

International experience of cetacean bycatch mitigation

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Bycatch is a fisheries management issue

- Fisheries which have a well-known bycatch problem
- Fisheries which may currently have a problem, but it has not yet been fully identified
- Fisheries which might have a problem in the future if the distribution of cetaceans or fishery area were to change
- Fisheries where the risks to cetaceans are always likely to be very low.



Engagement strategies for different fishery types

- Gill nets
- Pots and traps
- Mobile gear

Bottom-up or top down approaches?

Mitigation strategies

Reduce risk of contact with gear

- Reduce fishing effort
- Closed areas/fishing bans
- Alternative gear
- Pingers

Reduce risk of serious or fatal injury if entanglement does occur

- Live release (e.g. purse seines, herring weirs and pound nets)
- Weak hooks and weak rope



Pingers

- Generally effective for harbour porpoise (75% reduction in bycatch in UK fisheries)
- No clear effect for common dolphin but significant increase in seal bycatch (increased by a factor of 2.4)
- In the Baltic, concerns by navy over noise interference





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Emergent interactions in the management of multiple threats to the conservation of harbour porpoises

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Original Article



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Factors associated with bycatch of marine mammals in United Kingdom static net fisheries

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