



Food and Agriculture
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The effect of marine litter on fisheries and oceans - *Progress towards addressing abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear at intergovernmental level and next steps for implementation*

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Achieve Food Security Globally



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations**

Make Fisheries More Sustainable

**Address marine litter
from fishing industry
i.e. ALDFG**

**Assess implications of
microplastics on
fisheries and
aquaculture**

**Assessing food safety
risks**

FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear

- Adopted by FAO's Committee on Fisheries in July 2018
- Voluntary and global in scope. Apply to all fishing gear types used in all types of fishing activities
- Outlines the considerations for developing a system for the marking of fishing gear
- Gear marking enables identification of ownership and responsibility
- A tool to prevent and reduce ALDFG and in assisting efforts to fight IUU fishing

Content of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines

- Not only gear marking! Considers gear marking in the context of broader fisheries management measures
- Also provides guidance on:
 - reporting of ALDFG
 - recovery of ALDFG
 - disposal of ALDFG i.e. MARPOL Annex V /port reception facilities
 - commercial traceability of gear marking
 - specific gear types i.e. FADs
 - special requirements for developing States and small-scale fisheries
 - research and development needs
 - awareness raising and communications
 - capacity development considerations
 - gear recycling



International fisheries instruments

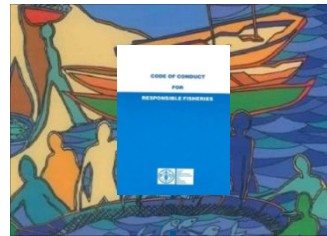
UNCLOS (1982)*



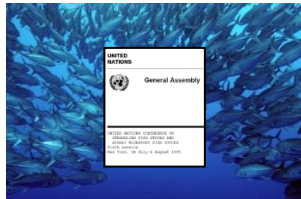
FAO Compliance Agreement (1993)*



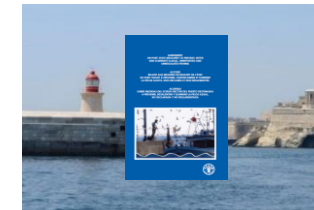
FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)



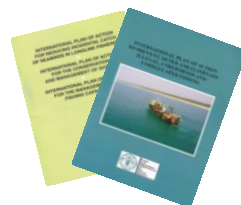
UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995)*



FAO Port State Measures Agreement (2009)*



International Plans of Action
Sharks, Seabirds, Capacity, IUU
(1999-2001)



International Guidelines
FSP, SSF, BC/DC, DSF, CDS, FGM
(2009-2018)



Strategies on information
STF, STA
(2003-2008)



* Binding

Next steps:

- Implementation of Voluntary Guidelines via global umbrella programme = partnership framework
 - Projects to address ALDFG and other environmental issues associated with fisheries operations
 - Facilitate collaborative activities between FAO and other relevant UN Agencies
- Invites the EU to consider supporting the programme through financial contributions and partnership arrangements
- Encourages the EU to consider gear marking and alignment with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines within the context of the proposals being considered