

LIFE CIBBRINA

*Coordinated Development and Implementation of **Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean regions***

ASCOBANS NSG12 / Joint session with the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group

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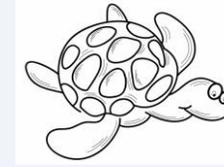
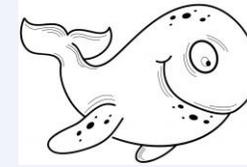
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Project overview

- › Grant Agreement signed in July 2023
- › €12,4M (€8,3M (67%) EU contribution)
- › 1 Sep 2023 – 1 Sep 2029
- › 35 beneficiary partners + 10 Associated partners
- › ... from fisheries/ govt/ science/ NGOs in BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, IS, IR, NL, NO, POL, POR, SW, UK,
- › ... plus international bodies: ICES, IWC
- › Stakeholder Advisory Board: 30 organisations
- › ... including 5 ACs, OSPAR, HELCOM, ASCOBANS, EAPO, EFCA, Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE), NOAA, several NGOs, government ministries

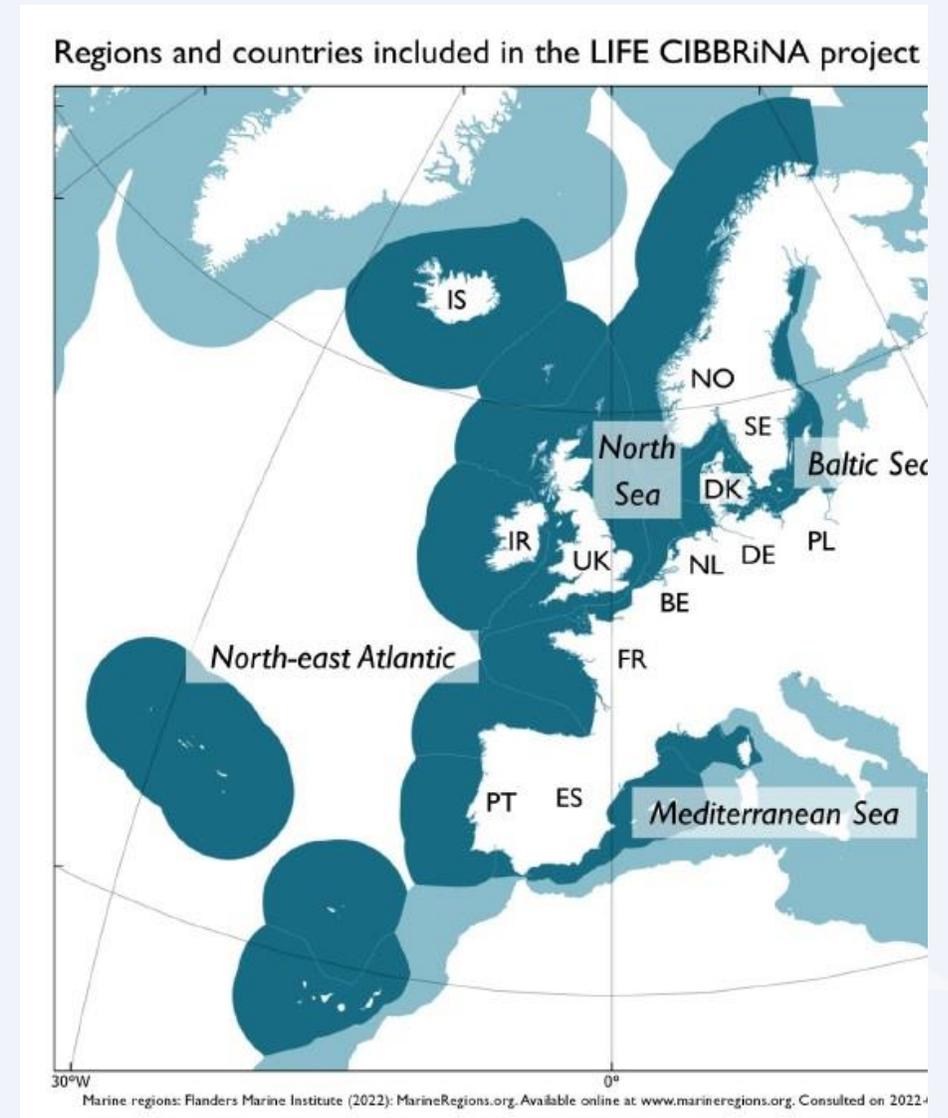


Aims and scope

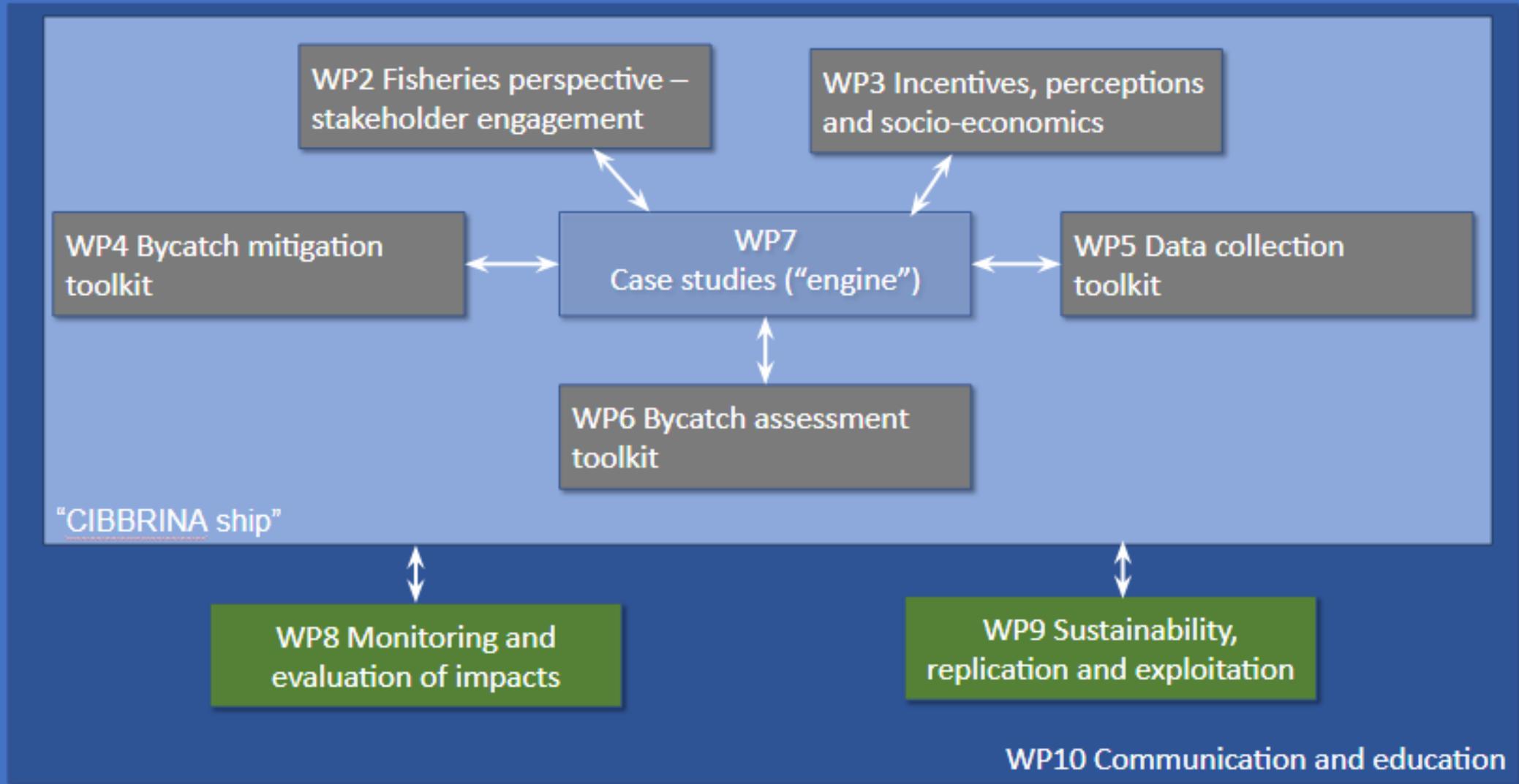


The overall aim of the project is for scientists, fishers, authorities and other relevant stakeholders to work together to minimise - and, where possible, eliminate - incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species:

- Especially priority marine mammals, birds, turtles and elasmobranchs
- In high-risk fisheries (gillnets, longlines, bottom and pelagic trawls)
- In the NEA, Baltic and Mediterranean



WP1 Project management



Kick-off meeting: 7th + 8th September 2023

- › Inspirational sessions
- › Work package pitches
- › Ways of working
- › Case study pecha kucha
- › Case study / work package carousel



Progress:

WP1 Project Management

- › Organise PMT and monthly SC meetings
- › Consortium Agreement and “Safe Working Environment”
- › LIFE ‘duties’, e.g. 1st Monitor visit 29 Feb - 1 Mar 2024
- › Linkages between WPs and CSs
- › Linkages with other projects
- › Setting up Teams environment
- › Financial team and admin session
- › Trainee: fisheries institutional arrangements (T1.2)





WP2 + WP10: stakeholder engagement + communication

- › Develop Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy
- › Regular Q&A sessions
 - Principles of stakeholder engagement
 - Other topics as needed
- › Branding guidelines, narrative and visual identity
- › Website development

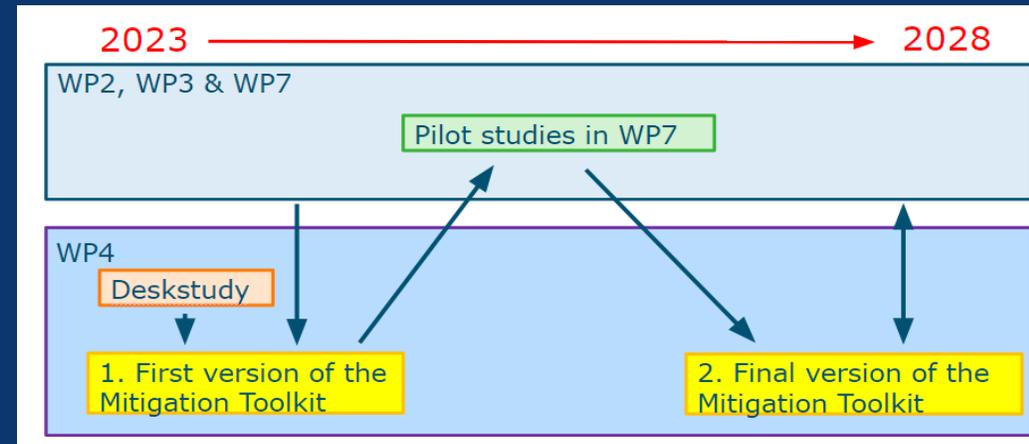
WP3 Socio-economic aspects

- › Review of bycatch management literature
- › Contact other initiatives (e.g. Delmoges project led by IFREMER, etc.)
- › Cost-Benefit analysis workshop (May-June 2024)
- › Incentive-based approach workshop (September 2024)
- › Webinar to share WP3 requirements with all partners (October 2024)



WP 4 Mitigation toolkit

- › T.4.1 Review of Mitigation Measures
- › T.4.2 Mitigation Toolkit
- › Literature study underway
- › Several meetings with partners and Bycatch Mitigation Hub UK to avoid duplication
- › Postdoc hiring process almost finalized
- › Further refine work division
- › Integration of WPs and CSs



WP5 Data Collection

- > WP 5.1 fishing effort:
- > two coordination meetings, draft CS fishing effort data form, planned fishing effort CS meeting

- > WP 5.2 bycatch monitoring:
- > two coordination meetings, monitoring programmes CS meeting, WP7 CS meetings (to continue), WP6 meeting, planned bycatch guide, data standard in progress

- > WP 5.3 strandings: one coordination meeting, start review of databases on pathology, start coordination of drift model (what tags to use, who to contact for stranding networks)



WP6 Bycatch Assessment



- Establishing case study needs and opportunities
 - (KoM & WP5-WP6-WP7 Feb 24 meeting)
- Discussed data needs with T5.1 (fishing efforts)
- Adopting and expanding simulation platform SCOTI
 - Embedded in ICES Workshop (WKPETSAMP3)
 - Significant progress on **Milestone 13** “Methods to integrate currently collected fisheries data as part of regular reporting processes to understand how to best develop a monitoring programme” (due M18) and **D6.1** (due M24)



Next steps (6 months)

- Recruitment
 - Postdoc @ MI (start Q4 2024)
 - Postdoc @ DU Aqua (start Jan 2025)
 - Scoping PhD project DTU Aqua
 - (causal inference methods for bycatch)
- Establish WP5-WP6-case study data scientists discussion group on Sharepoint



WP 7 Case studies

Gillnets



Longlines

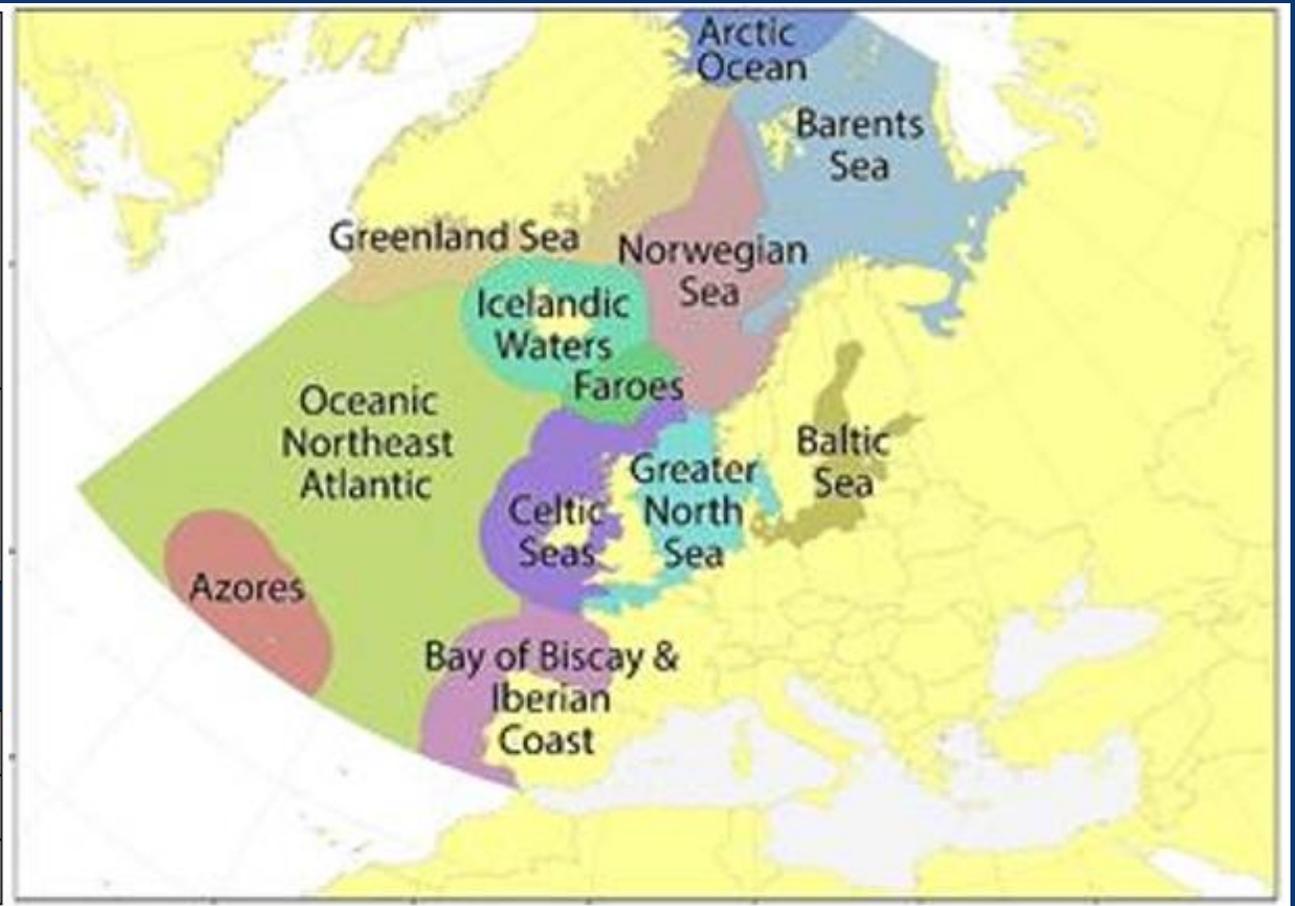


Trawl



Regional spread of case studies

	Norwegian Sea	Icelandic Waters	Faroes	Celtic Seas	Greater North Sea	Baltic Sea	Oceanic Northeast Atlantic	Azores	Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast	outside of ICES regions
Subcase										
Gillnets north	■	■		■		■				
Gillnets south									■	Mediterranean
Gillnets in UK waters				■	■					
Deepwater longlines Portugal, Azores, Madeira								■	■	Madeira
Surface longlines Azores and Madeira								■		
Longlines in UK waters				■	■					
Pelagic trawl			■	■			■			
North Sea and eastern channel bottom trawls					■					



Overview of actors in different case studies

	CS1 Northern gillnet	CS2 Southern gillnet	CS3 UK gillnet	CS4 Deepwater longlines	CS5 Surface longlines	CS6 UK longlines	CS7 Pelagic trawl	CS8 Bottom trawl
Fisheries	DFA Swedish small-scale fisheries Lithuanian fishermen ZRM Poland	<i>FGC</i> <i>FNC</i>	EEFPO			AFPO	DPPO PFA KFO SPFA	
Research	SLU Sweden MFRI Iceland DTU Denmark NMFRI Poland TI Germany IMR Norway	IEO-CSIC IIM-CSIC CETMAR USC	USTAN	IPMA DRP Azores DRPM Azores SRMar Madeira		USTAN	WMR DTU Aqua	WMR ILVO
Policy	ASCOBANS HELCOM	<i>Xunta de Galicia</i> <i>Parque Nacional das Illas Atlánticas</i>			SRMar-Madeira		LNV	LNV
NGO	BirdLife	<i>CEMMA</i>	None			None	SDN	SDN



Progress in WP7 Case studies

- › Quarterly meetings with Case Study Coordinators have been held
- › In several case studies, scoping meetings with the fishing industry have been held or are being planned
- › Linkages of each Case Study with different Work Packages are being elaborated and reviewed
- › Linkages with potential 'additional' (external) case studies are being developed (e.g. Dutch gillnets, French LIFE project on Mobile Marine Species)

North Sea bottom trawl

Ambition

- More selective fishery
- Better registration of bycatch (automatic recognition)
- Better handling procedures



WP 8 monitoring the project and its impact: Theory of change

Expected impacts:

- Increased collaboration between fishers, fisher organisations, scientists, NGOs and government organisations to quantify and mitigate bycatch of ETP species
- Reduction in bycatch of ETP species due to a better mitigation framework adopted across EU
- Now ~ 80 indicators, try to decrease!



Clear TOC overall and on WP -level



Clear monitor and reporting protocols



DISCIPLINE

WP 9 Sustainability, Replication and Exploitation

- › T.9.1 Upscaling of bycatch (risk) assessment, monitoring and mitigation
- › T.9.2 Establish long-term sustainable funding mechanisms for mitigation of bycatch
- › T.9.3 Embedding results in political frameworks, e.g. joint recommendations
- › T.9.4 Optimisation of monitoring activities based on the case studies
- › T.9.5 Exploitation plan and After LIFE Conservation Plan





Next steps – Q1+ Q2 2024

- > Meeting Stakeholder Advisory Board 26 March
 - > SAB ways of working
 - > Progress updates WPs and CSs
 - > Stakeholder engagement and communication Strategy
 - > SAB Q&A
 - > Presentations stakeholders on cooperation
- > Virtual meeting spring meeting 15-17 April:
 - > Finalizing Consortium Agreement and Safe Working Environment
 - > Stakeholder engagement and communication
 - > Extended carousel session w/ WP and CS leads
 - > Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- > Setting up bilateral meetings with WP leads
- > Detailed planning + review WP descriptions

Collaboration with ASCOBANS

- › Exchange of information, e.g OSPAR 'shopping list', involving WPs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9
- › Stakeholder Advisory Board



An underwater photograph of a pod of dolphins swimming in clear blue water. The dolphins are seen from various angles, some swimming towards the camera and others away. The water is bright blue with some light reflections on the surface.

Any questions?

