



Joanna Toole

Annual Ghost Gear Solutions Award



Overview

In 2019, World Animal Protection, as a legacy to their Sea Change campaign and as founders of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI), pledged a three-year commitment to support solutions projects related to abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), also known as ghost gear. The award is valued at a minimum of \$40,000 with judges from World Animal Protection and the GGGI evaluating the proposals to ensure that the projects demonstrate a sustainable, innovative approach to tackling the problem of ghost gear in our ocean in line with the GGGI core objectives.

After the tragic passing of our colleague and friend, Joanna Toole, and in recognition of her tireless work on the issue of ALDFG, including co-founding the GGGI and leading the development and implementation of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Global Programme of Work on addressing ALDFG, this award is dedicated in her memory and will continue into the future. It is envisioned that the Joanna Toole annual Ghost Gear Solutions Award will be awarded through the Joanna Toole Foundation (to be established later in 2019) in the long term, with support from the GGGI. In the short term, World Animal Protection will lead on the establishment and development of the award to ensure it is created practically and sustainably prior to handing over for long term stewardship.

This document outlines the background and objectives of the Joanna Toole Ghost Gear Solutions Award along with information on how to apply for the award. The first Solutions Award will be launched on June 8th 2019 - World Oceans Day - and close to applicants on 10th July 2019. We welcome applications for projects aimed at addressing the threats of ghost gear in our oceans.

We hope that the Joanna Toole Ghost Gear Solutions Award will become a permanent feature of the practical and solutions focused drive to rid the ocean of ghost gear and to celebrate the inspiration and dedication that Joanna brought to the collective effort to secure ocean health and animal welfare.



Opposite page:

Participants saved corals and crabs from the recovered nets at Taboga Island, Panama. Photo credit: World Animal Protection

Cover / Above:

Joanna Toole, the principal architect and driving force behind the establishment of the GGGI. Photo credit: World Animal Protection



Solutions Project Grant Award

'Ghost gear' – lost or abandoned fishing equipment - is one of the biggest threats to animals in our oceans. A staggering 640,000 tons of ghost gear is left in our oceans each year – more than one ton every minute.

Ghost gear is, by far, the deadliest form of marine debris. Ghost gear is four times more likely to impact on marine life, through entanglement, than all other forms of marine debris combined. Every year more than 100,000 whales, dolphins, seals and turtles get caught in abandoned or lost fishing nets, lines and traps. Moreover, there is an increasing consensus that ghost gear is directly responsible for a 10 percent decline in fish stock levels globally. Made of durable material, ghost gear can take up to 600 years to break down.

In 2014, World Animal Protection's Oceans Team, including Joanna Toole, established the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership

committed to driving solutions to the problem of lost and abandoned fishing gear worldwide. In 2019, the stewardship of the GGGI has rotated from World Animal Protection to Ocean Conservancy. The GGGI aims to improve the health and productivity of marine ecosystems, protect marine life, and safeguard human health and livelihoods. The GGGI currently brings together well over 100 partners including the fishing industry, the private sector, academia, governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The GGGI's membership is organised into three integrated working groups to directly tackle global ghost gear through:

- i. building evidence;
- ii. defining best practice and informing policy;
- iii. catalysing and replicating solutions.



In March 2019, a key driving force behind the establishment of the GGGI, Joanna Toole, was tragically killed in the Ethiopian Airlines crash as she was on her way to further engage the international community to address ghost gear and its environmental impacts. In recognition of Joanna's leading role in addressing ghost gear and in celebration of her legacy and dedication to her work, World Animal Protection, in close consultation with Joanna's family and friends and the members of the GGGI, has proposed to establish the Joanna Toole Ghost Gear Solutions Award to further the work of the GGGI. The Joanna Toole Ghost Gear Solutions Award will be formally awarded through the Joanna Toole Foundation (to be established) together with the GGGI and will be administered through the GGGI Secretariat.

World Animal Protection has committed to finance the award for the first three years. Further funding to ensure that the award programme is continued beyond this period will be raised through the Joanna Toole Foundation and with the support of the GGGI membership. Ideally, the award will be issued annually and at least until 2030 by which time the GGGI had envisioned to reach the break-even point where the total amount of gear lost each year is equal to or smaller than the amount of gear recovered from the ocean. 2030 is also the end point of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Joanna was passionate about making a significant contribution to the SDG agenda during her lifetime. It is at this breakeven point where the mission of the GGGI and Joanna's dedication to deliver truly transformative change to the health of the ocean and the welfare of animal life within it will be achieved.

The first Joanna Toole Ghost Gear Solutions Award (at a minimum of \$40,000 pending confirmation from additional donors) will be awarded to a project designed to tackle the problem of ghost gear at source, either through the prevention of gear being lost or discarded, or through the removal of ghost gear that is already in the ocean. Project proposals should set out how the project will contribute to building evidence on the scope and impact of ghost gear and/or the development of systemic, sustainable solutions to addressing the ghost gear problem. Ideally, solution projects should be scalable, replicable and sustainable, and underpinned by a commitment from the proposing organization to continue to address ghost gear beyond the project duration.

Ultimately the projects will make our ocean a better place - something that Jo dedicated her professional life to achieving.

Opposite page:

Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) trapped in an abandoned drifting net in the Mediterranean sea. Photo credit: Jordi Chias / naturepl.com

Below:

World Animal Protection's Joanna Toole holding ghost gear on a beach. Photo credit: World Animal Protection



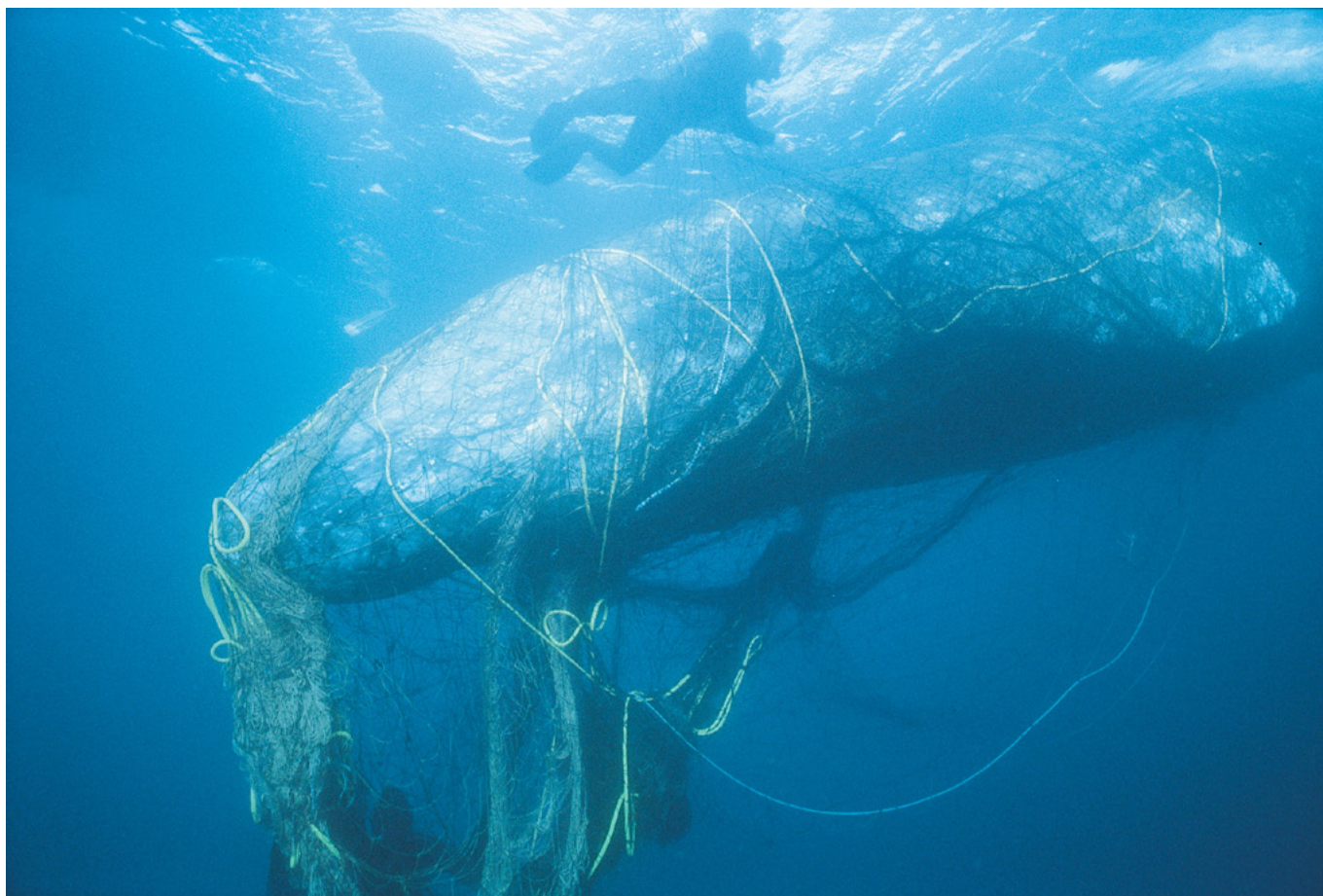
The winning project will:

- Prevent and reduce negative impacts of ghost gear and its impacts to the marine environment
- Be systematic in its approach, building on existing knowledge and working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders
- Focus on areas of particular concern, including sensitive marine habitats
- Raise awareness of ghost gear and how to solve it
- Meet the criteria for Global Ghost Gear Initiative solution projects
- Protect marine animals from harm

The award competition will be launched on June 8th, 2019 – World Oceans Day. Completed project applications must be received by 10th July 2019. They will be reviewed by ghost gear experts from the Global Ghost Gear Initiative and World Animal Protection who sit on a Project Review Board of cross-sectoral experts that Joanna herself was actively involved in. Additional information including photographs and references may be requested during the evaluation process.

Below:

Rescuers untangle a gray whale from ghost net off the coast of California. World Animal Protection's ghost gear campaign aims to reduce the discarded fishing nets and lobster pots that entangle marine animals. Photo credit: Bob Talbot / Marine Photobank





Application form 1/2

Applicant's name and contact details

(Including email, please include whether applicant is registered company, charity or other, including registration details if relevant)

Project description and aims:

Project destination:

How does the project meet the objectives outlined above?

(Please make specific reference to how it will improve the health of marine ecosystems, protect marine animals and / or safeguard human health and livelihoods. Please include metrics related to number, weight, area etc. of ALDFG removed if applicable)

Have any projects addressing ghost fishing gear been initiated in the same area in the past?

What initial baseline research has been conducted, if any?

(Research showing the impact and extent of ghost gear in the project area. Please include any supplementary papers and articles in appendix)

Partners

(List whether these are potential or confirmed and from where any costs in excess of the award are expected to come)



Application form 2/2

Project costs

(State the estimated budget in \$U.S. for your whole project and itemise headings under which this award would be spent)

Expected start and completion dates

(Project must be complete and final reporting submitted by December 2020)

Awareness raising and promotion

(Please outline how the project will be promoted and any other awareness raising activities to acknowledge the award and activities)

Have you identified any potential risks to the success of your project? If so, what mitigating measures do you plan to put in place?

Please submit completed applications and enquiries to the contact details below.



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