

# Code of conduct

## Acceptance of the common goal

The overall aim of the Project is to work together with fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders to minimise – and, where possible, eliminate – incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species in the North-East Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean regions, to meet the requirements of relevant EU Directives and Regulations (e.g. Habitats Directive, Technical Measures Regulation) by optimising, developing and evaluating mitigation methods and support tools / processes, and working to ensure their long-term implementation.

## Key values

In order to ensure the Safe Working Environment for all Parties within the Consortium and their collaborators (including collaborators who are not Parties to the Consortium Agreement) working jointly on the Common Goal as described above, Parties within the Consortium subscribe to and adhere to the following key values:

- To facilitate joint work between fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders aiming to minimise – and, where possible, eliminate – incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species.
- To have an open mind towards possible solutions.
- To work on solutions that are both effective and sustainable, suitable for use by fishers and, ideally applicable for multiple gear types, regions and species.
- To strive for cooperation and co-creation between the fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders from early on (RRI principles<sup>1</sup>). In doing this, mutual trust, respect and understanding of different perspectives are essential.
- To respect the perspectives of all Parties, recognising that these perspectives might be different and even contradictory.
- To build upon existing work to avoid repetition, while remaining sensitive to possible limitations of earlier approaches.
- To report on what works but also on what does not work and, in both cases, to try to understand why.

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<sup>1</sup> Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/responsible-research-innovation>

- To generate a safe working environment, for co-production of knowledge, data sharing, testing and assessing tools and measures.
- To ensure that reports and other communication materials are tailored for, and will reach, their intended audience.
- To communicate in good faith about the Project and Parties, translating to:
  - Act honestly, openly, and without hidden motives.
  - Familiarise yourself with other Parties' perspectives, raise potential issues in a fair and timely way and contact each other in advance on relevant issues affecting Parties.
  - Not engage in negative media campaigning against any Parties, on issues related to the Project and specific pilot project as stipulated in the Grant Agreement.
- To abide by the overarching Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy that will be developed within the Project.

## **Cooperation and co-creation for the Project and its legacy**

Consistently with the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), cooperation and co-creation with all stakeholders are key commitments of this Project. While this Consortium Agreement will cease to apply at the end of the Project, long-term cooperation between stakeholders from different sectors is highly desirable to preserve the gains we aim to achieve. The participation, engagement and support of all stakeholders is needed both in the short term (throughout the Project's lifetime) and in the longer term to realise the Project's impact.

The active engagement and participation of the fishing industry to develop, test and implement solutions is crucial for the success of this Project. For example, existing and trialled monitoring and mitigation methods need to be assessed for suitability and usability, including assessment of the associated environmental and economic costs and benefits, the ease of handling and maintenance, etc., by fishers operating with different fishing gears, in different regions and with different target and bycatch species.

## **Safe Working Environment**

Achieving effective collaboration requires mutual trust, respect for, and understanding of different perspectives. The incidental bycatch of ETP species is an inherently sensitive subject and adverse publicity has a high potential to disrupt work aimed at finding solutions. Therefore, a “Safe Working Environment” (SWE) is created within which all Parties and their collaborators (including collaborators who are not Parties to the Consortium Agreement) can share information and develop applicable solutions. The elements of the SWE include respecting confidentiality in situations where that is required and/or agreed, supporting the work of the Project and Parties where possible and communicating in good faith on behalf of the Project and the common goal, and abiding by the Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy that will be developed within the Project.

Specific elements of the Safe Working Environment are:

- Information generated by and/or belonging to Parties to this CIBBRiNA Consortium Agreement (including among others data, images, videos, notes) which refers to bycatch or results from specific trials from specific vessels or recognisable fleet segments shall not be shared outside the group of Parties, Affiliated Entities or sub-contractors that generated the information without prior consent of the relevant representatives of those Parties and Affiliated Entities.
- Any publication or dissemination of information that has been compiled as part of the project, shall – before the material is published/disseminated - be announced to and shared with the Parties or Affiliated Entities who have been involved in the creation of the underlying information of the publication and also the Steering Committee, in accordance with article 12.
- All Parties or Affiliated Entities or third parties who have access to raw data from bycatch mitigation trials, shall sign a standardized CIBBRiNA Non-Disclosure Agreement with all Parties to this Consortium Agreement.
- All Parties, Affiliated Entities or third parties shall respect the General Data Protection Regulation or equivalent applicable legislation.
- Images and video material with bycatch, recognisable people or vessels on it generated by and/or belonging to Parties to this CIBBRiNA Consortium Agreement shall not be used, unless the people or owners of the vessels have agreed to feature in those materials.

Evidently, the existence of the Project, its aims and public deliverables are and/or will be a matter of public record. However clear boundaries as mentioned in the aforementioned bullets are established between what may and may not be disseminated beyond the Parties to this Consortium Agreement, as well as clear rules as to how information may be disseminated, as set out in this Consortium Agreement.

Affiliated Entities, sub-contractors and stakeholders which are not Parties to this Consortium Agreement shall be required to sign a separate Non-disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement with all Parties to this Consortium Agreement thereby accepting the Safe Working Environment Obligations laid down in this Consortium Agreement.