

Biodegradable fishing nets may help protect marine animals

February 1 2016

When synthetic non-biodegradable fishing nets are lost, abandoned, or discarded at sea, they may continue to catch fish and other animals for a long period of time—a phenomenon is known as 'ghost fishing'.

New research shows that a biodegradable net material can be used to create [nets](#) that have similar catch rates as conventional nets but decompose after a certain period of time under water.

The *Animal Conservation* findings suggest that biodegradable netting may become a feasible alternative to conventional nylon netting and can contribute to reducing ghost fishing.

More information: S. Kim et al. Use of biodegradable driftnets to prevent ghost fishing: physical properties and fishing performance for yellow croaker, *Animal Conservation* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/acv.12256](https://doi.org/10.1111/acv.12256)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Biodegradable fishing nets may help protect marine animals (2016, February 1) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-02-biodegradable-fishing-nets-marine-animals.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.