



Clean Catch

Joint Action to Reduce Wildlife Bycatch

THE CLEAN CATCH REFLECTIONS WORKSHOPS

Report

28 June 2024



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science

ARRIBADA
 initiative



BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOPS

Clean Catch is a collaborative programme key to the UK Government's ambitions to help minimise and - where possible - eliminate bycatch of sensitive marine species, as set out under the ecosystem objective of the Fisheries Act.

Originally established in 2019, Clean Catch has reached a pivotal moment. A new consortium is stewarding the programme, with the overarching objectives of expanding its scope and trials for monitoring and mitigation of bycatch and enhancing its role in knowledge exchange within and beyond the UK. This second, three-year "expansion" phase will run until the end of October 2026 with a total of £1,843,290 in funding from Defra (note, this figure may be subject to change in 2025 and 2026).

To help drive the Clean Catch expansion, a workshop was held in-person and repeated online in May 2024 with the objectives of:

- **Reflecting on experiences of engaging with the Clean Catch programme to-date.**
- **Co-creating building blocks for the effective and equitable running of the programme going forward.**



The in-person workshop primarily comprised members of the former National Steering Group (NSG), which provided advice, information, and recommendations to Defra on the findings of Clean Catch in its first phase. The online workshop comprised both members of the NSG and attendees who had previously engaged with Clean Catch via other routes. Recognising practical and other challenges to involving fishers in the workshops, fishers involved in Clean Catch to date were typically reached using a one-to-one approach to gather their insights in advance and feed these into the workshop design and discussions. Clean Catch is also currently developing a fisher outreach plan to overcome barriers to engagement.

The workshops were designed to facilitate a free exchange of experiences and ideas - and to provide clear insight into Clean

Catch consortium’s plans and scope of delivery to the end of October 2026. Presentations provided context and information around the technical and scientific design of the programme, its governance, and the wider political and policy landscape. Facilitated breakout groups and carousel sessions allowed participants to explore and discuss the programme’s past and future. All attendees were asked to focus on providing constructive feedback with a solutions focus, and to help create a safe space to share and hear different perspectives.

This report compiles – and where necessary condenses – discussions at both workshops. The points from the breakout discussions on Clean Catch phase 1 reflections and the carousel discussions on Clean Catch’s governance and function going forward are the perspectives and opinions of attendees.

The Clean Catch consortium is grateful to everyone who attended the workshop or has otherwise provided input on the programme’s past and future.



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SCENE-SETTING

The bigger bycatch picture Presentation at the in-person workshop by Mike Dowell, Chief Negotiator for UK-EU fisheries negotiations at Defra

Dowell provided the wider policy context around Clean Catch, noting that the programme is considered the “jewel in the crown” of the UK Government’s bycatch portfolio.

The Fisheries Act 2020, which guides the government’s work on bycatch, is still “young”

with implementation in progress. Questions remain around the proportion of broader-scale measures versus more local ones which should be adopted; development of the Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) will have a bearing on this. There are also synergies with ongoing policy work on discards, and management of quota which could be utilised in future to incentivise good practices around bycatch reduction. Ensuring that the UK Government's work on bycatch joins up with that of the devolved administrations is also a priority.

Questions

Can you expand on the mechanisms by which Defra works with the devolved administrations on Clean Catch and more generally?

A fixed Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the nations which provides a framework for cooperation on fisheries and the marine environment more generally. Defra also operates various working groups covering different aspects of marine and fisheries management; Clean Catch could work through these as appropriate, as well as other, more informal, mechanisms for sharing knowledge.

How will bycatch be incorporated into the FMPs, noting there are a lot of these and that bycatch is more relevant for some compared to others? Do our individual organisations still need to engage in consultations for the different FMPs to ensure bycatch is addressed or will Clean Catch act as a conduit for this?

Most of the FMPs are for fisheries covering more than one administration, so have to be developed and approved jointly. This supports consistent inclusion of bycatch. However, the FMPs are a beginning and will set out lists of options that could be taken. Plans for what options to implement are the next step and there will still be opportunity at that point to influence the process.

The bigger bycatch picture

Presentation at the online workshop by Jonny Peters, Deputy Director Marine and Fisheries, Defra. Quota Policy and EU Negotiations

Complementing Dowell's presentation at the in-person workshop, Peters described how Clean Catch will help the UK Government to meet its ambitions for minimising and, where possible, eliminating bycatch of sensitive marine species. He covered the aims of the UK Government's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) and objectives of Clean Catch in more detail, and shared a graphic giving an overview of Defra's full bycatch programme. *Full information can be found in the accompanying workshop slides.*

Questions

When Clean Catch was first introduced, there was discussion around setting up regional groups like that established in the Southwest. Is this still the plan?

The scope of Clean Catch will be expanded, both in terms of geography (within England) and species groups, noting the strong focus on cetaceans to date.

Regarding the phrase in the BMI “to adopt and implement measures to minimise bycatch where possible”, who decides what is or is not possible, and what will be the criteria for this? And how is work on the Regional Bycatch Risk Prioritisation Framework progressing and will this feed into decisions around what is possible?

“Where possible” has not been further defined and is open to interpretation by Defra. It is hoped that the work of Clean Catch and related initiatives will inform this, while noting that practical limits will apply.

A research fellow is joining Defra in July to conduct a review of mitigation technologies. The intent of this work is to review every technology that has evidence of efficacy across one or more different species groups; noting that some technologies designed to prevent bycatch of a particular species group may negatively affect another species group, but that there may be technologies which are effective for more than one species group.



Clean Catch: introducing the expansion phase

Presentation at the in-person and online workshop by Al Davies, Arribada Initiative (research and development lead for Clean Catch)

Davies introduced the consortium team running the Clean Catch programme between 2024 and 2026. He summarised Clean Catch’s expansion objectives and the timeline for these. *Full information can be found in the accompanying workshop slides.*

Questions

Why is Clean Catch planning to establish only one more trial? There are a host of initiatives that could be progressed in parallel.

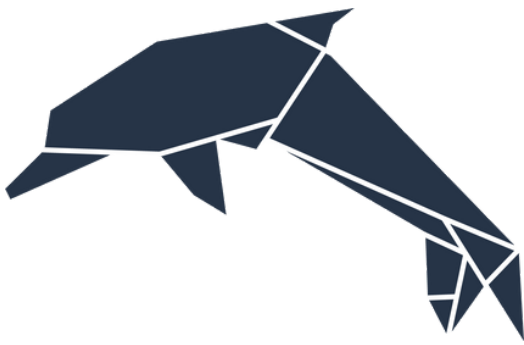
Budget is a key constraint, with Defra having to balance many different policy priorities. However, Defra is also working to understand where evidence is already being collected elsewhere and the potential to link together different work.

Additionally, it is important to be realistic about what is achievable with the programme’s three-year lifespan. In expanding to the new fishery partner, Clean Catch will ensure that learning from this process can be used to scale-up bycatch mitigation in the future.

Is there potential for Clean Catch to bring in other sources of funding?

Yes, the opportunity for this remains open.

An attendee commented: Noting that one of Clean Catch's expansion objectives is to "understand and overcome barriers to broader fisher engagement", this will be essential. Fishers worry about participating in projects on bycatch; "it is like turkeys voting for Christmas".



REFLECTIONS

Clean Catch: phase 1 reflections **Presentation at the in-person and online workshop by Joanna Murray, Senior Scientist at Cefas**

Murray summarised the work and objectives of Clean Catch to date, the relevant actor* outreach which the consortium team has been conducting since early 2024, and the feedback on Clean Catch gathered from this outreach. This involved the distribution

of an online survey to over 100 recipients comprising sectors including fishing, government, eNGO, and science and research; one-to-one conversations with fishers; and one-to-one conversations with representatives from NGOs, government bodies, and science and research institutions via emails and one-to-one conversations. High-level topics addressed included governance, communications, and trial design. *Full information can be found in the accompanying workshop slides.*

Feedback discussions **Breakout groups held in-person and online**

In this breakout session, participants were asked to reflect on Clean Catch's performance to date and specific ways to improve this going forward. Discussions were structured by four broad topics: the trial and other deliverables, communications to members, how members' knowledge and expertise were used, and governance. The solutions discussed focused on how Clean Catch could best design the future new trial – including the incorporation of expert advice – upscale the knowledge produced from the trials to the whole of the UK and beyond, and ensure clarity of purpose of groups within the governance framework and transparency and equitability around decisions made.

Specific points raised by multiple groups and/or participants are detailed below. Unique points raised individually can be found in [Annex 1](#).

* "Relevant actor" is Clean Catch's preferred term for people and organisations more conventionally called "stakeholders". More information about the rationale for this approach can be found at <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2024/05/07/should-we-stop-using-the-word-stakeholder-in-research/>.

FEEDBACK THEME 1: TRIAL IN THE SOUTHWEST AND OTHER DELIVERABLES TO-DATE

Reflections

- There was a lack of ambition around the trial, with a small sample and no variation in how the measures were trialled.
- The trial did not provide a wider launchpad for scaling-up and creating greater impact.
- Clean Catch did not clearly expand beyond its roots in a focus on cetacean bycatch, and did not sufficiently address bycatch of other species groups.



Solutions

- The selection of a fishery partner for the second trial should be based on bycatch risk prioritisation and draw on expert scientific knowledge.
- Ensure considered design of the new trial in advance, e.g. by having an independent body review the design of the trial.
- Clearly define objectives for the trial and regularly communicate these to those involved in the trial.
- Ensure lines of communication so that knowledge from the trials can be spread around the UK.
- Ensure that the Clean Catch expansion includes greater focus on other species groups, including through more concrete plans on how monitoring and trials will address bycatch in species groups like seabirds.
- Learning from other countries and projects like CIBBRiNA (an EU LIFE-funded project on mitigating bycatch of Endangered, Threatened and Protected species in the North-East Atlantic, Baltic, and Mediterranean).

FEEDBACK THEME 2: COMMUNICATION (HOW INFORMATION AND UPDATES WERE SHARED WITH YOU)

Reflections

- Clean Catch's newsletter which started in February is already an improvement, helping to spread knowledge more.
- The Bycatch Mitigation Hub on the Clean Catch website has been an excellent way to capture knowledge.

Solutions

- Clearly communicate and improve understanding of where Clean Catch fits in the wider policy landscape, as well as Clean Catch's history to date for newer relevant actors.
- Provide regular updates on the programme and its different aspects.



FEEDBACK THEME 3: HOW YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVES FED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE PROGRAMME

Reflections

- Experts were consistently ignored and there should have been greater consideration of expert knowledge; this can lead to replication of work and loss of time and money, with little conservation outcome.
- Feedback was not always considered and too often driven by single actors with existing or historical ties with public funding and the fishing industry.
- There was no mechanism to deal with conflicting opinions and reach decisions.

Solutions

- When a decision has been made for any aspect of Clean Catch, circulate a short statement providing rationale for the decision, which makes clear what has or has not been taken onboard from the governance group(s) and why.
- Establish an agreement mechanism.
- Create more region-focused groups, e.g. for other species groups.



FEEDBACK THEME 4: GOVERNANCE (WHO WAS INVOLVED/REPRESENTED ACROSS THE PROGRAMME)

Reflections

- Criteria for membership of the NSG was unclear.
- Different participants have different agendas.

Solutions

- Provide clarity on criteria for membership of governance groups.
- Provide clarity on the purpose and remit of governance groups.
- Ensure a more widespread regional focus, which could mean holding in-person meetings in other locations and/or holding more hybrid meetings.
- Consider how to involve representatives from the devolved administrations.
- Facilitate wider involvement in the trials by the devolved administrations.
- Recognise the varied purposes and motivations for Clean Catch involvement among relevant actors.



LOOKING FORWARDS

Clean Catch structure and function – equitable governance

Presentation at the in-person and online workshop by Milly Oakly, MMO Consulting (project management lead for Clean Catch)

Focusing on Clean Catch's aim of establishing a new streamlined governance framework to better engage with relevant actors and co-design the programme, Oakley summarised: principles of equitable co-design; Clean Catch's approach to designing a new governance framework and suggested principles for this; and straw man ideas for the new framework. *Full information can be found in the accompanying workshop slides.*

Interactive carousel session Carousel held in-person and online

In considering the structure and function of Clean Catch going forward, the carousel was structured by four broad topics: governance, transparency, communication, and representation and inclusivity. Across these, participants emphasised or focused on: the central importance of being clear on the role and remit of each group within the new governance framework; the merits of different ways to chair and make decisions in the new governance framework; the need

for transparent feedback mechanisms on decisions made; the opportunities offered by intersessional work; the multiple routes through which fishers and the fishing industry could be engaged; and the potential of Clean Catch to facilitate more knowledge exchange and cross-pollination of ideas, news, and other developments in the bycatch mitigation space.

Specific points raised by multiple groups and/or participants are detailed below. Unique points raised individually – some of which were oppositional to each other – can be found in [Annex 2](#).



Governance framework and membership

- There is a need for a new structure and for there to be a level of streamlining and resource efficiency to enable Clean Catch to be action-oriented.
- Ensure clarity around the purpose and remit of each group and how it fits within the wider governance framework.
- As needed, establish temporary and targeted intersessional working groups, formed of experts, to report back.
- If a Programme Governance Board (PGB) was created, Defra could chair this as the final decision-maker.
- If a National Advisory Board (NAB) was created, Defra could also chair this as final decision-maker.
- For selecting NAB members, there could be a quota of seats for different relevant actor types (e.g. five for academics, five for eNGOs, five for fishing industry, etc.), with the seat quota could be combined with a clear Code of Conduct/Terms of Reference.
- Representatives from the NAB (e.g. two to three) could attend the PGB as observers.

Transparency

- Ensure timely and clear feedback mechanisms for major decisions taken and why, as well as setting expectations early on around who can influence which decisions.
 - Share data used to inform decisions (where possible).
 - The newsletter could be used to help share key governance updates.
- Implement mechanisms for clear, transparent, and appropriately frequent intersessional communications and feedback (including but not limited to the newsletter).
- Ensure the website is fully accessible and clear in terms of accessing resources such as past meeting reports.



Communication and knowledge-sharing

- Have groups in the Clean Catch governance framework meet to share developments and updates, and enable cross-fertilisation of ideas and knowledge.
- Break down silos with better communications between various projects in and beyond the UK (including from the devolved administrations), on knowledge relating to processes and collaboration but also technical innovations in bycatch mitigation.
- Ensure effective and responsive communication, in terms of communications:
 - Between groups within Clean Catch
 - From Clean Catch
 - Into Clean Catch
- Attendees variously asked for frequent updates to ensure a continuous flow of information or for infrequent updates to avoid being “bombarded”.



Representation and inclusivity of interests and views

- Conduct relevant actor mapping.
- Ensure sufficient representation of and engagement with the fishing industry, at all levels of the Clean Catch programme. (A range of specific points on how to achieve this can be found in [Annex 2.](#))
- Ensure representation for all species groups and regions.
- Ensure better and appropriate representation for fishing industry representatives.
- In the NAB, have a voting mechanism for decisions.
- In the NAB, do not have a voting mechanism for decisions.
- Ensure communication routes for offering advice, opinions, concerns, and complaints, with clarity around the timeline and process for responding to these.



Concluding remarks and next steps

This workshop report is circulated to provide a transparent account of the two sessions held.

Our next steps as a consortium will be to:

- Continue disseminating updates on Clean Catch via the newsletter.
- Continue work on designing and implementing an engagement plan for fishers in the Southwest to understand barriers to, and opportunities for, engagement in Clean Catch.
- Continue engaging with other relevant actors to gather their feedback and insights, and set up a mechanism to support feedback from the wider network.
- Finalise Clean Catch's governance framework, drawing on these workshop discussions and other engagement with relevant actors.
- Establish bodies within the governance framework and plan the initial meetings of these.
- Communicate the establishment of the governance framework and who is involved in this.
- Continue delivery of defined outputs including:
 - Trials of a prototype Passive Acoustic Reflector.
 - The cetacean bycatch mitigation trial in the Southwest.
 - Acoustic monitoring of cetaceans in the Southwest.
 - A bycatch hotspots review.

If you would like to get in touch with us about anything to do with Clean Catch, please get in touch at secretariat@cleancatchuk.com.

Further details of the consortium team are given in Table 1 on the next page.

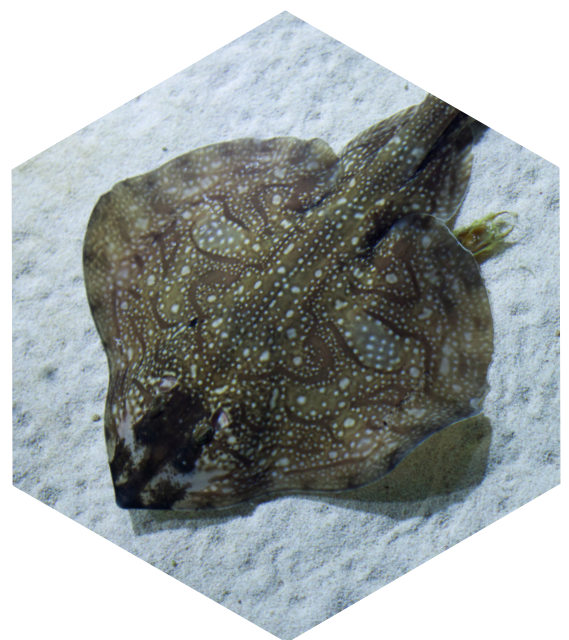


Table 1: Consortium Team

Organisation	People	Role
MMO Consulting	Milly Oakley	Programme management
Arribada Initiative	Alasdair Davies and Ben Tutt-Leppard	Research and development, and fisheries liaison
Zoological Society of London	Rebecca Austin, Aadil Siddiqi, Rob Deaville, Rosie Williams, Chris Yesson, and Stephen Long	Science and fisher co-design
Cefas	Joanna Murray, Emily Roebuck, Alessandra Bielli and Eva Maher	Mitigation and monitoring trials
Mindfully Wired Communications	Chantal Lyons and Katrina Ryan	Communications
Defra	Brigid Finlayson and Emma Kelman	Project sponsor, strategic oversight, and final decision-maker



ANNEXES

While the body of the report brings together common threads from the breakout session on Clean Catch phase 1 reflections and the carousel session on the programme's future, Annexes 1 and 2 below collate all unique points raised individually during these sessions, to ensure that all views have been captured.



Annex 1: Unique points from Clean Catch Phase 1 Reflections

Feedback theme 1: Trial in the southwest and other deliverables to-date

Reflections

- Due to its “opportunistic” start, the trial didn’t undergo a considered assessment in advance.
- The trial’s objectives were not sufficiently defined.
- The trial location felt distant and difficult to travel to.
- The trial was made more difficult by a low rate of bycatch [making it harder to determine whether mitigation measures were having the intended effect].
- Work around the trial did not take into account global knowledge on bycatch mitigation best practices.
- The fishers that Clean Catch engaged with (or attempted to) in the Southwest did not necessarily understand their role, nor why they should be involved in the trial.
- Fishers face regulatory barriers to using pingers, and the licensing process is very complex.
- More than enough time has been spent gathering data and discussing action, rather than progressing to action.

Solutions

- Note that husbandry techniques are less popular with fishers but can be effective.

- Explore spatial-temporal solutions and gear-switching, rather than exclusively focusing on technical “silver bullet” solutions.
- Identify and focus on trialling bycatch mitigation measures which would be scalable.
- Conduct much bigger trials (in terms of participant numbers and spatial extent) with a variety of gear types, particularly tangle and trammel net fishers.
- Consider how to involve other fishers if there is not sufficient voluntary participation in trials, particularly in areas or for fishing gears identified as priorities according to bycatch risk.
- Use the planned best practice guides to account for local-specific issues.
- If [Insight360](#) is brought within Clean Catch, expand this to better cover seabirds.
- Collaborate more widely on sharing and using data (e.g. local acoustics and sightings data).
- Consider “risk appetite” and be willing to take more risks.

Feedback theme 2: Communication (How information and updates were shared with relevant actors)

Reflections

- There was good openness about programme outputs and issues, and feedback was welcomed.

Solutions

- Conduct more outreach within the fishing community.

- Use more consistent messaging to everyone involved.
- Make more use of materials such as leaflets (disseminating digitally and in print).
- Provide clarity on who works on what aspects within Clean Catch.

Feedback theme 3: How your knowledge and perspectives fed into the design of the programme

Reflections

- Basic transparency of data and results from the programme was severely lacking.
- The NSG originally had a good balance of representatives, although less so over time.
- It is positive to hear that coordination and communication with other bycatch initiatives will be happening.

Solutions

- Allow the NSG to steer.
- Ensure that species research experts can provide input on species-specific behaviour to ensure better understanding of what might work well to mitigate bycatch.
- Risk prioritisation is an important process, although this will need to balance science and perceptions.
- Implement best practice guides and draw on lessons learned from Clean Catch's first phase to ensure mistakes are not repeated.

- Conduct a full literature review to create a matrix of challenges and opportunities, and a host of proposals to decide between.

Feedback theme 4: Governance (Who was involved/represented across the programme)

Reflections

- The governance structure was top-heavy and imbalanced, with many in the NSG compared to membership of the Local Focus Groups.
- While Clean Catch has brought together many different groups, the number engaged may have made decision-making harder and/or less equitable.
- It remains unclear whether Clean Catch is just relevant to England, or whether it will also cover the other nations and how this will be approached.
- The technical advisory group was abandoned some years ago, which has led to poorly designed projects.
- Funding and projects are too often run by the same organisations, with a lack of transparency in how projects are allocated, and of data and results from projects.
- Be aware that if a fisher-led approach is prioritised, that might not always align with the agenda of scientists, technologists, and eNGOs.

Solutions

- Ensure more industry representation.
- Consider different ways to involve all the organisations who want to contribute.

Feedback theme 5: Other feedback

Reflections

- Clean Catch is an important forum for progressing on the substantial and serious issue of bycatch.

Solutions

- Discussion is needed on the lack of reporting of bycatch (a legal requirement for cetaceans), including in relation to the CCUK self-reporting app.
- For seabirds, Clean Catch's work needs to link in with work coordinated by JNCC for the Healthy & Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDSEG) as well as other work that may be taking place at different universities. (Note that the OSPAR regional plan of action for seabirds is due out soon and will contain ambitious recommendations on bycatch for contracting partners and National Plans of Action (NPOAs).)
- Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) is vital to ground-truth qualitative input.
- Foreign flag fleets are absent from our discussion and ambition to tackle bycatch – but often they are the biggest impact in UK waters.

Annex 2: Unique points from the carousel on 'Looking forward'

Carousel 1: How can all voices be heard?

Sub-topic: Governance framework

- ToRs should include requirements/rules such as:

- Criteria for membership.
- How members should feed back to the wider network.
- A strict Code of Conduct, and exclusion criteria for if this is not adhered to by any member.
- On the potential National Advisory Board (NAB):
 - There should be ownership of the NAB, which could come from Defra as a chair or sponsor, or from a neutral facilitator.
 - Consider using a rotating chair for the NAB.
 - The NAB could propose two members of the PGB.
 - Use the NAB as the main forum through which to provide input, with the PGB observing.
 - A key focus of the group could be to build trust and relationships.
- On other potential groups:
 - Create a focus group for the new trial area which includes key expertise.
 - Create gear-specific groups for sharing knowledge.
 - Intersessional expert working groups, if used, could be called "task and finish groups" and treated as being in the same category as Local Focus Groups (LFGs), just shorter-term than the LFGs are.
 - Have an ideas-led process or forum, including a process for articulating ideas not being listened to.
- On decision-making:
 - "Weighting responsibility" is important – when making a decision on a subject, the person(s) should have relevant expertise.

- If using a voting system, consider having an abstention option.
- Clean Catch members should have the opportunity to be involved in the selection process (and early on) for the new fishery trial partner.
- Have a flatter structure, to help facilitate understanding.
- The new governance structure appears to have already been decided.
- From a communications perspective, the transition from the Bycatch Focus Group to Clean Catch (in 2019/20) happened without explanation; if Clean Catch transitions to a new governance framework, this needs to be communicated when it happens and a rationale given.

Representation

- Have clearly defined categories of membership for the NAB.
 - Define “expert” for the purposes of Clean Catch’s governance.
 - Beware including “non-expert”, emotionally-driven interests.
- Be specific about why Clean Catch is engaging with different relevant actors and what is being sought from them.
- Ensure that all relevant voices are heard using direct industry engagement on the ground; while avoiding a clash between bottom-up engagement and top-down engagement in the same spaces.
- Consider setting limits on numbers of types of representatives.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) group on bycatch could act as a voice within the NAB.
- Address what will happen to members of the current National Steering Group.

Barriers

- There is consultation fatigue, nationally and at the local level including IFCA’s and members.

Managing conflicting suggestions

- Ensure information is presented in an unbiased way.
- The NAB could feed back to the PGB on reasons behind any conflict, communicating these prior to voting (excluding an option for the chair to decide).
- Allow the chair to make final decisions (rather than voting), provided they have expertise.
- Consider using a professional mediator to support finding common ground in areas of conflict.

Carousel 2: Transparency in information flow

Meeting format and timing

- Make clear which if any groups have a watching brief versus a more active role.
- Provide clear meeting objectives in advance.
- For the NAB, members could be polled on where the next meeting should be and whether it should be in person.
- Online meetings are much more practical and accessible in terms of travel and cost, but there would be value in holding in-person ones sometimes (which can be more accessible than online ones in other ways).

- The Reflections workshop itself was cited as a good example of finding a balance with an in-person and online version.
- The fishing industry has experienced issues where reports come “out of the blue” – consider forming groups of fishers to review and “groundtruth” analyses by Clean Catch (e.g. this was done well for the seabird Plan of Action research and development process).

Transparency

- On making and reporting decisions:
 - "What decisions can I influence and what ones can I not?" – make clear to people where they have the opportunity to be involved, so that they can make choices around how best to direct their effort.
 - Consider creating a mechanism for recognising and accounting for consensus views.
 - For meeting minutes, use “sentiment analysis” to make clear how many people raised or agreed with certain points (the October 2023 report on the NSG working group on the cetacean bycatch mitigation trial was a good example of this).
 - Ensure meetings result in clear and agreed outputs and actions, and update the network on progress on these in between meetings.
 - Consider sharing the PGB minutes.
 - Create a mechanism for people to feedback “further thoughts”, following communications on governance meetings, decisions, etc.

- Ensure transparency around potential conflicts of interest, e.g. by maintaining a public list of member organisations and their affiliations.
- On the Clean Catch consortium:
 - Be upfront in financial transparency by providing a breakdown of who is being paid for what.
 - Provide an organogram (e.g. on the website).
- Consider maintaining a calendar of Clean Catch events so that different groups and members know who is meeting and when.
- Resources like past meeting reports and additional narrative would help to bring new members/representatives up to speed on Clean Catch’s past, present, and future.
- Provide clarity around how Clean Catch is driven by policy and other actors, and a clear mapping of roles and relationships.

Sharing information

- On fisher engagement:
 - One route could be via respected local fishers.
 - Give fishers involved in Clean Catch the option to be included in all programme communications, e.g. reports/minutes shared with the NAB.
 - Identify, capitalise on and foster existing links and goodwill between scientists and fishers.
 - The Flamborough work on gillnets between fishers and the RSPB, in terms of why it was successful, could be included in a synthesis of analysing what worked and what didn't in Clean Catch’s first phase.

- On sharing Clean Catch news and updates:
 - A representative from each group could attend other groups to give updates, to complement email/website updates.
 - Consider providing targeted updates for specific groups and areas of interests, separate to high-level summary updates.
 - Use a suite of communication, e.g. monthly short update meetings, newsletters (which should signpost to resources on the website), short video clips, and online hubs.
 - Provide frequent updates on specific outputs such as the mitigation trials.
- On the newsletter specifically:
 - Include horizon-scanning and updates on for new and emerging technologies and innovations/research/technical/management measures ready for policy-makers to scale up.
 - Make it multi-functional with clickable links to different sections so that different people with different interests can obtain relevant, targeted information.
 - Have a separate newsletter focused specifically on technical measures (i.e. excludes spatial measures and other changes in practice).
- The Our Seas coalition in Scotland offers an excellent example of how you can provide rapid-fire updates to a large group of people, which could be applied to information sharing both within Clean Catch and with other projects. However, this does involve some administrative resourcing.

- Consider holding a public seminar or similar event on Clean Catch, halfway through or at the end of the programme.
- It feels like we have come around to re-gathering evidence rather than putting things in place; to address this, sessions could be run for sharing best practice and lessons to drive progress.

Grievance mechanism

- “Feedback” procedure could be more appropriate than a “grievance” procedure.
- Differentiate between complaints of an HR nature and those relating to Clean Catch’s processes.

Carousel 3: Who needs to be in the Clean Catch network?

- Set out an engagement plan.
- Regarding fisher engagement and inclusion:
 - National-level fishing representatives are already included but there is not yet sufficient “through flow” down to IFCA level, and fishers without representation.
 - Clean Catch is engaging some of those groups already but at a very localised scale, and this needs to be done nationally and comprehensively going forward.
 - Engage more with fish producer organisations, who can encourage large groups of fishers to take part in trials (particularly fishers disengaged from IFCA’s).

- Consider approaching retired fishermen (who are not reliant on fishing income).
- Recognise the diversity in the fishing industry and prioritise engagement accordingly.
- Consider how to normalise engagement with Clean Catch in the fishing community, and protect fishers from negative impacts, noting there may be a risk that fishers engaged in the programme could be ostracised in their communities. Fisher knowledge exchange trips - with fishers talking to fishers - could help address this (a recent knowledge exchange to Mexico involving the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation provides a good example of this).
- Consider what could incentivise fisher engagement and enable fishers to understand the benefits to them of engaging with Clean Catch and bycatch mitigation more generally.
- Have sufficient Clean Catch personnel in place for direct fisher engagement.
- There appears to be a bias towards working with large mobile gear fishers over inshore fishers.
- ZSL could conduct research into barriers for fisher engagement.
- In terms of specific projects and organisations, ensure sufficient inclusion of:
 - Individual fishers involved in the trials.
 - Citizen science research teams like Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network, which gather ongoing routine evidence.
 - Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA).
 - Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) in England.
 - Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) in Scotland.
 - Fish Producers Organisations throughout the UK (e.g. Aberdeen, Eastern England, Western Fish, etc.).
 - National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO).
 - Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF).
 - Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA).
 - Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation (SCFF).
 - Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve.
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).
 - Natural England.
 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
 - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).
 - NatureScot.
 - Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
 - Bycatch Monitoring Programme (BMP).
 - CIBBRiNA.
 - World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
 - Seal Research Trust.
 - The Shark Trust.
 - Whale And Dolphin Conservation (WDC).

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- The Wildlife Trusts.
- Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU).
- Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS).
- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).
- More generally, ensure sufficient inclusion of:
 - Fishers without representation.
 - Experts/representatives for fisheries and fishing gears with a high risk of bycatch.
 - Self-appointed fishery representatives.
 - Fisheries husbandry experts.
 - Experts in spatial management.
 - Social scientists, particularly to help with fishery engagement.
 - Gear manufacturers and engineers.
 - Technology companies.
 - Training course designers, who can identify knowledge gaps for fishers on ecosystem science.
 - Government bodies.
 - Devolved administrations.
 - Experts from devolved nations.
 - Species experts, particularly in terms of species behaviour.
 - Specific eNGO representatives for relevant species groups.
 - Non-UK representatives, to bring their knowledge and expertise on both bycatch mitigation itself and governance for mitigation projects.
 - Philanthropists and other potential funders
- Draw on learning from recent Scottish government workshops.
- Determine who should be involved by considering who can inform and address the barriers and drivers for change.
- Address barriers to reaching different relevant actors using specific and targeted communication channels, e.g. videos and face to face events instead of a newsletter.
- Everyone already involved should continue to be involved, in addition to new members.
- Include members based on their expertise rather than the type of organisation (e.g. eNGO) they come from.
- Differentiate between who needs to be informed and who should be part of one or more advisory groups, potentially producing a RACI.





Clean Catch

Joint Action to Reduce Wildlife Bycatch



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



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Science

