

PROPOSED FORM FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON ABANDONED, LOST AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR (ALDFG)

IOTC secretariat

Understanding the need to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution and the impact of unsustainable fishing practices upon the oceanic environment, represented by the discarding of fishing gear and plastic residues in the Indian Ocean, the Commission adopted the [Recommendation 24/11](#).

Paragraph 3 Indicates “The IOTC Secretariat is tasked with developing a data form and standards for collecting and reporting the information of the recovery of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear”. Based on available literature, the form [3ALD](#) includes sections to report the information related with the recovery date and location, the characteristics of the recovered gear, the occurrence of interactions and the gear final disposal as described in the table below:

Section (Data)	Data element	Requirement	Description	Input value
Recovery data	Month	M	Month of gear recovery	Integer 1 - 12
	Day of month	M	Day of the month of gear	Integer 1 - 31
	Location	M	Specified place of encounter	Land / Sea
	Latitude	M	Distance north or south of the Equator	Decimal degrees
	Longitude	M	Distance east or west of the prime meridian	Decimal degrees
Gear data	Identifier	M	Gear Unique identifier	(e.g., ISD+, M3+, T8E) followed by 5-9 digits
	Gear group	M	Indicate main gear group	Code from Gear group
	Gear	M	Indicate specific gear	Code from Gear
	Gear component	O	Indicate specific gear component	Plain text
	Material	M		Code from Gear Characteristics
	Weight	M	Gear weight recovered	Unit (kg), decimal
Gear interaction	Entanglements	M	Indicate presence of entanglements	Yes/No
	Specie	M	If positive entanglement indicates specie	Code from Species
Recovered gear data	Reused	M	Indicate if the gear was reused	Yes/No
	Place of disposal	M	Indicate the final disposal of the gear	Plain text

References

- Gifford T, Randall P, Marlin D and Nathaniel J. 2024. Addressing ALDFG in Africa: a best practice guide. (Gifford T, Randall P and Marlin D. Eds) African Marine Waste Network, Sustainable Seas Trust, Gqeberha, South Africa. Available from [\(PDF\) Addressing ALDFG in Africa: A best practice guide](#)
- Gilman E. 2024. Guidelines for Developing Plans of Action on Managing Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.20306.88009>
- Heile A, Sinan H, Dyer E, Bailey M. 2023. Developing a data standard for the retrieval of abandoned and lost FADs in the Indian Ocean. [IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-18](#)
- Schatz V. 2023. Assessing Drifting Fish Aggregating Device (dFAD) Abandonment under International Marine Pollution Law [IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-08](#).

Annex I PROPOSED FORM FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON ABANDONED, LOST AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR (ALDFG)

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