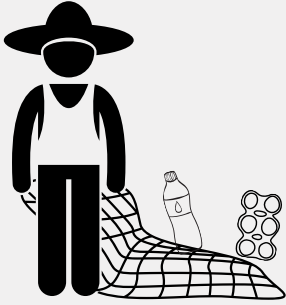




# Six Ways Cities Can Engage on Ghost Gear



Cities can support programs such as [Fishing for Litter](#), which encourages fishers to collect and bring back the debris that gathers in their nets. Municipal authorities can raise awareness, provide funding, and help create facilities at ports where collected waste can be properly disposed.

## Fisher Debris Retrieval Programs



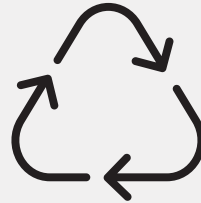
Fishers and fishing companies need viable disposal solutions for fishing gear when it can no longer be used or repaired. Municipal authorities should work with ports to build port reception facilities for end-of-life fishing gear and assist the port in transporting the recyclable material to the recycler.

## Port Reception Facilities



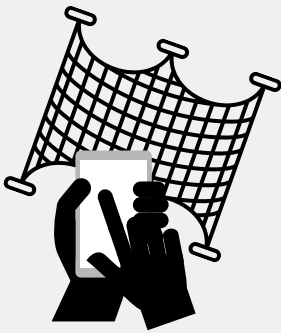
A major cause of gear loss is extreme weather events, which will become more frequent as climate change worsens. Cities can assist ports in developing emergency plans for such disasters. Plans should ensure that fishers can safely retrieve deployed gear prior to extreme weather; that fishers have adequate insurance for their gear and vessels; and can facilitate safe and effective gear retrievals after major storms.

## Extreme Weather Preparedness



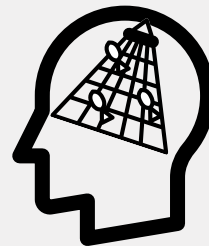
Most fishing nets and ropes are made of highly recyclable materials. One way to help local recycling facilities with this challenge is to invest in a commercial shredder at the portside or harbor to process the nets and ropes prior to being sent to a recycling company.

## Gear Recycling



Report lost gear! Whether it's in the water or on the shore, anyone can report gear that is either lost or found through the [GGGI Ghost Gear Reporter App](#). The app is free and easy to use in multiple languages.

## Ghost Gear Reporting



Ghost gear makes up 46-70% of the floating macroplastic in our ocean by weight. While it is important to educate people about the impacts of ghost gear on marine life and fisher livelihoods; it is also vital to understand the unintentional causes and cost. No fisher wants to lose their gear and it's important that fishers are seen by cities as part of the solution.

## Raise Awareness

Led by Ocean Conservancy, Resilient Cities Network and The Circulate Initiative, the Urban Ocean program engages cities in the fight for clean, healthy seas. The platform works with leaders from city governments, academia, civil society and the private sector to develop best practices for embedding the reduction of plastic waste into other core city priorities like public health, economic growth and job creation.



This document was created in collaboration with Ocean Conservancy's [Global Ghost Gear Initiative](#), the world's only cross sectoral alliance dedicated to tackling abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear.