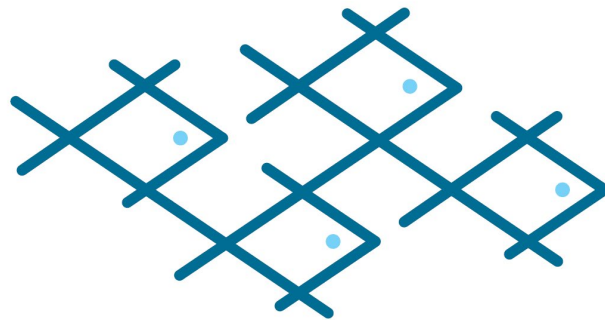


*Policy plan 2020*

*Ghost Diving Foundation*

*March 2020*



**GHOST DIVING**

— global mission —

# Mission, challenges & strategies

## Mission

Stichting Ghost Diving (or “the Foundation”) is driven by volunteer technical divers who carry out lost fishing gear removal projects and raise awareness the general public about the ghost fishing issue on a global scale.

## Challenges & strategies

‘Ghost Fishing’ is what fishing gear does when it has been lost, dumped or abandoned in the seas and oceans. Imagine a fishing net that gets snagged on a reef or a wreck and gets detached from the fishing vessel. Nets, long lines, fish traps or any man-made contraptions, designed to catch fish or marine organisms, are considered capable of ghost fishing when unattended. Without anyone profiting from the catches, they are affecting already depleted commercial fish stocks. Caught fish die and in turn attract scavengers which will get caught in that same net, thus creating a vicious circle.

- **Physically removing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris**

Since 2009, our volunteer divers have removed hundreds of tons of lost fishing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris from shipwrecks, reefs and the seabed, gaining valuable experience and at the same time perfecting our own techniques.

- **Documentation (photo/video)**

The power lies in making the problem of ghost fishing visible. The Foundation works with professional underwater photographers and film makers to document its actions for evaluation and presentation purposes.

- **Ensuring diving safety**

Stichting Ghost Diving sticks to standards & procedures to reduce risks to a minimum and offers advice on diving safety.

- **Recycling marine debris**

Some types of marine debris such as fishing nets (plastic) and weights (lead) can be recycled. The Foundation collects these materials. Next to this, the Foundation is interested in cooperating with companies specialized in these recycling processes.

- **Sharing knowledge and best practices**

Stichting Ghost Diving has extensive knowledge of many types of fishing techniques, marine waste and identifying marine life. Stichting Ghost Diving likes to share this knowledge and is willing to learn from others.

## ○ Education & presentation

Stichting Ghost Diving gives educational presentations to (diving) clubs and during meetings, exhibitions and shows.

## Projects & planned activities

The volunteer team of Stichting Ghost Diving carries out diving projects independently or in collaboration with several international environmental and/or diving organizations among which are Healthy Seas Foundation, Greenpeace, WWF, Global Ghost Gear Initiative and Global Underwater Explorers. The volunteer divers operate within the following localized Ghost Diving chapters, which Stichting Ghost Diving is continuously expanding.

Stichting Ghost Diving is therefore very interested in worldwide collaboration with other diving teams and likes to start or participate in existing projects all over the world.

Besides the regular activities, a selection of the (planned) projects in 2020:

- March/April 2020: Ghost Diving will immerse to clean up discovered fishing nets in Croatia;
- May 2020: Ghost Diving will collaborate in a local project in Spain (Costa Brava);
- June - October 2020; Ghost Diving will run regular cleanup diving projects in the North Sea;
- July 2020: Ghost Diving will run an innovation diving mission in Greece;
- September 2020: Ghost Diving will run their second operation in Ireland;
- September 2020: Ghost Diving will run an innovating diving mission in Portugal;

## Audience

Since we all profit from a better planet and healthier seas worldwide, Stichting Ghost Diving has no specific limitation on its target group.

To accomplish its mission, Stichting Ghost Diving collaborates worldwide with various local group of technical divers and salvage companies to remove lost fishing gear. Its awareness raising work focuses on the general public, children and schools to promote the ecological and economic importance of healthy seas and the environmental damage caused by 'ghost fishing' gear.

## Management & use of funds

The initial budget of the initiative has been allocated as direct funding or in-kind contribution and the opportunity is offered to other business partners and stakeholders to join.

## (Potential) funding sources

Stichting Ghost Diving receives:

- Partnership fees / donations from partners;
- Public donations;
- Contributions from the public via crowdfunding.

Further external funding sources are needed to continue and expand the initiative.

The budget of Stichting Ghost Diving is an ongoing process which will be adjusted throughout the years when additional funding sources will become available. Please find below an overview of potential funding sources.

Further (potential) internal funding sources:

- Input of hours of founding partners and associate partners;
- Financial contribution of founding partners and associate partners;
- Sharing know-how and expertise of founding partners and associate partners;

The progress of the project implementation, the financial implications and the level of sustainability of the various projects will be monitored and regularly evaluated. Based on this evaluation the planned projects and budget will be updated quarterly.

Stichting Ghost Diving has been set up to implement and finance these non-profit activities related to marine protection.

Furthermore the Foundation wishes to emphasize that it does not have the objective of making profit. The funds received are used to realize the objectives of the Foundation.

At the end of the financial year (which runs from January 1 to December 31, first year ending December 31, 2020), the treasurer draws up the financial statements, accompanied by an accountants report.

The board members of the Foundation commit themselves voluntarily and receive no remuneration. Any expense allowance will at most concern travel costs incurred, or administration costs incurred. No vacancy fees are paid.

For the Foundation general details please be referred to <https://www.ghostdiving.org/foundation>.