

# CALIFORNIA LOST FISHING GEAR RECOVERY PROJECT



# Lost, abandoned and discarded fishing gear

- Considered to be one of the most damaging forms of marine debris
- Entangles and entraps marine mammals, birds, sharks & rays, fish and invertebrates
- Damages sensitive ocean habitats
- Interferes with ocean livelihoods
- 640,000 tons of gear becomes “ghost” gear in the world’s oceans every year<sup>1</sup>



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

- Launched in July 2005
- Works closely with fishermen on and in the water to remove lost, abandoned and discarded fishing gear from California's coastal ocean
- Encourages ocean users to report presence of lost gear
- Collects data on impacts of gear on wildlife

# ACHIEVEMENTS

**> 120 tons of lost fishing gear removed from California's coastal ocean:**

- > 70 gill nets, drag nets and purse seines
- > 1,500 crab and lobster traps
- > 1 million feet of recreational fishing gear from public fishing piers pilings
- Other marine debris, including > 1,500 automobile tires and 300 toilets



An underwater photograph showing sunlight rays filtering down through the water, illuminating large, dark, textured rocks at the bottom. The water is a deep blue color.

FEATURED ON NBC NEWS

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[www.lostfishinggear.org](http://www.lostfishinggear.org)  
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