

A TOOL TO SAVE DOLPHINS

Remote Electronic Monitoring

Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM):
REM is a cost-effective, interactive system involving cameras, sensors and systems for data storage on boats.

Every winter, over **10,000 common dolphins** die in fishing nets over a **three-month** period in the Bay of Biscay.

The current revision of the EU Control Regulation is a **key opportunity** to address the problem of **bycatch of sensitive species** by gathering the currently lacking data to develop appropriate bycatch mitigation measures.

The EU Commission has proposed REM for vessels that are at risk of non-compliance with the Landing Obligation.

If just **1 Baltic proper harbour porpoise** is caught in fishing nets, the population could become **extinct**.

The installation of cameras only to support the implementation of the Landing Obligation will not provide better bycatch data and will not accomplish the objective of minimising bycatch of sensitive species as fixed in EU legislation.

Small vessels account for **75%** of the EU fleet by numbers and make up the majority of the vessels using gill nets and pots/traps that can present a **high risk of cetacean bycatch and entanglement**.

RESULTS*

| Fisheries according to gear type | Risk of non-compliance with Landing Obligation | Risk of catching dolphins and porpoises |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Gill nets / Set nets | Low | HIGH |
| Trammel Nets | Low | HIGH |
| Pots and Traps | Low | HIGH |
| Otter trawls | HIGH | HIGH |

The use of REM to tackle bycatch of sensitive species and to support implementation of the Landing Obligation are two separate issues.

By supporting the widespread adoption of REM on EU fishing vessels, decision makers can take action to curb bycatch and support healthy seas.

Bycatch: Incidental catching of species in fishing operations that are not of interest or are prohibited from taking and selling.

Landing Obligation (LO): The Landing Obligation stipulates a legal requirement to land all catches with the overall aim of gradually eliminating fish discards.

Keep the definitions on bycatch and the Landing Obligation further down (compared to moving up the one on Remote Electronic Monitoring)

*This fact sheet is based on 'Technical analysis: Landing Obligation and bycatch monitoring of cetaceans' available at www.transparentfisheries.org

• EU FISHERIES CONTROL COALITION •