Clean Catch UK Regional Working Group
Terms of Reference
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Purpose of Group

The South-west Regional Working Group is part of the Clean Catch UK programme, developed to support the UK Government's commitments to minimise and, where possible, eliminate sensitive species bycatch, through:

1. Bringing people with relevant expertise together, from diverse organisations around the UK, to work jointly on how best to monitor, minimise and, where possible, eliminate sensitive species bycatch in the South-west of the UK.

2. Regularly reviewing and ensuring that the group's membership is broadly representative of the key stakeholders involved in sensitive species bycatch monitoring and mitigation in the UK.

3. Focusing on **South-west UK waters** (ICES Divisions 7e,f, g & h: Western Channel, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel) on the grounds that this is an area known to have incidences of sensitive species bycatch in fisheries, and that this may, later on, serve as an 'example' case study elsewhere in UK waters.

4. Agreeing the **priority species** and **fishing gears** of concern, and the bycatch **'hotspots'** (both spatially and temporally).

5. Providing evidence-based recommendations that are both practicable and considered likely to be effective in reducing bycatch, in SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) **Bycatch Reduction Plans**.

6. Evaluating the **effectiveness** of the Bycatch Reduction Plans.

7. Discussing and agreeing on timelines for the delivery of actions 4, 5 and 6.

Position within Clean Catch UK programme

The Regional Working Group provides the 'technical oversight' for the Clean Catch UK programme, and works with the other Clean Catch UK groups by:

1. Receiving data from established Clean Catch UK Local Focus Group case studies, and assessing and utilising this data to inform the Bycatch Reduction Plans.

2. Preparing and presenting results to the Clean Catch UK National Steering Group, as well as participating in relevant National Steering Group meetings.