

Ghost Net removal from Kerala

During the cyclone Ockhi, in Kerala from November 27 to 30 in 2017, hundreds of fishing vessels were lost along thousands of kilometers long nets in it. Friends of Marine Life (FML) found ghost nets in many places off Trivandrum coast and made an attempt to clean the coast. In March 2018, the SCUBA diving team of FML along with volunteers removed 400 kg of ghost nets from the coast off Vizhinjam.

Through FML's seabed studies, especially on fishermen's livelihood areas, it was found and recorded that the main reasons of ghost nets are;

- Using eco-sounder and other techniques to find out the potential fishing areas, especially where the mechanized vessels leave their nets in the natural and artificial marine ecosystems.
- Discarding used nets in the ocean or on beach
- Natural calamities like cyclone ockhi.

As a result of their study, FML is capable to tell the public and the authorities about the locations of ghost net pockets with photographic evidences and GPS details.



Management of Marine Litter at Sea

We⁴ Climate
Climate Literacy
and Marine Litter
Management in the
East Coast of India

Clean ocean, resilient ocean



Management of marine litter at sea

Plastic has made its way into all the oceans through indiscriminate disposal of plastic on terrestrial region through intricate drainage network of surface storm water runoff. Such a plastic waste may get transported for a long distance depending on the prevailing wave/eddy currents thereby creating a zone of waste patch where a huge quantity gets trapped.

Further the plastic gets deconstructed due to UV radiation, physical forces of water and overall weathering into smaller particles. They are known as micro-plastic (<5mm). Due to deep waters of ocean, this micro plastic waste is not visible to naked eyes.

It is estimated that over 8 million tons of plastic waste is being dumped every year in the oceans impacting marine life thriving in the ocean. Most of the marine animals are trapped or entangled into abandoned nets, bands, vessel wreckages etc.

Management of marine litter by fishing for litter

- a) Decentralized collection of plastic waste so as to avoid entry in terrestrial water resource.
- b) Setting up for profit recycling centres.
- c) Training of local community members for upcycling plastic litter
- d) All offshore based vessels to comply with maritime and waste management rules.
- e) Awareness amongst fishermen to not dispose plastic in ocean
- f) Awareness amongst fishing trawlers to collect plastic waste entangled in fishing nets and opt for land disposal followed by recycling.



Management of marine litter by collecting ghost nets

- a) Training and capacity building of trawl workers and fisher community about not to dispose fishing nets in ocean.
- b) Reward fisher community for bringing nets onshore for its safe and scientific disposal.
- c) Reducing the volume of fishing gear entering the ocean.
- d) Recycling ghost nets in innovative ways and creating sustainable business models
- e) Rescuing animals by safely removing the entanglement

