



June 2024

We would like to thank every individual and organization that took the time to meet with us at Seafood Expo North America and Seafood Expo Global, particularly those that presented at or attended the Bycatch Solutions Showcase. At the event, nine projects were showcased to an audience of more than 40 attendees from all levels of the supply chain; retailers, processors, fishers, NGOs, and other seafood industry stakeholders.

With only a year since the Hub launch, the event reminded us of all the collaborative work done to get to this point and the potential to stimulate change in the future. Look out for an iteration of the Bycatch Solutions Showcase each year in Boston as active projects are updated and new projects are launched.

Continue to check back to the Bycatch Solutions Hub for regular updates and new projects. And if you are a fishery association or FIP manager with bycatch problems,



don't forget to fill out the [contact form](#) and get in touch with the SFP Bycatch Solutions Hub.

Phillip Sanchez
Bycatch Programs Coordinator

The Bycatch Solutions Hub on the Road: The Bycatch Solutions Showcase

The Bycatch Solutions Showcase was well attended and stimulated a lot of good conversation. Our goal is to turn these conversations into action. You can learn more about any of the showcased projects listed below on our [Funding Page](#), or to learn how to get involved just reach out directly. Read more about the event [here](#).



Showcased projects:

- Comprehensive bycatch reduction in Vietnamese tuna fisheries
- Electronic monitoring in Eastern Pacific large pelagics longline fisheries
- Jelly FADs for the tuna purse seine fishery
- Modified purse seines to reduce seabird bycatch in a Chilean reduction fishery
- Reducing dolphin and porpoise bycatch in European cod gillnets
- Satellite buoys in deep-set buoy gear: Supporting the transition away from gillnets
- Seabird bycatch reduction in Indian Ocean tuna longline fisheries: Fishing with Hookpods
- Satellite buoys in deep-set buoy gear: Supporting the transition away from gillnets



The Bycatch Solutions Hub on the Road: CanFISH Gear Lending Library Visit

SFP Biodiversity & Nature Director Kathryn Novak visited Halifax, Nova Scotia in May to visit the CanFISH Gear Lending Library, and on-demand gear manufacturer, Ashored Innovations. While she was there, an endangered North Atlantic right whale was spotted off the northeast coast of New Brunswick, east of Miscou Island, which led to a 15-day temporary fishing area closure in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 23 C.

In response, the Gear Lending Library was a flurry of activity, with harvesters reaching out to borrow on-demand gear to continue to fish their quota in the closed areas. Their team lent gear to 18 lobster harvesters in the region within the week.



“It was a great demonstration of effective regulations, coupled with critical support systems like the Gear Library, to help harvesters to get back out on the water quickly to fish safely around whales,” said Kathryn.

Kathryn also got out on the water with the Ashored team to demo their rope-on-command gear in Halifax harbor with some SFP partners. If you’re interested in participating in a similar tour, please reach out to SFP.

Project Spotlight: **Modified Purse Seines to Reduce Seabird Bycatch in Chilean Anchovy/Sardine 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 a collaboration with fishers, high bycatch rates of seabirds, in particular the locally endangered pink-footed shearwater, were identified.



Through years of trialing, they developed the modified purse seine (MPS), a design that has proven to nearly eliminate seabird bycatch (98% reduction) while not impacting target catch rates.

This project will benefit artisanal fishers by upgrading an additional 5 purse seine vessels to the MPS to continue efforts toward a total transformation of the artisanal fleet in south-central Chile.

**The Bycatch Solutions Hub has secured tentative partial funding for this project. If your organization is a pet food manufacturer or sources farmed Atlantic Salmon, contact us to learn more about how a collaborative commitment could make measurable positive change not only for bycatch, but for the artisanal fishermen and coastal communities that operate them.*

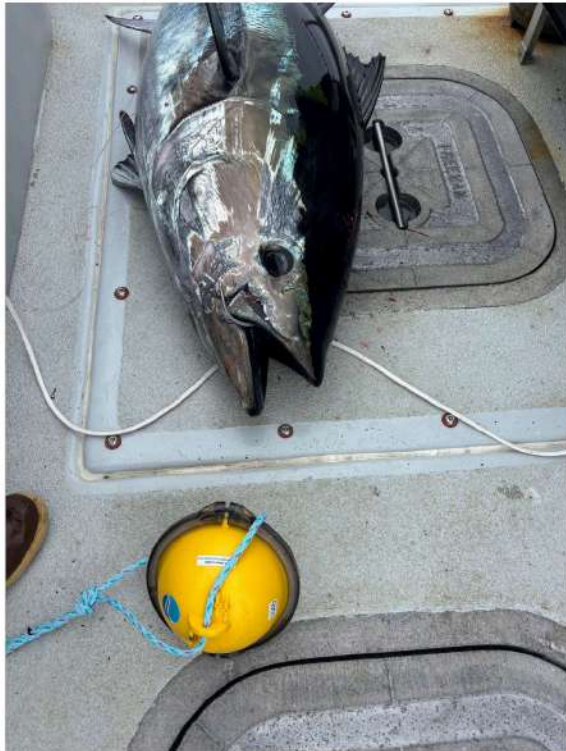
[Learn More](#)



Organization Spotlight: Blue Ocean Gear



Blue Ocean Gear has worked with the Bycatch Solutions Hub to get smart buoys implemented in fisheries to reduce bycatch and lost gear rates. In a [project through the Bycatch Solutions Hub](#), their Farallon Smart Buoys were successfully deployed on two California swordfish deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) vessels to support the transition away from drift gillnets in the winter 2023 season.



Thanks to their leadership, the buoys will also be deployed in the summer Pacific bluefin tuna DSBG fishery as well. This is not only good news for the bluefin tuna fishery but also will give fishers more opportunity to work with the smart buoys before the next swordfish season.

In addition to their work with us, Blue Ocean Gear also works with crab and lobster fisheries on both sides of North America to mitigate large whale entanglements in buoy lines, and with numerous other fisheries along all three coastlines.

Bycatch in the News

[Industry collaboration driving Sustainable Fisheries Partnership's recent efforts](#)
(Seafood Source)

[Fisheries Improvement Fund launches first Fishery Improvement Project in Chile](#)
(Finance Earth)

[Canada's DFO reports entanglement of another right whale](#) (Seafood Source)

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