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PRESS RELEASE

“GHOST” CRAB GEAR RETRIEVAL PROJECT IN THE HECATE STRAIT

JULY 8, 2020, Vancouver, BC – Lost or abandoned fishing gear has been an ongoing concern for Area A crab harvesters in the Hecate Strait, both for the health of marine life and the financial impacts of losing gear. While Area A crab harvesters dedicate time and funding to gear recovery each year, Ecotrust Canada and the Area A Crab Association will coordinate enhanced gear recovery efforts in the fishery from 2021-2022.

The “Enhanced Lost and Abandoned Crab Gear Retrieval in Hecate Strait” project is one of 22 projects in Canada selected for the \$8.3 million Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Program by [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) (DFO). This opportunity will allow for additional locations and timing of retrieval efforts. Ecotrust Canada will work alongside the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation to ensure that hot spots of concern in other fisheries will be included. Gear recovery trips will collect information for a better understanding of the economic and stock implications of lost fishing gear.

Dan Edwards, Executive Director, Area A Crab Association: *“Area A crab fishermen look forward to participating in projects that help recover lost gear that will augment recovery work they already engage in, which is done in conjunction with their soft shell survey.”*

Racheal Weymer, Fisheries Director at Ecotrust Canada: *“For the past nine years, Ecotrust Canada has been working with fish harvesters on the North Coast to improve fisheries monitoring, observing, and data collection. Through the Lost and Abandoned Crab Gear Retrieval project we will continue to find ways to build a more sustainable and economically viable fishery.”*

Jennifer Paton, Gear Recovery Coordinator at Ecotrust Canada: *“This project will allow for a greater understanding of trap loss in the Area A crab fishery and enhanced retrieval of lost gear by harvesters. We will make recommendations on how to accurately report gear loss using the existing electronic monitoring system.”*

About Ecotrust Canada

Ecotrust Canada is an enterprising charity that works with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities toward building an economy that provides for a healthy and resilient natural environment; sustainable and abundant energy, food, and housing; prosperous and meaningful livelihoods; and vibrant and inclusive cultures. We call this approach **building an economy that provides for life**. Our on-the-ground work and systems approach is entrepreneurial, partnership-based, and relentlessly practical. ecotrust.ca

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