

Update from the Bycatch Standing Working Group

INTRODUCTION

The IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) is currently implementing its 2021-2024 workplan. This report updates on the activities progressed under the workplan since July 2022 CCPG meeting (FAO factsheets and IWC's capsule project on the Common Oceans ABNJ Program - Tuna project, engagement with IOTC and WCPFC, bycatch pilot projects and affiliated projects), and provides information on the review of Expert Panel memberships.

Details on collaboration with other organisations can be found in the [update paper presented at SC69A](#) and to this 2023 CCPG meeting (CCPG/OCT23/14), and updates on BMI capacity building and fundraising can be found in the [BMI update to SC69A](#).

PROGRESS/UPDATES

Expert Panel

The Bycatch Expert Panel membership was due for review during 2022 when the terms of the majority of members expired. However, due to other priorities and changes in leadership of the BMI this review was not conducted until April 2023. Following consultation, 14 existing members expressed willingness to remain on the EP.

In addition, a call for new nominees was circulated with direct instruction to prioritise candidates from South and Central America and the western south Pacific Ocean; as well as candidates with expertise in: fisheries economics, social science and community engagement; cetacean biology and behaviour; cetacean population monitoring and assessment; fisheries science and technology and fisheries management. A total of 16 applications were received, including several nominees from South America, one from the Pacific and others from the USA, France and Norway.

All candidates (re-appointments and new nominations) were considered by a small panel in accordance with the process set out in the Bycatch EP ToR. The panel agreed on 23 nominees for the core EP with an additional five on a correspondence group for consultation as issues/topics needed.

FAO Technical Guidelines & Factsheets

In late 2021, FAO signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with IWC for the provision of promotional material for the FAO 'Guidelines to prevent and reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries (2021)' (FAO MM Guidelines). The specific purpose of this LoA was the delivery of content (text and illustrations) for ~15 FAO Marine Mammal Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets in electronic format, to promote and facilitate implementation of the FAO MM Guidelines, contributing to the collection of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture online factsheets and knowledge products.

The content for the factsheets were prepared by IWC Secretariat in collaboration with a contracted illustrator and reviewed by the BMI Expert Panel and FAO Technical Experts. Final draft versions were presented to an online workshop of bycatch mitigation experts in November 2022 to confirm information included in the factsheets was consistent with that provided in the guidelines. A total of 16 people participated, including eight panel members, the illustrator, the chair of the BMI's SWG, four representatives of the IWC Secretariat and two from FAO. All suggestions were collated and incorporated into the final version of the factsheets for final approval by FAO.

Finally, FAO produced the online version of twelve "Marine mammal bycatch mitigation" factsheets and an introductory page, which can be accessed [here](#) on the FAO website. The factsheets are aimed

primarily at fishery managers, fishers and researchers, and can be downloaded, shared and printed by any interested party.

FAO Common Oceans Program – Tuna Project

In February 2023, IWC signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FAO to formalise and start the four-year capsule project. This capsule provides \$320K for the IWC. The overall objective of the project is to improve understanding and management of cetacean bycatch in tuna fisheries in ABNJ and in Exclusive Economic Zones from both the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean. Specifically, the proposal aims to address the lack of information in relation to cetaceans, cetacean bycatch and fisheries, by undertaking a gap analysis and a spatial bycatch risk assessment at the ocean basin scale. It also aims to address the mitigation of cetacean bycatch by working collaboratively with RFMOs, national governments, experts and the fishing industry to raise awareness of practical solutions.

In November 2022, the Secretariat participated in a 3-day virtual Inception Workshop for the Common Oceans Program Tuna Project. The workshop was organised by FAO's project leads and all partners involved presented the aims and expected outputs of each capsule project. In addition, in July 2023, the Secretariat participated in the first Project Steering Group meeting in FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy and presented on progress from the previous six months. The Secretariat also submitted its first progress report and financial statement.

IOTC

Since 2020, the IWC and IOTC Secretariats have been discussing potential collaborative activities on cetacean bycatch ([CC/68A/INFO/09](#)). In 2022 a Cooperation Agreement (CA) was drafted in consultation with IWC, IOTC and FAO to formalise the collaborative work on joint activities between IWC and IOTC, particularly those found in the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Phase II project. This CA was agreed by the IOTC Commissioners in September 2022 and was endorsed at IWC68 ([FA/68/3.4.3/01](#)). The CA between the IWC and IOTC was signed in March 2023.

In 2022 the IWC Secretariat assisted in the organisation of a technical workshop on multi-taxa bycatch mitigation focusing on drift/gillnets which was hosted by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in collaboration with the IOTC. The Bycatch Coordinator presented a paper on the IWC Focus on cetacean bycatch in the Indian Ocean.

The Bycatch Coordinator submitted a paper on IWC's work in the Indian Ocean as well as possible collaborative activities under the ABNJ Tuna project to the IOTC's 19th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch Meeting (WPEB19). A summary of the paper was also presented in person at the meeting, held in La Saline-les-Bains, Reunion, France, Monday 11 September - Friday 15 September 2023.

WCPFC

In 2022, the Executive Secretary and Bycatch Coordinator participated in the SC-18 of WCPFC, and provided comments on the online forum about the document Graphics for Best Practices for the Safe Handling and Release of Cetaceans (SC18-EB-IP-12), welcomed the paper Review of cetacean diversity, status and threats in the Pacific Islands region 2021 (SC17-EB-IP-13) and welcomed the discussion at WCPFC's SC-18 on the topic of managing deployment, collecting data, and the development of non entangling and biodegradable FADs (SC18-EB-IP-06, SC18-EB-IP-13). A joint IWC-Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) intervention on these topics was presented by SPREP Executive Secretariat about the above-mentioned documents. In late 2022, the IWC was granted observer status to participate in Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meetings. In August 2023,

the Bycatch Coordinator sent a paper to the WCPFC, mainly addressing collaboration under the Common Oceans/ABNJ project and presented at the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting.

PILOT PROJECTS

Since 2022, the Secretariat has been focussing on developing the Peruvian Pilot Project. At SC68C progress on the development of a pilot project in Peru was reported in [SC/68C/HIM/15](#). After the new Bycatch Coordinator was appointed, discussions with the small working group formed of representatives from different ministries of the Peruvian Government were resumed, including in-person meetings by the IWC Secretariat in Peru and on the sidelines of IWC68. To initiate the pilot project, an external consultancy was agreed to undertake a synthesis and analysis of existing information (cetacean abundance, fishing effort and practices, bycatch, socio-economic and supply chain information) at two fishing communities in Peru. The Terms of Reference for the consultancy were drafted and the advert was circulated by the Secretariat and local cetacean networks. Applications closed July 2023 and the team of experts chosen as consultants signed the contract in September 2023. The final product will be presented to the Secretariat and the Peruvian Government in December 2023.

AFFILIATED PROJECTS

CIBBRiNA LIFE

Since 2021, the IWC Secretariat has been collaborating as a beneficiary partner in the development and fundraising for the proposal “Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the northeast Atlantic region” (CIBBRiNA project). The CIBBRiNA project proposal was prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands. The project aims to work jointly with fishers, scientists, fisheries and environment ministries of thirteen European countries in the Northeast Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Sea to improve knowledge on bycatch in different fisheries, to minimise bycatch of priority endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species and to work towards science-based assessments of the impacts of bycatch on their populations. This project runs for 6 years with a substantial budget (€12,5M), and will benefit from the participation of and/or collaboration with international and overseas organisations, including the IWC along with five fisheries Advisory Councils, ICES, HELCOM, OSPAR, EAPO and EFCA. As a beneficiary partner in the CIBBRiNA project, the IWC will work on joint solutions for incidental bycatch, as well as bringing experience and experts on this issue via its Expert Panel on Bycatch and the Scientific Committee. In March 2023, the CIBBRiNA proposal was approved by the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE). The Bycatch Coordinator attended the kick-off meeting in Amsterdam, on 7 and 8 September.

Marine Mammal Bycatch Risk Assessment in Chile – Lenfest Ocean Program

The IWC Secretariat, through participation in virtual meetings and in-person workshops, has been following the progress of the project Marine Mammal Bycatch Risk Assessment in Chile (Lenfest Ocean Program). The Lenfest Ocean Program is sponsoring BMI’s Expert Panel member, Dr. Ellen Hines, San Francisco State University, and Dr. Maritza Sepúlveda, Universidad de Valparaíso, to assemble a team of experts to work with representatives from the Chilean government, fisheries agencies and local scientists to assess the risk of marine mammal bycatch in Chilean fisheries. Reports arising from this project were presented at [SC69A](#).

BYCATCH IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The SC met in person in Bled, Slovenia on 24 April – 6 May 2023. More details can be found in the [report](#). Bycatch was discussed at many sub-committee meetings. The IWC's LoA with FAO was presented at the *sub-committee on non-deliberate human induced mortality of cetaceans* (HIM) and the meeting of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group. This provided the IWC Bycatch coordinator with the opportunity to present an overview of the project and its expected results, as well as request feedback, and potential contacts, from committee members that could aid in the project's development. The *sub-committee on cetacean stocks that are or might be subject to Conservation Management Plans*, discussed the different established and in development CMPs. Many of these priority species are under pressure from bycatch. The *Small Cetaceans sub-committee* also discussed bycatch, including reports from the South Pacific related to tuna fisheries, Pakistan, Ghana and Hong Kong. The Indian Ocean was an important part of the discussions of the *Ad hoc working Group on Sanctuaries*. The State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) in 2023 focused on the Indian Ocean and its marginal seas. The Indian Ocean Sanctuary Cetacean Monitoring Initiative intersessional group was established to coincide with this review. The group aims *inter alia* to synthesize information on the abundance, distribution and threats to cetaceans in the Indian Ocean. The work of this group will be important to inform the bycatch risk assessment planned under the LoA.

WORKPLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN

BMI WORKPLAN 2021-2024

In October 2022, the SWG presented progress on the BMI's Workplan (2021- 2024) to the Conservation Committee meeting held in Portoroz, Slovenia (see Annex 1 at [CC/68/7.1/01](#)).

In 2023- 2024, the focus is to continue the implementation of pilot projects, progress the IWC's capsule in the Common Oceans ABNJ Program -Tuna project and organise capacity building trainings as requested. The BMI workplan is now in its third year of implementation.

A new workplan will be developed for presentation to the next CC meeting in 2024.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee is asked to provide:

1. The BMI requests CC members to comment and advise on emerging issues and priorities that should be considered when drafting the BMI's 2025-2028 workplan.

ANNEX 1 ToRs**Terms of Reference for the Standing Working Group on Bycatch**

The Standing Working Group on Bycatch is responsible for the strategic development of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, delivering its aims, overseeing its work programme and the provision of relevant advice to the IWC and its subgroups.

The SWG will:

- Develop a costed work plan to implement the BMI and assist in finding funding to support this in collaboration with the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening Financing;
- In collaboration with the Steering Group of the Voluntary Conservation Fund, agree the use of funds to support the BMI including the holding of expert and regional workshops as appropriate;
- Provide recommendations on the job description and person specification of the Coordinator and make other input (as appropriate) to support the Secretariat recruitment process;
- Develop and agree ToR for the Expert Panel and appoint its members;
- In collaboration with the coordinator, implement and monitor the progress of the work plan of the BMI;
- Assist in liaising with relevant external bodies, IWC contracting governments and other international bodies with an interest in bycatch;
- Coordinate between the Conservation Committee, the Scientific Committee and the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group in relation to Bycatch issues, and report back to the Conservation Committee.

Membership of the SWG will consist of IWC Contracting Governments, and interested Observers. The Chair will be elected by its members and may hold the position for a period of up to four years with the potential for renewal.

Ex Officio members will include the Bycatch Coordinator, the Chair of the Conservation Committee, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat.

The SWG will seek the participation of representatives of IWC Contracting Governments, including from all relevant ministries.

Modus Operandi

The SWG will conduct much of its business electronically. Where at all possible, any meetings will be held in the margins or back to back with meetings of the IWC, Conservation Committee or Scientific Committee.

ANNEX 2**IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative - Workplan 2021-2024**

The Bycatch Mitigation Initiative 10-year [Strategic Plan](#) provides the overarching vision for the period 2018-2028. High level objectives presented in the workplan below directly correspond to the six agreed objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. As outlined in Strategic Plan, the BMI is under-taking a phased approach to implementing its ambitious vision. The focus of the initiative in this workplan period (2021-2024) will be on securing funding for implementing pilot projects; evaluation of results from pilot project trials; driving innovation of mitigation measures; promotion of BMI technical advice and capacity building opportunities; promotion of best practice; and improvement and streamlining of bycatch reporting to IWC and other processes. Given the collaborative nature of the BMI, and the collective challenges ahead in addressing cetacean bycatch, the success of this ambitious workplan relies in part on the continued and strengthened engagement from collaborating organisations, governments and experts and fishing communities.

Prioritisation of activities during the workplan period is provided and includes: **Core**= essential activities undertaken as the normal running of programme, and covered via coordination costs or other existing IWC programmes; **Top** = highest priority activities needed to progress workplan with focused effort to ensure implementation; **High** = very important activities that will be attempted, often requiring long-term ongoing efforts; **Medium** = Slightly lower priority activities, often led by others or requiring longer time frames

The activities in the workplan are costed (total amounts for the full, 4-year period, or by activity) where estimates have been possible to calculate. Funds to implement these activities will be sought through IWC voluntary contributions (through VCF), in kind and financial contributions from partners and wider, external fundraising.

High level objective and Description of activity	Timeframe				Lead	IWC Community involved	External collaborators	Priority	Total Budget 2021-2024	Progress
	2021	2022	2023	2024						
Objective 1. Coordination of programme										
1.1 Coordination of programme	x	x	x	x	Bycatch Coordinator	IWC Secretariat; Bycatch Standing	e.g., FAO, CMS, RFMOs, NAMMCO,	Core	Coordination costs (for full	Ongoing- individual updates

<p>All aspect of programme coordination including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - liaison with the Bycatch Standing Working Group; -coordination of expert panel-meetings, email correspondence, annual review of membership. -coordination/administration and contribution to implementation of pilot projects and capacity building initiatives -engagement with affiliated projects; -coordination with other IWC bodies and initiatives. -engagement with other inter-governmental Organisations (IGOs) and organisations; -coordination with national governments undertaking bycatch reduction initiatives or capacity building -fundraising; -monitoring of BMI progress; -communication activities. 						<p>Working Group; Expert Panel</p> <p>ICES, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS</p>		<p>period 2021-2024): ~£200,000.</p> <p>Coordination costs (for 2021 only): £47,792</p> <p>Travel (non-IWC meetings, pilot projects, other relevant travel): £20,000</p>	<p><i>provided under the specific workplan activities.</i></p>
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<p>1.2 Expert Panel</p> <p><i>-provision of technical advice to the Bycatch Coordinator and Standing Working Group on Bycatch upon request</i></p> <p><i>-participation in development and implementation of pilot projects</i></p> <p><i>-participation in development and implementation of capacity building programme</i></p> <p><i>-sharing of information, and relevant networks with the BMI on bycatch and fisheries related work</i></p> <p><i>-raising awareness within the broader scientific, cetacean and fisheries management and conservation community of the BMI</i></p> <p><i>-annual virtual meetings and (where cost effective to do so) in person meetings</i></p>	x	x	x	x	Expert Panel, Bycatch Coordinator	IWC Secretariat; Bycatch Standing Working Group;		Core	<p>EP Meetings: £6.000</p> <p><i>In person meetings will be organised in conjunction with other events to minimise travel costs.</i></p> <p><i>EP time and travel for pilot projects and capacity building included in costings for specific activities.</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing- in 2022, panel evaluated factsheets commissioned by the FAO.</i></p>
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<p>1.3 Standing Working Group on Bycatch</p> <p><i>Governance of BMI activities, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -monitoring of performance of the BMI according to workplan and strategic plan and reporting to Conservation Committee -strategic input to and development of BMI work programme -development of recommendations on bycatch management/conservation for consideration by the Conservation Committee -guidance and assistance in outreach within and between national governments and different inter-governmental organisations on addressing cetacean bycatch and raising awareness of the BMI. 	X	x	x	x	<p><i>Standing Working Group-Bycatch</i></p>	<p><i>Bycatch Coordinator, Conservation Committee</i></p>	Core	n/a	<p><i>Ongoing-updates provided under the specific workplan activities</i></p>
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Objective 2. Knowledge gathering. Identify specific fisheries...where achievable bycatch mitigation strategies could be tested and/or introduced										
<p>2.1 Actively collect updated information on cetacean bycatch in specific fisheries</p> <p><i>The BMI will actively focus efforts on gathering bycatch information from gillnet and other fixed gear fisheries and prioritise information gathering in the seven pilot project countries and those listed as possible future priorities and from those countries requesting BMI technical assistance. This includes information collected from rapid risk assessments.</i></p> <p><i>This activity includes working with IWC contracting governments on national progress reporting, data presented to Scientific Committee sub-committees; data collected from pilot projects and through collaborations with experts and partners in priority regions and countries. Collaboration with other organisations, such as FAO, RFMOs and NGOs collecting bycatch data.</i></p>	x	x	x	x	Bycatch coordinator	<p>Scientific Committee (HIM, Small Cetaceans, Conservation Management Plans - CMPs),</p> <p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>National representatives;</p> <p>Expert Panel</p>	e.g., FAO, RFMOs, CMS, NAMMCO, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, ICES, UNEP regional seas agreements	Top	Costs included under coordination; risk assessments, pilot projects or existing IWC work	Ongoing- IWC Programme Development team compile recently published information

<p>2.2 Collaboration to identify bycatch hotspots and review existing data available on cetacean distribution, bycatch and fishing effort</p> <p><i>Collaborate with international organisations/bodies holding existing bycatch, fisheries and cetacean information (abundance/distribution);</i></p> <p><i>Review available information by region with workshop/group of experts, identify priority regions with high bycatch risk. Identify key gaps and opportunities to fill knowledge gaps.</i></p> <p><i>Estimate bycatch and fishing effort where possible (external consultant etc).</i></p>	x	x	x		<p><i>Bycatch Coordinator to stimulate an externally led project</i></p>	<p><i>IWC Secretariat, Expert Panel, Scientific Committee, HIM, Small Cetaceans, CMP, Global Whale Entanglement Response Network -GWERN, Strandings Initiative to provide input</i></p>	<p><i>FAO, CMS, RFMOs, IUCN IMMA Task Team; Experts working on bycatch of other taxa</i></p>	High	<p><i>Non-workshop activities costs included under coordination.</i></p> <p><i>In person: £10,000-£15,000.</i></p> <p><i>Consultant contract (data compilation, gap analysis, bycatch estimation): £20,000.</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing- IWC continues collaboration with FAO, RFMOs, and CMS.</i></p>
<p>2.3 Rapid bycatch risk assessments undertaken in small scale/artisanal fisheries</p> <p><i>Collaboration with national governments and experts in priority countries to rapidly assess bycatch, including in very data poor situations, as appropriate. Provide</i></p>	x	x	x	x	<p><i>Pilot project lead, Expert Panel members, national governments</i></p>	<p><i>Bycatch Coordinator, Standing Working Group- Bycatch, Conservation Committee, Scientific Committee (HIM, Small Cetaceans, CMPs)</i></p>	<p><i>Country dependent; National Governments, Research Institutions, NGOs, Fishing communities.</i></p>	High	<p><i>Workshop on risk assessment training: £3000 (virtual); £10000 (in person)</i></p> <p><i>Rapid Risk assessment</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing- Part of the Common Oceans ABNJ Project, scheduled in 2023-2024.</i></p> <p><i>Participated in the Lenfest-Chile ByRA projects.</i></p>

information to Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee. Potentially work to develop guidelines on implementing a standardised approach to risk assessment in data poor situations, or a process for choosing the right tool depending on national context.								(staff time, travel, analysis) £10,000 Guideline development £10,000. (To be developed with external partners)	Organised a webinar on ByRA for Thailand	
Objective 3. Develop, test, demonstrate effective bycatch mitigation and monitoring solutions and Objective 4. Bring about change in attitudes within fishing communities towards cetacean bycatch mitigation (where appropriate and applicable)										
3.1 Implement pilot projects in Kenya, Peru, India, Republic of Congo, Thailand, Borneo (Indonesia/Malaysia), Pakistan Each pilot project will be developed according to local needs and context and in collaboration with local, regional and national authorities. Implementation will be locally led, and will be based around engaging fishing communities, decision makers and experts and involving them in understanding and addressing the issue. Each project will promote multi-	X	x	x	x	Pilot project lead, national governments	Bycatch Coordinator, Expert Panel; CMP coordinators where relevant	Dependent on each country	Top	The budget below includes the following estimates 1) the full pilot project costings (over 3-4yrs); Total per project cost: ~£250,000 – 300,000. 2) an ideal level of IWC-provided co-	Ongoing- Contract signed for first part of the Peruvian Pilot project. Local partnerships to be built and project concepts developed. Funding opportunities currently being sought.

<p><i>disciplinary approaches to reducing and managing bycatch.</i></p> <p><i>Dependent on the context for each pilot project; Mitigation measures and strategies to trial could include low-cost mitigation devices, gear switching, moving to alternative livelihoods, spatial/temporal restrictions and other new innovative mitigation. Socio-economic data collected and analysed as part of bycatch and mitigation and monitoring. Information/data regularly presented at IWC Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee meetings</i></p> <p><i>Pilot projects will be outlined in detail in individual project templates.</i></p>									<p><i>funding for external funding proposals per project: £30,000.</i></p> <p><i>3) seed funding to set up projects (compile data, train staff, meet key stakeholders). Per project: £15,000</i></p>	
<p>3.2 Engagement with ongoing projects of relevance to BMI</p> <p><i>Information exchange and collection of technical advice/lessons learnt and provision of BMI expert panel advice where requested/relevant. Presentation of information where possible at IWC</i></p>	x	x	x	x	Bycatch Coordinator	Expert Panel; Bycatch Standing Working Group; CMP coordinators Task Teams	ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, SPREP, CPPS, Individual Experts, NGOs	Med	Costs included under coordination or existing IWC work	<i>Ongoing - Presentations on bycatch were conducted during SC69A and will continue throughout the duration of the workplan.</i>

Scientific Committee meetings and to expert panel.					Scientific Committee members					
3.3 Review of evidence for bycatch mitigation strategies <i>Collaboration with FAO, BMIS, Bycatch.org and experts (etc.) on bycatch mitigation strategies, best practices and guidelines. Reviewing existing material provided in current guidelines (as requested by partners) and provide updated information from pilot projects/affiliated projects.</i>	x	x	x	x	Bycatch Coordinator	(Coordinating input from IWC groups – Expert Panel, Scientific Committee (HIM), CMP coordinators)	WCPCF, SPC, Bycatch.org, FAO; ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, ICES, CMS	High	Costs included under coordination or existing IWC work	Ongoing- IWC Programme Development team compile recently published information and will continue collaboration with names organisations.
3.4 Collaboration to identify research priorities for innovative mitigation strategies <i>Collaboration with sensory ecologists, behavioural scientists, fisheries technologists to identify possible areas for gear innovation. Undertake experimental trials with multiple target and bycaught species to inform the design and assess the effectiveness of novel bycatch mitigation techniques.</i>	x	x			Bycatch Coordinator, Expert Panel	Pilot project leads; Scientific Committee (HIM) CMP coordinators	Research institutions, fisheries technologists, NGOs etc, FAO as appropriate	Medium	Costs included under coordination.	Ongoing- Development of brief concept for follow up workshop. Engagement with other taxa experts on multi-taxa sensory ecology needs.

<p>4.1 Develop toolbox of socio-economic, incentive-based approaches for small-scale fisheries</p> <p><i>Desk based task to compile toolbox which can be trialled in pilot projects depending on local context. This can include working across the supply chain to identify opportunities to incentivize change in bycatch management, switching to alternative livelihoods, micro-financing for mitigation and other tools as they are developed</i></p>	x	x	x	Expert panel, Bycatch Coordinator	Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee, CMP coordinators	External project members	Top	£5000 - £10,000	Not started, will begin 2024.
<p>4.2 Map out supply chains in pilot project fisheries and identify mechanisms for influencing change</p> <p><i>[Activity currently being developed and discussed]</i></p>	x	x		External partners	Expert Panel, Bycatch Coordinator		Med	Costs included under pilot projects and by external partner	Action pending pilot project commencement.
<p>4.3 Scale up from pilot projects to fleets</p> <p><i>Includes outreach and training activities with fisheries managers and fishing communities beyond pilot projects. Work to develop collaboration with industry/research groups e.g., ISSF, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership,</i></p>			x	National governments from pilot project countries	Pilot project leads Bycatch coordinator Expert Panel CMP coordinators where relevant		Med (long term activity)	External project, depending on country. To be costed as appropriate	Action pending pilot project commencement.

<p><i>Too Big to Ignore to reach fishing communities beyond pilot projects.</i></p> <p><i>Includes investigation of possible mechanisms for sustainable financing of bycatch mitigation and management.</i></p>										
Objective 5. Raise awareness and capacity within national governments to tackle cetacean bycatch (where relevant and applicable)										
<p>5.1 Implement BMI communication strategy for engagement with national governments (contracting and non-contracting) and broader outreach.</p> <p><i>Includes promotion of BMI technical advice and BMI activities, raising awareness of cetacean bycatch issues, promotion of pilot and affiliated projects and work underway focused on bycatch globally. Raise awareness of FAO Technical guidelines and other tools available to assist in bycatch reduction efforts. Costs include communication materials (website development, printed materials e.g., infographics, promotional material etc)</i></p>	x	x	x		Bycatch Coordinator	IWC Secretariat, Standing Working Group Bycatch, Expert Panel, Conservation Committee		Core	£15,000 (for materials). Staff time included under Coordination and Secretariat existing activities.	Ongoing- Communication strategy has been developed. Implementation activity to be continued.

<p>5.2 Develop and implement capacity building/technical advisory programme.</p> <p><i>Includes activities for building national capacity on rapid risk assessments, population abundance assessment, bycatch analysis, project design, mitigation techniques, management, incentivisation and enforcement. This could be via dedicated workshops, apprenticeship or internship programmes, a bycatch mitigation equipment 'loan scheme' and other approaches to be developed.</i></p> <p><i>This activity also includes BMI technical assistance (in person or remote) to requests from contracting and non-contracting governments to the IWC.</i></p> <p><i>Continue to identify opportunities to collaborate with others (e.g., FAO, ICES, PICES, NAMMCO, CMS, CITES, ISSF, SPREP, etc.) and within existing IWC programmes; CMPs, GWERN etc.</i></p>	x	x	x	x	Bycatch Coordinator, National governments	Expert Panel; Standing Working Group Bycatch, Conservation Committee. CMP coordinators; Task Teams Scientific Committee	*Collaboration being investigated with organisations including FAO, CMS, IOTC, and others (CPPS, ISSF, IPLF)	Top	<p>Estimated costs per activity:</p> <p>Expert Panel-led training: ~£15,000 per session (~£3000 if virtual)</p> <p>Apprenticeship programme: ~£10,000.</p> <p>Per request - Expert Panel time/travel for technical assistance: £3000</p>	<p><i>Ongoing- Common Oceans ABNJ II project development team.</i></p> <p><i>-Joint workshop training programme (GWERN entanglement & BMI bycatch risk assessment) being discussed.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion with CMP SWG Chairs on potential opportunities for joining up BMI capacity building efforts with CMP activities.</i></p>
<p>5.3 Identify main barriers and gaps in IWC bycatch data (national</p>	x	x			Scientific Committee	Bycatch Coordinator,	Other inter-governmental	High	Costs included under	Ongoing- This action is part of

<p>progress reports) and suggest how to streamline and improve bycatch data reporting</p> <p>The BMI will work with the Scientific Committee Ad Hoc Working Group on databases and associated issues to understand the barriers to bycatch data reporting to the IWC.</p> <p>This activity will explore means to make the IWC national reporting requirements standardised and streamlined with RFMOs and other IGOs collecting bycatch data to reduce reporting burden and ensure the most useful data are acquired for identifying significant bycatch.</p>					<p>Ad Hoc Working Group on databases and associated issues,</p> <p>IWC Secretariat</p>	<p>Scientific Committee (HIM),</p> <p>Expert Panel</p>	<p>organisations (e.g., FAO, RFMOs, UNEP, CBD etc)</p>	<p>coordination and existing IWC Sec and Scientific Committee activities</p>	<p>broader IWC engagement on national progress reports and how to improve reporting and utility of data.</p>
<p>5.4 Compilation and review of IWC progress report bycatch meta-data, entanglement and strandings data during IWC Scientific Committee meetings</p> <p>Includes relevant data reported on bycatch, strandings (where bycatch is likely to have occurred) and entanglement (e.g., GWERN database).</p>	x	x	x	x	<p>IWC Secretariat</p>	<p>Scientific Committee (HIM),</p> <p>Bycatch Coordinator,</p> <p>Expert Panel</p>		<p>Medium</p> <p>Costs included under coordination and other IWC Secretariat activities</p>	<p>Ongoing—</p> <p>SC-HIM compile research presented during meetings.</p>
<p>5.5 Develop recommendations for IWC Commission consideration on bycatch related conservation,</p>	x	x	x	x	<p>Standing Working</p>	<p>Bycatch Coordinator,</p>		<p>High</p> <p>Existing Conservation and Scientific</p>	<p>Ongoing- Recommendations from SC, CC</p>

<p>management and science to address cetacean bycatch at national, regional and global scales.</p> <p>Led by the Standing Working Group on Bycatch, this includes promotion through the IWC of existing guidelines, and best practice (including that emerging from pilot and affiliated projects). Will also include (as appropriate) advice to specific governments or advice regarding specific bycatch situations brought to the BMI's and Conservation and Scientific Committee's attention.</p>					<p>Group Bycatch, Conservation Committee, Scientific Committee</p>	<p>Expert Panel</p>			<p>Committee work.</p>	<p>meetings will be taken into consideration for future work.</p>
<p>Objective 6. Raise awareness of cetacean bycatch and available solutions within regional and international fisheries management organisations</p>										
<p>6.1 Regional and international outreach activities on bycatch</p> <p>Awareness raising and development of collaborations within the international fisheries management community (on cetacean bycatch. Promotion of the BMI as a collaborative partner to address bycatch, and other initiatives that are available to promote solutions. Promotion of best practice and</p>	x	x	x	x	<p>Bycatch Coordinator</p>	<p>IWC Secretariat, Standing Working Group-Bycatch, Conservation Committee, Scientific Committee (HIM, Small Cetaceans, CMPs where appropriate)</p>	<p>FAO, RFMOs, other relevant IGOs)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Costs included under coordination and existing IWC activities</p>	<p>Ongoing- Outreach to IOTC Working Party, with presentation by Bycatch Coordinator at 2023 meeting, the Common Oceans ABNJ II project engagement, and presentation by</p>

<p>effective tools to fisheries management community to address bycatch.</p> <p><i>This includes actions in communication strategy; engagement through the Regional Secretariats Network; the KOBE bycatch working group; Common Oceans ABNJ Phase 2 project etc; attendance and awareness activities at FAO COFI and other relevant events</i></p> <p><i>Includes promotion of technical information on effective solutions and strategies (e.g., FAO technical guidelines; CMS safe handling and release for small cetaceans; GWERN) at national and regional level. Includes collaboration with relevant IGOs and national governments on capacity building initiatives.</i></p>					Expert Panel					<p><i>bycatch coordinator at WCPFC meeting.</i></p>
<p>6.3 Engage with priority RFMOs and RFBs on cetacean bycatch</p> <p><i>Attend relevant scientific and technical meetings of priority RFMOs (IOTC, ICCAT, SIOFA, SWIOFA; SPRFMO; WCPFC).</i></p>	x	x	x	x	Bycatch Coordinator	IWC Secretariat, Standing Working Group Bycatch	IOTC, ICCAT, SIOFA, SWIOFA; SPRFMO; WCPFC FAO,	High	Costs included under coordination and existing IWC activities	<p><i>Ongoing- Initiated under FAO Common Oceans ABNJ II project with IOTC, WCPFC, SPREP.</i></p>

<p><i>Develop formal relationships with RFMOs (including MOUs etc where mutually beneficial). Provide expert advice, where applicable, on cetacean bycatch.</i></p> <p><i>Collaboration with priority RFMOs and coordinators of Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol on bycatch data collection, streamlining and analysis.</i></p> <p><i>Collaboration with RFMOs to explore regional bycatch risk assessments for 1-3 regions (e.g., Indian Ocean, Pacific, South Atlantic</i></p>							<p><i>CMS, ACAP</i></p>		<p><i>Specific costs included under Common Oceans ABNJ Phase 2 project proposal [under development]</i></p>	
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