



**Meeting:** Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group

**Date:** 9 October 2018

**Time:** 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Place:** G.02 Tangaroa room, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street

**Chair:** Ian Angus

**Attendance:** Richard Wells (DWG, FINZ), Tom Clark (FINZ), Tamar Wells (TOKM), Graham Parker, Kalinka Rexer-Huber (Parker Conservation), Hilary Ayrton, Freya Hjørvarsdóttir (FNZ), Johanna Pierre (JPEC Ltd), Luis Adasme (IFOP, Chile), Enrique Pardo Diaz, Shannon Weaver, Igor Debski, Kris Ramm (DOC)

#### MIT2017-01: Protected species by-catch liaison coordination – Johanna Pierre (JPEC Ltd.)

- **IA** Do those turtle de-hookers get used?
  - **JP** They definitely do, I'm sure it depends on the individual vessel though

Discussion around triggers being contentious e.g. some of the trigger species are known to aggregate, others unknown.

- **RW** Will the templates be available online?
  - **KR** Yes either through the CSP or MPI website
  - **JP** They are also in the appendices of the final report
- **RW** So the triggers are about events and the other data system will be about the data
  - **JP** Yes the data itself and so at the moment we do get some information from observer services about captures but we don't, depending on the observer programme person, always get total captures. So the triggers that we've had for the past year are all about trying to provide a benchmark for people on vessels to pay more attention to something that might be happening. They are not necessarily biologically meaningful- they are all focused on management, so if a skipper catches a black petrel, they stop and think about how they can avoid catching more of them

Discussion around passing of information on to fisheries observers

- **IA** We may need more time with observers on protected species
- **KR** Our work, our training, the amount of species we cover have expanded through the years but we still have the same amount of time
- **TC** If we are going to mainstream risk management plans on vessels, they need to accept that they've got a role and they need to understand that role
- **JP** A factsheet about the liaison programme will be given to observers

Discussion around tori line materials in the deepwater fisheries

- **KR** We've had to weigh up providing all materials
- **RW** They just need to see in real life the materials that are available

Discussion around electronic resources moving away from paper forms

- **GP** Integration of 'how to' videos for mitigation measures would be good

- **RW** Alerts via an app would be good, e.g. the recreational fishing app
- **GP** Good for new crew
- **RW** Would reduce workload and room for error

### **MIT2017-02: Characterisation and development of offal management for small vessels– Kalinka Rexer-Huber (Parker Conservation)**

- **TC** Issue around definition of discards, as discards are used in the compliance team as people that are legally discarding materials
  - **RW** We use the word discharge for fish waste (offal, whole fish, invertebrates etc), and discard of schedule 6 fish (legally and illegally). If read by international audiences may be confusing
  - **GP** We are happy to change it
  - **IA** Change to 'biological discharge' potentially

Discussion around unknown discard management practices in this report and categorising discard management in observer reporting instead. Having it as an open ended question to more effectively provide the data required for analysis

Discussion around the potential confusion of 'batching' terminology for discard management to observers- needs definition

- **RW** Do we have any idea around how much of [discarding offside] is deliberate? There will be people that are feeding the birds on the other side of the boat to keep them away from the haul spot
  - **KRH** We definitely saw those records where an observer recorded that the offside discarding was happening in a deliberate attempt to distract the birds from the hooks being hauled but since it's not recorded in a systematic way we just don't know what proportion of those unknowns might contribute
- **RW** Did you end up with the scampi fleet in the trawl component?
  - **KRH** No but we can check
  - **KR** I think we took them out
  - **RW** Should probably be checked separately
  - **KRH** We will double check before the end of this meeting
- **RW** So you are recording it (discard mgmt. practice) as systemic across the whole trip
  - **KRH** Exactly
  - **RW** I think the way you have set up the characterisation is really good
- **RW** Are most of these trawls in the upper North Island?
  - **KRH** Yes the issue with observer coverage is that we have got a heavy concentration of observer coverage in small vessel operations in the upper North Island, so Auckland east, Auckland west
- **RW** In the surface longline there may be a bias to data in the South Island?
- **KRH** No definitely not, it is the opposite for both surface and bottom longlining

Wider conversation around the inclusion of deck strike in the data

- **KRH** Was included as it was part of our brief for this project. Can obscure the results due to large deck strikes resulting in large outliers, results shown with deck strike removed in parentheses (corrected). Deck strikes in the COD data come through because they are associated with a fishing event, we're not

recording those deck strikes or other things that happen during steaming, on anchor etc.

- **KR** Observers are recording them it's just about whether they come through in the COD data because they aren't associated with an 'event'
- **KRH** Sometimes it is recorded as a note in the COD data which is a good initiative by observers
- **RW** Did you look at the proportion of seabirds alive and was there a higher proportion of them alive to indicate that there were being caught during that hauling event? E.g. were they catching the birds on setting or hauling as the live proportion will hint it occurred at hauling
  - **KRH** The overall figures for life status indicated that for the lining operations most came on board dead but there is definitely variability in the mix

Discussion about a mitigation combination approach

- **RW** Can I recommend you put the large numbers (influenced by deck strike) in parentheses instead of the smaller number
  - **KRH** Yes we can do that
- **RW** Is there a potential around this for seasonality of migratory birds influencing captures?
  - **KRH** We did want to look at that and it is a relevant point
- **FH** It might be worth discussing the limitations of the data set in the report
  - **KRH** It is interspersed throughout the report but yes that would be a good idea
- **RW** What is the ratio btw warp and net captures?
  - **GP** Mostly net captures
  - **KR** The vast majority yes

Discussion around bird bafflers and 'other' mitigation measures

- **KRH** There is a lot of different approaches that operators are using to try and address the problem, which is admirable and we want people to be trained to use these devices. If on the other hand these untested devices are actually causing problems we kind of need to know about them.
- **TW** Did these occur on bigger boats or small vessels? Other devices might be appropriate relative to the risk
  - **KRH** No particular obvious patterns related to size

Discussion around sticker removal being something that should be explored further

Discussion around different types of discards e.g. whole fish, heads etc.

### **MIT2017-03 Characterisation and mitigation of protected species interactions in the inshore trawl fisheries- Graham Parker (Parker Conservation)**

Discussion around the inclusion of species that are dead prior to the fishing activity in which they are caught, e.g. in a state of decomposition and that validity in including this in bycatch analysis

- **RW** Was scampi removed from this analysis?
  - **GP** Yes it was
- **RW** Did you take note which species they gut and offal? My understanding is its mostly shark species

- GP We didn't go into detail about this, in terms of what is more attractive, but it could be something that is explored
- RW Data used in this project is not only sparse but unrepresentative
  - GP Yes limited inference on this data given spatial observer coverage
- RW Is there any data on whether captures are in or on the net?
  - KRH No
  - GP One case as where one was described as in the lengthener as opposed to in the cod end
- KR Were those 8 trawls over a tight time period?
  - KRH No they were consecutive
- RW Are the deck strikes in all this data?
  - GP Yes they are in
  - RW Maybe they shouldn't be conflated into the bycatch issues of net and warp captures, they should be out and dealt with separately instead of blended in. It is quite a significant component of the data.
  - KRH They [deck strikes] definitely are involved in a fishing event or else they aren't included in the COD dataset
- RW PSH captures (composition of animals) need to be compared

Discussion around PSH

- RW Do we know if the warp captures occurred on vessels with bafflers?
  - GP I will go into this shortly

Discussion around deck strikes not being included in data as may be warped e.g. bafflers would not have an impact on deck strikes

Discussion around Tarakihi captures and what may be contributing to a high amount of protected species bycatch

- RW How hard is it to look at the seasonality of observer coverage?
- TW I wonder with the Tarakihi vessel breakdown, one of them had a capture rate of 50 that seems like a very big outlier, I wonder if the target species effect wouldn't be as strong for Tarakihi if it wasn't for that.
  - KRH When we left that one out the pattern still existed
  - RW Were they net captures or deck strikes?
  - KRH Net captures mostly, I can check that
- RW It would be useful to define what deck strikes mean..
- RW is there anything in the observer reports about not bringing in the whole net?
  - KRH Two trips mentioned this, it didn't seem like a major feature which is why it wasn't included in this report
- RW Was baffler use across the fleet?
  - GP Yes across the fleet

Issue identified around null entry of data by observers in relation to mitigation use and the need to improve this in observation reporting in the future

End of meeting