Clause 4.4.3.1

‘Derelict gear’ in aquaculture operations refers largely to that which is no longer in use and stored for salvage, re-purposing or correct disposal.

For auditing purposes all equipment in use, storage and for disposal can be audited through maintenance schedules, inspection of storage and work areas, e.g. repair of nets, floats etc.

In aquaculture far less gear is subject to loss at sea and an active maintenance programme ensures that gear is removed and replaced prior to it failing and a risk to loss at sea.

The auditor should consider how clauses under CQA Core Section 4.4 Equipment and 4.5 Maintenance requires and measures an operation performance at avoiding losses in the first place and therefore mitigates against gear failure and loss and meets the requirement for suitable prevention and mitigation systems.

For mussel producers, site plans identify the number of lines and they are of standard lengths and have uniform number of barrels and droppers. Salmon farmers have site plans, uniform mooring systems for cages, standardised nets, top nets, floats, collars, floats etc. So, it would be easy for a farmer to demonstrate what is on site and in use – Clause 3.1.1 under General Management Practices.

For salmon farmers, same clauses as above are applicable and added to this, 8.9 Pen Aquaculture (8.9.7 & 8.9.10) in prevention of Farm Escapees which includes clauses (8.9.7 & 8.9.10) that prevent equipment failure (nets, net checking, repair, net traceability, mooring systems, collars) and hence losses to the environment.