



## March 2024

*2024 is off to a roaring start here at the Bycatch Solutions Hub. After some much-needed time off for the holidays, these first two months have passed in a flash. I hope that everyone had a relaxing holiday break and has been able to get a jump start on 2024.*

*The beginning of a new year means one thing for us: that Seafood Expo season is coming. From March 10-12, we will be at [Seafood Expo North America \(SENA\)](#) in Boston. You can find us at the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership **Booth #1075** – just look for the Protecting Ocean Wildlife sign, or ask for the Hub folks!*



*On Sunday, March 10, from 4:00-5:00 p.m., we will be hosting a [Bycatch Solutions Showcase](#) in Conference Room #103 at the Expo. The Showcase will highlight the bycatch mitigation projects component of our work. Stop by to talk to organizations working with fishers to make on-the-water changes, and industry representatives working with the Bycatch Solutions Hub to support those groups. We will also be showcasing an array of projects from a diverse group of fisheries and geographies*

that are in need of industry support. The doors will stay open during the event, so feel free to drop in for just a few minutes, or stay for the whole hour.

If you will not be at SENA, we still want to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to fill out our updated [contact form](#) to give us a better idea of your interests. Let us know how we can collaborate with your organization to reduce bycatch risks to vulnerable wildlife. We always have new projects in the works, so check back frequently to see how you can support those working to make a difference!

Phillip Sanchez  
Bycatch Programs Coordinator



MARCH 10-12, 2024 / BOSTON, USA

Visit us  
at booth **1075**



## Project Spotlight:

**Electronic monitoring in the Alaskan salmon gillnet fishery to support vessel data collection**

The Alaskan salmon gillnet fishery has been flagged by independent auditors and sustainability certification groups as a potential high risk to seabirds, due to the threat the gear poses to vulnerable seabird populations. To assess this risk, the Alaska Fisheries Department Foundation and Indigenous Sentinels Network developed a self-reporting app for vessels that was successfully piloted in 2023.



The next step is the continued improvement of this SkipperScience app, with the addition of an independent data verification method. To this end, AFDF and SkipperScience are working with fishers to install electronic monitoring systems onto 10 self-reporting vessels. Data verification could support the low bycatch risk that has been reported by vessels, and, when bycatch does occur, provide insight into how to develop effective mitigation measures.

Find out how to support this project on the Bycatch Solutions Hub [here](#).

Learn More



## **Project Spotlight:** **Modified purse seines to reduce seabird bycatch in a Chilean reduction fishery**

Birdlife International and the Albatross Task Force-Chile have been working for nearly a decade with artisanal anchovy and sardine purse seine vessels in Chile. Through this collaboration, high bycatch rates of seabirds, in particular the locally endangered pink-footed shearwater, were identified.



Over years of trialing, the organizations and fishers developed a modified purse seine (MPS) that nearly eliminates seabird bycatch (98% reduction), without impacting target catch rates. This project will benefit artisanal fishers by fitting an additional five purse seine vessels with the MPS gear, as another step toward a total transformation of the artisanal fleet in south-central Chile.

Find out how to support this project on the Bycatch Solutions Hub [here](#).

[Learn More](#)



## Organization Spotlight: Fishtek Marine, Hookpod Ltd.

[Fishtek Marine](#) has worked with the Bycatch Solutions Hub since its inception, and even joined us at last year at SENA 2023 to talk about its bycatch reduction tools before our launch. Fishtek and its subsidiary [Hookpod](#) have developed multiple bycatch mitigation projects to post on the Hub that utilize creative, effective methods to increase sustainability of fisheries, with particular emphasis on those severely impacting highly vulnerable ETP species.



Hookpod has worked with the SFP [Protecting Ocean Wildlife](#) team for years to find ways to implement Hookpods on tuna longliners. Over the last six months, Hookpod has worked with the Bycatch Solutions Hub, Thai Union, and Key Traceability, to provide Hookpods free of charge for tuna vessels in the Indian Ocean, and to train captains and crews on their proper use and how they can be a net benefit for the fishery. While this work is still in its early stages, we look forward to posting more in 2024 as it continues to develop.

### The Bycatch Solutions Hub team

Kathryn Novak, Biodiversity & Nature Director  
[kathryn.novak@sustainablefish.org](mailto:kathryn.novak@sustainablefish.org)

Phillip Sanchez, Bycatch Programs Coordinator

phillip.sanchez@sustainablefish.org

**Alexia Morgan, Ocean Wildlife Manager**

alexia.morgan@sustainablefish.org

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

4348 Waialae Avenue #692, Honolulu, HI 96816

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