



Meeting: Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group

Date: Thursday 15 December 2022

Time: 11:00 am – 12.00 pm

Place: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Chair: Kris Ramm (Manager, Marine Bycatch and Threats,
kramm@doc.govt.nz)

Attendance:

Kris Ramm, Igor Debski, Clinton Duffy, Hollie McGovern, Johannes Fischer, Tiffany Plencner, Lyndsey Holland (DOC), Kath Large (Dragonfly), William Gibson, Greg Lydon, Heather Benko, David Foster (FNZ), Jack Fenaughty (Silvifish Resources Ltd)

Presentations:

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| 11.05 am | MIT2022-05 Large vessel trawl warp mitigation - Presentation of project methods and initial characterisation of available data | Kath Large - Dragonfly |
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1. MIT2022-05 Large vessel trawl warp mitigation - Presentation of project methods and initial characterisation of available data (Dragonfly)

Kath Large presented the methodology and preliminary data exploration for MIT2022-05 Large vessel trawl warp mitigation.

Further data exploration was proposed using current seabird bycatch estimation models and observer data up to the 2019-20 fishing year, relating estimated seabird capture rates to mitigation device use. A second TWG presentation will be made in February to present final results and recommendations.

Questions raised:

WG – Are you proposing to use the same relative risk approach as used for net captures in AEBR 266:

KL – if we can incorporate relative risk somehow we will, but it is not something we will formally include as a definitive at this stage. We will be completing a literature review in January and this will be included in that; we will also compare with similar NZ and international studies.

WG – would like to request consideration of relative risk approach

ID – Considering the role of discharge will be important when looking at list of mitigation options, looking at how it is factored it is factored into relative effectiveness between different vessels operating at different levels of discharge management. Also when going through comments, if you see types of information quite regularly, it would be very useful to have recommendations for how data could be collected going forward.

JFe – Agree discharge is fundamental to this work. Is it recorded what side of discharge occurs as it would be handy to compare the position of vessel warp strike. Presence of meal plant is an important indicator of the level of attractant to birds. In terms of tables, do they relate to warp fishing methods and areas, or just warp captures and trawls?

KL – some of offal discharge information is recorded. The tables relate to associated species and warp mitigation methods, only considering warp captures of bird species in large trawl vessels.

ID – What were the main take aways from conversations with Richard and John for going forward?

KL – Understanding deployment of gear in association with how warps are constructed, and angles of various lines off back of vessels, how these things are all different between vessels and types of events. Hoping to find examples in the data to marry out what we know about best practice for use of mitigation devices, and what is actual use of devices, how that changes in each fleet and how it may have improved in time, and are we seeing this in the data? If we can see improvements, or if we can't, is that related to how information is being recorded and how we could potentially improve that.

Any additional comments should be provided to csp@doc.govt.nz by 5pm, 12 January 2023.

Close of Meeting @ 11:45 am