

ABANDONED, LOST AND DISCARDED (ALD) FISHING GEAR LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: SECONDARY SCHOOL (Age 11 – 16)

Lesson Summary

Overfishing is emptying the ocean, with 90% of fisheries already overfished. Issues such as by-catch are having a significant impact on marine wildlife. This includes entanglement in Abandoned, Lost and Discarded (ALD) commercial fishing gear.



Activities

These activities are designed to enhance and expand on the key learnings from the Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear Lesson. They can be used as part of the Lesson, or assigned for research or projects.

English

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect and explanation.

Activity 1

Compose a story or verse describing the emotions and fear a whale might feel being entangled in a ghost fishing net, or having a craypot attached to their tail and their reaction to being released. Explore their varying thoughts, emotions and reactions to their environment, the situation and interactions with humans.

Activity 2

Write a paper advocating for the commercial fishing industry to be held responsible for ALD fishing gear. Explore the issue of ALD, explain the implications for marine wildlife. Discuss the reasons and justifications for the fishing industry to take responsibility for reducing the amount of ALD occurring.



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Geography

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, analyse, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Select an area of the ocean and research the key features of the seabed and benthic zone that could be impacted by trawling nets and how they could become entangled? Prepare your notes for class discussion.

Activity 2

Investigate whale migration routes and identify where they could possibly encounter fishing activity that would endanger them. Prepare your notes for class discussion.

Activity 1 & 2 can be extended by creating a world map, by collating students research.



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History

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Research what fishing nets were previously made from, prior to the invention of nylon? Document what the implications of this change would be to marine wildlife and the ocean.

Activity 2

Research other methods of fishing used before nets and which of these ways have continued to be used. For example by indigenous peoples around the world. Compare the impacts these methods have on marine wildlife compared to current fishing methods such as purse seine fishing.



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Math

LEARNING SKILLS – Problem solving, calculation, communicate, critical thinking and measurement.

Activity 1

Solve these problems:

On average a ship would lose up to 30km of gillnet every trip they made out to fish. Each vessel would head out for up to 2 months at a time.

- How many kilometres of net would a fleet of 50 vessels lose every two months?
- If 6km of net weights 1 tonne, how many tonnes of plastic pollution were lost every 2 months?
- Assume each gillnet is 10km long, if 640,000 tonnes are lost each year how many gillnets would that equate to and how far would they reach?



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Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Investigate, research, questioning, communicate, critical thinking, explanation and evaluate.

Activity 1

Investigate what materials fishing nets could be made of that are more environmentally sustainable than nylon?

Activity 2

Design a method for tracking and/or removing ALD fishing gear from the ocean. Create a presentation to demonstrate your design.



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Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Research, questioning, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, analysis and reflect.

Activity 1

Research with local government agencies (or if your country is land locked a country of your choice) what provisions are in place for monitoring fishing gear?

Identify if vessels are required to report fishing gear losses?

What regulations would you ask them to put in place to ensure vessels registered or operating in the countries waters were required to monitor and retrieve lost nets?



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Art

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, research, empathy, explanation and communicate.

Activity 1

Create an artwork (painting, poster, sculpture or infographic), which shows the devastation caused by ALD fishing gear on marine wildlife.

Engage and empower your audience to take action to protect marine wildlife.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your feedback and would be pleased to hear your thoughts about this lesson and activities. Any comments, suggestions or requests for further information can be sent to education@seashepherdglobal.org