



Conservation Measures 19/10 on Retrieval of Lost Fixed Gear

The Contracting Parties,

RECOGNISING Article 3(f) of the 1995 Agreement and Article 6.6 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,

FURTHER RECOGNISING calls from the United Nations General Assembly on regional fisheries management organisations to take steps to minimise catch by lost and abandoned gear,

CONSCIOUS of the need to address the potential negative impact so-called ghost-fishing has on the marine ecosystem,

SEEKING to establish adequate measures to minimising this problem in the near future,

Have, as a preliminary action, agreed as follows:

1. Fishing vessels fishing with fixed gear shall have equipment on board to retrieve lost gear.
2. A vessel that has lost fixed gear shall attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible.
3. If the lost gear cannot be retrieved the master of the vessel shall notify the competent authorities of its flag State within 24 hours of the following:
 - a. the name and call sign of the vessel,
 - b. the type of lost gear,
 - c. the time when the gear was lost,

- d. the position where the gear was lost,
 - e. measure taken by the vessel to retrieve lost gear.
4. The flag State shall without delay notify the Executive Secretary of SEAFO of the information referred to in a-e. The Executive Secretary shall without delay put this information on the SEAFO website.