

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative - Protecting oceans and marine animals Second annual side event on implementing UNCLOS and the 2030 agenda

08 June 2016, 1:15pm - 2:45pm

Conference room 6, Conference Center, UNHQ, New York

► Lunch will be served from 1pm onwards

As part of the shared effort to secure effective and successful follow-up to Sustainable Development Goal 14, this side event intends to promote a dialogue on the multi-sectoral approach needed to protect global marine ecosystems and resources for sustainable development, with a focus on the relevance and impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), and outline some key actions that Members States can take in the coming period.

Programme

Introductory comments

H.E. Ambassador Mahe'Uli'uli Sandhurst Tupouniu, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
H.E. Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

Keynote address

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, Sweden

Briefing on Global Ghost Gear Initiative progress and call for support

Ms. Elizabeth Hogan, World Animal Protection Sea Change Campaign Manager

Respondents

Permanent Missions of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, the Kingdom of Thailand, and Vanuatu

General discussion - Q&A

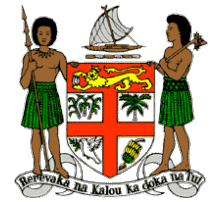
How can you help/Wrap up

► For more information or to RSVP contact Ingrid Giskes at IngridGiskes@worldanimalprotection.org

Organized by:



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The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)

People depend on the oceans and the health of the animals within them. Oceans drive our climate, supply food and play a critical social, environmental and economic role. But they are increasingly inundated with marine debris, restricting their ability to perform crucial functions and limiting the services they provide.

The centrality of Oceans and Seas in the global pursuit of sustainable development has been recognised through the inclusion of a dedicated Oceans goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Goal 14. In addition, UNCLOS articles 194, 195 and 197 highlight the commitment of States to stop the pollution of our marine environment through regional cooperation; and UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter aims to reduce levels of sea-based sources of marine debris.

Furthermore, 11 consecutive UN General Assembly resolutions on Sustainable Fisheries - from A/RES/60/31 through to A/RES/70/75 - urge Member States to take action to address the issue of lost or abandoned fishing gear, also called ghost fishing gear. Yet, despite these commitments, an additional 640,000 tons of ghost gear (one tenth of all marine debris) is added to our oceans and seas every year.

The adverse impacts of ALDFG, including a 10 percent global decline in fish stocks, large-scale destruction of marine eco-systems and the untold suffering of

millions of marine animals, have been made even worse by the introduction of non-biodegradable or plastic fishing gear, predicted to persist in the marine environment for up to 600 years. Ghost fishing gear is believed to be the source of at least 10 percent of all marine plastics and micro-plastics. Its cumulative long-term effects will be extremely damaging to marine flora and fauna, seafood safety, and consequently to the people and industries who depend on healthy and sustainably productive seas.

In pursuit of SDG 14 and several targets under other goals, World Animal protection, together with its partners, founded the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) in 2015 as an alliance of national and international institutions, the fishing industry, private sector, civil society organisations, and government agencies committed to driving solutions to the problem of lost and abandoned ghost fishing gear worldwide. The GGGI is the first initiative dedicated to tackling the problem of ghost fishing gear at a global scale, and will focus its efforts on building evidence; defining best practice and policy; and catalysing and replicating solutions.

The side-event aims to promote a dialogue on the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach needed to protect global marine ecosystems, with a special focus on the relevance of ghost gear to the achievement of the SDGs and Goal 14 in particular. Ideally, the event will also explore how Member States can take real action at the international policy level as well as how to effectively support the GGGI.