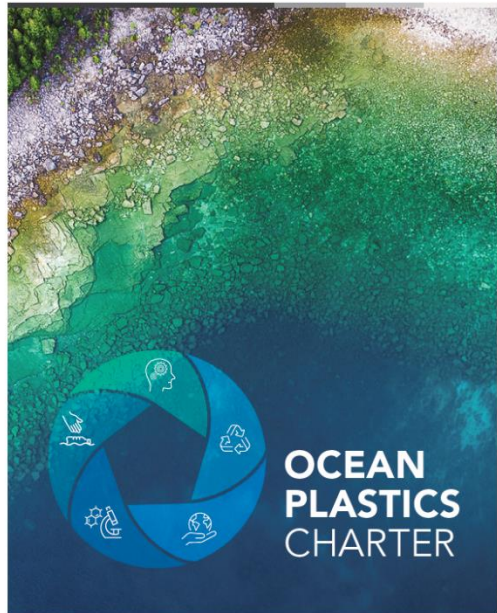




Canada's Zero Plastic Waste Agenda: Tackling Ghost Gear



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Ghost Gear Program

- Enhancing reporting requirements for abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear and considerations for introducing **mandatory marking of fishing gear** are among key measures in the Action Plan for the Reduction of marine plastic litter generated from, and retrieved by, fishing vessels.
- Identification or marking of fishing gear is broken down into two different components;
 - (1) identification by labelling gear or **gear marking** (e.g., float, buoy or tag attached to the gear)
 - (2) identification of fishery by color code or **rope marking**.

Gear Marking

- Prohibited for any person to set, operate, or leave any unattended fishing gear (other than mobile gear or handlines) unless the gear is marked
- Vessel registration number, or the gear owner's name shall be painted on or otherwise securely affixed to a tag, float, or buoy attached to the gear.
- Numbered gear tags used as described in conditions of licence.
 - Tags enable monitoring of limitations on amount of gear used in particular fisheries
 - Enforcement tool to monitor area restrictions and ensure closed-times are being respected.



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Implementation of Mandatory Rope Marking Requirements

- In 2017, numerous reports of North Atlantic right whales being entangled in fishing gear in Canadian and United States waters.
- In 2018, Canada announced measures to protect marine mammals.
- By end of 2020, rope marking requirements fully implemented, applying to all non-tended fixed gear fisheries in Eastern Canada.
- Canada aims to differentiate gear from the different fisheries, regions and sub-regions in Canada to support efforts in gathering data on the circumstances in which gear is lost.
- Rope marking and its associated mandatory colour scheme for marking are required by conditions of licences.

Coloured Rope Marking Requirements

Interlacing Coloured Twine Within Existing Rope

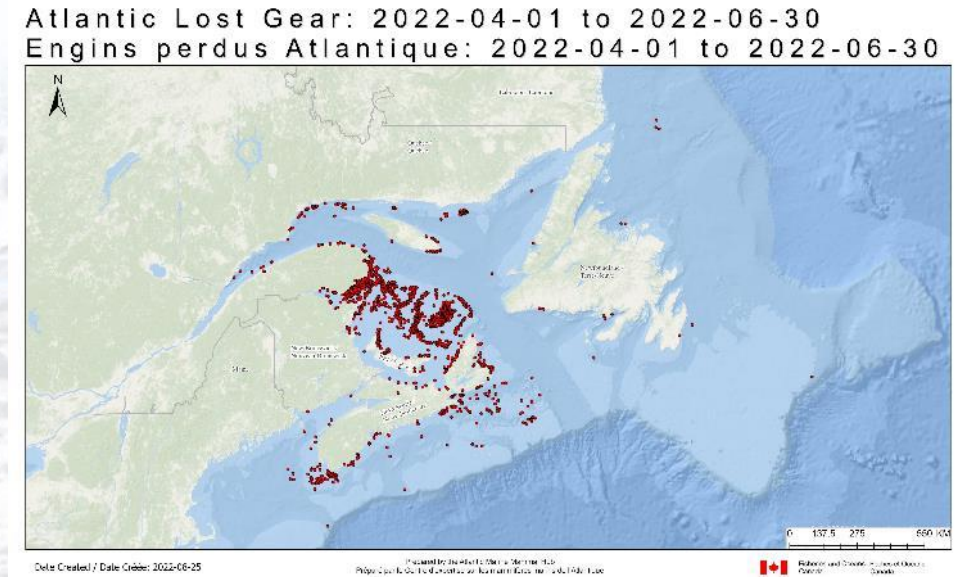


New Rope with Integrated Coloured Yarns



Mandatory Lost Gear Reporting

- Reporting of lost or abandoned fishing gear has been recognized as an important intervention measure to address ALDFG and to help build evidence base knowledge of the scope of the problem.
- In 2020, Canada introduced mandatory lost gear reporting requirements in all commercial fisheries; harvesters must report details of lost gear (such as gear type, amount of gear, location of gear loss, date, etc.) to the Government of Canada.
- The reporting of lost gear is a legal obligation under the Fishery (General) Regulations.



Thank you!

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