

Challenges in Managing ALDFG

Modern fishing gear is made of durable plastics that persist in the ocean for years and can drift far.

Gear retrieval is difficult due to weather, seafloor snags, wildlife entanglement, biofouling, friction, and chemical corrosion.

India lacks a national database on fishing gear use and loss, and no standard system exists for reporting lost gear and its retrieval/recycling.

Fishing harbors lack facilities and incentives for gear recycling or disposal.

Insufficient awareness among fishers on ALDFG's impacts.

Non-availability of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for fishing gear management along the Indian coast.

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Mitigation

A coordinated effort involving local governments, tourism and port authorities, fishing communities, industries, and local residents is needed.

Actions include:

-  Collecting data on fishing gear use and losses.
-  Strengthening laws to prevent gear loss and illegal dumping.
-  Improving waste management near coasts and fishing areas.
-  Promoting responsible disposal and recycling through education and awareness.

GHOST NET AND MARINE LITTER POLLUTION

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Marine Litter

Marine litter means any kind of human-made trash that ends up in the ocean or on the beach. This includes plastics, wood, metal, glass, rubber, clothes, fishing nets, paper, and other solid items.

Sources of Marine Litter

Mismanagement of solid waste in coastal and riverside towns and cities.

Tourism, contributing large amount of single-use plastic waste.

Fishing activities, where gear like nets and lines are lost, (ALDFG).

Shipping industry, through accidental loss or illegal dumping at sea.

Industrial activities, especially plastic production and recycling, causing spills or leak.



Pollution from Fishing Gear

Fishing gear often gets abandoned, lost, or thrown away due to bad weather, obstacles, accidents, or age.

Fishing gear like nets, traps, ropes, and floats are made from non-biodegradable plastics.

ALDFG (Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear) is a major source of plastic pollution, damaging habitats and breaking down into microplastics.

Every year, about 5.7% of nets, 8.6% of traps, and 29% of fishing lines are lost globally.



Economic Implications

End-of-Life Fishing Gear (EOLFG) is worn-out gear still in use, reducing fishing efficiency and increasing the risk of loss.

ALDFG causes direct financial loss due to gear replacement costs.

Indirect financial losses occur from lost catch potential.

Retrieving lost gear requires extra costs such as fuel and labor.

