

## **Clean Catch UK 2 (CCUK2): Early Supplier Engagement Event 21 March 2023**

### **Overview of the Project**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) plans to procure a research project to develop and build upon the existing Defra-funded Clean Catch UK (CCUK) programme ([CCUK](#)) to improve our understanding of sensitive species bycatch and facilitate the introduction of practical, evidence-driven and effective bycatch mitigation. Ideally the programme would find one, multiple or a combination of solutions that will be effective at reducing bycatch for multiple species, whilst being practical for the fishing industry to adopt. The programme should continue the collaborative approach of the existing Clean Catch programme, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders to develop solutions.

In particular the programme's aims, and objectives will include:

- 1) Supporting the implementation of the UK Marine Wildlife Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI)
- 2) Working closely with Cefas to support them in delivering the elements of the programme, including coordinating this work as part of the broader Clean Catch 2 programme. These activities will include:
  - a. Continuation of the current cetacean bycatch mitigation trial which is assessing the robustness, practicality, and effectiveness of pingers and lights in Southwest England.
  - b. Continuation of acoustic monitoring through CPODs and the further development and use of the Clean Catch app validated by electronic monitoring.
  - c. Potentially conducting a bycatch reduction trial to test the effectiveness of a novel passive acoustic reflector at reducing cetacean bycatch.
  - d. Potentially, conducting an elasmobranch survey.
- 3) Expanding the geographical and species scope from the existing Clean Catch programme (e.g., into other parts of England beyond the Southwest and to other priority species such as seabirds). This could include starting new bycatch reduction trials in different areas and/or focussed on different species and/or taking a multi-species approach.
- 4) Implementing the recommendations from the successful workshop, Hauling up Solutions 2, which was held in March 2022.

Recommendations included:

  - a. Identifying key areas and fisheries at risk of sensitive species bycatch – through effective monitoring (existing and new)
  - b. Delivering trials on modified fishing gear, or modified fishing practices.
  - c. Developing codes of conduct in collaboration with the fishing industry that could include advice on actions that could be taken to monitor and reduce bycatch

- d. Building and strengthening collaboration around local trials of alternative gears or other methods to reduce bycatch, including clearly outlining roles and responsibility and feeding back results from trials.
- 5) All of the above will be conducted in a collaborative way with close involvement of stakeholders including the fishing industry, scientists and NGOs.

### **Early Supplier Engagement Event**

On **21 March 2023**, we will be holding an early supplier engagement event on MS Teams for this project and would like to invite you to attend. This will start at 3pm and run until approximately 4:30pm

The purpose of the event is to present our requirement to potential suppliers, allow potential bidders to ask questions of clarification, and use feedback to help refine the final specification.

Please note, this is **not** a call for tender or a pre-qualification exercise.

If you wish to take part in the event, please respond to Penny Hebden at [penny.hebden@defra.gov.uk](mailto:penny.hebden@defra.gov.uk) by **17 March 2023**. We will then issue joining details.