

What to do if you run into a **GHOST NET**

1. Get your boat clear of the net as quickly as possible!

Until you have done this do not try to mark the net! Do not try to retrieve any fishing gear, it is not worth the risk! The state of Wisconsin requires you to carry a wire cutters so you can quickly cut downrigger wires if entangled in a net. Michigan fishermen should carry one as well.

2. After you get yourself untangled, hit waypoint on your GPS or record rough triangulation.

If not equipped with a GPS do a quick observation to see if there are some nearby landmarks that you can use to make a rough triangulation.

Example: **Due Northwest approximately 2 miles of Chequamegon Point lighthouse
Due east of the Madeline island clay banks.**

3. Attach a marker (if possible)

If there is any chance of getting your prop fouled by the net, do not try to deploy a marker. Do not run over or near a surface floating net. If you have a passenger, ask them to keep an eye out in the bow for any sign of the net underwater. Use a hook and line tied to any floating marker (this can be as simple as an empty plastic jug). Unwrap the amount of line you think will be needed to get to the depth of the net, if it is submerged, and add another 10-20 feet. Either throw, or troll if safe, over the area. Once the net is hooked, put the marker/buoy overboard.

4. Remove your boat a safe distance from the area of the net.

Write the GPS coordinates off the waypoint below.
If no GPS is available write a brief description of landmarks.

Latitude _____ **D** **Min** _____ **Sec** _____
Longitude _____ **D** **Min** _____ **Sec** _____

Description _____

**5. In Michigan waters call Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
1-800-943-4447**

And report the GPS data or a description of the location and marker.

**6. In Wisconsin waters, call or text the Wisconsin DNR Hotline
1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367**

Report the GPS Data, or location description, along with the time you hooked the net. Also report the color and description of the marker if you were able to attach one.

Smart phone users can report ghost nets at glifwc.org/ghostnet.html

