THE FIGHT AGAINST ACCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF SMALL CETACEANS IN THE ATLANTIC

The 7 commitments made by the French State, fishermen and scientists

1 To make it mandatory to report all accidental captures

- Since 1 January 2019
- Precise data to gain a better understanding of the interactions between fishing activities and small cetaceans

2 To keep a record of strandings, to publish data and to keep an account of progress made by initiatives

- Since mid-December 2020, the bimonthly publication of an information bulletin on the Ministry of the Sea website.
- Clear and transparent monitoring of the evolution of the phenomena of cetacean strandings and the progress made by initiatives

3 To fit all trawlers that interact with cetaceans with acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) and to pursue the development of technical solutions

- Since 1 January 2021
- 87 vessels fitted with pingers
- 2 scientific projects implemented by the CNPMEM and the University of Montpellier are being conducted to develop new dissuasion technologies

4 To implement aerial observation programmes

- Winter 2020 / 2021
- 3 months of flyovers to estimate the abundance and the distribution area of the population of common dolphins
- BUDGET 500,000 euros

5 To test fitting on-board cameras on gillnetters in the Bay of Biscay for the purpose of gaining scientific knowledge

- February 2021
- 20 vessels will have these fitted voluntarily with a view to gaining a better understanding of the reasons for accidental captures
- BUDGET 1.5 million euros in 2021

6 To conduct an international project with Spain and Portugal on accidental captures of cetaceans

- March 2021
- Better estimations and limiting interactions as a result of sharing scientific knowledge and innovations between our three countries

7 To conduct a voluntary observation campaign of fishing on board trawlers and gillnetters

- 30 December 2020 - 30 April 2021
- 1,000 tides observed, 1,375 days at sea in total, 40 observers recruited (32 additional observers during the winter of 2020-2021)
- BUDGET 1.1 million euros

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