

## **Fisheries Committee Paper**

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### **Part: I**

**Title: Compliance Update (June-August 2023)**

**Agenda Item: 7**

**Date:**

**Report of: Alex Blake. Operations Manager**

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### **Paper for information only**

#### **Trawler Inspections June-August 2023**

During the quarter including last (2 days of May) 33 boarding's have been carried out, 23 on finfish vessels, with every licensed vessel boarded at least once, and 9 on Loligo vessels, 1 of the Loligo vessel was boarded twice for clarification of a potential issue. The CFL Hunter was also boarded. This is the second time Hunter has been boarded at sea since 2019.

Overall, there were 2 vessels with compliance issues found during boarding, most of these were corrected at the time and others have been rectified and checked at a subsequent boarding.

#### **Near Miss with Observer**

During a transfer at sea as the RIB came alongside the vessel the pilot ladder broke on one side where the ladder passed through the side door, luckily the bowman was able to alert the observer and the ladder was changed on the vessel.

#### **Second Season MRAG Compliance Observers**

MRAG observers were deployed on the 16 Loligo Trawlers at the start of the second season. There were 432 vessel/fishing days between the 30 July and 28 August. The season ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> August but the final day's data was not returned in time for this report

#### **Net Cleaning**

No reports of poor or weak net cleaning were received, on 45 (10.4%) days net cleaning was rated as satisfactory, there were 215 (49.7%) days with good net cleaning and 172 (39.8%) with excellent cleaning.

In the last season net cleaning quality was strongly correlated with total catch, whereby the poorest net cleaning was observed when the catch was highest,

with the lower catch this season it is to be expected that net cleaning would improve.

### Daily Observations

The table below outlines all of the issues recorded

Monitored Behaviour	Licence Condition Part\Section	Vessel Days Recorded (971)
Seal Exclusion Device deployed incorrectly	2\3	0 (0%)
Birds Scaring Lines (BSL) - Tori lines or Fixed Arial Arrays (FAA) incorrectly deployed	3\16	2 (0.5%)
BSL NOT cleaned and maintained	3\18	6 (1.4%)
Squid Remaining in cod-end or remaining on deck when net is Shot	3\13	0 (0%)
Seabird caught in any of the trawl gear		3 (0.7%)
BSL Contacts		0 (0%)
Deck Release		2 (0.5%)
Mortality		1 (0.2%)
Marine mammal caught in the net		27 (6.3%)
SED Release		19 (4.4%)
Deck Release		3 (0.7%)
Mortality		5 (1.2%)
Marine mammal or bird was intentionally harmed or killed	3\11	0 (0%)
Warps splices are incorrectly protected	3\17	0 (0%)
Discards from the ship did not cease 5 minutes before during shooting, hauling and turning	3\12	0 (0 %)
Daily aggregate bycatch of toothfish has exceeded 1.5%	2\4c	0 (0%)
Daily aggregate bycatch has exceeded 10%	2\4b	0 (0%)
Undamaged Doryteuthis gahi (Calamari) are discarded	2\1a	0 (0%)
Bycatch species incorrectly reported	3\6	1 (0.2%)
Garbage brought onboard not properly stored	3\42	0 (0%)
Plastics (gloves, packaging) or synthetics (nets, twine, longline, etc) lost or discarded	3\42	4 (0.9%)

There was 1 vessel day with an observer recorded mortality, a black Browed Albatross. There were 5 days with marine mammal mortalities reported, with a total of 6 dead seals, 2 of the seals were in a state of composition but were unmarked. Of the other 4 fresh mortalities 1 was a sea lion and 3 were fur seals.

Besides the incidental mortalities, there were 2 cases of a vessel with badly deployed FAA's, in one case where a vessel lost part of their curtain in bad weather it was not fixed for 6 days (the 6 incidents of poorly maintained FAA's above)

Waste management was much improved in the second season with only 4 incidents of plastic waste entering the sea. Three of the incidents were

unavoidable, however in 1 case when a net was repaired the off cuts of the repair were still on the net when it was shot. The MRAG observer on the vessel in question informed the captain.

### **FIFD Observer Compliance**

Historically FIFD observers have not reported compliance on a daily basis, although this has now been introduced and the observers currently at sea will record compliance on a daily basis and feed in to control and enforcement either reporting from the vessel where they have access to the internet from their own pc's or if there is limited access(mobile phones only) then the form will be forwarded when they return ashore.

### Finfish Trawlers

FIFD observers reported 2 trips on finfish vessels during the period. On both vessels there were issues with catch reporting of discard either underestimation of bycatch discard or missing species off the catch report. There were reports on one vessel of discards commencing before the warp was fully deployed, contrary to licence conditions.

### Loligo Trawlers

Only 1 Loligo report has been completed in the reporting time frame, there were no compliance issues reported.

### **Patrolling Activity**

Lilibet has conducted 7 patrols from 28 May to 23 August, in that time the vessel has covered 11,642 Nautical miles, She has spent 85 days at sea during the quarter (there were also 85 days in the same period 2022), Lilibet was sheltering for 14 days, (which includes 8 days where Lilibet had to wait for weather to deploy 2 scientists onto Bird Island for a Seal Survey), there were 18 in 2022, 33 boarding's were conducted compared to 19 in the same period in 2022.

During June Lilibet was tasked to follow a Russian vessel that had intended to bunker in Falklands waters contrary to the current embargo in place. Lilibet was in the south west when she received the tasking and reached the area to the North East of McBride head 12 hours later averaging 14.9 kts over the route.