions or fines and agree on the system, time period and quantities to be transported.
- Complying with the legal requirements regarding waste traceability (Waste Identification Form, loading/unloading log), in cooperation with the firms handling the material collection.

Communication

- Informing the Port authority if in the fishing area the ghost nets are present in quantities that create danger to fishing activity. If the negative impact on the environment from the retrieval operation would exceed the damage caused by the ghost net, it is more appropriate to leave the ghost net in place or to disable the gear (for example, reducing its catching efficiency by bundling it), instead of retrieving it. The retrieval plan should evaluate these options.
- Informing other fishermen the damages that ghost notes cause in the sea and encourage them to recovery.

[1] Article 26 Registration, DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC.

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**Annex 1** Weekly data collection form (derelict fishing gear and marine litter)

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## WEEKLY DATA COLLECTION FORM

| GENERAL INFORMATIONS | |
|---|---|
| Data collector<br>_____ | Date<br>from _____ to _____ |
| Country<br>_____ | Port<br>_____ |

| WP 6.2 FISHING GEAR OR FARMING NETS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ❑ Nets (nylon) | Kg_____ | ❑ Shellfish farming socks | Kg_____ |
| ❑ Nets (other material) | Kg_____ | ❑ Fish farming nets | Kg_____ |
| ❑ Other (specify) _____ | Kg_____ | Other (specify) _____ | Kg_____ |

| WP 6.3 MARINE LITTER | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MOST COMMON MARINE LITTER, BY TYPE (Kg) | | | |
| ❑ Metal | Kg_____ | ❑ Wood (machined) | Kg_____ |
| ❑ Plastic | Kg_____ | ❑ Wood (natural) | Kg_____ |
| ❑ Glass | Kg_____ | ❑ Other (specify) _____ | Kg_____ |
| ❑ Rubber | Kg_____ | | |

| NOTES |
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## Annex 2 Ghost nets collection form

| | | | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boat name | | | |
| UE registration number | | | |
| Fishing equipment | | | |
| Port | | | |
| Collector name | | | |
| Date | | | |
| Sea zone | | | |
| Latitude | | | |
| Longitude | | | |
| Depth (m) | | | |
| Divers involved (number) | | | |
| Immersion time (min) | | | |
| Visibility | insuff. (<10 m) ☐ | suff. (>10 m) ☐ | |
| Sea bed | sand ☐ / mud ☐ | rock ☐ | |
| Barriers/ wreck | Yes ☐ | No ☐ | |
| Type of barriers | natural ☐ | artificial ☐ | |
| Area dimensions (square meters) | | | |
| Type of nets / gear /materials recovered at sea | | | |
| Distribution of recovered material | scattered ☐ | concentrated ☐ | |
| Total weight (kgs) | | | |
| Photo attached | yes ☐ | no ☐ | |