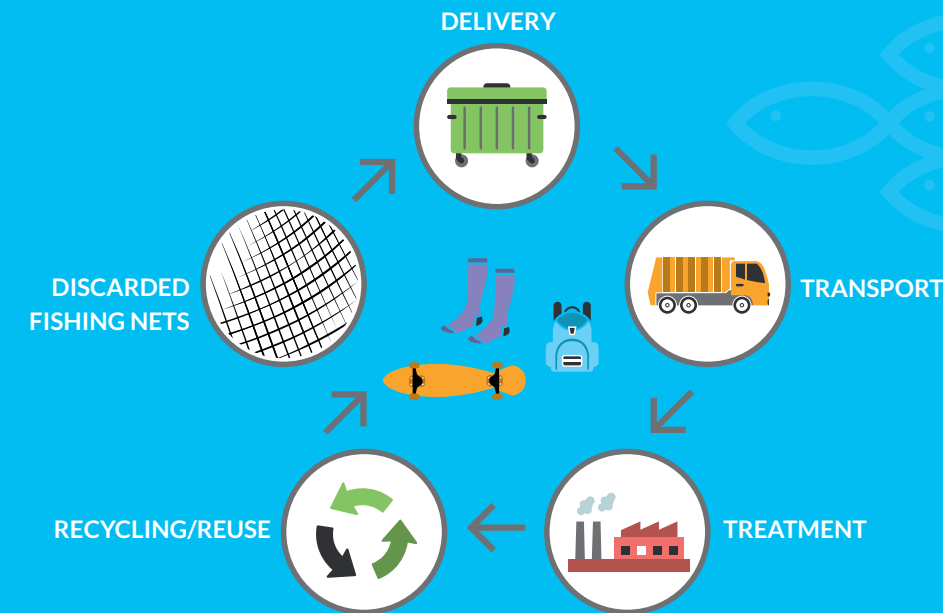
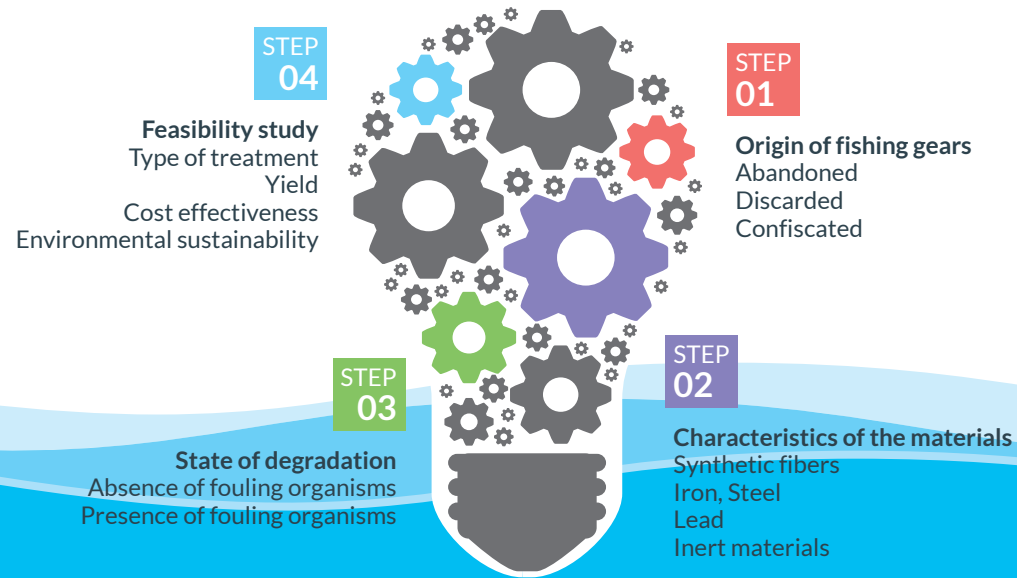


Strategy of reuse/recycling of ALDFG

The development of innovative technology solutions for the recovery of abandoned fishing gears is part of a virtuous cycle intended to maximize the reuse and recycling of different materials in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.



GHOST



PARTNERS



CNR-ISMAR
Arsenale, Tesa 104 - Castello 2737/F - 30122 Venezia
www.ismar.cnr.it



IUAV
Santa Croce, Tolentini 191 - 30135 Venezia
www.iuav.it



LAGUNA PROJECT
Sestiere di Castello 6411 - 30122 Venezia
www.lagunaproject.it

GHOST



TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF GHOST FISHING GEARS AND TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY IN NORTH ADRIATIC COASTAL AREAS

TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF GHOST FISHING GEARS AND TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY IN NORTH ADRIATIC COASTAL AREAS

OBSERVERS:

- Regione Veneto - Direzione Regionale Geologia e Georisorse - Servizio Tutela Acque
- Provincia di Venezia - Ufficio Caccia Pesca
- Comando Generale delle Capitanerie di Porto
- Rari Nantes Venezia
- Club Sommozzatori Mestre
- Società Cooperativa San Marco - Pescatori di Burano
- Coopesca - Organizzazione Produttori e Lavoratori della Pesca S.r.l. Chioggia

www.life-ghost.eu
E-mail: info@life-ghost.eu



Design by Syscom.it

One of the main objectives is to assess the impacts that fishing gears lost or abandoned on the seabed may cause to biodiversity.



Ghost fishing

The term ghost fishing describes the indiscriminate capture of marine organisms caused by lost or abandoned passive nets/fishing gears (known also as ALDFG). These nets, sometimes almost invisible, can strand on rocky bottoms (as in the case of the Tegnùe habitats) or remain suspended drifting offshore causing entrapment/ death of fish, dolphins, sea turtles, seabirds, shellfish and other animals.

The gears, restricting their movement, prevent trapped bodies to feed, can cause lacerations and infections and lead to suffocation of those animals that need to surface to breathe. The fishing nets degrade in a very long time (even hundreds of years) because of resistant materials they are made.

When conditions allow, the fishing nets remain suspended in the water column and the ghost fishing continues for prolonged periods. It should be remembered that the polymeric materials of which they are mostly made, persisting for so long in the marine environment, may originate for mechanical abrasion, plastic fragments increasingly smaller, thus contributing to the increase of microplastics in the marine environment.

The project

The LIFE-GHOST (2013-2016) project, co-funded by the European Commission under the LIFE+ Biodiversity Program, aims to assess the phenomenon of ghost fishing in Northern Adriatic, helping to provide the first quantitative assessments on the distribution and the effects of abandoned and/or lost fishing gears.

The project foresees the realization of activities aimed at identifying, mapping and removing of ghost nets in sample areas. At a later stage the project will proceed with the quantification of impacts caused to the marine ecosystem, in particular on biodiversity, and the evaluation of the feasibility of an appropriate recycling/disposal chain of the fishing nets, identifying the most suitable procedures for their delivery to the ground in appropriate facilities.

The project also foresees the development of a Code of conduct addressed to the operators of the fishery sector which will provide indications of best practices for an optimal management of fishing equipment. Finally, the project will address the issue of economic evaluation of eco-systemic benefits associated with the removal of the fishing gears from the seabed, in particular the foreseen increase of marine biodiversity.

First results

In its first 18 months the project has achieved the following results:

- realization of high definition maps of target areas obtained through the use of a high resolution scanning sonar that allowed the localization of equipment and other fishing waste on the seabed;
- photographic census of the fishing nets/tools found on the seabed implemented through visual monitoring of divers and subsequent analysis of the impacts on local biodiversity;
- quantification of the phenomenon and its ratings (about 50% of the monitored areas are affected by the presence of ALDFG);
- development of a strategy for reuse/recycling of ALDFG, shared with key stakeholders;
- increased level of awareness of stakeholders and citizens also by communicating the need for measures aimed at preventing and mitigating the impacts caused by ALDFG.

Percentages of the 4 types of ALDFG found in the seabed of the study areas

