

GHOST DIVING

USA

GHOST DIVING USA

2025 Impact Report

Removing lost and abandoned fishing gear from the
waters of Southern California

Our mission

Ghost Diving USA is a volunteer nonprofit dedicated to removing lost and abandoned fishing gear — “ghost gear” — from the ocean off Southern California. Derelict nets and traps keep catching and killing marine life for decades after they are lost, smother reefs and shipwrecks, and break down into microplastics. Our trained technical divers locate this gear, carefully cut it free, and lift it to the surface so the ocean can recover.

In 2025 our team completed **ten missions** across seven Southern California dive sites — historic shipwrecks, rocky reefs, and Catalina’s Avalon Harbor. Wherever possible, recovered nets don’t go to landfill: through our partnership with Healthy Seas and Aquafil, recovered netting is regenerated into new products, and several nets and traps were given a second life as public art. This report shares what your support made possible — site by site.



The Ghost Diving USA volunteer team dockside with a recovered lobster trap and netting.

2025 at a glance

Lost fishing gear removed from Southern California waters this year

10

missions

7

dive sites

3,633

sq ft of net

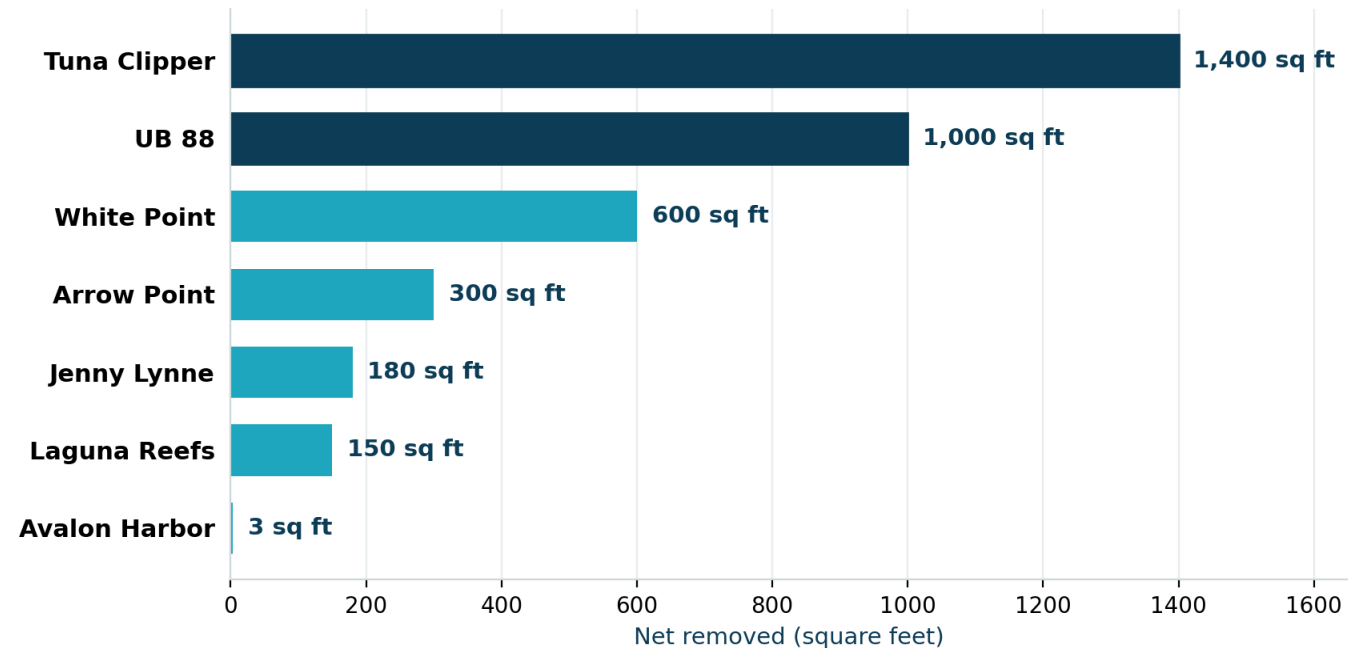
1,800

lbs of debris

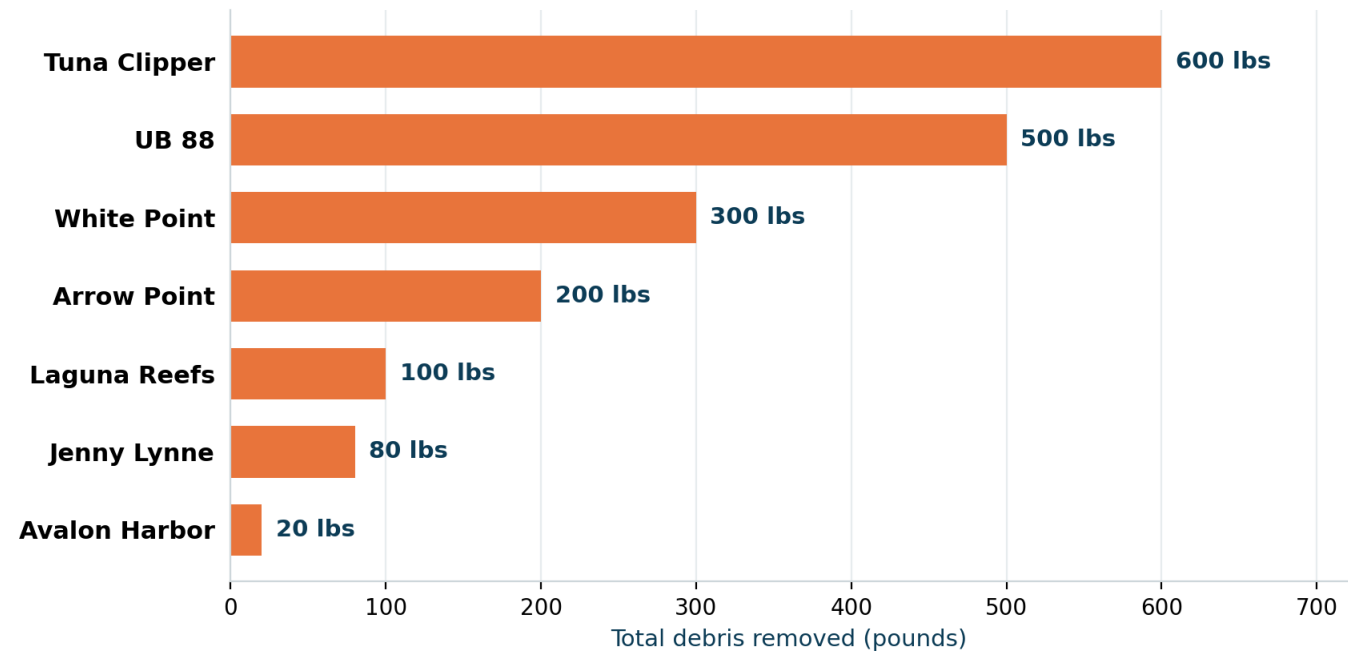
The 2025 season, site by site

How much derelict net and debris we removed at each location we dived in 2025.

Net removed per site



Total debris removed per site



Every 2025 mission

A complete log of the dives our volunteers completed this year.

Date	Site	What we removed	Net (sq ft)	Weight (lbs)	Outcome
Feb 22	Avalon Harbor	Marine battery	3	20	Recycled
Mar 19	UB-88 (U-boat wreck)	Scrubbed due to weather	—	—	—
Apr 19	UB-88 (U-boat wreck)	Large net sections	1,000	500	Cleaned & stored
May 10	Tuna Clipper wreck	Large net sections	600	300	Recycled (Aquafil)
Jun 15	Laguna-area reefs	Lobster trap + debris	150	100	Disposed
Jul 13	Tuna Clipper wreck	Lobster trap + net	500	200	Public art installation
Aug 10	Tuna Clipper wreck	Net section	300	100	Recycled (Aquafil)
Aug 25	White Point	Large net sections	600	300	Recycled (Aquafil)
Sep 21	Arrow Point	Lobster traps	300	200	Disposed
Nov 1	Jenny Lynne wreck	Purse-seiner net	180	80	Recycled (Aquafil)
Season total			3,633	1,800	

Nothing wasted

Recovered nylon netting is sent to Aquafil through our Healthy Seas partnership, where it is regenerated into ECONYL® yarn for new products. Other nets and a recovered trap were handed to artists at AltaSea for public installations — turning ghost gear into a story the public can see.





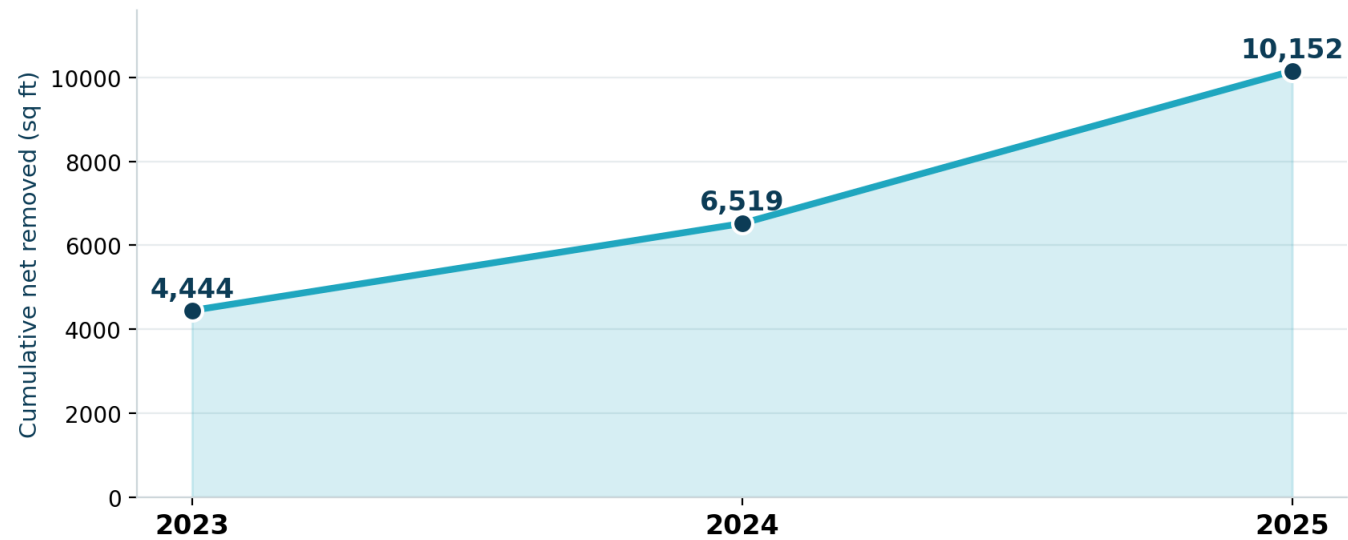
Why it matters

Ghost gear doesn't stop fishing when it's lost.

A single lost net can drift and entangle fish, seabirds, sea lions, and seals for decades. During our 2025 dives we documented this firsthand — including a cormorant and a sea lion lost to gear that was still actively trapping animals on the wrecks we cleared. Every net and trap we remove ends that cycle at one more spot on the Southern California coast.

A growing track record

Cumulative netting removed since Ghost Diving USA began operations in 2023.



Since 2023, together we have removed:

39
missions completed

10,000+
sq ft of net

~5,500
lbs of debris



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Join the next dive

Every mission is powered by volunteers and donors who believe the ocean is worth diving for. Your support buys the gas fills, boat charters, and lift equipment that let our team keep pulling ghost gear off Southern California's reefs and wrecks — one site at a time.

Support our 2026 missions

www.ghostdivingusa.org

Ghost Diving USA • Southern California • A volunteer marine conservation nonprofit

Underwater photography by Symeon Manias & Curtis Wolfslau. 2025 Annual Impact Report.