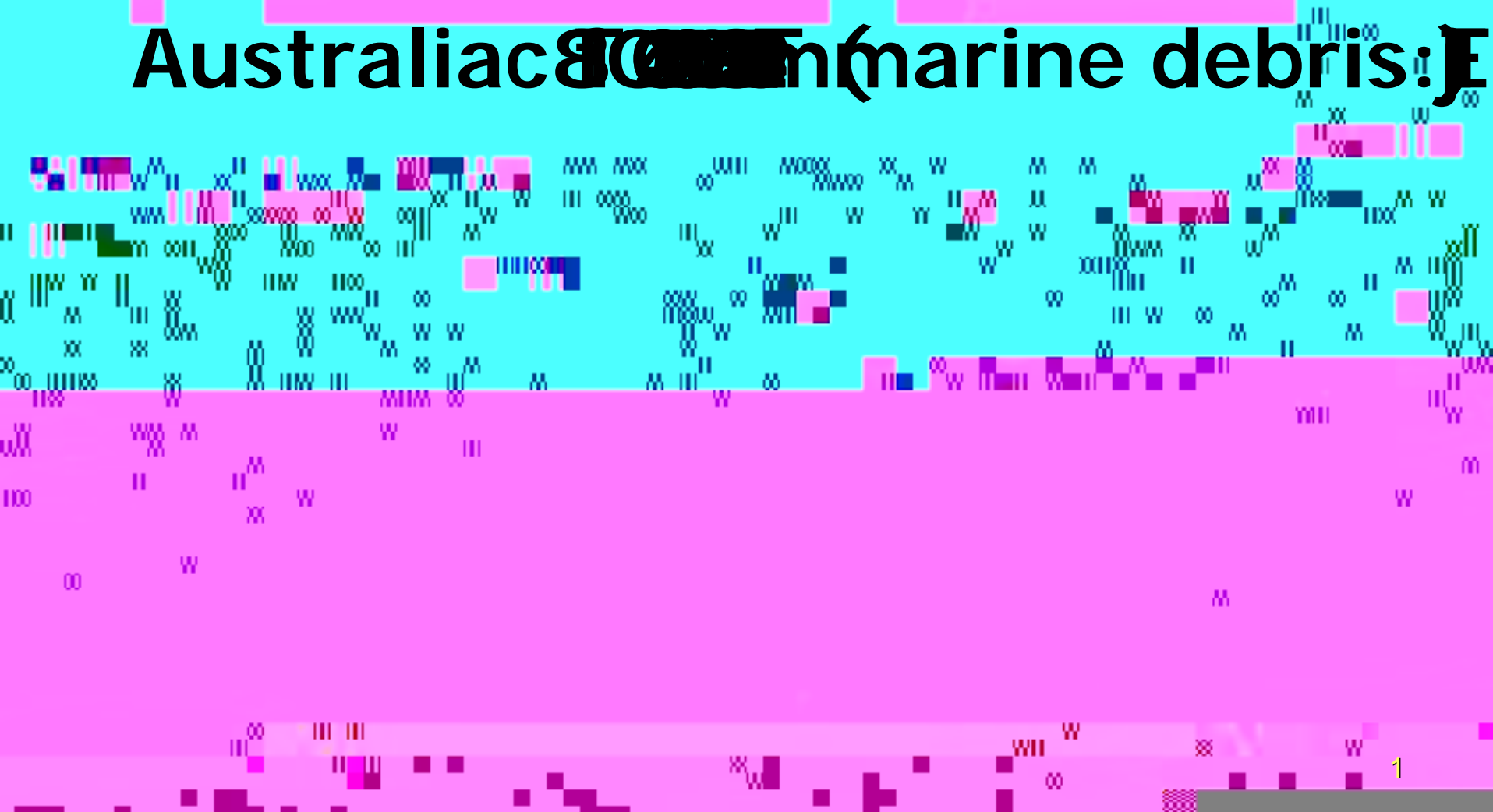


Derelict fishing gear and other marine debris:

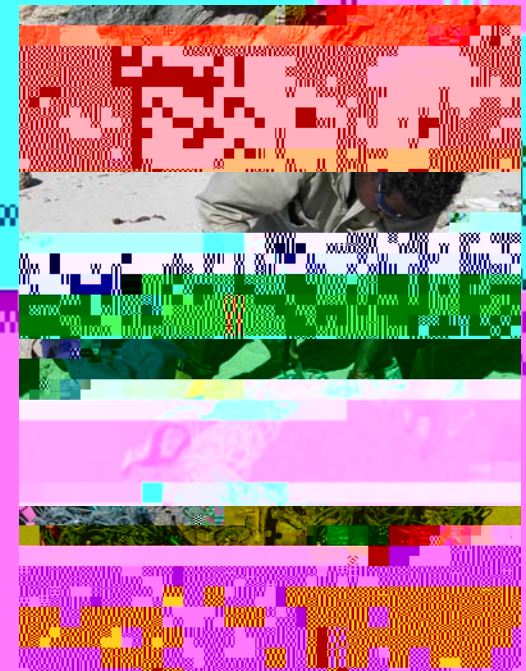
Australia's contribution to marine debris:



Marine debris: derelict fishing gear

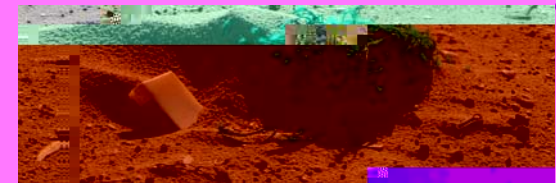
Derelict fishing gear requires attention as it:

- is a hazard to vessels, and human life and property at sea
- has implications for the economic viability and sustainability of commercial fisheries
- entangles marine species
- impacts on subsistence resources of Indigenous fishers and coastal communities



Finding solutions to derelict fishing gear and other marine debris

- Review the effectiveness of existing measures
- Improve our knowledge on why gear is lost/discarded, where it comes from, what its movements are, and the nature and degree of its impacts
- Identify economic, social or other factors affecting accidental loss and deliberate decision-making about the disposal of fishing gear



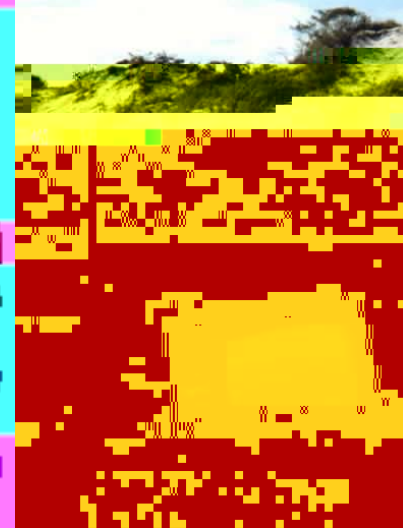


Origins of marine debris around Australia

- Close to Australia's urban areas, approx. 80% of marine debris found on beaches is from sources on land

but

- On remote Australian coastlines nearly all debris comes from marine sources
- *More* debris is found on some remote areas of the Australian coastline than areas close to urban centres





Indonesia

Papua New Guinea

Timor Leste

Arafura Sea

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Australia

New Zealand

Origins of marine debris in northern Australia

In northern Australia

- coastal and offshore

Origins of marine debris in northern Australia

- Around 5 - 15% of derelict fishing nets identified on Australia's northern coasts are from Australian fisheries
- Approx. 80% of fishing nets identified from northern Australia's beaches originate outside Australian waters



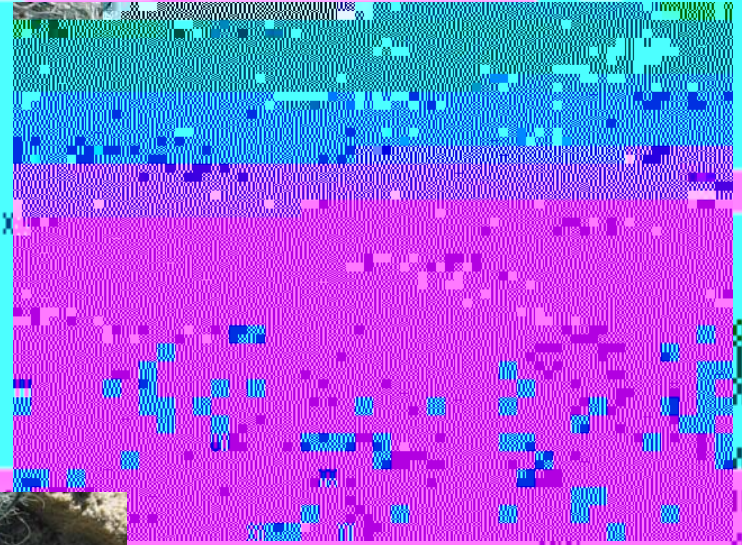
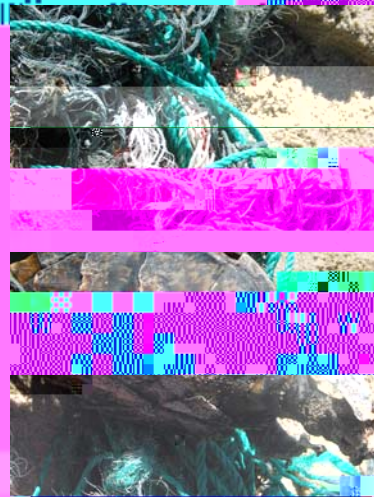
Origins of marine debris in northern Australia

- Derelict nets found in northern Australia that originate outside Australian waters tend to be of larger mesh size, area, and weight than derelict nets of Australian origin
- Derelict fishing nets originating beyond Australian waters are also causing some of the greatest harm to marine species, especially turtles



Impacts of marine debris in northern Australia

Since 1996 more than 290 marine turtles have been found entangled in derelict nets on a 70km stretch of beach in northern Australia



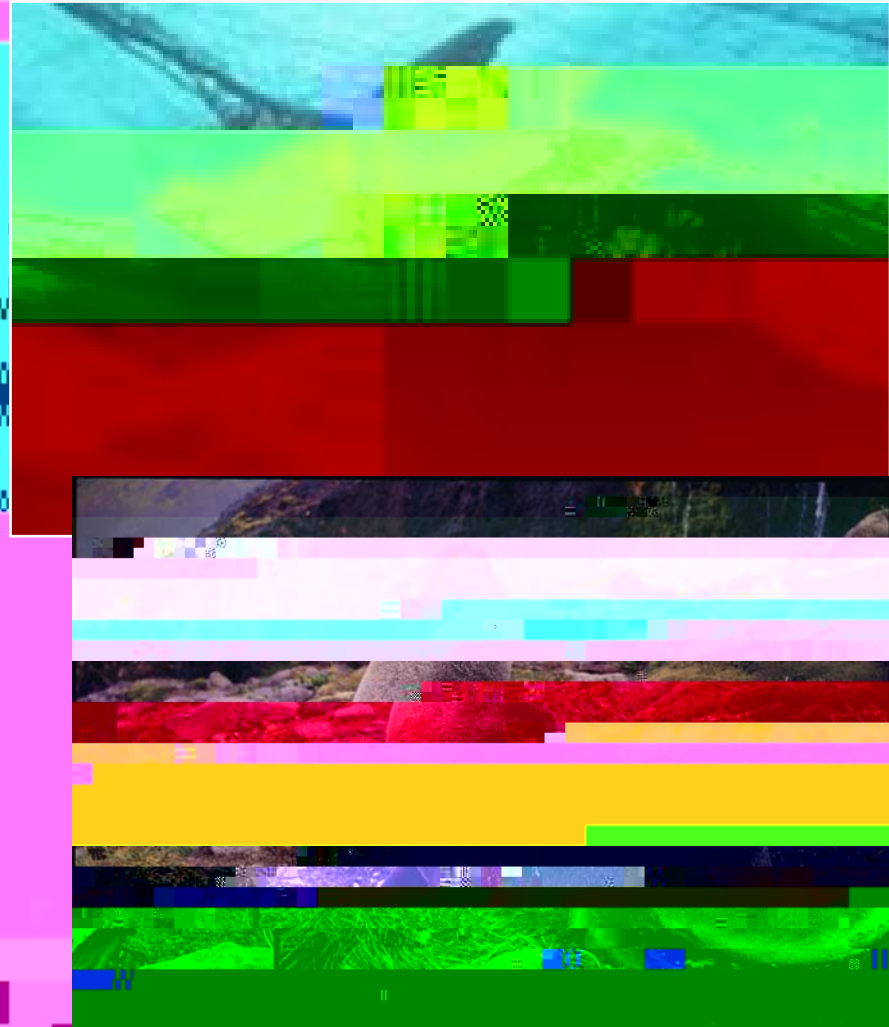
Impacts of marine debris in northern Australia

Many other species, such as whales, dugong, sharks and sawfish are also being found entangled in fishing debris

Impacts of marine debris around Australia

In southern Australia, approx. 1500 Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals are being entangled each year

Much of the fishing gear responsible for entangling seals in southern Australia appears to originate from the Australian fishing industry



Impacts of marine debris in the Asia Pacific region

- Republic of Korea - discarded fishing gear caused a public ferry to capsize with a significant loss of life
- Japan – significant economic impacts of derelict gear on commercial fisheries; major insurance costs
- SPREP – lack of port reception facilities for fishing operations (90% of which are foreign) resulting in solid waste management as the number one issue facing Pacific Island States
- Southern Ocean – direct links between illegal fishing effort and fishing debris

Australian responses to marine debris



Regional responses to marine debris

- Australia Indonesia Working Group on Marine Affairs and Fisheries
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



Finding solutions to derelict fishing gear and other marine debris

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- Identify, economic, social or other factors affecting accidental loss and deliberate decision-making about the disposal of fishing gear





Finding solutions to derelict fishing gear and other marine debris

- targeted studies to determine factors motivating loss and disposal of fishing gear at sea, as a basis for
- developing measures to prevent loss and promote appropriate disposal of fishing gear and other waste

