

GHOST GEAR RETREIVAL UPDATE

As previously updated in an earlier Community notice, we received a grant for the Location, Removal and Safe Disposal of Ghost Gear from the Annapolis Basin. We have always wanted to be more a part of the solution then the problem and therefore proposed to do a ghost gear retrieval project starting within our territory.

We just recently attended a Global Ghost Gear Initiative workshop and we learned a lot. We have made partnerships and completed much work. Most recently we have worked with Seaforth GeoSurveys Inc. to do side scan sonar in the Annapolis Basin to determine hotspots. Once this information/report was received we came up with a retrieval plan. We have also partnered with Huntley Marine for the retrieval process.

A plan has been completed and we are now working on the retrieval and disposal process of the proposal. Our mandate is to put as little as possible of the gear retrieved into the landfill.

After completion of this project, we will continue to propose for funding for this important work. We will also work on the development of strategies and technologies that can eliminate the permanent loss of gear, as well as work on processes that retrieve lost gear faster. For example, reflective radars on fishing nets and other fishing lines that can't be picked up by sonar.

It is important to note that not all gear in our waters is thrown there on purpose. Loss of gear is an unfortunate side affect of industry. Fisherman are very much open to finding ways to retrieve their gear and save on costs of the repurchase of lost gear. Unfortunately, given the unpredictable and more intense weather systems we are getting, there is more chance of gear being lost.

Please find attached Charts of identified targets as determined from the side scan sonar.

If you have ideas or would like to speak further about this, please feel free to come see me. I am passionate about this project.

Sincerely,



Councillor Carol Ann Potter
Commercial Fisheries Coordinator

