



SUMMARY REPORT OF GHOST GEAR AND MARINE DEBRIS MONITORING IN BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FISHERIES September 2025



The management of ghost fishing and marine debris in Pamekasan and Rembang has been ongoing from 2020 to 2025, with fishermen serving as the primary actors in reporting and collecting lost fishing gear. In Pamekasan, activities began with a socialization event in October 2020, after which fishermen regularly brought in marine debris, including collapsible crab traps (bubu lipat), plastic nets, and ropes that had become entangled in their fishing gear. In 2025, documentation revealed a similar trend, although some reports only noted the type of gear without specifying the weight. Significant findings included a plastic net weighing 9.3 kg in March 2025, metal-plastic crab traps ranging from 300 to 800 grams between May and August 2025, and a plastic net weighing 3.5 kg in September 2025. These

findings highlight that crab traps (bubu) and nets remain the dominant types of ghost gear in the Pamekasan area, but still in a low number of ghost gear.

In Rembang, activities began in October 2020 with socialization efforts, after which fishermen actively reported ghost gear, particularly crab traps that were entangled in their fishing equipment. Some of these crab traps were even repurposed as crab boxes. Entering 2025, the reports showed ghost gear findings including metal-plastic crab traps weighing 465–1,210 grams, a piece of iron weighing 1,240 grams in March 2025, and a metal-plastic crab trap weighing 1,130 grams in August 2025. In total, 11 measurable records of ghost gear were collected throughout 2025 in Rembang, lower than in Pamekasan.

In general, the dominant types of ghost gear found in both locations include crab traps (made of metal, plastic, bamboo, and damaged), plastic nets, plastic ropes, and iron. Over the course of more than five years, the ghost gear found in the fishery is low, indicated that the ghost gear was not significantly impacting the habitat and ecosystems. Furthermore, these activities have demonstrated that the involvement of fishermen in socialization, reporting, and collection plays a crucial role in reducing the impacts of ghost fishing while supporting sustainable marine resource management efforts.