








IMPACT OF GHOST NET ON MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Ghost nets are lost, abandoned, or discarded fishing nets that continue to drift in the ocean and trap marine life. They're part of a broader category called ALDFG (Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear).

-  **Marine Life Entanglement:** Marine organisms can get entangled and often die from injury, suffocation, or starvation.
-  **Continuous Capture:** These nets keep catching animals (a process called ghost fishing).
-  **Damage to Ecosystems:** They can smother coral reefs, damage seagrass beds, and disrupt habitats.
-  **Plastic Pollution:** Ghost nets, made of durable plastics like nylon, break down slowly and release microplastics. They often trap other debris, contributing to massive garbage patches.
-  **Bioaccumulation Risk:** Microplastic particles from ghost nets are ingested by plankton, fish, and eventually humans via the food chain.
-  **Navigation Hazards:** Large nets can pose risks to boats.
-  **Leaching of Additives:** As the plastic degrades, it may release toxic chemicals (e.g., plasticizers, flame retardants) into the water.
-  **Acting as Vectors:** These can transport harmful microbes or invasive species across ecosystems.

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