

Policy plan 2024

Stichting Ghost Diving

February 2024



GHOST DIVING

— global mission —

Foreword by the chairman

Stichting Ghost Diving is incorporated on February 11, 2020 in Katwijk. The foundation has been based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands since 2023.

The objectives of Stichting Ghost Diving are:

- Making the underwater problems caused by lost fishing gear and other waste worldwide visible to the public. Creating awareness of the problem called 'ghost fishing' to a wide audience in general;
- The removal of underwater waste, including fishing nets, lines and other marine debris by voluntary diving teams;
- Investigating and documenting local situations;
- Ensuring diving safety during under water waste removal through training and instructions;
- Committing to recycling marine debris and to cooperate with companies specialized in these processes;
- Sharing knowledge and best practices with other organizations;
- Education, for example by giving presentations; and
- To cooperate with other diving teams and other relating organizations.

'Ghost Fishing' is what fishing gear does when it has been lost, dumped or abandoned in the seas and oceans. Imagine a fishing net that gets snagged on a reef or a wreck and gets detached from the fishing vessel. Nets, long lines, fish traps or any man-made contraptions, designed to catch fish or marine organisms, are considered capable of ghost fishing when unattended. Without anyone profiting from the catches, they are affecting already depleted commercial fish stocks. Caught fish die and in turn attract scavengers which will get caught in that same net, thus creating a vicious circle.

It is estimated that 640,000 tons of fishing gear gets lost or abandoned in the seas and oceans each year. They are among the greatest killers in the oceans, and not only because of their numbers. Literally hundreds of kilometers of nets and lines get lost every year and due to the nature of the materials used to produce these types of gear, they can and will keep fishing for multiple decades, possibly even for several centuries.

To this day, the Ghost Diving team has carried out diving projects independently or in collaboration with several international environmental and/or diving organizations like: Healthy Seas Foundation, Greenpeace, WWF, Global Ghost Gear Initiative and Global Underwater Explorers. It goes without saying that, to be able to realize its objectives, Stichting Ghost Diving needs partners which are willing to contribute by funding these projects and taking actions.

Please appreciate that this policy plan is drawn up for the purpose of applying for an ANBI (Public Benefit Organization) status and therefore limited to the requested information.

On behalf of the board of Stichting Ghost Diving,

Pascal van Erp, Founder & Chairman

Mission, challenges & strategies

Mission

Stichting Ghost Diving is driven by volunteer technical divers who carry out lost fishing gear removal projects and raise awareness the general public about the ghost fishing issue on a global scale.

Challenges & strategies

'Ghost Fishing' is what fishing gear does when it has been lost, dumped or abandoned in the seas and oceans. Imagine a fishing net that gets snagged on a reef or a wreck and gets detached from the fishing vessel. Nets, long lines, fish traps or any man-made contraptions, designed to catch fish or marine organisms, are considered capable of ghost fishing when unattended. Without anyone profiting from the catches, they are affecting already depleted commercial fish stocks. Caught fish die and in turn attract scavengers which will get caught in that same net, thus creating a vicious circle.

- **Physically removing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris**

Since 2009, our volunteer divers have removed hundreds of tons of lost fishing nets, fishing gear and other marine debris from shipwrecks, reefs and the seabed, gaining valuable experience and at the same time perfecting our own techniques.

- **Documentation (photo/video)**

The power lies in making the problem of ghost fishing visible. Stichting Ghost Diving works with professional underwater photographers and film makers to document its actions for evaluation and presentation purposes.

- **Ensuring diving safety**

Stichting Ghost Diving sticks to standards & procedures to reduce risks to a minimum. Stichting Ghost Diving offers advice on diving safety.

- **Recycling marine debris**

Some types of marine debris such as fishing nets (plastic) and weights (lead) can be recycled. Stichting Ghost Diving collects these materials in close collaboration with Healthy Seas Foundation.

- **Sharing knowledge and best practices**

Stichting Ghost Diving has extensive knowledge of many types of fishing techniques, marine waste and identifying marine life. Stichting Ghost Diving likes to share this knowledge and is willing to learn from others.

○ Education & presentation

Stichting Ghost Diving gives educational presentations to (diving) clubs and during meetings, exhibitions and shows.

Projects & planned activities

The volunteer team of Stichting Ghost Diving, carries out diving projects independently or in collaboration with several international environmental and/or diving organizations among which are Healthy Seas Foundation, Greenpeace, WWF, Global Ghost Gear Initiative and Global Underwater Explorers. The volunteer divers operate within the following localized Ghost Diving chapters, which Stichting Ghost Diving is continuously expanding.

Stichting Ghost Diving is therefore very interested in worldwide collaboration with other diving teams and likes to start or participate in existing projects all over the world.

In addition to the regular and annual activities in the Dutch North Sea, we have planned several bigger projects for 2024 in collaboration with Healthy Seas Foundation. The dates of which will be determined during the year:

- Ghost Farms, Greece (Multiple Projects)
- Battle of Convoys, Lampedusa
- HMS Perseus, Greece

Audience

Since we all profit from a better planet and healthier seas worldwide, Stichting Ghost Diving has no specific limitation on its target group.

To accomplish its mission, Stichting Ghost Diving collaborates worldwide with various local groups of technical divers and salvage companies to remove lost fishing gear. Its awareness raising work focuses on the general public, children and schools to promote the ecological and economic importance of healthy seas and the environmental damage caused by 'ghost fishing' gear.

Financing Stichting Ghost Diving

The initial budget of the initiative has been allocated as direct funding or in-kind contribution and the opportunity is offered to other business partners and stakeholders to join.

(Potential) funding sources

Stichting Ghost Diving receives:

- Partnership fees / donations from partners;
- Public donations;
- Contributions from the public via crowdfunding.

Further external funding sources are needed to continue and expand the initiative.

The budget of Stichting Ghost Diving is an ongoing process which will be adjusted throughout the years when additional funding sources will become available. Please find below an overview of potential funding sources.

Potential internal funding sources

- Input of hours of founding partners and associate partners
- Financial contribution of founding partners and associate partners
- Sharing know-how and expertise of founding partners and associate partners

The progress of the project implementation, the financial implications and the level of sustainability of the various projects will be monitored and regularly evaluated. Based on this evaluation the planned projects and budget will be updated quarterly.

Budget estimates

Income & costs 2020

- Planned income: € 10.000
- Planned costs: € 10.000

- Staff costs 0 %
- Operational costs 100 %
- Other costs 0 %

Stichting Ghost Diving has been set up to implement and finance these non-profit activities related to marine protection.

Non-profit & Remuneration policy for board members

First of all, Stichting Ghost Diving wishes to emphasize that it does not have the objective of making profit. The funds received are used to realize the objectives of Stichting Ghost Diving.

At the end of the financial year (which runs from January 1 to December 31, first year ending December 31, 2020), the treasurer draws up the financial statements, accompanied by an accountants report.

Furthermore, the board members of Stichting Ghost Diving commit themselves voluntarily and receive no remuneration. Any expense allowance will at most concern travel costs incurred, or administration costs incurred. No vacancy fees are paid.

1. General information

Please find below general information of the Stichting Ghost Diving including an overview of the board members.

Statutory name	Stichting Ghost Diving
Incorporated	February 11, 2020
Chamber of Commerce registration number	77299760
Fiscal registration number	860963585
Mailing address & Visiting Address	Nieuwe Crooswijkseweg 46C, 3034PR, ROTTERDAM
Phone Number	+31 6 278888883
Website	www.ghostdiving.org
E-mail	info@ghostdiving.org
Objectives & Activities	Ghost Diving is a charity driven by volunteer technical divers who carry out lost fishing gear removal projects and raise awareness about underwater issues caused by lost fishing gear, (so-called 'ghost fishing') on a global scale; the removal of underwater waste, including fishing nets and fishing gear; advising on safety for the divers through training and instructions; giving presentations and education; researching and mapping local situations; committed to recycling the salvaged materials; collaboration with local organizations.
Profit motive absent	The foundation does not have the objective of making profit (please be referred to article 2, sub 3 of the articles of incorporation, annex 1).
Target audience	General public worldwide
Annual accounts	January 1 until December 31. The first book year ending on December 31, 2020 (article 8 and the final statement of the Articles of incorporation, annex 1).

Board members	
Chairman	Mr. P.A.M. van Erp
Secretary	Mr. F. Tosoni
Treasurer	Mr. H. van Oeveren
