



Non-lethal options for mitigating catch depredation by toothed whales from pelagic longlines

Update #4 – May 2010: The project Working Group is established

- Find this and other related documents at: <http://www.marinemammals.gov.au/regional-initiatives/depredation-project>
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4.1 *Formation of the Working Group*

In early April 2010, a number of key people in the Australian, Samoan and Fijian regions with a vested financial or conservation interest in the problem of catch depredation by or by-catch of toothed whales by pelagic longlines were invited to become members of the Working Group for the project: *Non-lethal options for mitigating catch depredation by toothed whales from pelagic longlines*. The Working Group comprises a balanced and diverse group of individuals that have extensive knowledge and experience on important aspects of this topic.

4.2 *Terms of Reference*

Following standardised process, the *terms of reference* for this Working Group outline the following:

4.2.1 *Objectives and deliverables*

Objectives

- Gain a thorough understanding of the problem of catch depredation by toothed whales from pelagic longliners by accompanying pelagic longliners and seek input (information and advice) from as many stakeholders as possible;
- Use this information to identify the best approach for mitigating catch depredation through physical deterrence, with particular reference to the development of physical depredation mitigation devices (PDMDs);
- Identify the criteria that should be met in order to encourage positive industry participation and long term use of PDMDs, with particular reference to functionality, durability, simplicity, efficiency, safety and cost;
- Conceptualise a PDMD or PDMDs in consultation with the Working Group members, fishing gear technologists and other stakeholders that consider the abovementioned criteria;

- Design, develop and build PDMDs with the assistance of an experienced fishing gear technologist, taking into account all of the above;
- Thoroughly test PDMD prototypes (i) to ensure theories behind development are sound and (ii) to ensure appropriate functionality and sufficient durability;
- Conduct preliminary sea trials to ensure PDMD prototypes are simple, efficient and safe to operate during normal fishing operations;
- Conduct full experimental sea trials to ensure PDMDs (i) mitigate catch depredation by whales and (ii) have minimal impact on catch rates.

Deliverables

- If possible, produce a functional, durable, simple, efficient, safe and cheap PDMD;
- Produce a detailed report that outlines the original objectives, the methodology used to develop and test PDMDs, the results and a thorough discussion in which the results are interpreted.

4.2.2 *Stakeholder membership*

Following is a list of those people (and their affiliation) currently included as a member of the Working Group. Working Group membership may change over time as people enter or leave for various reasons. Currently there are 19 Working Group members. Please contact the project coordinator (Derek Hamer) if (i) would like to become a member (clearly state the reasons why and what your experience/expertise is) or (ii) there are errors in current membership details.

Current Working Group members, as at May 2010, are:

- Derek Hamer (Project Coordinator and Working Group Chair, Australian Marine Mammal Centre, Australian Antarctic Division);
- Simon Childerhouse (Southern Ocean Research Partnership Coordinator, Australian Marine Mammal Centre, Australian Antarctic Division);
- Gary Heilmann (Part owner/manager, De Brett Seafood Pty. Ltd. / License holder, Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery [Australia]);
- Trent Timmiss (Manager, Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Australian Fisheries Management Authority);
- Matt Daniel (Manager, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Australian Fisheries Management Authority);
- Peter Shaughnessy (Senior marine mammal researcher, South Australian Museum);
- Pete Kibel (Director, Fishtek Ltd. [United Kingdom]);
- John Luff (Owner, Apia Export Fish Packers Ltd. / License holder, Samoa offshore EEZ fishery);
- Ueta Faasili Jr (Principal Offshore Fisheries Officer, Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries);

- Malama Momoemau (Principal Marine Conservation Officer, Samoa Ministry for Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology);
- Juney Ward (Senior Marine Conservation Officer, Samoa Ministry for Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology);
- Sue Taei (Marine Director: Pacific Islands Program, Conservation International [Samoa]);
- David Lucas (Director, Solander Fisheries Ltd. [Fiji]);
- Russell Dunham (Group Business Director, Fiji Fish Marketing Group Ltd);
- Charles Hufflett (Chairman, Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association);
- Aisake Batibasaga (Principal Fisheries Officer, Fiji Department of Fisheries);
- Cara Miller (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society [Fiji]);
- Steve Shanks (Fisheries Management Adviser, Fisheries Forum Agency).

4.2.3 *Roles and responsibilities of members*

The Working group will discuss issues informally, mainly through email. Members should feel free to send replies or information to the Working Group as a whole or to the Chair directly. As a Working Group member, you are encouraged to:

- Provide your expert opinion and pass on relevant information, concerns and ideas to me to ensure the project and PDMD development progresses in the most efficient manner and in the most realistic direction;
- Ensure that industry participants (license holders and fishers alike) receive regular updates at the wharf or boat and are kept informed about the direction and progress of the project (mainly applicable to Working Group members directly involved in the longline fisheries in each of the three regions);
- Encourage, facilitate and participate (where appropriate) in trialing of PDMDs on vessels licensed in the longline fisheries in each of the three regions;
- Remain informed of the significant steps and achievements of the project through the Updates on the AMMC website (see above).