

Porpoises and fisheries: how can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures?

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Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Process

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 st step: | Agree on what the problems are |
| 2 nd step: | Identify relevant mitigation measures |
| 3 rd step: | Agree on which measures to implement |

Overarching principles

- Process must be based on facts
- Measures must be proportional to the problems
- Effects of mitigation must be measurable

Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Agree on the problems

What are the main problems in relation to fisheries ?

- Incidental bycatch
- Competition for resources (space, food)
- Disturbance by fisheries

Identify bycatch mitigation measures

- Time / area closures
- Alternative gears
- Modifications to existing gear
 - Nets with increased detectability
 - Pingers

Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Time / area closures

Basic requirements

- Consistent differences in bycatch rates
 - by areas
 - by seasons
- Effects should be measurable

Advantages

- Enforcement is simple

Disadvantages

- Requires a lot of detailed information
- Effort displacement  Reduced catch efficiency

Unknowns

- Hot spots may not be consistent

Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Alternative gears

Only 4 ways to catch a fish !

Basic requirements

- Economically viable
 - Catch the same species
 - Catch the same amounts
- No bycatch of PETS

Candidates

- Longlines
- Pots

PETS = Protected, Endangered or Threatened Species

Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Longlines

Advantages

- Higher quality landings
- Enforcement is simple

Disadvantages

- Not all species can be caught
- Not all seasons
- Expensive equipment

Unknowns

- Which species and when ?
- Potential seabird bycatch

Pots

Advantages

- Live catch
- Higher quality landings
- Enforcement is simple

Disadvantages

- Not all species can be caught
- Not all seasons
- Expensive equipment

Unknowns

- Which species and when ?

Porpoises and fisheries:

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Modifications to existing gear

Basic requirements

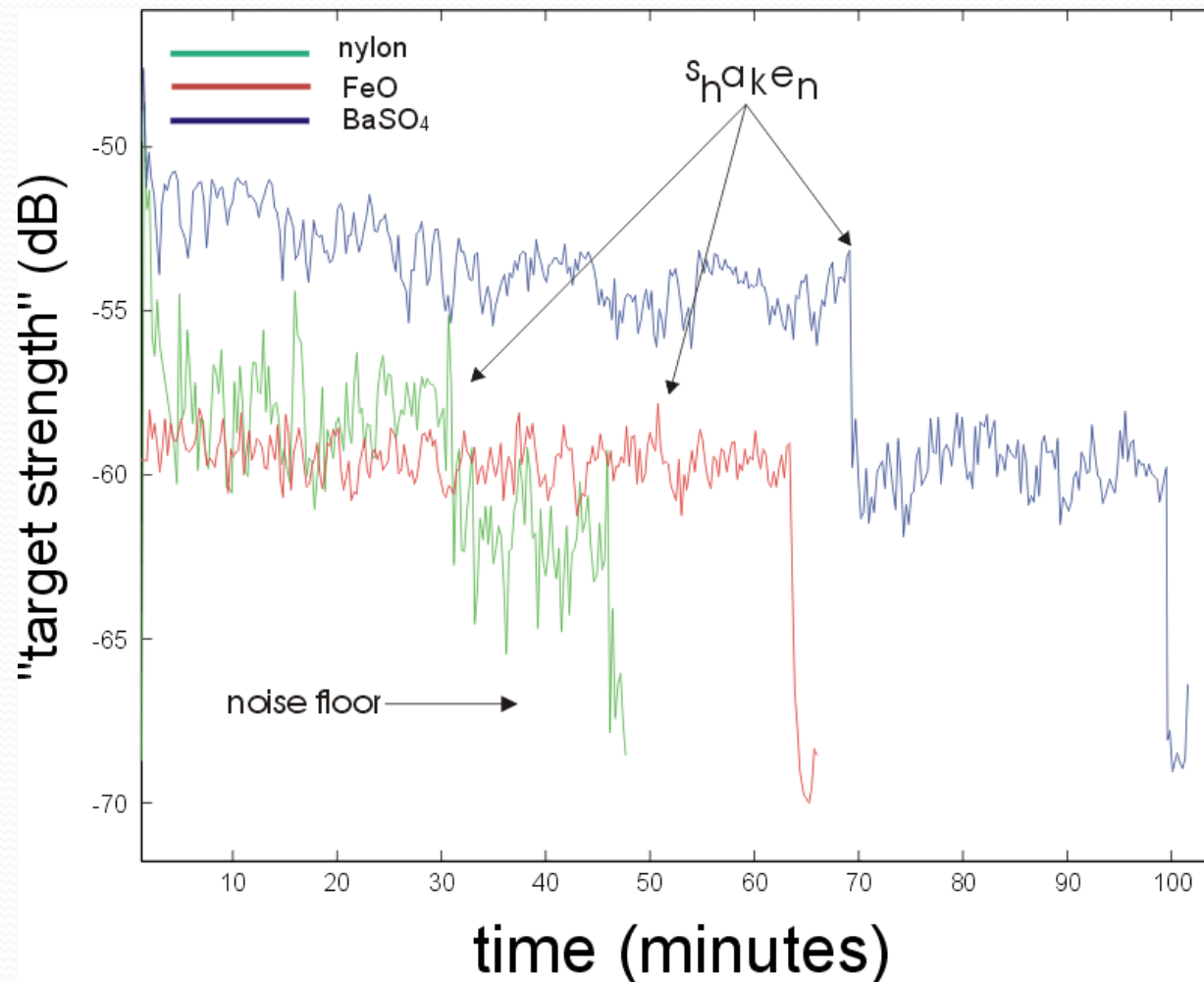
- Substantial reduction in bycatch
- No negative effects on target species catch
- No unwanted side effects

Candidates

- Nets with increased detectability
- Traditional pingers
- Alerting pingers

Porpoises and fisheries:

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Traditional pingers

Advantages

- Very efficient in reducing bycatch
- No effects on target species catch

Disadvantages

- Adds to noise pollution
- Not reliable but improving
- Expensive
- Enforcement is not simple

Unknowns

- *Modus operandi*
- Habituation
- Habitat exclusion

Alerting pingers

Advantages

- No habituation
- No habitat exclusion
- Reduced noise pollution

Disadvantages

- Enforcement is not simple
- Expensive

Unknowns

- Can they reduce bycatch ?

Porpoises and fisheries:

How can we reach agreement on relevant mitigation measures ?

Where can SAMBAH assist ?

1. In helping to identify the scale of the bycatch problem
2. In helping to identify where the problems are

Overarching principles

- Process must be based on facts
 - Not myths
 - Not unsubstantiated concerns
 - Not feelings
- Measures must be proportional to the problems
- Effects of mitigation must be measurable

QUESTIONS ?