

# PUGET SOUND NEWLY LOST NET REPORTING, RESPONSE, AND RETRIEVAL PROGRAM



THE SALISH SEA



LOST GILLNETS



RRR PROGRAM



# Derelict Fishing Gear in the Salish Sea

- Severe localized problem
- Lots of rocky habitats to snag nets
- Huge salmon fishery historically
- Large Dungeness crab fishery
- Complex fishery co-management framework



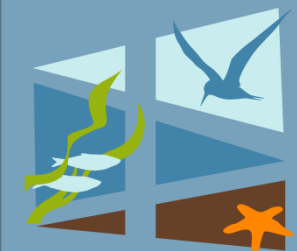
# The Problem

A photograph of a fisherman on a boat, wearing a bright orange rain suit and a blue hat, handling a large net full of fish. The boat is on the water, and the net is draped over the side. The fisherman is looking down at the fish. The background shows the dark green water of the sea.

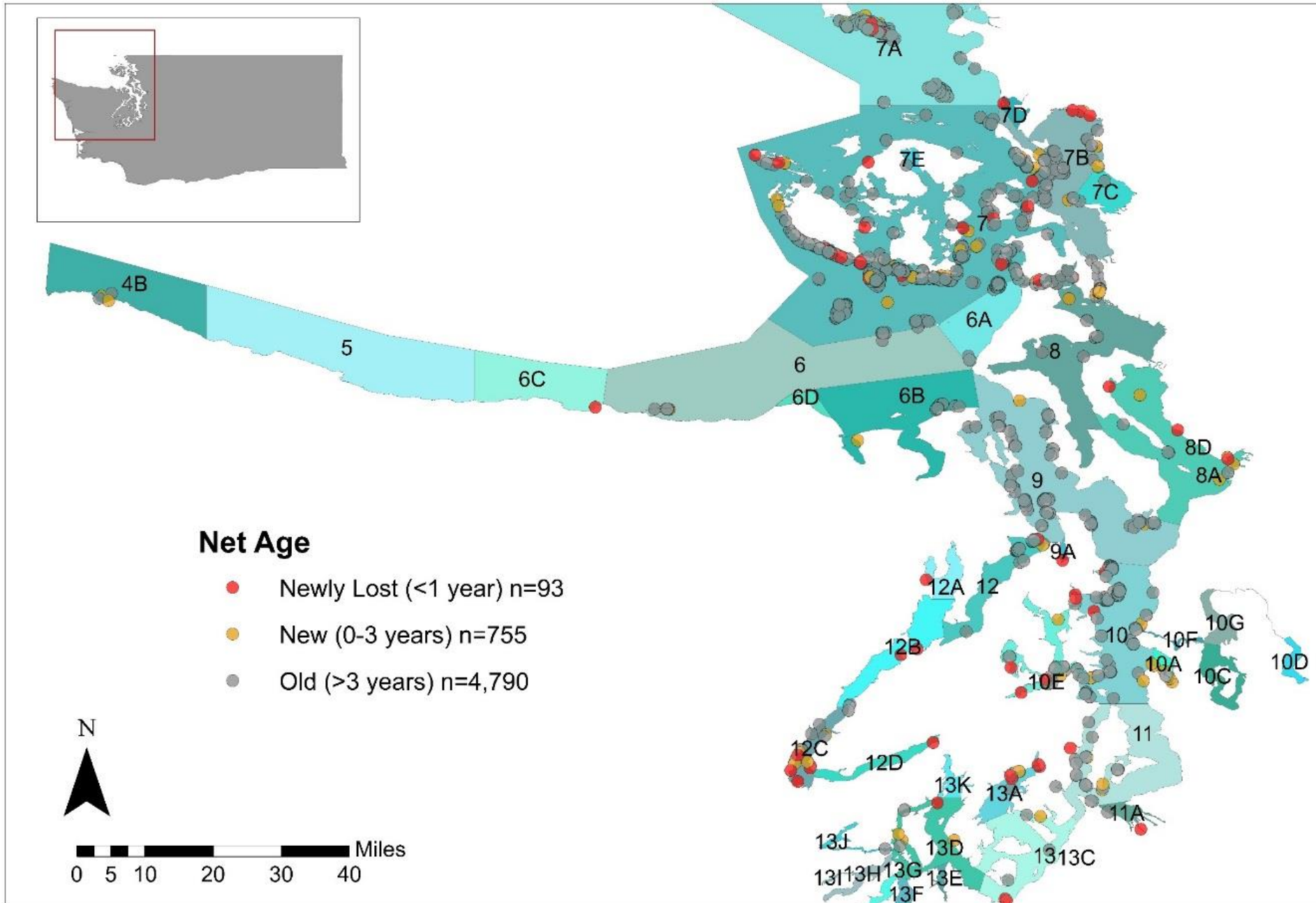
- **Estimated 6,000 gillnets lost over decades**
- **Documented multi-species animal**
- **Documented damage to critical marine habitat**

# Timeline

- 2001: Identified as priority by Northwest Straits Initiative
- 2002:
  - Hired Natural Resources Consultants as project contractor
  - Worked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tribes, other partners on protocols, guidelines, reporting system
  - Diver removals began
  - Dive guidelines developed
  - Statewide derelict fishing gear reporting system and database in place
- 2007: Strategic focus on high priority concentrations
- 2012:
  - Fishers required to report lost nets within 24 hours
  - **Reporting, Response & Retrieval Program developed**
- 2015 Completed legacy net retrieval



# Salish Sea Net Removal Results as of 2021



- 5,638 net
- 344.8 metric tons
- 3.35 km<sup>2</sup> habitat recovered
- 298,383 animals
  - Mammals: 90
  - Birds: 1,119
  - Fish: 4,222
  - Invertebrates: 120,764
- 119 unique species



# Robust Data Collection

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- Statewide database
- Gear information
- Species and habitat impacts
- Reporting information
- Response information
- Reporting & Response log

Program objective: reduce harm from lost gillnets avoid re-accumulation



# Reporting, Response & Retrieval Program

- Reporting system in place
- Tied to statewide database
- State fishers required to report within 24 hours – 2012
- Many tribes have reporting requirements
- Tribal fishers required to report under NOAA harvest rules
- Natural Resources Consultants responds to all reports
- Coordinate with fishers and agencies for removal





# Reporting

WWW.derelictgear.org



## Derelict Fishing Gear Reporting Form

**CRAB OR SHRIMP POTS:** Please report all lost, abandoned, or discarded shellfish gear to WDFW at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations/gear-rules/lost-gear>. The Northwest Straits Foundation is **not** funded for retrieval of reported lost shellfish gear. WDFW Marine Enforcement officers are regularly patrolling Puget Sound waters and may be able to assist in the retrieval and return of lost pots.

Type of gear:  Other gear type:

General location:

Latitude (ex. 4834.333):

Longitude (ex. 12300.333):

Estimated Water depth (ft.):

Date found:

How found:

Reporter name\*:

Telephone number\*:

Email\*:

Comments and description:

Preview your Report

- Online linked to DGDB
- Telephone Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Tribal reporting systems
- Linked to contractor email
- Report verification



# Program objective: reduce harm from lost gillnets and avoid re-accumulation

	Annual loss rate	No. lost since 2012	reported lost gillnets	% loss reported	Removed	% removed
Low estimate	13	130	70	54%	56	43%
High estimate	26	261	70	27%	56	21%