

GLOBAL  
GHOST GEAR  
INITIATIVE



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Catching more than fish  
Ghost Gear & Circularity

# The Plastic that ends up in the oceans.



Bottles and caps



Cutlery



Straws, cups, lids, plates



Cigarette butts



Food wrappers




Bags and grocery bags

Source:

Joint Research Centre, European Commission (2017)

NOAA, National Ocean Service A guide to plastic in the ocean(2017)

A fishing net is cast on the water's surface, with several fish caught inside. The scene is illuminated by the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, creating a shimmering effect on the water. The net is a dark green color, and the fish are silvery with some orange-brown markings. The overall mood is somber and reflective, highlighting the impact of plastic fishing gear on marine life.

ONE more  
plastic source  
for the oceans...

# Ghost Gear

**A**bandoned,

**L**ost or

**D**iscarded

**F**ishing

**G**ears



# Some Global Figures



46-70% Of the weight of microplastic in the ocean consists of fishing gear\*

640'000 Tonnes of ghost gear enters our ocean every year\*\*

\* Source: Nature, Evidence that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is rapidly accumulating plastic (2018)

\*\* Source: UNEP & FAO Report on ALDFG (2009)

# Ghost fishing

## Incidental capture

- Fish
- Marine mammals
- Sharks
- Turtles
- Seabirds
- Any tangled living creature

# Costal & marine ecosystem damage

## Habitat destruction

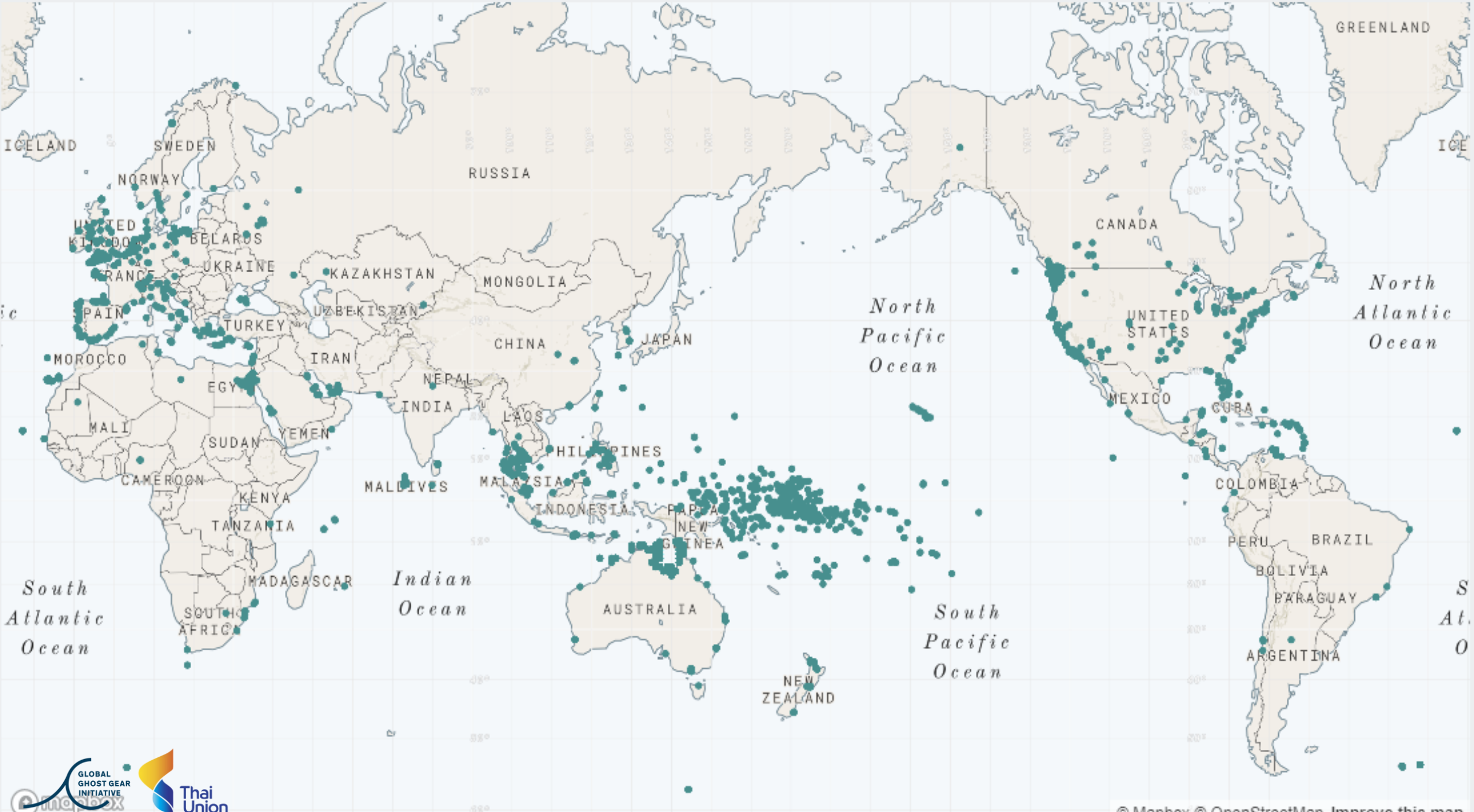
- Coral reef
- Beaches
- Mangroves
- Seabed

# Fish stocks reduction

- Estimated 5-30% of harvestable fish stocks killed by ALDFG every year
- Major threat to **global food security, coastal communities and fisher livelihoods.**

Source: NOAA Marine Debris Program. 2015 Report on the impacts of “ghost fishing”







ENVIRONMENT

# 21st dugong found dead in fish nets off Phang Nga

Published 1 week ago on October 2, 2019  
By The Thaiger



Photo: TravelforSenses.com

# Reasons for loss



Weather conditions



Gear is lost

Vessels fishing illegally are more likely to create ghost gear

Gear is abandoned



By fishing at night



Through gear conflict



To evade capture by authorities

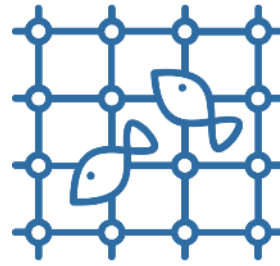


To avoid being denied entry to port

Reduce Prevent  
Recover Mitigate  
Recycle Cure



# Best Practice Framework



Gear  
manufacturers



Regulators &  
institutions



Fishers



Research &  
academia



Port  
operators



NGOs



Seafood  
companies



Brand owners,  
retailers

# Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship





# Scaling up solutions around the world



# A more circular economy

Most fishing gear is made of highly recyclable material (i.e. PA6, PE, PP)

Biggest challenges are:

- consistent supply
- clean enough feedstock
- Logistics for collection & transportation



# Alaska: Net Recycling Phase 2

**80** END-OF-LIFE NETS

TOTALLING

**124 TONNES**

MADE IT TO PLASTIX FROM ALASKA  
FOR RECYCLING IN 2017.

WITH A FURTHER

**71 TONNES**

IN 2018

Vessels

Ports

Transportation

Recycling

# Indonesia: Gear Marking to fight ALDFG & illegal fishing



**3<sup>rd</sup> phase:**

Net marking at **manufacture level**.  
Pilot scheme for reporting,  
recovery & recycling

GGGI + FAO + Indonesian and Dutch governments

# HEALTHY SEAS®

a journey from waste to wear

[www.healthyseas.org](http://www.healthyseas.org)

- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Jeans
- ✓ Carpets
- ✓ Swimwear
- ✓ Garments





fourth element

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

- **OceanPositive Products:** Swimwear, Hydro leggings, rashguards, non-neoprene wetsuit system, thermocline all made with Econyl® fibre or recycled nylon.
- **Mission 2020:** initiative to encourage all organizations within the diving community to make a pledge to reduce single-use plastic in their business practices.
- **By World Ocean's Day 2020:** elimination of all single-use plastic from their packaging





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



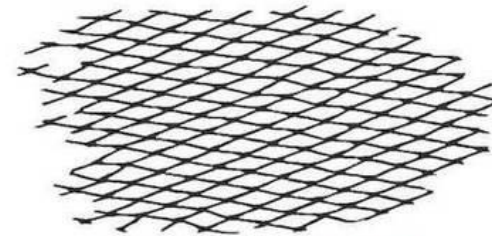
**OCEANWEAVE**  
RECLAIMED  
FISHNET



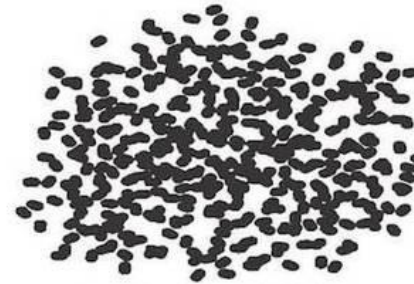
# Nets to Decks



[www.bureo.co](http://www.bureo.co)



Fishing nets are collected from the coast of Chile



Nets are made into fishnet formula pellets



Pellets are formed into premium skateboard decks



# A Global Solution

**Reduce, Remove and Recycle**

Loss is **not intentional**

**Industry** engagement

Create the **infrastructure**

**Opportunities exists** as more gear can be recycled

Develop **innovative solutions**



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**Catching  
more  
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You!**