

Gear still gets run down even when clearly marked

Advice to Fishermen

"Make your gear more visible, where practical with dan buoys and flags, and avoid the dangerous practice of floating lines on the surface"

Advice to Yachtsmen

Keep a sharp look out for fishing gear particularly around headlands and harbour entrances. Do not sail too close to buoys.

If you encounter marked fishing gear the wind and tide may drive you down on to it

**KEEP WELL CLEAR!
GIVE IT A WIDE BERTH!
KEEP A SHARP LOOK-OUT FOR
MORE FISHING GEAR!**



Marking of Fishing Gear

Advice to Fishermen and Yachtsmen



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No one has much sympathy for seamen who do not keep a good lookout and manage to run into something they should have seen, but each year the Coastguard has to deal with some 340 incidents where boats are snagged by their propeller or rudder on floating lines or fishing gear. About a quarter of the incidents reported involve fishing vessels themselves which are snagged on their own gear.

Small floats and lemonade bottles are barely visible to small vessels and should not be used.



The illustrations inside show how fixed or moored fishing gear is deployed and how it should be marked. The line between the main buoy and the buoy with the flag should be weighted to ensure that it does not float on the surface and the flag should be mounted on a pole and coloured black for best silhouettes at night.

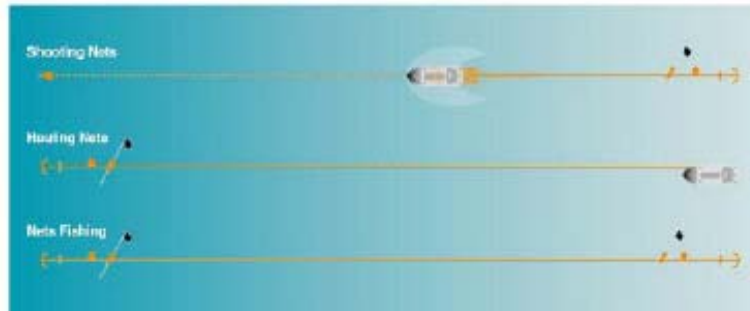
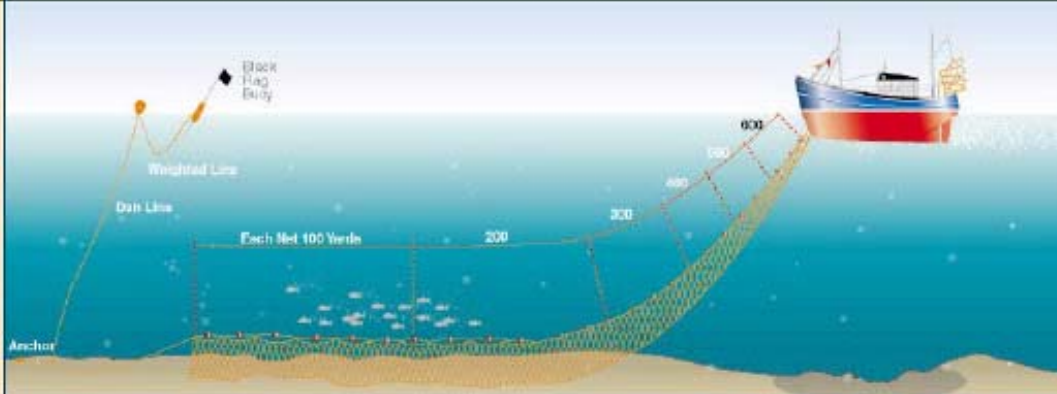


It's quite amazing what can be seen floating on or just below the surface when you keep a "Good Look-out"

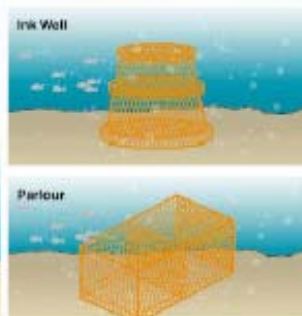
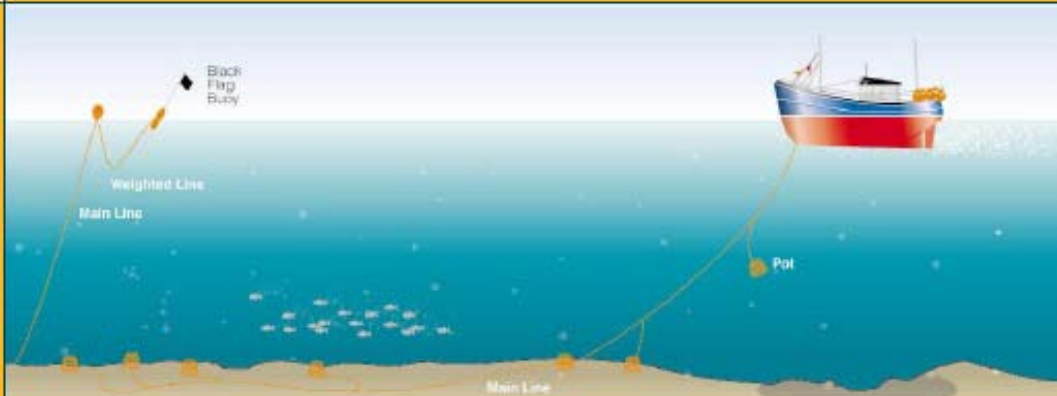
Fishermen probably snag their own gear whilst trying to recover it. Hi-lighting the dangers of a close encounter with static fishing gear.



NETTING



POTTING



Rise and fall of tides

How this can take a marker buoy below the surface at high water, or cause excessive slack line at low water

Use of buoys to determine rate and set of tide and which side to pass well clear

Do not try to pass between marker and float, although this distance is usually small

Fishermen have weighted lines previously to make them sink and have then been accused of doing this to cause more damage to propellers!