



24 January 2020

Dear Lynn, Ingrid and GGGI letter signatories,

Thank you for this letter. I would like to begin by acknowledging the efforts of the GGGI team and in particular the work you have undertaken with my team in exploring this important issue. We, like you, are keen to play our part in tackling this problem which impacts many aspects of ocean health.

The MSC Fisheries Standard includes requirements that the impact of ghost gear is considered in Principle 2: Minimising environmental impact. If a fishery is to be considered best practice by the Fisheries Standard, they should have knowledge of the scale of gear loss and the impact of this lost gear on habitats, ecosystems or species of concern. Indeed there is [evidence of MSC fisheries improving the way gear loss impact is managed](#).

However, in recognition of recent research revealing the scale of the ghost gear problem, we have worked to better understand how both the standard and certified fisheries consider and reduce ghost gear impacts, including how mitigation strategies compare with advances in management best practice. Indeed, the GGGI Best Practice Framework was part of this consideration. The aim of the work is to establish whether there is a case for strengthening relevant assessment criteria linked to this issue in the context of our regular [Fisheries Standard Review process](#).

The next key decision point of the Fisheries Standard Review is in February 2020 when we will be presenting progress to our Board of Trustees who will decide on whether and how this review process continues through this year and beyond. Key amongst the work areas being presented will be ghost gear. We will be sure to highlight receipt of this letter.

Thanks again for the timely letter and the ongoing GGGI support. My team will be in touch following the Board meeting.

With my best wishes and thanks again.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rohan Currey'.

Dr Rohan Currey
Chief Science and Standards Officer