

CetAMBICion project



Coordinated **C**etacean **A**ssessment, **M**onitoring and **M**anagement strategy in the Bay of **B**iscay and **I**berian **C**oast sub-region



March 2021- February 2023

Funded under the **DG ENV/MSFD 2020** call

Grant Agreement No 110661/2020/839610/SUB/ENV.C2

Objectives

(improve MSFD implementation, reduction of cetacean bycatch mortality)

- Set up a **cooperative working structure** bringing together the MSFD-competent authorities of Spain, France and Portugal and scientific expertise, in consultation with stakeholders, relevant international bodies and DG ENV
- **Streamline implementation** (improved data availability and comparability, more regional coordination, alignment of concepts and approaches)
- Support the **coordinated (sub)regional monitoring and assessment** of the extent to which Good Environmental Status (GES) has been achieved
- Support the establishment of new and effective **(sub)regionally-coordinated measures** that target at least the most important pressures
- Support the **coordinated implementation** of these measures



Partnership



| Organization | Acronym | Country | Leads |
|---|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación | SGP | ES | |
| Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente | SEMA | ES | WP2 |
| Fundación Biodiversidad | FB | ES | WP5 |
| Instituto Español de Oceanografía (CSIC) | IEO | ES | WP3, 4 |
| Instituto de Investigaciones Mariñas, CSIC | CSIC | ES | WP6 |
| AZTI Fundazioa | AZTI | ES | |
| Ministère de la Transition Écologique | MTE | FR | |
| <i>Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture</i> | <i>DPMA</i> | <i>FR</i> | |
| Office Français de la Biodiversité | OFB | FR | |
| La Rochelle Université | LRUniv | FR | |
| Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos | DGRM | PT | WP1, 2 |
| Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas | ICNF | PT | |
| Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera | IPMA | PT | |
| Centro de Ciências do Mar (Universidade do Algarve) | CCMAR | PT | |
| Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental (Universidade do Porto) | CIIMAR | PT | |

Advisory Board

- Fishing sector
- NGOs
- Universities
- ASCOBANS
- ICES
- IWC
- EFCA

| Person | Organization | Country |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Ana Henriques | Plataforma de ONG Portuguesas sobre a Pesca | PT |
| Ana Matias | South West Waters Advisory Council/SCIAENA | EU |
| Aurelien Henneveux | South West Waters Advisory Council/Pêcheurs d'aquitaine | EU/FR |
| Catarina Eira | University of Aveiro | PT |
| Chloe Poucheau | South West Waters Advisory Council | EU |
| Cristina Morgado | European Fisheries Control Agency | EU |
| Gregg Verutes | Marfish Eco / University of Santiago de Compostela | USA/ES |
| Guillaume Carruel | Comité national des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins / French national fisheries committee | FR |
| Henrique Folhas | South West Waters Advisory Council/SCIAENA | PT |
| James Waggitt | University of Wales, Bangor | UK |
| Jenny Rennell | Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas | INT |
| Jose Cedeira | Coordinadora para o Estudo dos Mamíferos Mariños | ES |
| Leire Ruiz Sancho | AMBAR ELKARTEA | ES |
| Marguerite Tarzia | International Whaling Commission | INT |
| Marije Siemensma | Marine Science & Communication | NL |
| Miguel Cardoso | Organização de Produtores de Pesca do Algarve, CRL | PT |
| Nuno Oliveira | Plataforma de ONG Portuguesas sobre a Pesca | PT |
| Peter Evans | Sea Watch Foundation / University of Wales, Bangor | UK |
| Ruth Fernandez | International Council for the Exploration of the Sea | INT |
| Sarah Dolman | Whale and Dolphin Conservation | UK |
| Sinead Murphy | Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology / ASCOBANS Common Dolphin Group | IE |
| Susan Steele | European Fisheries Control Agency | EU |
| Thomas Rimaud | South West Waters Advisory Council/Pêcheurs de Bretagne | EU/FR |

Work packages



- WP1 - Review of 2018 MSFD report for D1 (cetaceans) of the 3 MS
- WP2 - Proposal for coordinated sub-regional assessment, GES determination and monitoring strategy for cetaceans (D1C2, D1C3, D1C4, D1C5)
- **WP3 - Proposal for coordinated sub-regional assessment, GES determination and monitoring strategy for Bycatch (cetaceans)**
- **WP4 - Proposal of coordinated measures to address cetacean bycatch**
- WP5 - Communication, capacity-building and legacy
- WP 6 - Coordination

D1 = Descriptor 1 of Good Environmental Status = biodiversity

D1C2 = Criterion 2 for D1 = abundance

D1C3 = Criterion 3 for D1 = demographic characteristics

D1C4 = Criterion 2 for D1 = distribution

D1C5 = Criterion 3 for D1 = habitat

Timetable



March 2021

February 2023

| | Semester 1 | | | | | | Semester 2 | | | | | | Semester 3 | | | | | | Semester 4 | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|---|-------|------|-------|------------|---|------|--------|----|-------|------------|----|----|----|----|-------|------------|----|-------|-------|----|-------|-------------------|
| Activity | M | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| WP1 | | | | | | | D1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WP2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2.1 | | | | | | | D2.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | D2.2 | | | | | | |
| Task 2.2 | | | | | | | | | | WK 2.1 | | | IR | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D2.3 |
| Task 2.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D2.4 |
| WP3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | D3.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D3.2 | | | | | | |
| Task 3.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D3.3 | | | | | | |
| Task 3.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | WK3.1 | | | | D3.4 |
| WP4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4.1 | | | | | | | | | D4.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D4.2 | | | | | | |
| Task 4.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D4.3 | | | | | | |
| Task 4.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D4.4 | | | | | | |
| Task 4.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D4.5 | |
| Task 4.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | WK4.1 | | | D4.6 |
| WP5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All tasks | D5.1 | | | D5.10 | D5.4 | | | | | | | | D5.9, 5.13 | | | | | | | | | | | | All other WP5 Del |
| WP6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All tasks | D6.1, 6.2a, 6.3a | | | | | D6.2b | | | | | | D6.2c | D6.3b | | | | | D6.2d | | | | | | D6.2e | D6.3c, 6.4 |

WP1 - Review of MSFD second cycle reports and state-of the-art for cetaceans

Leader: DGRM; **Contributors:** IPMA, ICNF, CIIMAR, UALG, SEMA, CSIC, IEO, AZTI, OFB

- Collect and **analyse information reported** by each MS in **2nd cycle assessment** for marine mammals, identifying species selected, indicators, scales of assessment, current environmental status (if determined), integration rules (if used) and established targets.
- **Collate information** regarding **monitoring programmes** already in place and **measures** identified in the PoM for related anthropogenic pressures, to facilitate identification of common approaches and gaps.
- Based on ongoing work through the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, OSPAR Convention, ICES, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS , **review state-of-the-art** regarding **methodologies** relevant **for assessment and monitoring** of marine mammals and related pressures. Provide synthesis of existing approaches and solutions in other (sub)regions.
- ***DELIVERABLE 1.1. “REVIEW OF MSFD SECOND CYCLE REPORTS AND STATE-OF THE ART FOR CETACEANS” IS AVAILABLE AS A DRAFT.***

WP2 - Proposal of coordinated subregional assessment, GES determination and monitoring strategy for cetaceans

Leader: DGRM/SEMA; **Contributors:** IEO, IPMA, CSIC, OFB, LRUniv, ICNF, CIIMAR, AZTI

- Set up **working platform** for MS in the subregion (PT, ES, FR), to compare data on relevant cetacean species and shared populations
- **Share information** on cetacean biology, habitat use, and natural / anthropogenic threats
- **Identify** current **knowledge gaps** in the area and to **propose** adequate **solutions**
- Ensure **regional consistency** for abundance estimates and population studies
- Agree on **common GES determination** principles and decide on a **coordinated monitoring** strategy for cetaceans in the sub-region.
- ***DELIVERABLE 2.1, “GAP ANALYSIS IN GEOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPACE” IS AVAILABLE AS A DRAFT***

WP3: Proposal of coordinated subregional assessment, GES determination and monitoring strategy for cetacean bycatch

Leader: IEO; **Contributors:** AZTI, IPMA, CSIC, SEMA, SGP, DGRM, LRUniv, OFB, UALG, ICNF

- Analyse and compare national **bycatch sampling schemes** + related initiatives/projects.
- **Identify fishing gear, technical and behavioural characteristics of fleets and areas** which present greatest **risk** of producing bycatch of cetaceans.
- Agree on common approaches to **GES determination and threshold calculation for bycatch** (criterion D1C1).
- Carry out **critical analysis of bycatch monitoring programs** and pilot projects currently underway or under development, e.g. in relation to accuracy and precision of resulting bycatch estimates, and make proposals for improvement and/or implementation.
- **Foster cooperation** between scientific institutions, fisheries authorities and stakeholders.

Task 3.1 Compilation of the available information and monitoring schemes on bycatch (monitoring programmes, pilot projects, research surveys, stranding networks, etc.) and highlight weaknesses and knowledge gaps

Leader: IEO; Contributors: AZTI, IPMA, MTE, DGRM, ICNF, UALG, OFB, CSIC, SGP, SEMA, LRUniv

- *WORK HAS STARTED ON D3.1 INVENTORY OF EXISTING BYCATCH MONITORING PROGRAMMES AND OTHER PAST OR ONGOING RELATED PROJECTS IN FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (DUE MONTH 12).*

Task 3.2 Common approach for a Bycatch Risk Assessment (according to the population density, metiers, gears, areas, season, depth, etc.)

Leader: AZTI, CSIC; Contributors: IEO, OFB, DGRM, IPMA, ICNF, SGP, MTE, UALG

- *THE PARTNERS ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE METHODS TO BE USED WITHIN THIS TASK.*

Task 3.3 Common approach to GES determination and threshold values for D1C1

Leader: IEO, LRUniv/ADERA; Contributors: AZTI, CSIC, SEMA, DGRM, IPMA, ICNF, OFB

Task 3.4 Coordinated monitoring of bycatch: improved observer programmes and other methods (video monitoring, stranding networks) to address the bycatch incidence

Leader: IEO; Contributors: LRUniv/Adera, DGRM, IPMA, UALG, ICNF, SEMA, SGP, OFB, CSIC, AZTI

Subtask 3.4.1 Improvement of observer programme. *IN SPAIN, THE DATA AVAILABLE WERE REVIEWED AND PROVIDED TO ICES WKMOMA*

Subtask 3.4.2 Sub-regional analysis of stranding data including the use of drift models.

Subtask 3.4.3 Evaluate the use of alternative data sources on incidental bycatch. *IPMA HAS STARTED TO COMPILE THE DATA FOR THIS TASK.*

WP 4 – Effectiveness assessment of cetacean bycatch reduction strategies and fishing technical measures proposal

Leader: IEO; **Contributors:** CSIC, AZTI, SGP, SEMA, MTE, OFB, DGRM, UALG, IPMA, ICNF

- **Compile** information on **bycatch projects** in the area and on **bycatch reduction measures**.
- Carry out **onboard trials** using **bycatch reduction** innovation technologies
- **Assess** potential application of **technical measures** to mitigate cetacean bycatch in the area and provide information on potential approaches in partnership with fisher associations, administrations, scientists and NGOs, **testing, adapting and demonstrating potential solutions** and their economic viability in pilot projects.
- **Review** current **technical advice** for bycatch reduction with the cooperation of all **stakeholders** interested in bycatch solutions.

Task 4.1. Compilation of the available information on cetacean bycatch reduction devices (pilot projects, project reports, etc.) and highlight weaknesses and knowledge gaps.

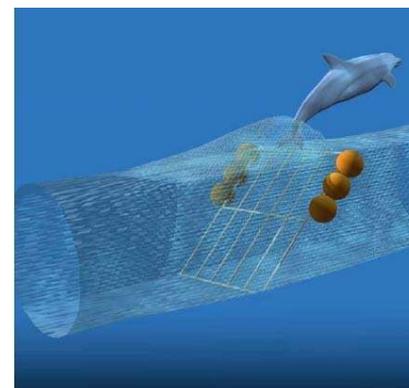
Leader: OFB; Contributors: IEO, SEMA, SGP, AZTI, CSIC, DGRM, IPMA, UALG, MTE, ICNF

Review of “state of the art” for bycatch reduction measures (types of measures, success achieved). *THIS REVIEW IS NOW IN PROGRESS*

Task 4.2. Pilot project: Trawling (CEDs and pingers)

Leader: IEO; Contributors: IEO, CSIC

Case study for development and application of cetacean excluder devices (CED) in trawling fisheries with high bycatch rates, focusing on pair trawling in Spanish waters.

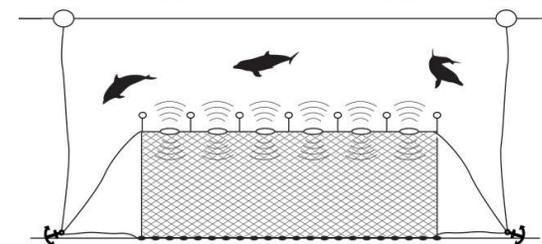


A MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED WITH INDUSTRY FOR NOVEMBER. THE TRIALS WILL LIKELY START IN MAY.

Task 4.3. Pilot project: Fixed and seine nets (pingers)

Leader: UALG; Contributors: DGRM; IPMA; ICNF

Case study on development and application of marine mammal mitigation devices in fixed net types and purse seines in Portuguese waters



Task 4.4. Feasibility study of move-on rule measure applied to mitigate cetaceans bycatch

Leader: OFB; Contributors: IEO, CSIC, CIIMAR

Elaborate (and test) methods to implement spatial movement measures related to occurrence of potential bycatch species.



<https://globalfishingwatch.org/map/>

Task 4.5. Efficiency of the different technical measures tested in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts.

Leader: IEO; Contributors: IEO; CSIC; IPMA; DGRM, MTE, UALG, ICNF, OFB

Technical assessment of the efficacy of the bycatch mitigation strategies studied and to integrate the findings with the other project WPs

Task 4.6. Proposal of common/coordinated measures among the subregion, for the reduction of bycatch in the framework of MSFD Programmes of Measures

Leader: SEMA/MTE; Contributors: SGP; IEO; CSIC; AZTI; IPMA; OFB; DGRM, ICNF

Set of proposals of measures to reduce cetacean bycatch in the sub-region

WP5: Dissemination of results, sectoral participation and capacity building strategy

Leader: Fundación Biodiversidad; **Contributors:** All partners

5.1: Communication Strategy and dissemination in press media

5.2: Dissemination materials. Design and production of awareness materials of the project: website, brochure, video and educational presentation

5.3: Sectoral participation and capacity building plan (including workshops)

5.4: Networking

<https://www.cetambicion-project.eu/>

WP6: Coordination

Leader: CSIC; **Contributors:** all partners

Collaborations / Acknowledgements



Collaborations

- ASCOBANS, IWC, OSPAR, ICES, EFCA, etc.
- Stakeholder groups (e.g. fishing industry)
- Past projects, e.g. MISTICSEAS I, II, III
- Ongoing projects, e.g. ABIOMMED

Acknowledgements

- All partners, Advisory Board, collaborators
- DGENV

The screenshot displays the 'Context' section of the CETAM BICION website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CETAM BICION logo, the European Union flag, and a menu with items: Home, The project, The Marine Strategy, Resources, and Progress. The main content area features a large light blue graphic of a whale on the left. The text in the 'Context' section reads: 'The CetAMBICion project seeks to respond to the urgent need to reduce cetacean bycatch in EU fisheries, in particular in the Bay of Biscay and on the Iberian Coast, as it is likely the greatest threat to the survival of these protected species.' Below this text is a 'LEARN MORE' button. To the right, a smaller text block states: 'This objective is aligned with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, and the Common Fisheries Policy. CetAMBICion will address mortality rates, abundance, demographic characteristics, pattern distribution and range and habitat of cetaceans with the aim of improving monitoring, especially in relation to bycatch mortality, and investigating the effectiveness of different mitigation measures in the Bay of Biscay and on the Iberian coast. This will ultimately contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status (GES).' Below the text is a photograph of a small boat on the water, framed with a red border.