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**34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Proposal on lost or abandoned fishing gear**

The NAFO Performance Review urges NAFO to further its efforts to introduce management measures to deal directly with lost and abandoned fishing gear, with the scope to minimize catches by such gears, and the potential negative impact of so-called ghost-fishing has on the marine ecosystem.

It is proposed to insert the following Article in the Chapter I of the NAFO CEM.

**Article 13.9 – Lost or abandoned fishing gears**

***Retrieval of fishing gears***

1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that :
  - a. vessels fishing in the NRA flying their flag have equipment on board to retrieve lost gear;
  - b. the master of a vessel that has lost gear or part of it shall make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible.
  - c. no master shall deliberately abandon fishing gear, except for safety reasons.
2. If the lost gear cannot be retrieved, the Master of the vessel shall notify the flag State Contracting Party within 24 hours of the following:
  - a. the name and call sign of the vessel,
  - b. the type of lost gear,
  - c. the quantity of gear lost,
  - d. the time when the gear was lost,
  - e. the position where the gear was lost,
  - f. the measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear.
3. Following retrieval of lost gear, the Master of the vessel shall notify the flag State Contracting Party within 24 hours of the following:
  - a. the name and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the gear,
  - b. the name and call sign of the vessel that lost the gear (if known),
  - c. the type of gear retrieved,
  - d. the quantity of gear retrieved,
  - e. the time when the gear was retrieved,
  - f. the position where the gear was retrieved.
4. The flag State Contracting Party shall without delay notify the Executive Secretary of the information referred to in paragraph 2 and 3.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

5. The Executive Secretary posts without delay the information provided by Contracting Parties in accordance with paragraph 4 on the secure part of the NAFO website.