



Meeting: Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group
Date: 11 September 2025
Time: 9:30 am – 10.20 am
Place: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair: Kris Ramm (Marine Bycatch and Threats Manager)

Attendees: Kris Ramm, Hollie McGovern, Tiffany Plencner, Erin Hewetson, Katie Clemens-Seely, Hannah Hendriks, Steve Pilkington, Kat Manno (DOC), Juan Parada (Greenpeace Aotearoa), Sadie Mills, Diana Macpherson (Earth Sciences New Zealand), Campbell Murray, Heather Benko, Olivia Hamilton, William Gibson (Fisheries New Zealand), Rochelle Constantine (University of Auckland Waipapa Taumata Rau), Karli Thomas (Deep Sea Conservation Coalition), Dave Goad (Seafood New Zealand)

Presentations:

9:35 am INT2024-02 Port-based audit and protected Marine Review
species retention programme

1. INT2024-02 Port-based audit and protected species retention programme

Amba Blommaart-Klay (Marine Review) presented the results and recommendations from the pilot study that took place between February and June 2025.

Discussion:

KT Interesting to hear about fisher perceptions and habits etc. Do you think this pilot could also be applied offshore/out of zone? Will Chilltainer box work for vessels that are at sea for longer periods of time?

AB-K I assume so, the main point of the tub is to reduce cross contamination. Bait freezers could be also used, and often have more space. Not sure about the decay factor but seems like seabirds and corals quite robust for a longer period if required.

KT Cryptic species e.g. black corals should be prioritised for sampling. Is the pilot intended for further rollout? Even when there is observer coverage, the current guidance for observers is not that clear and directive for what to bring back.

KR We are open to that discussion. It's about figuring out what are the key questions we need to answer in order to inform management.

KT Coral samples from international waters should also be prioritised, as they currently have really strict reporting requirements, and verification of species ID would enhance that reporting.

RC Specimens and samples need to be accessible in order to make sure the most is made of them. There should be a centralised data/sample hub so that different kinds of research can use that data.

KR We do have some different cataloguing projects in place. Agree we need to make the most of the data, and that goes for cultural use too. There are a lot of bureaucratic hurdles, but keen to keep the conversation going. Making connections with researchers is very important.

RC There are situations of well-established archives e.g. cetacean tissue archive, but we don't get any bycatch samples. These samples can be really useful for informing management decisions.

KR Let's discuss offline as I think there is a simple solution.

DG Conscious that this is a gap that needs to be filled, but there is a lot of overlap with Fisheries Officers, Liaison Officers and the onboard camera programme, so we need to make sure that what moves forwards is as efficient as possible. I urge you to look at what the gaps are and how best to address those.

AB-K Agreed, the refinement step will need input from multiple parties.

DG And working out what the Liaison Programme can do.

KR We are in a very fast-moving environment at the moment, and there has been a lot of change recently. We need to focus on key conservation questions and demonstrate real value to the fishing fleet.

AB-K In terms of management strategies, more data on carcasses (e.g. from southern fleets) can enable us to make better and more informed decisions. Better information enables better decisions.

DG Yes, the way to sell to fishers is the benefit of informed management, otherwise the default will be precautionary management.

Any additional comments should be provided to csp@doc.govt.nz by 5pm, 25th September 2025. Close of Meeting @ 10:20 am