



GHANA TUNA ASSOCIATION

GHANA TUNA ASSOCIATION Waste Management Policy

INTRODUCTION

Globally, million tons of waste enters the ocean every year, the majority of which comprises fishing gear, food and drink packaging, raw plastics, convenience items, and oil. Larger items, such as fishing nets that are made of plastic materials persist in the marine environment perpetually and can contribute to ghost fishing. Drifting fishing gear can entangle marine animals, including endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species like mammals, sharks, seabirds, and turtles. Entanglement of these species often leads to injury or death of the animal and can negatively impact species populations. Abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) can persist in the marine environment perpetually and can contribute to ghost fishing, where ALDFG continues to catch marine fauna without being retrieved.

The Ghanaian purse seine and pole and line fisheries understand the issue of marine pollution, particularly from ghost gear, and endeavours to minimise the impact on the ecosystem by complying with this policy. In accordance with MARPOL Annex V, and the requirements of the new Fisheries Standard (v3.0) from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the fisheries must comply with the following:

- Plastics, synthetic ropes, fishing gear, plastic garbage bags, incinerator ashes, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packaging materials, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery, and similar refuse must not be discharged into the ocean but retained on board until landing in port where it will be disposed of in an appropriate disposal facility.
- Waste that can safely be incinerated on board should be before landing.
- Any waste that cannot be incinerated safely, will be kept separately onboard and brought back to port when landing the catch, where it will be sent to an appropriate disposal facility.
- A list of all waste that is treated/disposed of will be recorded pursuant to the standard procedures.
- The vessels will endeavour to meet the requirements to prevent and reduce the impacts of ghost fishing via abandoned, lost, or discarded FADs:
 - All DFADs will be marked and identified to the vessel from which it initiated.
 - DFAD limits will be employed across all vessels according to the ICCAT Resolution 22/01 to 300 FADs per vessel.
 - DFADs should comply with the FAD management policy to use non-entangling FADs and endeavour to use biodegradable materials.
 - All vessels will collect and report on FAD usage in its logbook, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD.
 - Researching an efficient way to remediate the waste in the oceans by recording, locating, and/or recovering observed waste in the ocean even if it did not originate from the vessel.

Signed on behalf of the **GHANA TUNA ASSOCIATION FIP:**

Name: **FRANK AIHOON**

Job title: **PRESIDENT**

Signature: 

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