

# STATEMENT OF SUPPORT



1. Conscious of the Rio+20 commitment to “achieve significant reduction in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment.”
2. Recognizing Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1 to “prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.”
3. Recognizing Goal B of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter to achieve “Reduced levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), and abandoned vessels introduced into the aquatic environment.”
4. Acknowledging UNGA resolution A/RES/69/109 on Sustainable Fisheries wherein, States and RFMO/As and other relevant international organizations are urged to reduce or eliminate catch by lost or abandoned gear.
5. Conscious of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards which ask States and RFMO/As to consider actions to assess and mitigate the impacts of ghost fishing by ALDFG.
6. Acknowledging that ALDFG or ‘ghost gear’ is a global issue of concern and is causing significant harm to marine ecosystems, marine animal health and welfare as well as human health and livelihoods.
7. Accepting that mitigating ALDFG impacts at scale will require a global multi-stakeholder approach with the active engagement of Governments, civil society, the private sector, the fishing industry and national and international institutions. The signatories of this statement:
8. Welcome the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and support the commitment to improve the health of marine ecosystems; protect marine animals from harm; and safeguard human health and livelihoods by working globally and locally to build evidence; define best practices and inform policies; and catalyse and replicate solutions.
9. Intend to promote the shared aims of the GGGI and the United States to address Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear, including through active participation in constructive dialogue with all relevant partners, and through providing active support for GGGI-related initiatives, in accordance with national priorities and as appropriate.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO JOEL BAZIUK AT [JOELBAZIUK@GHOSTGEAR.ORG](mailto:JOELBAZIUK@GHOSTGEAR.ORG)**

Name and Title: JONATHAN M. MOORE, SENIOR BUREAU OFFICIAL

Organization: BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL

Signature: Jonathan Moore Date: JUNE 12, 2020