

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
RELATING TO LOST, ABANDONED OR OTHERWISE DISCARDED FISHING GEAR
(A NEW PROPOSAL)**

Proposal presented by Norway

RECALLING that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 target 1 calls for States to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear constitute a significant part of marine pollution;

RECOGNIZING that ghost fishing conducted by lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear is a concealed exploitation of marine resources that leads to undesirable mortality of marine life;

AWARE that retrieving lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear will contribute to reducing marine pollution;

CONVINCED that the fishing industry can contribute significantly to reducing the number of lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear;

NOTING Recommendation 03-12 on marking of fishing gear and Recommendation 16-01 on reporting of fish aggregating devices;

AWARE of the need for an obligation for fishermen not only to mark the fishing gear, but also to report it when lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded, as well as to try to retrieve the gear;

ALSO AWARE that retrieving lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear without knowing the position of the gear will be challenging;

ACKNOWLEDGING that to prevent ghost fishing, efforts should be undertaken to retrieve lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels authorized to fish species managed by ICCAT in the Convention area are prohibited from abandoning and discarding fishing gear.
2. Each CPC shall ensure that:
 - a) vessels fishing in the ICCAT Convention area, entitled to fly its flag, have equipment on board to retrieve lost gear;
 - b) the master of a vessel that has lost gear or part of it shall make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible; and
 - c) no master shall deliberately abandon fishing gear, except for safety reasons.
3. If the lost gear cannot be retrieved, the master of the vessel shall notify the flag State CPC within 24 hours of the following:
 - a) the name and call sign of the vessel;
 - b) the type of lost gear;
 - c) the quantity of gear lost;

- d) the time when the gear was lost;
 - e) the position where the gear was lost; and
 - f) the measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear.
4. Following retrieval of lost gear, the master of the vessel shall notify the flag State CPC within 24 hours of the following:
- a) the name and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the gear;
 - b) the name and call sign of the vessel that lost the gear (if known);
 - c) the type of gear retrieved;
 - d) the quantity of gear retrieved;
 - e) the time when the gear was retrieved; and
 - f) the position where the gear was retrieved.
5. The flag CPC shall, without delay, notify the Executive Secretary of the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. A summary of this information shall also be included in the CPCs' Annual Report to ICCAT.
6. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the information provided by CPCs on the ICCAT website.