

## Update on Best Practice Bycatch Release Equipment Sea Trials

April 29, 2023

In recent meetings in Nha Trang Vietnam with fishing vessel captains engaged in the Vietnam Tuna and Swordfish Handline FIPs we have new reports on testing the hook removal and line cutting gear distributed to the vessels. This equipment allows unwanted or ETP bycatch to be released unharmed and with the highest estimated survival probabilities.

Unwanted and ETP bycatch are rarely encountered by the fishing vessels. Most vessels have no such encounters in an entire year of fishing. However, it is critical that fishers are equipped and trained to follow the best practice for releasing unwanted catch when there is a need to do so.



*Line Cutter and De-hooker Tools Made by Local Blacksmith*

Although the 2 vessels in Khanh Hoa have been carrying the release tools onboard they have had no encounters with unwanted bycatch in the last 3 trips. Earlier this month, they returned to port and reported testing the release tools using a “mock up” large fish made from a large mooring bumper. They reported that the ring shaped dehooker works but is difficult and dangerous for the operator to use while the line cutter worked perfectly.

In an online meeting with COPPA vessel captains in Binh Dinh Province (online) and local captains at the same time they agreed to share information and test the equipment in Binh Dinh. The tools will be sent to Binh Dinh by May 3. We will share any reports or updates on these sea trials as they become available.



*Online and in-person meeting with COPPA Captains*

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