

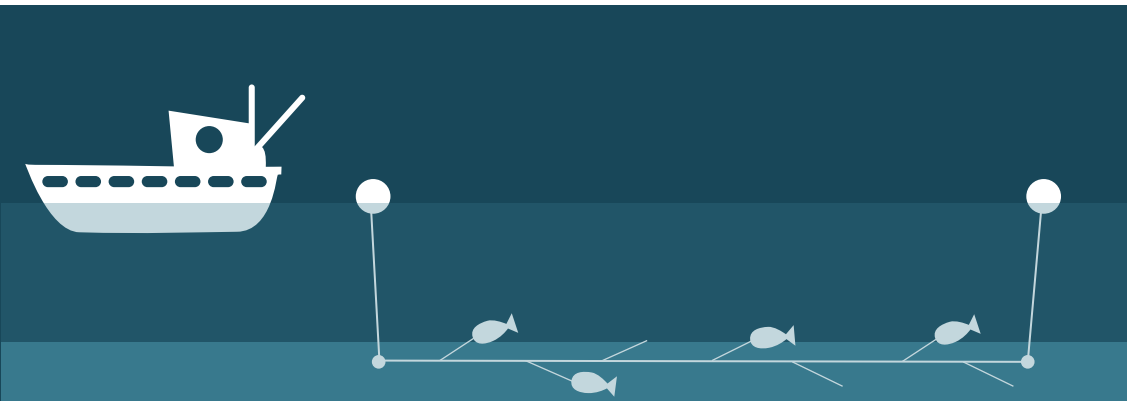
# WHY DOES GEAR GO MISSING?

Fishers were asked to rank the reasons for gear loss from least to most important based on their experience. Reasons for loss vary greatly between different types of gear, so results are organized by gear category, lines, nets, and traps.

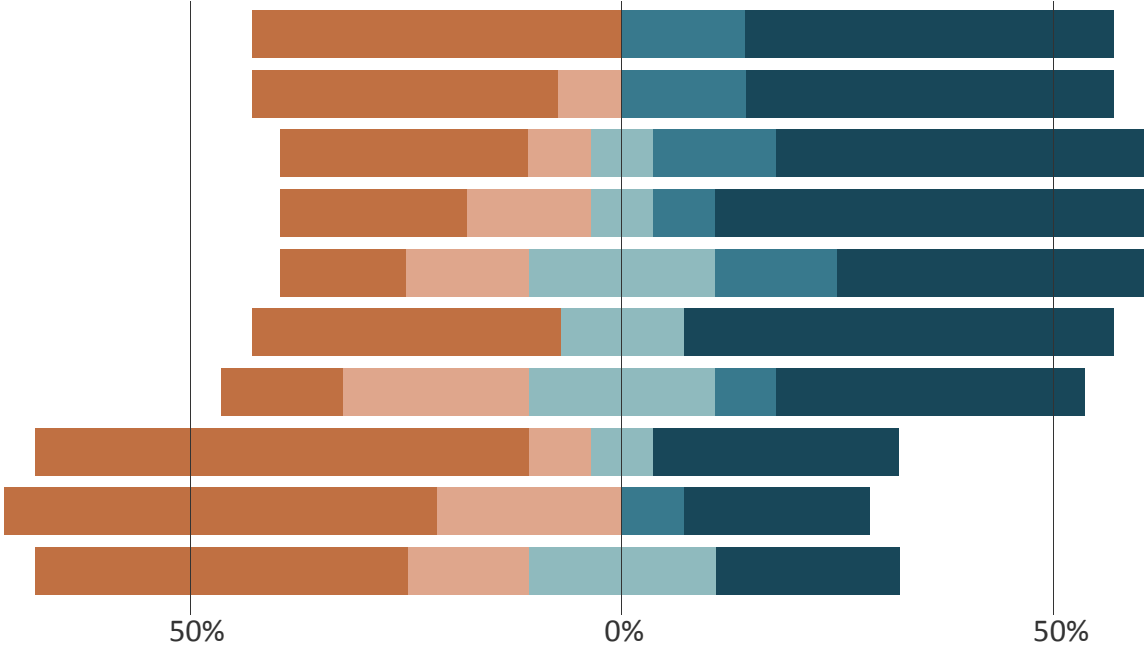
Least important Slightly important Important Very important Extremely important

## LINES

Fish are caught on a baited hook at the end of a line either on the seafloor, or suspended in the water.

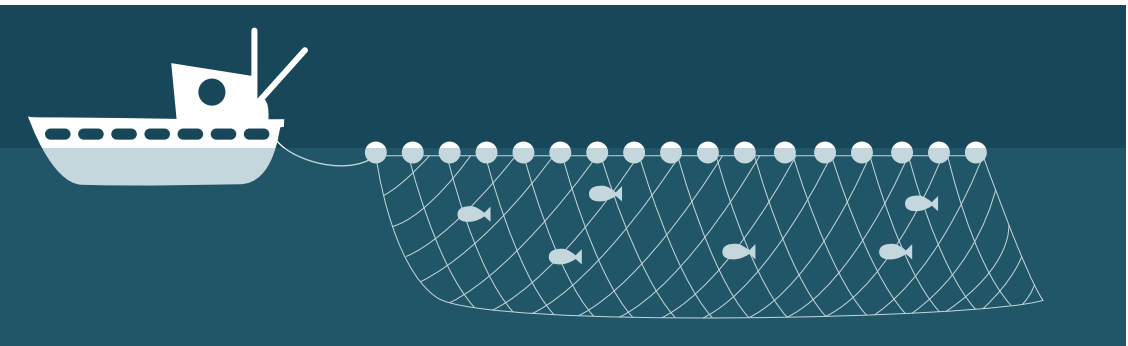


- Other Reasons
- Ocean Currents
- Weather
- Snags
- Lost Gear Interactions
- Seafloor
- New Areas
- Active Gear Interactions
- Vessel Interactions
- Seafloor Slope

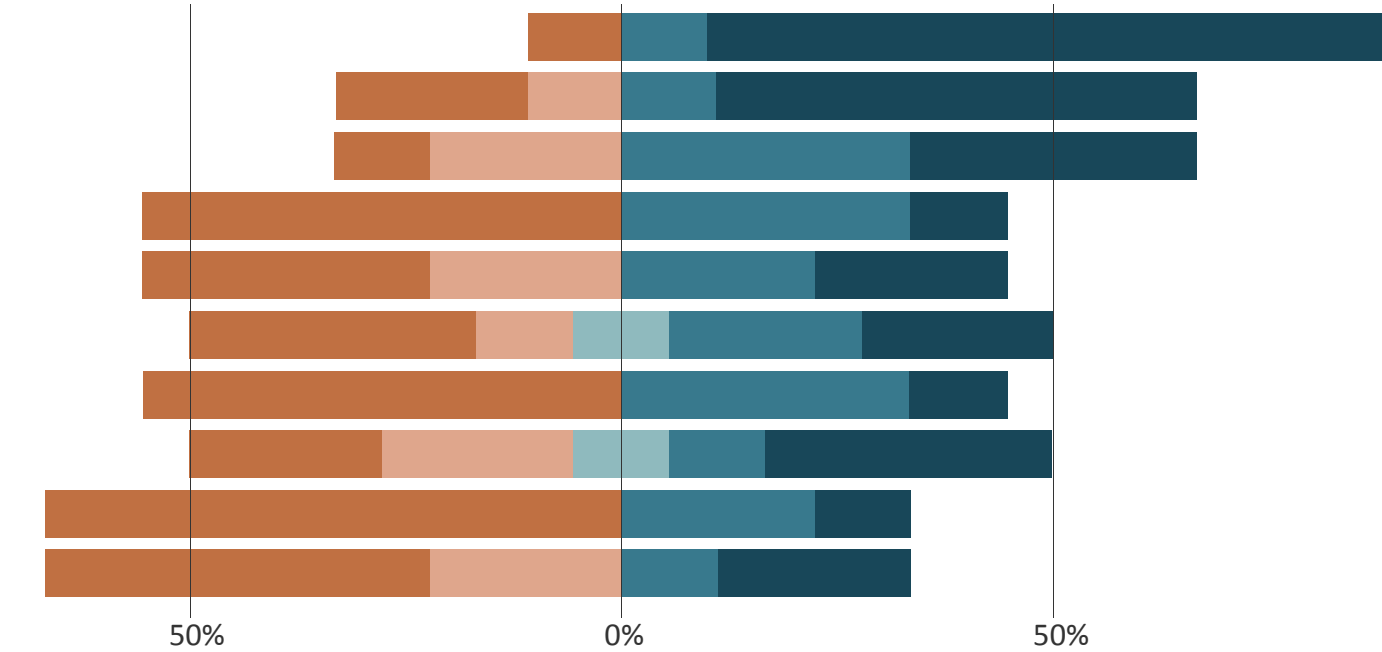


## NETS

Fish are caught in a net suspended in the water, or dragged along the seafloor.

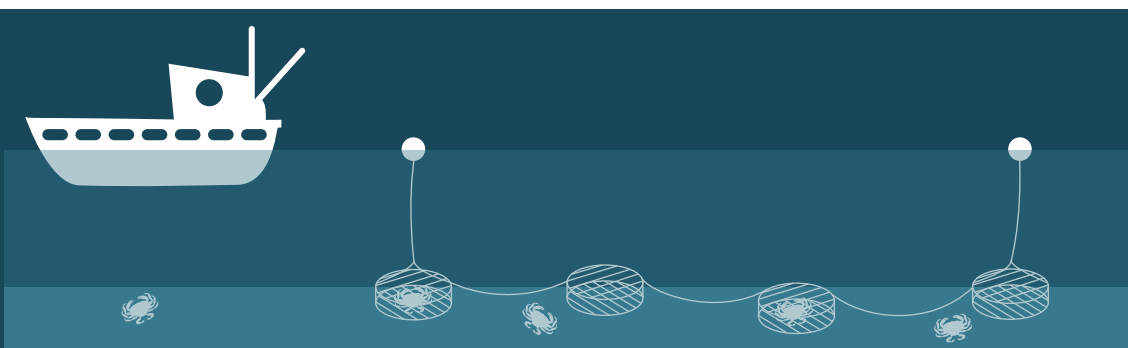


- Snags
- Seafloor
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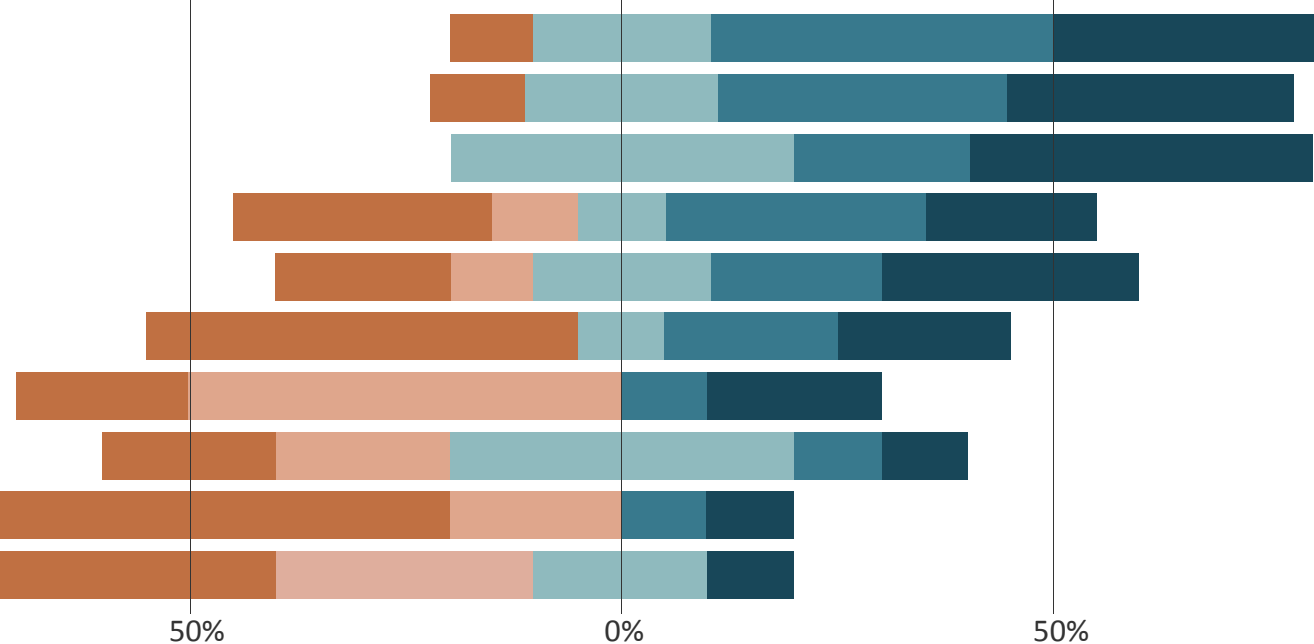


## TRAPS

Target species are caught in a trap set on the ocean floor.



- Snags
- Other Reasons
- Seafloor
- Seafloor Slope
- Ocean Currents
- Vessel Interactions
- Lost Gear Interactions
- New Areas
- Active Gear Interac.
- Weather



# WHERE DOES GEAR GO MISSING?

This map shows the locations of various types of lost fishing gear in the Pacific Region. Lost gear data was gathered from commercial fisher surveys, Natural Resources Consultants, and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative.

## GEAR TYPE

- dive net
- line trap

## WORKING WITH FISHERS TO TACKLE LOST GEAR ON THE BC COAST

Fish harvesters, biologists, and sea creatures can all agree: lost fishing gear is never a good thing. But even the most skilled and seasoned fisherman will end up losing a trap from time to time in an ocean of unpredictable weather and invisible snags below the surface. Our best tool against lost, abandoned, and otherwise discarded fishing gear is understanding how to prevent it. Caitie Frenkel partnered with the TBuck Suzuki Foundation to study this issue along the BC coast. Caite referenced existing research, used ecological modeling, and surveyed fish harvesters to find out where and why gear is lost.

Frenkel, C. M. (2023). Commercial fishing gear loss in Canada's Pacific Ocean: answering the why, where, and now with a mixed methods, trans-disciplinary approach (thesis). Infographic by Hannah Fiegenbaum

# FISHING GEAR LOSS IN BC