



# 2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

## Focus: species

Atlantic cod, European lobster,  
wrasses, brown crab, European  
lobster



## What is this project about?

This project showcases how citizen science can provide data on the hazard and catch composition of lost fishing gear. Since 2015, recreational divers have retrieved and reported lost fishing gear along the Norwegian coast. The divers recorded GPS coordinates, depth, bottom conditions, slope, presence of rope and buoy, and alive and dead animals caught in the trap. First, a paper form was used, but now all reports are delivered via the app "Fritidsfiske". This app also displays location for lost gear reported by fishers. The dive clubs receive a small economic compensation.



## ...and citizen science?

Retrieving lost fishing gear from the sea floor requires a specialized effort. Divers are often already familiar with the problem of ghost gear and have high motivation to participate in retrieval and data collection. In addition, the cost of using commercial divers or commercial remotely operated vehicles would have been much higher per data point collected. Members from 71 dive clubs contributed to this citizen science project, and a total of 12,101 gear items were retrieved and reported.



## Want to know more?

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