COMMUNITY CATCH

Guidance for Self-Assessment

Section 5: Biodiversity

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Introduction

This is a living document.

Some content in this document is presented in a yellow box to indicate normative language taken directly from the Community Catch Standard, including definitions and clarifications.
Text presented in a blue box represents additional guidance that is illustrative or discretionary, such as examples, further explanation, or types of acceptable evidence.

While Section 4 addresses all removals from the managed stock, regardless of who is responsible, Section 5 focuses specifically on the impacts of the Fisher Group. Cumulative effects from other fisheries are not included in the Community Catch Standard for Small-Scale Fisheries.

The intent is that biodiversity is maintained through the management of interactions of the Fisher Group with wildlife and habitats. This focuses on the avoidance of contribution to the extinction of known threatened species and minimising impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Targets 4 and 5: www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).

Effects of the Fisher Group on biodiversity shall include all activities related to harvesting, including any enhancement actions. Risk assessments should take into consideration information from ecologically similar situations elsewhere, together with specific local issues and stakeholder inputs.

Section 5: Biodiversity

Question: 5.0.1.1 Are floating Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) used in the Fisher Group?

Question: 5.0.1.2 Are anchored FADs used in the Fisher Group?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Threatened Species

Guidance: What are Threatened Species? The Community Catch Standard defines them as those threatened with extinction. For most in-scope species (bony fish, invertebrates, plants and algae), this would be those listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by IUCN. For elasmobranch species (sharks, skates and rays), which are recognised as more susceptible to fishing impacts, these would be those listed as Endangered (EN) and Critically Endangered (CR) by IUCN. For out-of-scope species (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians), threatened species would be those listed as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) by IUCN.

Sub-section: 5.1 Threatened species information

5.1.1 Assessment of Fisher Group's Impact on threatened species (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

The potential for the Fisher Group to affect Threatened Species is estimated based on the proximity of threatened species to fishing operations and the possibility of capture, entanglement or other interaction causing injury.

Question: 5.1.1.1 Which of the following best describes the potential interaction of the fishing gear with threatened species?

Guidance: An informed estimation by the Fishery Client of the likelihood of gear causing mortality or injury should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance. Information sources may include direct experience, information from fishers or information from other actors (scientists, regulators etc)

Normally, selection of an intuitively suitable category, or identification of appropriate alternative situation would be acceptable. If not known, more specific estimations can be determined using.

☐ Any interactions of fishing gear with threatened species is extremely unlikely (e.g. hand-gathering, pole and line, troll lines)
☐ Interactions of gear with threatened species is possible, but would be very rare (e.g. handline, dredge)
☐ Interactions of gear with threatened species is likely to occur, but affecting low numbers (e.g. most pot, demersal trawl, non-FAD purse-seine, Lampara net, Danish/Scottish seine, ring nets)
☐ Interactions of gear with threatened species is likely to occur, numbers affected may be large or could be large proportions of affected populations (e.g. gillnets, trammel nets, FAD-set purse-seine, bottom-set longlines, floating longlines)

Question: 5.1.1.2 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any whales/dolphin/porpoise (IUCN VU, EN or CR)?

Guidance: The status of a species (whether VU, EN or CR) can be checked on the IUCN website IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.1.3 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any seals/Sea lions/other mammals (e.g. otters, dugongs) (IUCN VU, EN or CR)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.1.4 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any seabirds or waterbirds (IUCN VU, EN or CR)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.1.5 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any reptiles (such as turtles, snakes) or amphibians (frogs, toads) (IUCN VU, EN or CR)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.1.6 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any endangered Elasmobranchs (such as sharks, skates, rays, guitarfish, wedgefish) (IUCN EN or CE)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.1.7 Does the gear used by the Fisher Group have any catches of, or injure/kill any endangered fish, including seahorses (IUCN CE)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.1.2 Ongoing Assessment of Gear Impact on Threatened Species

There is sufficient, ongoing information on: 1) the nature of gear used and; 2) the overlap of Fisher Group gear use with populations of Threatened Species to reliably estimate the risk of capture, entanglement or other interaction causing injury/mortality. Information about the local situation may be complemented by information from similar situations elsewhere.

Guidance: The requirement here is to know the nature of the gear used and the potential for interaction with taxa which may be threatened. This does not necessarily require quantitative data (which may be cost prohibitive) - sufficient information to carry out a risk assessment may suffice. Information should be reconsidered at each 5-year reassessment to ensure it remains up to date.

Information on the gear used may include information from logbooks, VMS data and traditional knowledge.

Information from similar situations elsewhere may include similar gear types in similar situations, or sources such as the Seafood Watch Matrix of bycatch impacts by gear type (p.69) https://www.seafoodwatch.org/globalassets/sfw/pdf/standards/fisheries/seafood-watch-fisheries-standard-version-f4.pdf

This may include information from statutory or non-governmental nature conservation bodies and IUCN.

Question: 5.1.2.1 Is the gear used and the areas in which the fishery operates known?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.2.2 Is there information on the presence of those threatened species of animals which may interact with the gear (whales, seals, seabirds etc) within the area in which the fishery operates?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.1.2.3 Is there an established global risk assessment, or consistent studies elsewhere on the type of gear used that demonstrate it to be a low risk to threatened species?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.1.3 Independent Verification of Fisher Group Impact Data

Information shall be confirmed by quantitative data relevant to the Fisher Group or verification by one or more independent sources, either quantitative and/or qualitative.

Guidance: Quantitative data can include traditional, fisher and community derived information on interactions with Threatened Species if it can be objectively verified. Such verification may be provided by comparison with ecologically (same species types) and operationally (same fishing gear/practices) similar fisheries elsewhere. These would comprise 'independent sources'.

'Independent Sources' can also include a risk assessment relevant to the Fisher Group activities or verifiable information provided by expert sources such as academics, NGOs or official bodies. However, as the level of risk increases, so does the need for direct quantitative information from the Fisher Group.

Question: 5.1.3.1 Is one or more of the following available?

☐ Fishery information on numbers of interactions such as observers, logbooks or video
☐ Scientific studies on the fishery or directly INDEPENDENT_EVALUATION
☐ Independent expert testimony, based on experience of the fishery or directly similar situations elsewhere.
☐ Risk assessment relevant to the Fisher Group

5.1.4 Low Risk Determination for Threatened Species Impact

If sufficient information is available to show that threatened species would not normally be killed or injured by gear used in the Fisher Group OR the Fisher Group is a LOW risk to threatened species, then remaining threatened species indicators are N/A.

Guidance: A risk assessment can be used. In the absence of any other risk assessment, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment may be used. The Community Catch Risk Assessment is available HERE and further guidance can be found HERE.

Sufficiency of information would be a decision of the auditor, but there should be a reasonable expectation as to the likelihood of death or injury. The wording 'not normally killed or injured' means that the type of gear and fishing operation would not kill individuals of Threatened species except in unusual

Question: 5.1.4.1 Is there evidence that the Fisher Group/Gear would not kill or injure threatened species at any levels that could threaten affected populations; OR a risk assessment shows LOW Risk?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.2 Threatened species evaluation

5.2.1 Threatened Species Impact Within Regulatory Limits or Low Risk (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

Mortalities are expected to be within specified regulatory limits; or a risk assessment shows the Fisher Group is not a HIGH risk to threatened species.

Question: 5.2.1.1 Are mortalities/injuries of threatened species, caused by the Fisher Group, expected/likely to be within specified regulatory limits; OR does a risk assessment show MEDIUM risk from the Fisher Group?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.2.2 Threatened Species Mortalities Within Limits or Medium Risk

Mortalities are within specified regulatory limits; or Fisher Group is no more than a MEDIUM risk to threatened species.

Guidance: Regulated limits shall be scientifically-based and set and enforced by the appropriate jurisdiction. If there is doubt as to the effectiveness of regulated limits, this can be supported by a suitable risk assessment.

Question: 5.2.2.1 Are mortalities/injuries of threatened species, caused by the Fisher Group, demonstrably within specified regulatory limits; OR does a risk assessment show MEDIUM risk from the Fisher Group?

Guidance: In the absence of any other risk assessment, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment may be used. The Community Catch Risk Assessment is available HERE and further guidance can be found HERE.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.3 Threatened species: management

5.3.1 Measures in Place to Prevent Impact on Species Recovery

Measures (formal or informal management actions) shall be in place, or implemented, to reduce mortalities such that the activities of the Fisher Group would not substantially reduce recovery of the affected species/population.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that evidence that the Fisher Group is not substantially reducing population recovery may include a risk assessment indicating a LOW risk, or if Fisher Group mortalities are maintained within existing limits designed to allow rebuilding of affected populations.

Guidance: The measures implemented may include formal management measures or less formal measures based on local knowledge of the circumstances leading to mortalities and how these may be mitigated. Any measures will, however, need to be demonstrably reducing the risk posed to Threatened species such that the Fisher Group is likely, or demonstrably, not preventing recovery from occurring.

Question: 5.3.1.1 Are any regulations or voluntary measures in place to protect Threatened species affected by the Fisher Group?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.3.1.2 Have these measures been shown to be effective in reducing mortalities from the Fisher Group to a level that would not substantially reduce the recovery of affected populations?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Bycatches

Guidance: What are Bycatches? The Community Catch Standard defines bycatches as those species which are not included within the 'recognised catches'. These include bait species – either caught by the fishery group or bought from another fishery. Bait is only considered if it is from a wild-capture source. Evaluation shall determine that the amount of a bait species used by the Fisher Group does not threaten the stock concerned: this can be either by demonstrating the stock status, the risk posed by the source fishery supplying the Fisher Group, or the proportion of total catches from the stock used by the Fisher Group. Bait is not considered elsewhere in the standard.

Sub-section: 5.4 Bycatches information

Guidance: Bycatches include fish, invertebrates (and if appropriate also algae and aquatic plants). Other groups such as birds, mammals and reptiles are covered in section 5.1 (Threatened Species) and also 5.10 - 5.11 (Ghost Gear).

5.4.1 Bycatch Species and Catch Estimates Are Known (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

The common bycatch species of the Fisher Group gear type are known, quantities or proportions of the catch can be estimated.

Guidance: An informed estimation by the Fishery Client of the most common bycatch species (or assertion that there are no common bycatches) and the amount of these (a quantity or proportion/percentage/ration to marketed species) should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance.
This could be based on information from the Fisher Group or the wilder fishery of which the Fisher Group is a part (where this is appropriate).
Information sources may include direct experience, information from fishers or information from other actors (scientists, regulators etc).

Question: 5.4.1.1 Is there information on the most common bycatch species caught by the Fisher Group?

Guidance: The common bycatch species identified should be those which are most often caught; it is not necessary to list all bycatches for this minimum requirement. If there is good information that no bycatch species comprise more than 5% of the total catch, this can be confirmed.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.4.1.2 Is there information on the weight, number or estimated proportion (such as a percentage of the total catch) of these common bycatch species in the total catch?

Guidance: The Fishery Client confirms that it is possible to measure or estimate the proportion of these common bycatches in the total catch.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.4.2 Sufficient Data Identifies Main Bycatch Species and Catch Proportions

There is sufficient, ongoing information on bycatches to identify those 'main' species which comprise a substantial proportion [over 5% on average] of the total catch (including estimates of discards). Information can be confirmed by quantitative and/or qualitative data or verification by one or more independent sources. If sufficient information is available to show that no individual bycatch species comprise >5% of the catch, then remaining bycatch indicators are N/A.

Guidance: The relative proportion of bycatches should be determined by a suitable metric - normally weight, but numbers or catch rates or similar if these are more appropriate.
If sufficient information is available to show that no individual bycatch species comprise >5% of the catch, then remaining bycatch indicators are N/A
'Independent Sources' can also include a risk assessment relevant to the Fisher Group activities or verifiable information provided by expert sources such as academics, NGOs or official bodies.
Adequate information can include traditional, fisher and community derived information if it can be objectively verified. Such verification may be provided by independent corroboration, based on suitable levels of direct observation, of information on status, trends etc.
If a risk assessment is required, information should be sufficient to at least determine productivity characteristics of the affected species, and the level of susceptibility to Fisher Group fishing activities.
As the level of risk increases, so does the need for direct quantitative information from the Fisher Group.

Question: 5.4.2.1 Are there any fish or invertebrate species which make up more than 5% of the total catch (total catch is sum of all recognised species caught and all bycatches and any estimate of discards if this is available)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: Add a species

Guidance: The Fishery Client enters the common and scientific name of the species and the total catch of each species. This need only be done for species above or around 5% of the total catch (i.e. excluding occasional bycatches).

5.4.3 Verification of Information Sources

Information can be confirmed by quantitative and/or qualitative data or verification by one or more independent sources.

Question: 5.4.3.1 Is one or more of the following available?

Guidance: Evidence should be provided to confirm that the data on bycatches is based on verifiable information.

☐ Fishery information on numbers of interactions such as observers, logbooks or video
☐ Scientific studies on the fishery or directly similar situations elsewhere
☐ Traditional, fishery or community-derived information that can be independently validated (such as by an independent body, NGO etc)
☐ Independent expert testimony, based on experience of the fishery or directly similar situations elsewhere.

Sub-section: 5.5 Bycatches evaluation

5.5.1 Fisher Group Catches Assessed Against Overfishing Risk Measures

Catches by the Fisher Group can be evaluated against measures of overfishing - there is information to determine whether 'main' stocks are above PRI (or a suitable proxy - CPUE, av. Size etc), or fishing mortality on the stock is below suitable limit levels (F<Flim), or catches of the Fisher Group comprise <30% of total catches for each stock, or a Risk Assessment indicates 'LOW' risk of the Fisher Group causing overfishing. If catches by the Fisher Group are not expected to cause overfishing of 'main' stocks, then remaining bycatch indicators are N/A.

Question: 5.5.1.1 For each MAIN species (>5% of total catch), which of the following applies?

☐ The stock has been assessed and is considered to be above its Point of Recruitment Impairment (or proxy using CPUE, average size or such)
☐ Stock assessment considers fishing mortality to be below limit levels (i.e. F<Flim)
☐ Catches of the stock by the Fisher Group are not significant (the Fisher Group catches less than 30% of the total catches from the stock)

☐ A risk assessment shows LOW risk of the Fisher Group causing overfishing of the stock
☐ Other evaluation showing low risk of Fisher Group Overfishing
☐ None of these apply and MAIN bycatch stock is/are likely to be subject to overfishing by the Fisher Group

Sub-section: 5.6 Bycatches management

5.6.1 Measures in Place to Prevent Overfishing of Main Bycatch Species

Measures are in place which are expected to ensure that the Fisher Group does not cause overfishing of main bycatch species. Measures may be formal or informal management actions that for main bycatch stocks are expected to either: maintain stock above PRI (or proxy) or keep fishing mortality on the stock below suitable limit levels (F<Flim) or result in catches of Fisher Group comprising <30% of total catches of the stock.

Guidance: These measures may be directly related to bycatch species or indirectly serve to limit fishing pressure, although this may not be their primary purpose.

Question: 5.6.1.1 Are any regulations or voluntary measures in place which serve to limit fishing pressure on main bycatch species which are subject to overfishing?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.6.1.2 Have these measures been shown to be effective in reducing fishing pressure from the Fisher Group to a level that would avoid overfishing by the Fisher Group of the MAIN bycatch species?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Habitats

Sub-section: 5.7 Habitat management

5.7.1 Fishing and Protected Habitat Locations Are Identified (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

If the gear used is pelagic and does not ordinarily interact with bottom habitat, then remaining habitat indicators are N/A. The presence and locations of any formally protected habitat areas within the area of operation of the Fisher Group are known.

Guidance: For those gears that could interact with bottom habitats, the Fishery Client should confirm the presence of any notified protected habitat areas within the area of operation of the Fisher Group - i.e. any areas that fishers have been informed of in terms of fishing regulations.

This may include information from logbooks, VMS data and traditional knowledge.

The wording 'does not ordinarily interact with bottom habitat' refers to gear types/fishing operations where contact with the bottom is not a normal part of the fishing operation but may happen inadvertently and rarely (notably in accidental circumstances).

Question: 5.7.1.1 Is the gear used pelagic - fishing takes place in the water column and does not ordinarily interact with bottom habitat?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.7.1.2 Are the areas in which the fishery operates known?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.7.1.3 Has the Fishery Client or members of the Fisher Group been provided with regulations, maps etc showing the presence of formally protected areas?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.7.2 Vulnerable Habitat Locations and Their Importance Are Identified

The locations of main habitats vulnerable to physical harm by Fisher Group fishing gear are known. Particular attention is given to any vulnerable habitat which is known to be essential in the life histories of harvested populations or Threatened species, such as spawning or nursery habitat.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that vulnerable means habitats whose structure and function could potentially be disrupted to the extent that it would no longer provide critical elements of its natural contribution to the local ecosystem. Examples would include habitats created or maintained by living organisms such as coral reefs, bivalve reef or seagrass meadows. Sedimentary habitats such as gravels, sands and muds, subject to natural disturbance, would normally not be included.

Question: 5.7.2.1 Is there information on habitats (including seabed communities), which overlap with the area of operation of the Fisher Group, that may be substantially destroyed or altered by the fishing gear under evaluation? This should include, if relevant, habitat which is essential to harvested populations or threatened species.

Guidance: The locations of main habitats vulnerable to physical harm by Fisher Group fishing gear are known.
Main habitats are those representing substantial or important proportions of the sea/lake bed in the area in which the fisher group operates. These would not include small patches of habitat which are present throughout the wider area adjacent to the Fisher Group location.
Particular attention should be given to any vulnerable habitat which is known to be essential in the life histories of harvested populations or Threatened species, such as spawning or nursery habitat.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.8 Habitats evaluation

5.8.1 Impact of Fishing Gear on Vulnerable Habitats Is Assessed

The physical effect of the gear used by the Fisher Group on vulnerable habitats should be known or can be reliably estimated. The proportion of each vulnerable habitat affected by the gear should also be known or can be estimated. This should include the full range of such habitat within, and continuously extending beyond, the area of operation of the Fisher Group. Information should allow determination of whether the Fisher Group threatens such loss of habitat as would cause its extinction or cause a loss of its ecosystem function/service within the full range of the habitat. If the determination shows no such threats, or a risk assessment shows LOW risk from the Fisher Group, then remaining habitat indicators are N/A.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that in coastal areas, this would be within the same management area or continuously extending beyond the management area (i.e. the habitat is present in a continuous band within and outside the management area); or within the same inland water(s).

Question: 5.8.1.1 For each vulnerable habitat identified, which of the following applies?

Guidance: This evaluation would apply only to those habitats vulnerable to significant damage by the gear used. Evidence of low impact by the gear on the habitats present would constitute a 'reliable estimation'.
Loss of ecosystem function: It would not be expected that use of the gear type by the Fisher Group would cause such damage to the habitat that would not allow substantial recovery of function in up to 20 years. For Vulnerable Habitats the area affected by the Fisher Group should be 20% or less of the full range of the habitat based on the most recent mapping (or prediction/estimation) of habitat extent.
In this context, the continued operation of the Fisher Group, at present levels of scale and intensity would be expected to cause extinction of the habitat type over foreseeable timescales. Loss of ecosystem function would entail such loss of habitat (or fragmentation/degradation) that its usual role on the ecosystem is lost. This would occur at lower levels of impact than extinction.

If an assessment is made of a wider fishery of which the Fisher Group is only a part, then the proportional contribution of the Fisher Group to total impacts should also be taken into account.

In the absence of any other risk assessment, a default Community Catch Risk Assessment may be used. The Community Catch Risk Assessment is available HERE and further guidance can be found HERE.

☐ A direct assessment has been made of the potential for the Fisher Group (or the larger fishery of which the Fisher Group is a part) to threaten such loss of the habitat as to cause its extinction or loss of ecosystem function.
☐ A risk assessment has been conducted.
☐ Estimates of the effects of the Fisher Group can be made. These may be based on information from similar gear use and habitats elsewhere.
☐ Other evaluation.
☐ None of these: vulnerable habitat may be substantially affected, but the effects of the Fisher Group are not known.

5.8.2 Low Risk Determination Exempts Further Habitat Indicators

If the determination shows no such threats, or a risk assessment shows 'LOW' risk from the Fisher Group, then remaining habitat indicators are N/A.

Question: 5.8.2.1 Does the evaluation indicate that the Fisher Group does not threaten such loss of habitat as to cause its extinction or loss of ecosystem function (including LOW risk identified in risk assessment)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.9 Habitats management

5.9.1 Measures in Place to Prevent Habitat Loss and Ecosystem Impact

Management measures (formal or informal management actions) are in place which control the effects of the gear type on vulnerable habitats such that the Fisher Group does not threaten such loss of habitat as would cause its extinction or cause a loss of its ecosystem function/service within the full range of the habitat.

Guidance: The types of management measures which could be employed to control the effects of fishing on vulnerable habitats may include, for example:

- Reduction of the intensity of fishing in some fishing grounds to ensure that habitat-forming species are not reduced below acceptable levels
- Prevention of intentional 'cleaning' of the seafloor to facilitate fishing
- Use of alternative fishing gears in areas of vulnerable habitat where alternative measures are not effective

Question: 5.9.1.1 Are any regulations or voluntary measures in place which serve to limit effects of the Fisher Group on vulnerable habitats?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.9.1.2 Have these measures been shown to be effective in reducing impacts of the Fisher Group to a level that would avoid the extinction or loss of ecosystem function of the habitat within its full range?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Ghost Gear

Guidance: Ghost gear refers to any fishing gear which is abandoned, discarded or lost.

Sub-section: 5.10 Ghost gear information

5.10.1 Assessment of Gear Loss and Ghost Fishing Risk (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

The potential for gear used to be lost, and to cause ghost fishing, is estimated.

Guidance: An informed estimation by the Fishery Client and the Fisher Group of the likelihood of gear being abandoned, discarded or lost should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance. Information sources may include direct experience, information from fishers or information from other actors (scientists, regulators etc).

Question: 5.10.1.1 Which of the following best describes the potential for ghost fishing resulting from gear loss by the Fisher Group?

☐ Low - gear is very rarely lost or discarded and/or gear would not attract animals and has low chance of accidental entanglement
☐ Medium - Gear is sometimes lost/discarded, but gear would not attract animals; there is possibility of ongoing accidental entanglement or habitat damage
☐ High - Gear is frequently lost/discarded gear and would continue to attract animals (e.g. baited pots) or there is ongoing potential for 'ghost fishing' (e.g. gill nets)
☐ Other information or estimation.

5.10.2 Education on Impacts of Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear

Fishers are informed of the negative effects of lost and discarded items of fishing gear on animals, habitats and ecosystems. The importance of avoiding discarding gear (such as whole or sections of nets, hooks, lines etc) is emphasised.

Guidance: The Fishery Client should provide evidence of information being provided to fishers within the Fisher Group on the importance of avoiding abandoned, discarded and lost gear.

Question: 5.10.2.1 Has the Fishery Client accessed information on the issues associated with lost and discarded gear and shared relevant information with the Fisher Group?

Guidance: Sources of information are increasingly being identified on the Community Catch website for use by Fishery Clients completing this Self-Assessment.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.10.3 Access to Information on Gear Modifications to Reduce Loss and Ghost Fishing

Where relevant, fishers have access to information on modifications to gear, vessels or fishing operations which would reduce gear loss and/or ghost fishing (such as escape panels in pots or biodegradable FADs).

Guidance: Relevant information would be any relating to the gear, species and/or fishing practices used which could provide practical and cost-effective solutions to minimise gear loss and/or ghost fishing.
To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client should confirm that they have investigated potential sources of information.

Question: 5.10.3.1 Is the Fishery Client aware of any modifications to gear, vessels or fishing operations (including providing information to Fishers) which would reduce gear loss and/or ghost fishing?

Guidance: Sources of information are increasingly being identified on the Community Catch website for use by Fishery Clients completing this Self-Assessment.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.11 Ghost gear management

5.11.1 Participation in Lost Gear Reporting and Recovery Initiatives

Fishers participate in any relevant lost gear reporting and/or recovery initiatives or procedures. Any unwanted fishing gear is returned to shore.

Guidance: To meet this requirement, Fishery Clients should identify whether or not some or all of the Fisher Group have been directly invited to participate in a ghost gear reporting and/or recovery and gear-marking initiatives relevant to their fishery. If so, the extent of participation should be reported.
The fishery client should confirm that unwanted fishing gear is returned to shore where practical (i.e. not entailing excessive cost of time or resources) and the means by which this is determined. It is recognised that this will be difficult to evidence and so good faith efforts to determine and monitor this should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance.

Question: 5.11.1.1 Do some or all members of the Fisher Group record or report lost gear?

Guidance: This section looks for information on whatever measures or actions are being taken in the Fisher Group.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Question: 5.11.1.2 Please provide information on how this is recorded or reported:

Question: 5.11.1.3 Is unwanted gear returned to shore?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.11.2 Reporting on Measures to Reduce or Recover Lost Fishing Gear

The Fishery Client shall report on any measures taken to reduce or recover lost or discarded fishing gear.

Guidance: Measures may include any of the initiatives above and/or other measures such as: marking of fishing gear, measures to reduce gear conflict, limits on the amount or timing of gear use, gear modifications to reduce losses or to reduce ghost fishing (such as escape panels in pots), return and disposal of unwanted gear, provision of information to fishers, lost gear reporting and/or recovery.

Question: 5.11.2.1 Are measures in place in the Fisher Group to reduce gear loss or recover lost fishing gear?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Sub-section: 5.12 Plastic and chemical waste disposal

5.12.1 Estimating the Potential Disposal of Waste Materials at Sea (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

The potential for waste materials (plastics, oils, chemicals) to be disposed of at sea is estimated. Information is provided on onshore waste disposal/recycling facilities.

Guidance: An informed estimation by the Fishery Client of the likelihood of harmful wastes (plastics, oils, chemicals) being disposed of at sea should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance. Information sources may include direct experience, information from fishers or information from other actors (scientists, regulators etc).

Question: 5.12.1.1 Which of the following best describes disposal of oils, chemicals and plastics in your Fisher Group?

☐ Not applicable - no oils, chemicals or plastics are taken to sea
☐ Some accidental losses, otherwise all is returned to shore
☐ Occasional disposal at sea for particular reasons
☐ Regular disposal at sea (up to half of disposals), rest returned to shore
☐ Routine disposal at sea

5.12.2 Provision of Information on Onshore Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)

Information is provided on onshore waste disposal/recycling facilities.

Guidance: An informed estimation by the Fishery Client of the presence (or absence) of waste disposal facilities, and any issues of accessibility (such as cost) at landing sites used by the Fisher Group should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance.

Question: 5.12.2.1 Which of the following best describes the facilities available for on-shore disposal of oils, chemicals and plastics?

Guidance: This section looks for information on whatever measures or actions are being taken in the Fisher Group.

☐ Disposal and/or recycling facilities are available at all harbours used
☐ Disposal and/or recycling facilities are available at some locations
☐ Disposal and/or recycling facilities are not available within the area of the Fisher Group

5.12.3 Fishers Are Informed of Environmental Impacts of Discarded Waste

Fishers are informed of the negative effect of discarded waste materials on the environment.

Guidance: The Fishery Client provides evidence of information being provided to fishers within the Fisher Group on the importance of avoiding discarding harmful waste material at sea.

Question: 5.12.3.1 Has the Fishery Client accessed information on the issues associated with discarded waste products and shared relevant information with the Fisher Group?

Guidance: Sources of information are increasingly being identified on the Community Catch website for use by Fishery Clients completing this Self-Assessment.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

5.12.4 Waste materials (plastics, oils, chemicals) shall be returned to shore for disposal wherever practicable.

Waste materials (plastics, oils, chemicals) shall be returned to shore for disposal wherever practicable.

Guidance: The Fishery Client confirms that harmful waste materials are returned to shore where practical (i.e. not entailing excessive cost of time or resources) and the means by which this is determined. It is recognised that this will be difficult to evidence and so good faith efforts to determine and monitor this should be taken as sufficient evidence of compliance.

Question: 5.12.4.1 Are waste materials (plastics, oils and chemicals) returned to shore for suitable disposal where suitable facilities are available? Indicate which of the following best describes the situation:

☐ Waste materials are always (or virtually always) returned to shore
☐ Waste materials are usually returned to shore when it is practicable to do so
☐ It is not practicable to return waste materials to shore as disposal facilities do not exist or other factors prevent this
☐ Not returned to shore