



Privacy policy for the Clean Catch App

Self-reporting for commercial fishing vessels to collect data on wildlife bycatch

Why is this Programme needed?

Through the Fisheries Act 2020 and the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS), the UK government and devolved administrations recognise the need to minimise and, where possible, eliminate bycatch of sensitive marine species including cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), seabirds, seals and elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays), as part of a wider effort to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries. Self-reporting of wildlife bycatch events using a smartphone application (Clean Catch App) has been identified as a tool to support ongoing monitoring of bycatch events. Cefas are using the Clean Catch App to collect scientific information on the bycatch of sensitive species from English registered commercial fishing vessels on a voluntary basis.

A smartphone application, the Clean Catch App, has been developed by AST Applied Telematics in collaboration with Cefas and vessel skippers to enable the self-reporting of wildlife bycatch events.

What personal data will we hold?

Your personal data (including but not limited to your name, phone number, address, vessel details and images of you and your crew) and its use is protected under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation. For details of what can be expected from Cefas when we ask for, or hold, your personal information, please see our Personal Information Charter. The processing of your information is necessary for the performance of task in the public interest, or in exercise of official authority vested in the controller (Cefas). By taking part in this programme you confirm that you and your crew acknowledge that Cefas will process your personal data collected between 30/09/23 and 31/10/26. We will keep your information for up to 5 years after initial collection, unless otherwise requested.

How will my data be stored?

Self-reported raw data will be held and processed by AST Marine Sciences Limited within the Clean Catch App which is hosted on a dedicated, encrypted, Microsoft Azure cloud server. Access to the data is provided to Cefas through a database provided by AST Sciences Limited for the duration of the Programme. The contract between Cefas and AST Marine Sciences Limited includes obligations to ensure they comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 (as may be amended from time to time) and that AST Marine Sciences Limited will not a) utilise your personal data other than required for processing under the contract or b) share your personal data with any third party unless required to do so by law.

How will my personal data be used?

Haul reports submitted using the Clean Catch App will be matched to Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) video data by Cefas. Haul reports with geographic information included, but with all personal information and information directly identifying fishing vessels removed, may be made publicly available on the Cefas Data Hub at the end of the Programme, so that they may be used in future scientific research.

Information obtained both through the REM systems about your fishing activities, either directly from yourselves, or collected by Cefas Staff in the course of their duties and supplementary to the video, images and sensor data mentioned above, will be retained and used for scientific purposes only. Your personal data will not be processed using automated decision making or profiling. If you do not supply the requested information, you will not be able to participate in the project.

Will we share your personal data?

Scientific data collected as part of the monitoring programme may be shared with the Defra or MMO (under a signed data-sharing agreement) specifying how they must handle your data as there are legal requirements to withhold certain parts of your data from this sharing due to various sensitivities (e.g. commercial interests). All shared data will first be aggregated and anonymised and will not be supplied for direct compliance monitoring.

At any time, you or your crew may request a copy of the relevant personal data held by Cefas by contacting cleancatch@cefas.gov.uk.