

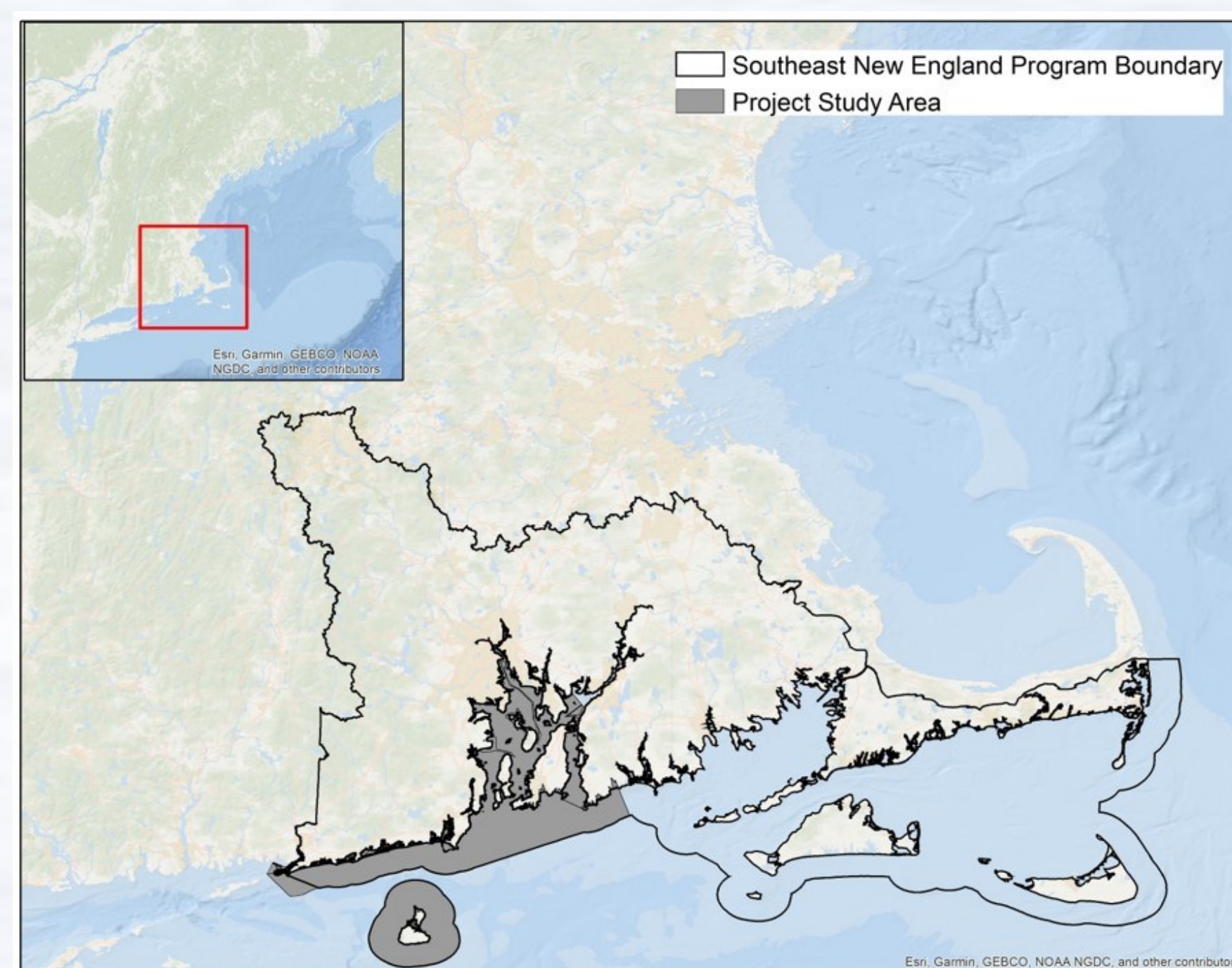
Planning a Ghost Gear Removal Program for Rhode Island

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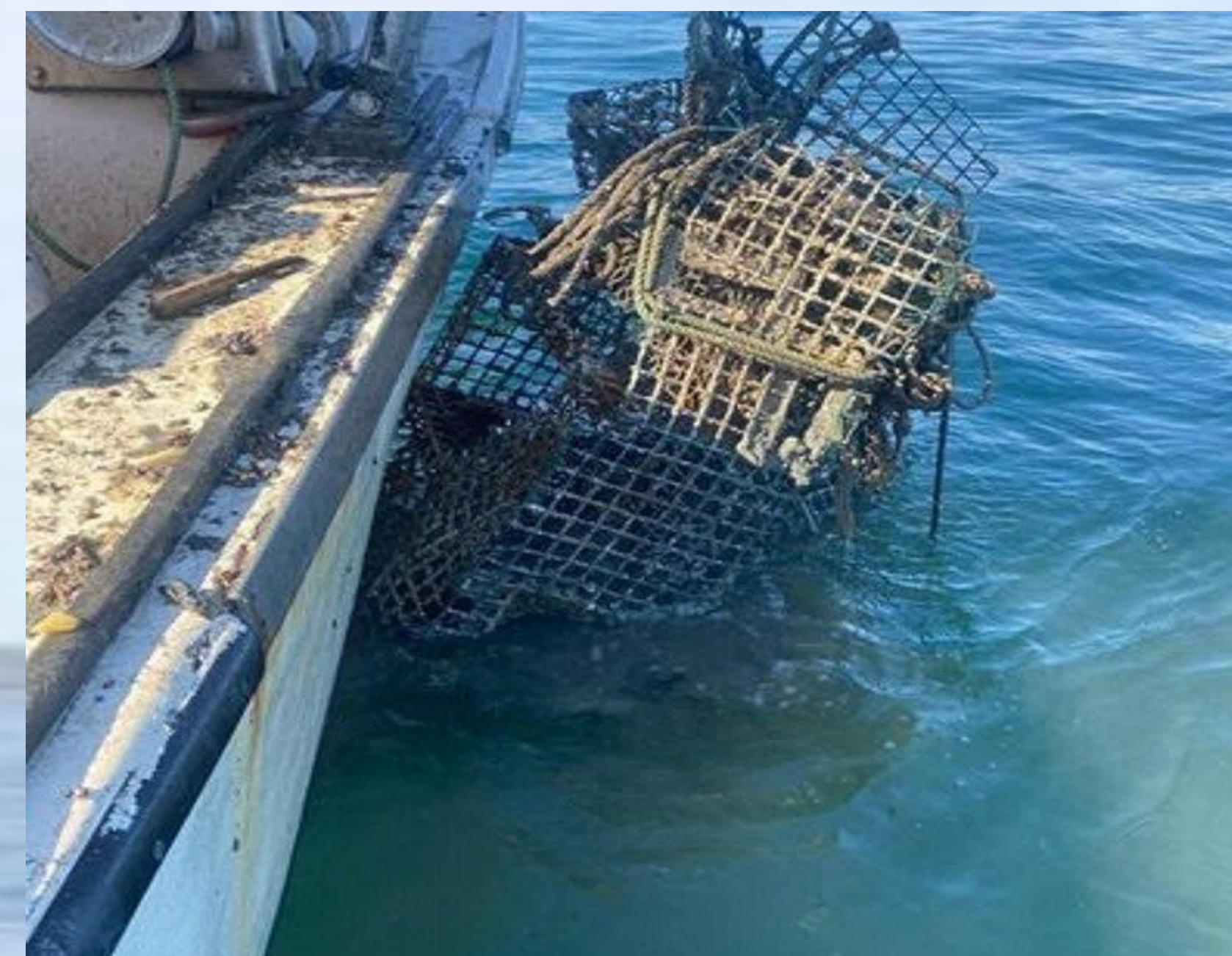


Introduction

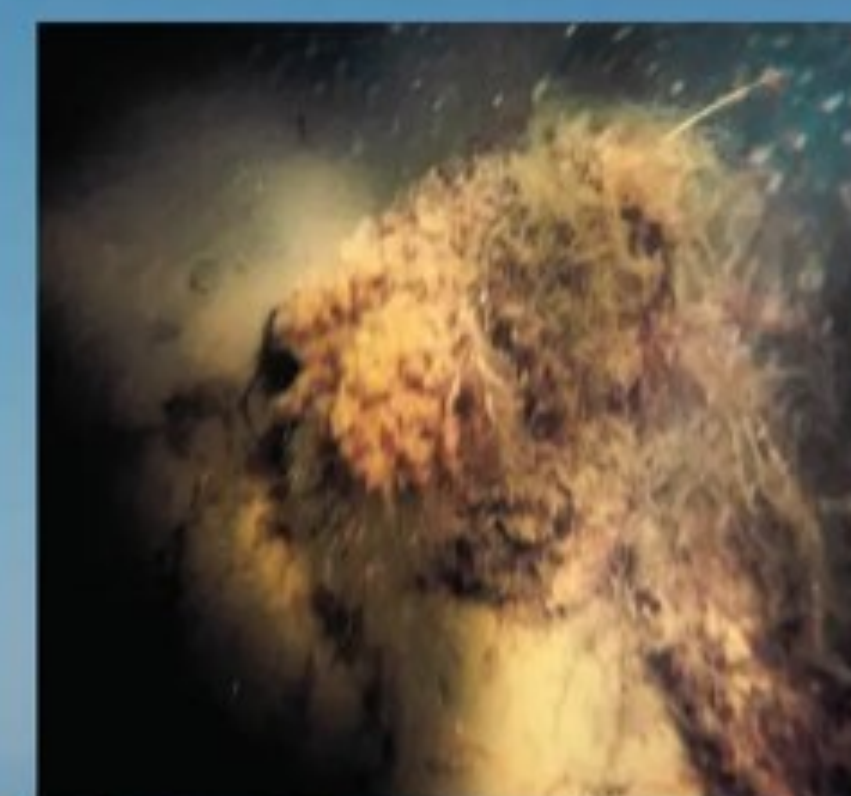
Discarded or lost fishing gear is called ghost gear. Ghost gear in coastal waters is acknowledged as a serious problem having ecological, navigational, and commercial and recreational fishing impacts. Rhode Island is no exception but did not have a cohesive program to identify, remove and dispose of lost fishing gear. This project developed a sustainable plan for removing lost/abandoned fishing gear, ghost gear, from Rhode Island state waters.



Project Site



WHAT IS GHOST GEAR?



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM FOR RHODE ISLAND?



Outreach

Digital three-fold brochure



Lecture and Dockside Event



Community Meeting



Results

Advisory Group Formed

Representation from: commercial fishermen, local and international ghost gear programs, RI Division of Marine Fisheries, and RI Port Management

Workshop

Regulatory representatives, local and international ghost gear removal experts, and recycling companies together with fisherman to review the planning document.

Planning Document

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Ghost Gear Locations | 4. Recycling and Disposal |
| Identifying Ghost Gear for Removal | Sorting materials |
| Permit Requirements | Recycling and disposal methods |
| 2. Training | 5. Implementation |
| At sea training | Program Sustainability (Funding opportunities) |
| Removal equipment | Program Evaluation |
| 3. Removal | |
| Documentation | |
| Safety requirements | |
| Notification of removal activities | |
| Removal Procedures | |
| Data Collection | |

NOTE: This is a "living" document that will be updated and revised using lessons learned during implementation

Methods

To develop this planning document, including a step step-by-step pathway to implementation we,

1. Increased public awareness of ghost gear and the importance of a coordinated effort for removal.
2. Developed partnerships with organizations experienced in ghost fishing gear removal and recycling.
3. Prepared a draft planning document for the implementation of a ghost gear removal program.
4. Hosted a stakeholder's workshop to discuss and improve the planning document.
5. Held a public meeting to present and get feedback on the planning document



Plan Implemented February 2023

4,000 lbs. removed and recycled from Narragansett Bay

The success of this project relied on the many partnerships we developed:



Project Website:

www.cfrfoundation.org/ghost-gear-removal-plan-for-rhode-island

QR Code:



Funding:

