

ILLUMINATED GILLNETS TO REDUCE BYCATCH IN THE SMALL-SCALE PERUVIAN FISHERY

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The fishery

- Vessels < 15 m
- •Gillnets: driftnets and bottomset nets
- Opportunistic: sharks,
 rays, tuna, dolphinfish,
 mackerel, sailfish
- 100 000 km/year



Fig. 2. Coastline maps of Peru showing the change in distribution of net, longline, and purse seine vessels at each sampled port (*n* = 30; cf. Appendix 1) from 1994–1995 (Escudero, 1997; left map of each pair) to 2004 (this study; right map of each pair). Number of vessels is indicated by the scaled bubbles.

(Alfaro-Shigueto et al. 2010)

Global patterns of marine mammal, seabird, and sea turtle bycatch reveal taxa-specific and cumulative megafauna hotspots

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Gillnet bycatch intensity. Symbol size reflects the amount of fishing effort (Lewison et al. 2014)



Bycatch intensity low high





•Sea turtles

•Small cetaceans

•Seabirds

838 km of nets observed in which 172 turtles caught

Tens of thousands/year

Journal of Applied Ecology

Journal of Applied Ecology 2011, 48, 1432-1440

doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2011.02040.x

Small-scale fisheries of Peru: a major sink for marine turtles in the Pacific

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•Sea turtles

•Small cetaceans

•Seabirds







Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Biological Conservation



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon

Small cetacean captures in Peruvian artisanal fisheries: High despite protective legislation

Jeffrey C. Mangel^{a,b,*}, Joanna Alfaro-Shigueto^{a,b}, Koen Van Waerebeek^c, Celia Cáceres^a, Stuart Bearhop^b, Matthew J. Witt^b, Brendan J. Godley^b



•Sea turtles

•Small cetaceans

•Seabirds

Conservation Biology

Catch and Bycatch of Sea Birds and Marine Mammals in the Small-Scale Fishery of Punta San Juan, Peru

Captura Accidental de Aves y Mamíferos Marinos en la Pesquería de Pequeña Escala en Punta San Juan, Perú

Patricia Majluf, Elizabeth A. Babcock, Juan Carlos Riveros, Milena Arias Schreiber, William Alderete



Net illumination

- Green turtles: > 63.9% (Ortiz et al. 2016)
- Guanay cormorants: > 85.1% (Mangel et al. 2018)
- Not only in Peru (Wang et al. 2010; Virgili et al. 2018)

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Cite this article: Mangel JC, Wang J, Alfaro-Shigueto J, Pingo S, Jimenez A, Carvalho F, Swimmer Y, Godley BJ. 2018 Illuminating gillnets to save seabirds and the potential for multi-taxa byeatch mitination *B. Soc. anen ci* Illuminating gillnets to save seabirds and the potential for multi-taxa bycatch

mitigation

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Reducing green turtle bycatch in small-scale fisheries using illuminated gillnets: the cost of saving a sea turtle

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LEDs – Bielli et al. 2019

Under review



Fishing set locations.

LEDs – light emitting diodes



Experimental design, not to scale

Analysis

Generalized linear mixed-effect models (GLMM)

• Full models:

Bycatch probability ~ Effort + Treatment + Net type



Target catch ~ Treatment + Net type + offset(log(Effort)





Results -bycatch



Number of individuals captured by species, in control and illuminated nets

Results -bycatch



Number of individuals captured by species, in control and illuminated nets

Results -bycatch



Number of individuals captured by species, in control and illuminated nets

Best model: ~ Treatment + Net type



Bycatch probability reduction

	Driftnet	Bottomset
Turtles	- 80.0%	- 76.1%
Small cetaceans	- 80.0%	- 75.0%

Bycatch probability reduction when LEDs applied

• Seabirds: no convergence

Expected bycatch probability per set estimated from the models.

Results – target CPUE

SHARKS AND BONY FISH

- Best model:
- ~ Net type + offset(log(Effort))

Treatment does not affect CPUE





RAYS

Best model:

~ Treatment + Net type + offset(log(Effort))

Presence of LEDs increases CPUE

- bottomset **✓** 66.7%
- driftnets ✓ 60.0%



Discussion

• LEDs – a successful multitaxa Bycatch Reduction Technology

	Driftnet	Bottomset
Turtles	- 80.0%	- 76.1%
Small cetaceans	- 80.0%	- 75.0%

- Target catch remained the same
- Promising method to reduce bycatch
- Encourage further testing in other locations, in collaboration with IATTC and IAC staff



Acknowledgements

This work was supported by:











Travel grant provided by:



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Thanks for listening

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