



PRESS RELEASE
21 May, 2019

GHOST FISHING DIVERS OPERATE IN GERMAN BALTIC FOR THE FIRST TIME- HELP FUND THEIR MISSION

Ghost fishing gear kills millions of marine animals each year. The [Ghost Fishing Foundation](#) and the [Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine \(GRD\)](#), will tackle this problem by performing a ghost gear removal operation (Operation German Baltic) from **June 10th – 12th** at shipwrecks located in the seabed near Rügen that are covered by massive trawl nets.

Porpoises in the Baltic Sea are among the most vulnerable small whale population in Europe! Their stock is permanently declining due to gillnet fishery, marine pollution and underwater noise and this mission's aim is to help protect this critically endangered species, as classified by the IUCN Red List. The nets recovered will be sent to [Nofir A.S.](#) for recycling.

The mission is sponsored in part by [Trixie](#) but the organisations are campaigning for additional funding required for the mission on Betterplace.org: <https://bit.ly/2HscsV3>

Operation German Baltic is also supported by: [Seacraft](#), [Halcyon Equipment](#), [Ursuit](#), [TecLine](#), [Ammonite System](#), [Subsupply](#), [Ratio Computers](#), [Fourth Element](#) and [Nofir](#).

Invitation to the Press: The Press is invited to join the team on June 10th-12th to capture images as well as interview the participants. Meeting point/time: Near Prora, Rügen. Exact time and place to be discussed with project coordinator, please contact Bas Poelmann.

Video available here: <https://vimeo.com/337241297>

Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xmfc4wnthmpjl3v/AACdmwJa56b3PptRUzTjXtWG?dl=0>

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Notes to Editors:

Ghost Fishing Foundation is an international non-profit organization, executed by volunteer technical divers, which initiates, supports and promotes lost fishing gear removal initiatives in oceans, seas and local waters. Since 2012 they have run lost fishing gear survey and removal projects in the North Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Pacific Ocean in cooperation with various environmental organizations and with the support of a continuously growing group of volunteer technical divers.

Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine - GRD, a non-profit organization based in Germany, dedicated to the conservation of wild dolphins and their habitats by supporting research, promoting public awareness and lobbying for better protection. GRD was founded in 1991 by Rollo Gebhard, a famous German sailor who sailed around the world three times. Over the years, Rollo Gebhard witnessed a dramatic decrease in dolphin populations on his trips, concurrent with the increasing use of destructive fishing methods such as driftnets. Today, GRD manages and supports projects in several countries around the globe aimed at protecting endangered dolphin populations and ensuring their survival for future generations. GRD works to reduce and eliminate ecologically unacceptable fishing methods. Besides that, the organization supports diverse conservation and awareness raising initiatives, encourages research, educates the public about cetaceans and the threats they are facing. Last but not least GRD lobbies for better protection of marine mammals and their environment and teams up with renowned researchers and conservationists and other NGOs to achieve its goals.