

Recuperation of Lost and Abandoned Gill Nets

Provisional Results and Continued Need for Industry
Cooperation

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Preliminary Findings

- lost nets within the Rosemary Bank are not significant given the extensive spatial coverage of the area. No nets that could be classified as abandoned were encountered during the survey.
- In the Rockall/George Bligh Bank and Shetland areas ghost nets are not widespread although localised elevated levels can not be ruled due to survey limitations. No nets that could be classified as abandoned were encountered during the survey
- In the southern Porcupine area the survey results tends to support the view that lost gill nets are not particularly widespread. No nets that could be classified as abandoned were encountered during the survey
- In the western Porcupine, the survey results tend to support the view that lost nets are not particularly widespread, but given the extent of the survey area, localised elevated levels can not be ruled out.
- However;

Preliminary findings

- Retrieval rates in areas where information was obtained from the industry were considerably higher indicating that recovery is effective with detailed info from fishery
- Mitigation surveys were hampered by a lack of detailed positional data despite a multi-approach to obtaining such data.
- Comparison with other surveys support the view that in order to mitigate lost gill nets, prior information on the position and quantity of lost gears is essential, otherwise the success of such surveys is likely to be limited.

Main Conclusion:

- Data collection programmes should be initiated at a member state level to collate detailed positional information on locations of lost gears and quantities from fishers. This should include data from the gill net sector on locations of where gear has been lost and from the towed gear sector where ghost nets have been retrieved.
- Without this info – the usefulness of future surveys are limited!

Workshop

- Propose an Industry Workshop Dublin week 31
- Present results and finding in detail and to discuss future needs
- Needs participation from active fishermen from both towed and static gear sectors
- Limited funding available for participation