

- Negotiate in good faith a new legally-binding convention on plastic pollution that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, building on and complementing existing regional and global frameworks while addressing key gaps around global objectives, market restrictions, and a just and safe circular economy for plastics.
- Negotiate in good faith a new legally-binding treaty to eliminate fossil fuel extraction, which provides the raw material of 99% of plastics.
- Convene a Major Economies Forum on Plastics to bring together the countries most responsible for consumption of plastic that ultimately ends up as waste, as well as the United Nations, to spur cooperative action to combat the plastics crisis.

8. REDUCE AND MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF DISCARDED AND LOST FISHING GEAR.

Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, including gillnets and fishing traps/pots causes ecological and economic harms. This fishing gear is often called “ghost gear” because long after it is lost it entangles, captures, and kills sea turtles, seabirds, marine mammals, and fish. It changes the marine environment, poses navigational hazards, introduces plastic into the marine food web, and creates a persistent marine debris and pollution problem, with high cleanup costs.

- Direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,

to develop regulations for reducing litter and the environmental impacts of U.S. commercial and recreational fishing gear that is lost or abandoned. These regulations must include (1) reporting, labeling, traceability, and monitoring measures and (2) measures to eliminate or substantially reduce the impacts of lost and abandoned fishing gear on wildlife, including gear retrieval projects.

- Commit to working with NOAA, the states, and Congress to complete a plan and allocate new federal funding to eliminate abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear from U.S. vessels and in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- Revise the NOAA “Fishing for Energy” program that collects derelict fishing gear at 31 ports in 9 states, which recycles a limited amount of metal and sends the rest of the collected material to garbage incinerators. The incinerator element of this program should be eliminated.

