



**Sea Mammal  
Research  
Unit**

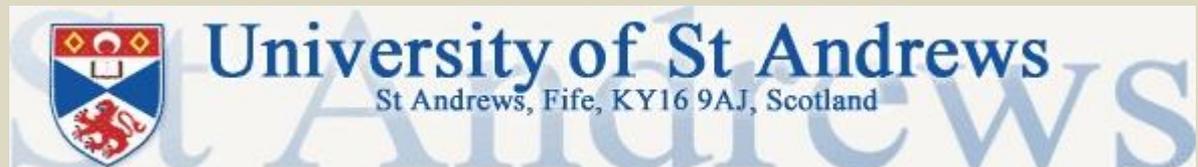


# Update from UK and WGBYC

## Rates, estimates, mitigation & data

Al Kingston

(Simon Northridge, Jamie MacAuley & WGBYC).



# Update on ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species

a.k.a.

WGBYC



## WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH OF PROTECTED SPECIES (WGBYC)

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 51

ICES SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

RAPPORTS  
SCIENTIFIQUES DU CIEM



ICES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA  
CIEM CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'EXPLORATION DE LA MER

# WGBYC was established in 2007 (as SGBYC)

- Main purpose to assess and improve monitoring and mitigation methodology

## Currently 6 main ToRs:

- Review and summarise 812 and other reports to collate bycatch rates and estimates in EU waters and wider North Atlantic;
- Collate and review information from 812 reports about bycatch mitigation measures and ongoing bycatch mitigation
- Evaluate impacts of bycatch on protected species populations furthering the BRA to assess conservation level threats / prioritize areas for additional monitoring
- Develop, improve and coordinate with other ICES WGs on methods for bycatch monitoring, research and assessment.
- Coordinate and support research proposals/projects and funding opportunities in support of researching protected species bycatch mitigation;
- Continue to develop, improve, populate through formal Data Call, and maintain database on bycatch monitoring and relevant fishing effort in European waters.

# 2018 – BRA carried out for CD in CS (7) and BoB (8)

BRA method -

1. Reported bycatch rates (DaS) for nets and midwater trawl

x

2. “Best” available effort (RDB and WGBYC)

÷

3. Abundance estimates (SCANS III)

= % mortality

Caveats regarding each component

Table 10. Estimates of lower and upper 95% bycatch mortality for common dolphin in the context of its abundance estimated in subareas 7 and 8 from SCANS-III survey data.

AREA	MÉTIER	YEAR	FISHING EFFORT (DAS)	ESTIMATE OF BYCATCH RATE (NUMBER OF BYCATCH EVENTS/OBSERVED DAS)		ESTIMATE OF BYCATCH COMMON DOLPHIN		BEST ESTIMATE OF ABUNDANCE	% MORTALITY USING LOWER BYCATCH ESTIMATE	% MORTALITY USING HIGHER BYCATCH ESTIMATE
				Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI			
Celtic Sea Ecoregion 7 (a-c, g-h, j-k)	Midwater trawl (OTM, PTM)	2015/2016	4767	0.010	0.075	49	355	221 933	0.02	0.16
	Nets (GNS, GND, GTR)		17 485	0.006	0.031	104	549		0.05	0.25
Bay of Biscay 8 (a-e)	Midwater trawl (OTM, )	2015/2016	10 962	0.084	0.199	924	2187	111 990	0.83	1.95
Bay of Biscay and Iberian sea 8 (a-e)	Nets (GNS, GND, GTR)	2015/2016	61 124	0.011	0.035	683	2168		0.61	1.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>Midwater trawls and Nets</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>94 338</b>			<b>1760</b>	<b>5259</b>	<b>333 923</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>1.57</b>

## WGBYC data acquisition

- Historically WGBYC used data from 812 reports only (only some gears/areas)
- Aware 812 to be repealed so DbSg looked for alternatives
- Resulted in development of a formal ICES/WGBYC datacall

Datacall requests to 24 countries for:

1. Fishing effort – all gears by area to ML5
2. Monitoring effort – to ML5 by programme type
3. Bycatch data – number of all protected species

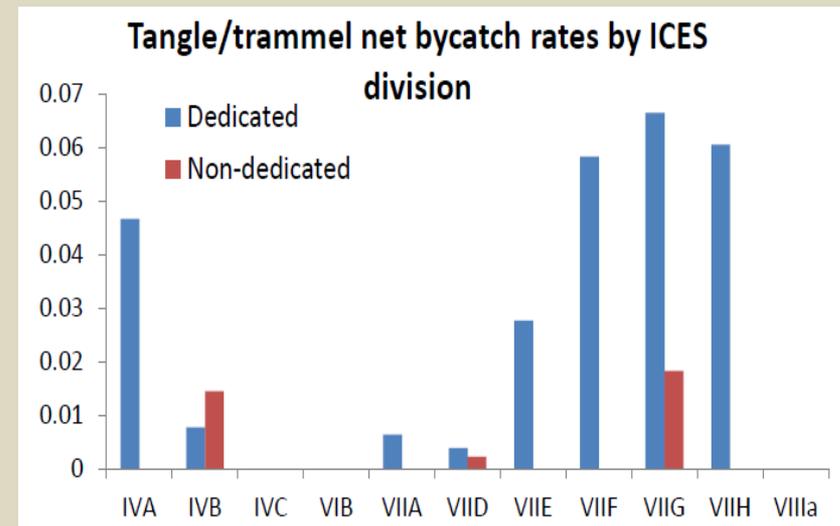
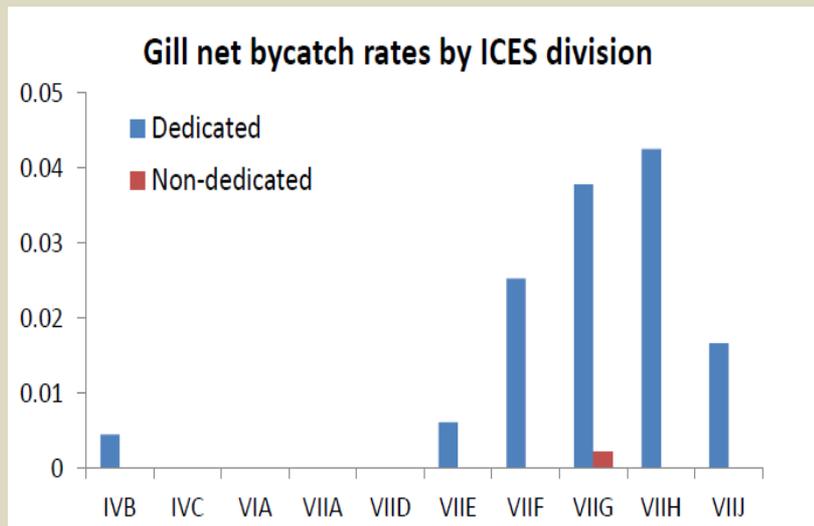
## 2019 datacall requested 2017 data =

- > 17,000 fishing effort records
- > 2,000 monitoring effort records
- > 1,000 PS bycatch records (circa 1 million specimens all taxa)
- = a significant step forward in data acquisition

Species	Number
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	4
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	1
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	46
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	2
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3
All	81

## Other data improvements:

- Analysis in UK indicated that mammal bycatch rates differ between programme type



- Rates 13 times higher in dedicated bycatch v catch sampling programme.

## Possible problem – most data originates from catch sampling programmes

- Sampling design and protocols not optimised for PETs in catch sampling programmes
- Very likely bycatch rates biased low (some gears/species)
- WGBYC and WGCATCH improving sampling protocols for PETS within catch sampling programmes (2020)
- Not clear if sampling designs will also be altered

= significant step forward in data collection

End of Part 2

Thanks