

SC/68D/HIM/01

Sub-committees/working group name: HIM

CIBBRiNA LIFE project brief update

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**INTERNATIONAL
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Title: Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic Region (CIBBRiNA) – project update

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Abstract: On 30 November 2021 the EU LIFE proposal CIBBRiNA (Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic Region) was submitted. This project aims to contribute to several treaty and EU objectives in minimising, and where possible eliminating, incidental bycatch of endangered, threatened and protected species of marine mammals, birds, turtles and elasmobranchs. One of the most important objectives is achieve successful cross-sectoral cooperation between fishers, regulatory authorities, researchers and other key stakeholders, both within and between countries. The project consists of 11 work packages focusing on implementing (i) effective mitigation measures and (ii) improved monitoring programmes (see figure 1). The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is the coordinating beneficiary of the project and the consortium consists of 57 partners from 10 EU countries, along with Iceland, Norway and the UK, as well as the IWC, through its Bycatch Mitigation Coordinator, several pelagic fishing industry organisations and ICES. The Stakeholder Advisory Board comprises members from 20 organisations including OSPAR, HELCOM and five fisheries Advisory Councils. The total project budget is 24,4M euro, of which 18,3M is requested from the EC. The result of the application for funding is expected in April. As per the recommendations of the SC68c, the IWC BMI coordinator provided input to and assisted in reviewing the final version of the proposal.

In anticipation of the possible outcomes of the funding decision, the Project Management Team (PMT) has developed proposals for four scenario's:

1. Rejection of the entire project
2. Partial approval, with the need to cut X% of the budget, including the possibility that we only get 67% co-funding instead of 75% (assuming the objectives are kept the same)
3. Partial approval, with a need to cut specific topics or sections or partners
4. Full approval

In all scenario's, consultations with the different main bodies within the project management structure (see figure 2), the Steering Committee and the General Assembly, will be conducted before moving forward. Even if the project is rejected entirely, the PMT will seek opportunities to move forward with some of the work, for instance by seeking alternative funding and/or additional partners. This will also be an option in the case of scenario 2. A communication strategy will be developed according to which scenario is most relevant and the Stakeholder Advisory Board will be informed accordingly. As we move forward, a consortium agreement, including a chapter on key values and principles, necessary to ensure harmonious cross-sectoral collaboration, will be developed in collaboration with all partners.

There is a good chance that a funding decision on the proposal will become known during the period of the Scientific Committee meeting. The Committee is therefore requested to be prepared to consider the outcome and potential means to bring the project forward in the different scenarios, being opportunities for additional financial support, in-kind support or additional partners and collaborators. The IWC BMI, being a beneficiary partner in the project, is also requested to consider the outcome and help us to ensure alignment with the BMI's work, especially in the case studies, and to help identifying ways to ensure of success for different monitoring and mitigation methods.

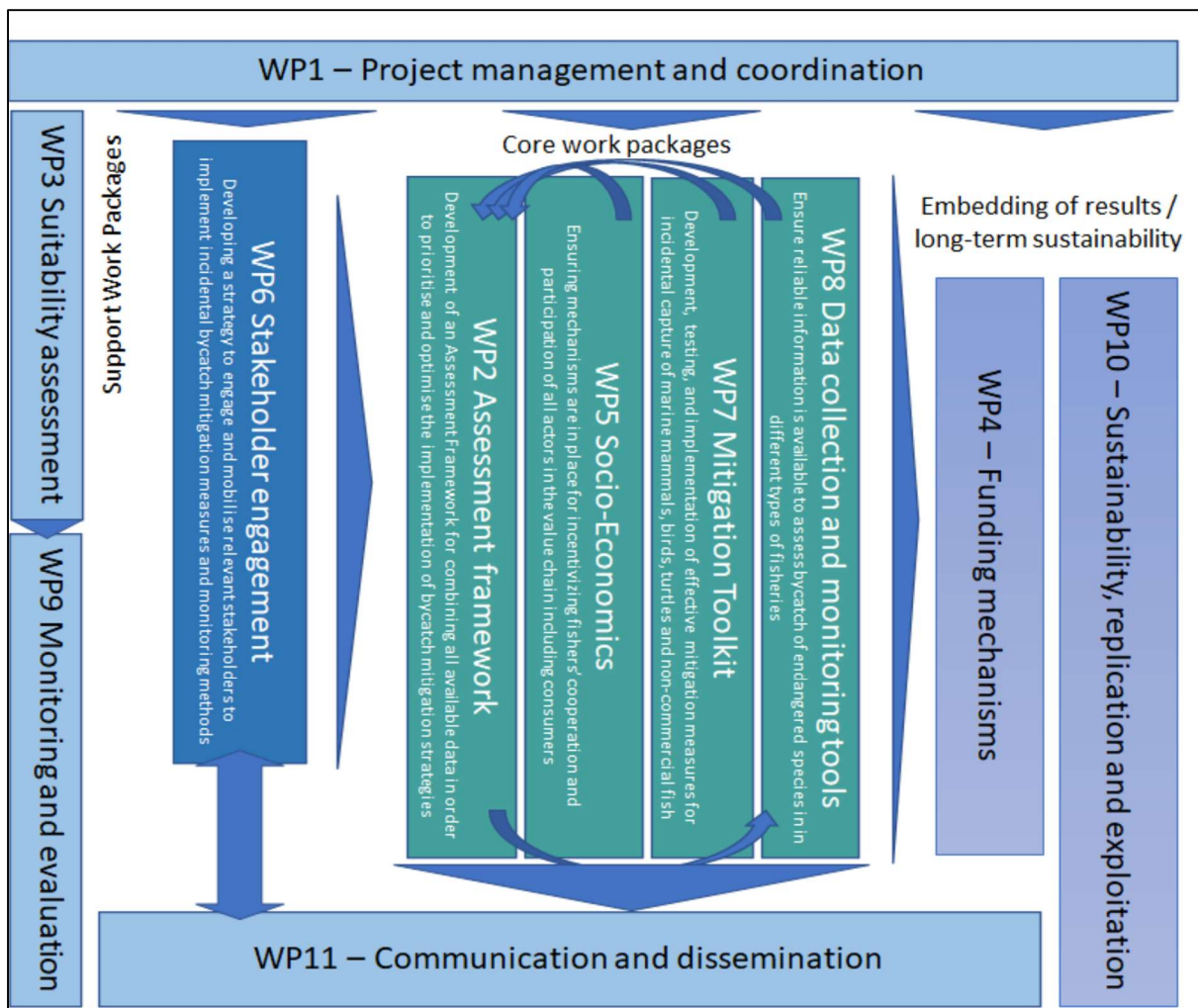


Figure 1 Overview work packages CIBBRiNA

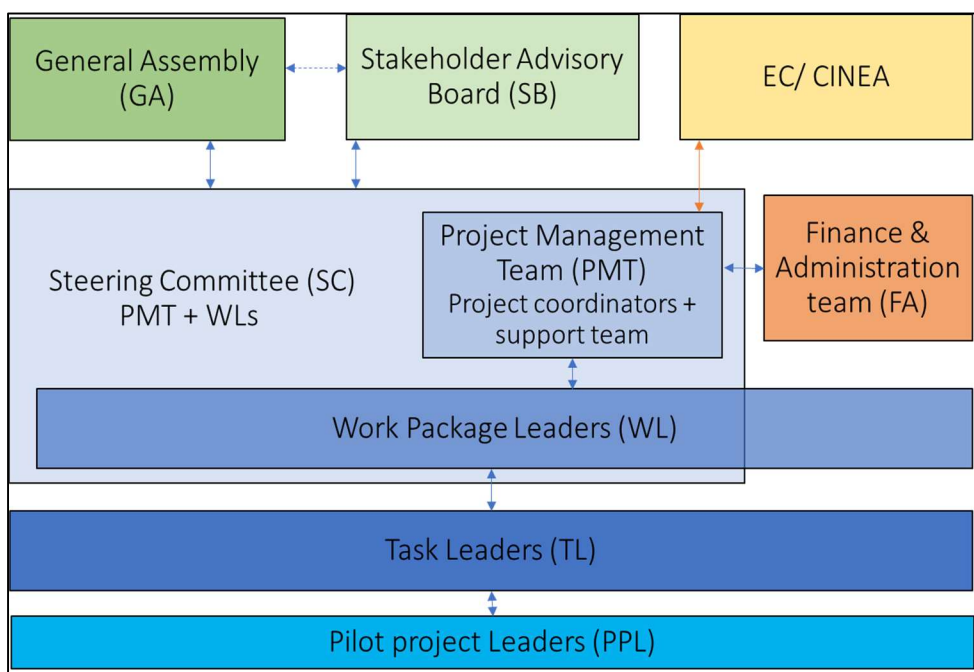


Figure 2 CIBBRiNA project management structure