

Supplementary Materials:

Supplementary File S1. Questionnaire used in the present study.

LIFE DELFI

Dolphin Experience: Lowering Fishing Interactions

LIFE18 NAT/IT/00094

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY FOR PROFESSIONAL FISHERS

Action A3 Data gathering and scientific protocols

Dear Fisherman,

We would like to involve you in a project aiming to reduce the interaction between dolphins and different commercial fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. For this reason, we kindly ask your availability to answer some questions. Participation is voluntary and the data are treated anonymously. The survey lasts 15 minutes.

The questionnaire is divided into 3 sections to gather preliminary information to plan the following phases of the project.

Area	Harbour
Interviewer	Date

Vessel name (optional)	
LOA (m)	
Engine Power (Kw)	
Fisher's age	
Years of experience	
Fishing days per year	
Main fishing gear	
Secondary fishing gear	

SECTION S1 – DOLPHINS' PRESENCE AND FISHING INTERACTION

This section is useful to get a general scenario about the geographical and seasonal presence of dolphins as well as the fisheries interaction, to understand the possible issues of this conflict and how to reduce them.

1. How frequently do you observe dolphins while fishing?

- Always
- Often
- Occasionally
- Never

1a. How many animals do you observe per day on average? _____

1b. How do they interact?

- No interaction
- Net depredation (i.e. your perception of the catch removal from the net)
- Catch damages
- Net damages
- Other (e.g. Catch scattering) _____

1c. If there is a n y damage, how much do you estimate the economic loss per year? *Include in the economic loss both the catch and the gear damages*

€_____ per year

2. Using the map, report the coordinates of YOUR USUAL FISHING AREA, if possible taking into account the seasons (you could also report the local names of the areas)

3. Using the map, report the coordinates of the AREAS WHERE YOU USE TO OBSERVE THE DOLPHINS even without any interaction, if possible taking into account the seasons (you could also report the local names of the areas)

4. How has the presence of dolphins changed over the last 10 years?

- It is increased
- It is decreased
- It is the same
- I don't know

4a. If it has increased, by how much?

- Increased by a quarter
- Doubled
- Tripled
- Quadrupled
- I don't know

5. Did you ever accidentally catch a dolphin??

- Yes No

5a. If yes, which gear was by? _____

5b. How many times has it happened? (number of bycatch events/years of activity)?_____

5c. How many animals were dead and how many were alive? _____

5d. Did the presence of dolphin in the nets create an obstacle to your fishing activity?

- Yes No

6. What was the issue?

- Obstacle to travel and fishing time reduction
- Gear damage
- Catch damage
- Other (specify) _____

6a. How did you manage to solve such situation? _____

7. Which is the season where the dolphin interactions are more frequent? Score the seasons from 1 to 4 (1= season with fewer sightings and 4 = season with more sightings).

8. On a scale from 1 (not important) to 5 (very important), report your opinion on how problematic you think the presence of dolphins in the fishing areas.

- 1 2 3 4 5

Justify your answer

SECTION S2 – Pingers

In this section, we would like to know your opinion about pingers as mitigation devices

9. Are you aware of pingers?

- Yes
- No

10. Do you have experience with pingers? (Only 1 answer)

- I use them regularly
- I use them occasionally
- I've never used them
- Other _____

9.a. If you are using/had used them, which is/was the model?

9.b. Are you satisfied?

9.c. If you DON'T use them, why?

- I don't know them
- I know them, but I'm not interested to test them
- I have tested them, but I was not satisfied with them
- Other _____

10. Do you use any other strategy to keep the dolphins away?

- Yes No

10a. If yes, which ones? _____

11. Do you think it is necessary to reduce such interactions?

- Yes No

Justify your answer: _____

11a. If yes, how do you think this result could be achieved?

- Using pingers or other mitigation devices
- With a financial compensation for the damages
- I don't know
- Other _____

SECTION S3 – PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION

This section is useful to know your availability to take part to the Life DELFI project. +

12. Are you aware that the future operative fishery programme (2021-2027), to apply the new FEAMP, currently under review, will fund the replacement of your gears with new ones more selective and sustainable?

Yes No

13. Would you like to receive information about national and European opportunities for mitigation measurements and the use of low-impact fishing gears?

Yes No

14a. If yes, why?

14. Would you be available to test mitigation devices proposed by Life DELFI for yourboat?

Yes No

15. Would you be available to take part in Dolphin Watching activities with your boat?

Yes No

16. Would you be available to get involved in fishing tourism with your boat?

Yes No

17. Would you be available to get involved in ichthyic-tourism?

Sì No

18. Would you be available to join a quality certification for better selling your products?

Yes No

19. Would you like to share with us your contacts if you are interested in the aforementioned activities?

INTERVIEWER NOTES
