

# DOC project MIT 2015-01 Seabird Liaison Programme Coastal Long-liners—Small Vessel Surface Longline Fleet Component 2016-17

Richard Wells  
Resourcewise Ltd

# Project Objectives

## 4.1 Seabird bycatch reduction (small vessel longline fisheries)

**Project code:** MIT2015-01

**Start Date:** 1 July 2015

**Completion Date:** 30 June 2017

**Guiding Objectives:** CSP Objective A; National Plan of Action - Seabirds.

### Project Objectives

1. To provide one or more liaison officers to the inshore bottom longline and small vessel surface longline fishing fleets, with a focus on northern North Island, to assist those fleets reduce their seabird bycatch.
2. To coordinate the seabird liaison officer roles with wider efforts targeted at seabird bycatch reduction in relevant fisheries to achieve the greatest reduction in bycatch possible.

# Scope

- \* Deliver agreed objectives to all domestic surface longline vessels over next 6 months
  - Vessel Specific Risk Plans (one pager)
  - Management documentation including Operational Procedures with fleet generic requirements
  - Safe Operating Procedures Guide – guide to develop for MOSS
  - Tori lines or tori line materials
  - How to guides for building toris
  - Fisherman meetings to discuss techniques to operate toris and weights

# Principal Objectives

- \* Deliver programme that ensures:
  - \* All vessels have standard documents aboard
  - \* All vessels have adequate and legal tori lines
  - \* Principles for building and use of toris understood
  - \* Principles for use and safety of weighting understood
  - \* Trigger systems in place to report incidents
  - \* All vessel owners and quota owners know everybody on same playing field
  - \* Fishermen set up to succeed

# Other Objectives

- \* Improve understanding of need for collective approach and an AVERAGE performance that is better than last year (some great and some bloody awful = not nearly good enough).
- \* Set fleet up to succeed under future higher levels of monitoring
- \* Restate turtle risk and capture management and provide equipment where necessary
- \* Seek improvement in incident reporting

# How?

- \* Fast track vessel visits in ports across country in November through January for first round
- \* Two LOs — covering SI/lower NI and upper NI separately but under total coordination
- \* Port meetings of skippers/owners/crew to do some hands-on technique improvement to make mitigation systems work better in every scenario
- \* Follow up vessel visits (plan to see all vessels @ least twice) – note weighting rules
- \* LO men on call 24/7
- \* LO Coordinator on call 24/7 (kind of)
- \* Group email and central email for vessels

# Who?

- \* Coordinator role: R Wells....that's me
- \* South Island and up to Napier – John Cleal FVMS Ltd
- \* Upper North Island – Gary Levy Guard Safety Ltd
- \* We are all Nelson-based so will be meeting weekly to ensure all connected on regular basis
- \* DOC, MPI, FINZ and FINZ-HMS all with strong interest and collective oversight
- \* Regular meets and reports to DOC as required by contract

# What?

- \* LOs install programme on vessels in discussion.
- \* Some documents vessel-specific – SMP and SOPs
- \* Some documents fleet generic (OPs, reporting, guidelines and “how tos”, summary of regs, regs themselves
- \* Tori lines and streamers
- \* SOPs guidefor those that want them
- \* On call for feedback, change, advise or whatever



# Hands-On Meetings

Planned meetings several ports around country so that skippers can swap ideas and advice on how they can make mitigation devices as safe, effective and non-disruptive as possible

- \* These are planned to be about the mechanics of mitigation devices and fishing operations in different conditions (not seabirds)
- \* Probably Nelson, Tauranga, Napier, Whangarei, Auckland – wherever meets needs best – happy to take advice
- \* 3 hours max then food
- \* DOC and MPI may join – really need to await weighting rules

# Reporting

My job to keep DOC well informed on regular basis of progress

- \* Record (spreadsheet) of all vessels and visits accessible to DOC, LOs and self (MPI if they wish)
- \* Monthly progress report to DOC
- \* Incident feedback in real time (vessel and MPI)
- \* I know how to communicate with DOC and MPI
- \* MPI have advised good real time reporting system so any triggers can be dealt with pronto
- \* End or period report to CSP

# Operational Matters

- \* At this moment 37 vessels
- \* 18 with extant SMPs from last year
- \* Ports from Nelson to Northland
- \* Fishing season starting up albeit slowly
- \* Comms to owners and skippers critical to make connections
- \* Recent HMS meetings (MPI and FINZ) positive and supportive (this presentation delivered at those)

# What the LO Programme Will and Will Not Be

## Will be:

- \* Rapid
- \* Informed and same for everybody – feedback capable
- \* Focussed on what matters and what works
- \* And on vessels yet to have SMPs
- \* Cognisant of Goad tori project
- \* Determined to lift average performance of fleet up

## But won't be:

- \* Softly softly approach
- \* Particularly teaching about seabirds

# H&S and etcs

- \* No sea going activity
- \* Both LOs MNZ trained FishSafe mentors
- \* “Boredom” deleted from Hazard Register.....
- \* And cos we are there....
  - DOC Turtle stuff
  - MPI Shark stuff

# Summary

- \* Final full roll out and tightening of SMPs
- \* Additional information in full dossier
- \* Tight connection with fleet and MPI
- \* Tori materials and how to
- \* “Field days” for skippers re tori and weight operational management
- \* Reporting of programme progress to DOC (and MPI)