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New Atlantic Canadian non-profit seeking long-term solutions for end-of-life fishing gear

New report reveals that close to 250,000 lobster traps and more than 1,000 tonnes of fishing rope are replaced annually in Nova Scotia, requiring long-term solutions.

NOVA SCOTIA – Feb 1, 2021 – Do you have solutions for recycling or repurposing old and no longer useful fishing gear? When fishing gear is no longer safe and/or useful to fishers, it becomes what is known as “end-of-life fishing gear”. At this time, accessible disposal or recycling options vary across eastern Canada, with no large-scale, uniform system in place to sustainably manage many types of end-of-life fishing gear.

The Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada (FGCAC), with support from [Cleanfarms](#), is working with stakeholders on a project to research, develop, and implement long-term solutions for responsibly managing end-of-life fishing gear, starting with lobster traps and fishing rope in Nova Scotia. The FGCAC hopes to expand the project to include other types of fishing and aquaculture gear across Atlantic Canada and eastern Québec in the future.

The FGCAC is looking for perspectives from key stakeholders and rights holders to help inform them in finding the most effective solution. As a first step, the project team engaged with more than 100 stakeholders to produce a [report](#) on end-of-life fishing gear management in Nova Scotia, which revealed that close to 250,000 lobster traps and more than 1,000 tonnes of fishing rope are replaced annually in Nova Scotia, requiring long-term solutions.

This project is supported by [Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Ghost Gear Fund](#) and Divert NS.

The FGCAC is continuing to engage with stakeholders and rights holders by working with a local Nova Scotian consulting group called [Third Sector Enhancement](#) to gather thoughts from those interested in this project. The FGCAC invites you to participate in their 5 minute [survey](#) to gather perspectives on end-of-life fishing gear.

The reason for this project? Because Atlantic Canada is highly dependent on ocean resources, there is a vested interest in protecting and maintaining a healthy marine environment. Fisheries are integral to Atlantic Canada’s economy, [employing close to 33,000 people](#), [contributing \\$3.2 billion in 2018](#), and supporting [more than 1,000 communities](#). Finding solutions to managing



end-of-life fishing gear will both protect the environment and Atlantic Canadian families and fisher livelihoods.

"Fisheries are integral to Atlantic Canada's economy and culture. The Fishing Gear Coalition's project aims to understand and support the needs of our fishing industries and communities, while finding and creating accessible long-term solutions for end-of-life fishing gear." - Aaron Stevenson, Executive Director and Co-Chair of the Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada

About the Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada (FGCAC): Since forming in November 2018, the FGCAC – a non-profit and non-governmental organization – works together to find sustainable solutions to end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear throughout Atlantic Canada and beyond. The FGCAC is composed of over 30 members from various backgrounds including industry, government, Indigenous communities, academia, and the public, primarily from Atlantic Canada but also with representation from across the country and the United States.