



FISHING GEAR COALITION
OF ATLANTIC CANADA

FGCAC

Sonia Smith, *Program Manager*

HISTORY

- Founded in November 2018
- Incorporated non-profit in 2020
- Comprised of over 30 members
- Have Board of Directors

MISSION

Working together to develop sustainable solutions for end-of-life and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing and aquaculture gear



End-of-Life Fishing Gear Management Project

- **Goal:** to research, design and implement a management program for end-of-life fishing rope and lobster traps across Atlantic Canada and Quebec
- **Objectives:**
 - research the current waste/recycling practices;
 - engage/educate stakeholders;
 - create, model and pilot program in NS



End-of-Life Fishing Gear Management Project

- **Timeline:** July 2020 to March 2022
- **Funded by:** DFO's Sustainable Fisheries Solutions & Retrieval Support Contribution Program (SFSRSCP) or Ghost Gear Fund & Divert NS



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



Progress to Date (Research / Engagement)

- Completed comprehensive reports on End-of-Life Fishing Gear Management in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland & Labrador, and Québec
 - click [here](#) to view provincial reports
- Conducted 2 online and 5 in-person engagement sessions discussing the current barriers and opportunities for disposing end-of-life fishing gear
 - click [here](#) to view engagement reports



Next Steps (Engagement / Program Design)

- Delivering engagement sessions with 3 First Nation Advisory Committees in partnership with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Designing and costing model program for Nova Scotia
 - Researching eco-fee collection structures
 - Developing a rubric to compare options
- Presenting most feasible options to key stakeholders and rights holders for consensus in Nova Scotia
- Assisting with end-of-life fishing rope and wire trap stockpile removals in Nova Scotia



Small Craft Harbour Plastic Lumber Pilot

Eastern Passage

80 pcs. – 8"x8"x16' fenders
(wharf repair) – 25% of
mixture is shredded
rope. 3.94 tones of rope
used in the mix which
equals approx. 170,858
feet or approx. 52.07kms.



Photo Credit: Small Craft Harbours, 2021

Small Craft Harbour Plastic Lumber Pilot

Skidders Cove

460pcs. – 2"x6"x9' decking
(4 – 54'x9" new floating
docks) – 50% of mixture is
shredded rope. 2.88 tones
of rope used in the mix
which equals approx.
124,891 feet of rope or
approx. 38.07kms



Photo Credit: Small Craft Harbours, 2021



Photo Credit: Small Craft Harbours, 2021

How can we partner?



- Knowledge Sharing
- Research
- Education
- Pilot project(s)





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