

All-new Bycatch Management Information System web portal tackles critical bycatch issues

Bycatch in tuna fisheries is the collateral damage caused by fishing gear to non-target species such as seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals and sharks. In many cases these species are already severely threatened from a variety of activities, creating an urgent need to manage and mitigate impacts from fishing. Streamer lines that deter seabirds, leader materials that allow sharks to bite through, and baits and hooks that are less likely to attract and injure sea turtles are currently deployed in some fisheries. How well do these mitigation measures work in practice? Are the mortality rates now low enough to allow bycatch populations to be sustained? Unfortunately, these questions remain largely unanswered in tuna fisheries and there are no universal quick fixes in sight.

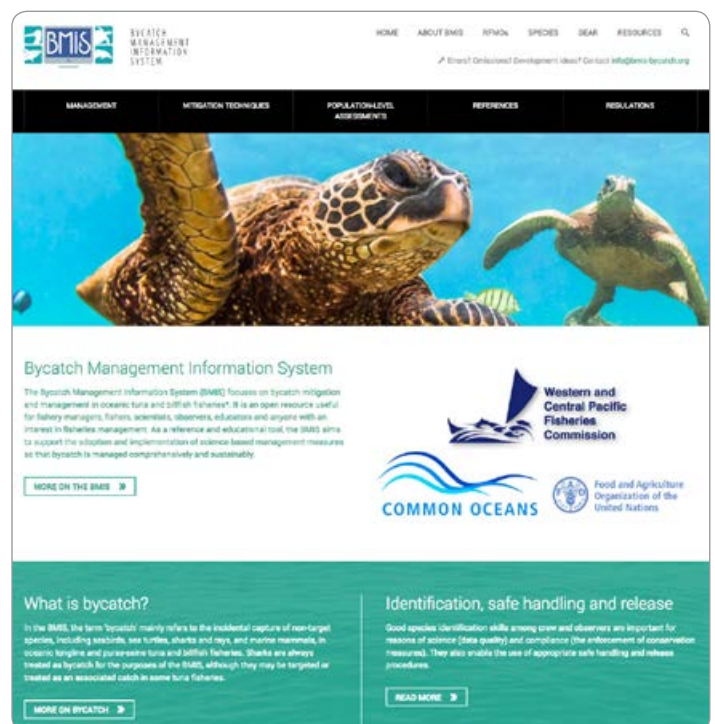
Now re-launched and enhanced with an engaging, user-friendly interface, the Bycatch Management Information System (BMIS) allows searching of over 1000 curated references by species group, fishing gear or mitigation technique, and provides pointers to species identification and safe release guides. BMIS also helps users – ranging from scientists to managers to fishers to the general public – explore management options by linking to information on interaction rates and population status. A built-in blog feature, ‘Bycatch Bytes’, provides an easy way to keep up-to-date on the latest developments in bycatch reduction.

Learn about past and present efforts to tackle critical bycatch issues and help find solutions by exploring the all-new BMIS at:

www.bmis-bycatch.org

Additional content will be coming online through late 2018 including databases, maps and shark tagging meta-data. User contributions in the form of information, feedback and notes about errors or omissions are always welcome and can be sent to the BMIS Coordinator at info@bmis-bycatch.org.

The BMIS has been developed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Management Commission (WCPFC) and the Pacific Community (SPC) with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the Common Oceans (ABNJ) Tuna Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This Project harnesses the efforts of a large and diverse array of partners, including the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), governments, inter- and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to achieve responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation.



The BMIS website home page

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