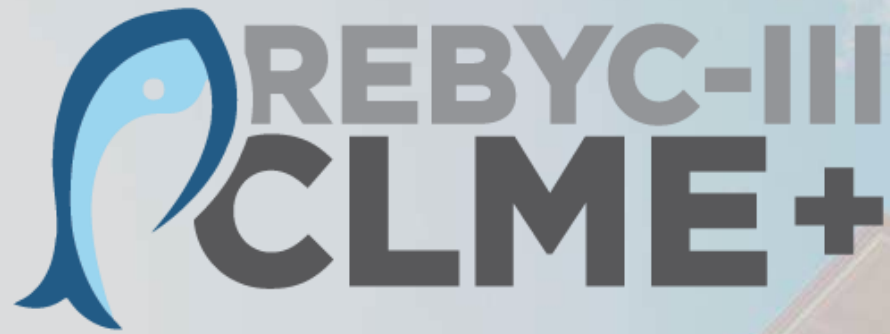


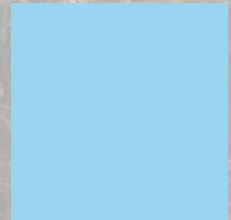


Year 2 Progress Report & Year 3 Workplan

Country: Suriname

Date: 29 January 2026

Presenter: Tomas Willems



YEAR 2
ACHIEVEMENTS

Component 1

Improving fishing practices to manage bycatch and reduce discards and the negative impacts of fishing gears in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities with a focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (Strategy 5)

- Analysis of data from **observer (trawl) and self-sampling (driftnet) programs** have highlighted the need for bycatch reduction of ETP species in both project target fisheries

Fisher self-sampling program in the Suriname coastal driftnet fleet

Preliminary results on bycatch of marine mammals and marine turtles: Updated Report

Michael Hiwat Tomas Willems

2025-12-27

Contents

1 Introduction	1
1.1 The marine fisheries sector in Suriname	1
1.1.1 Inland fisheries	2
1.1.2 Coastal fisheries	3
1.1.3 Offshore fisheries	3
1.2 Monitoring interactions with Endangered, Threatened and Protected species	8
2 Methodology	8
3 Results	11
3.1 Marine turtles	14
3.2 Marine mammals	14
4 Discussion	15
5 Acknowledgments	16

1 Introduction

1.1 The marine fisheries sector in Suriname

Suriname's marine fisheries sector is a vital component of its economy, contributing significantly to employment, food security and export revenues.

On-board observer program in the Suriname demersal finfish trawl fishery

Preliminary report - June 2025

Nandini Kalpoe Tomas Willems

Since 2023, the Suriname Fisheries Department and the Centre for Development and Sustainable Fisheries (CeDePesca) jointly implement an on-board observer program in the demersal finfish trawl fishery operating off Suriname. Up to March 2025, 16 trips were observed, including 360 sampled drags (trawls) spread across the fishing zone at an average depth of 28m. Drags lasted 2.3 hours on average, yielding an average total catch of 2.3 tons, of which slightly more than half is generally retained and landed. During the observed trips, the fishery landed 30 different species, while the highest catch rates were observed for King mackerel, Parrotfish and Clown wrasse. Ocean surgeon and various other wrasse-like species made up an important part of the retained catch as well. The fishery was seen to interact with 22 different (potential) Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, including sharks (10), rays (7), other batoid fishes (2) and marine turtles (3). The impact of the fishery on these species is currently little understood since local population or vulnerability assessments are not available for any of the ETP species at the moment. This report aims to provide a preliminary analyses of the data that is being collected through the on-board observer program in this fishery. It will be used for discussion with key fishery stakeholders in order to (1) improve and expand the analyses for future reports and (2) start formulating potential management measures for the fishery, especially in relation to the ETP species bycatch.



Component 1

Improving fishing practices to manage bycatch and reduce discards and the negative impacts of fishing gears in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities with a focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (Strategy 5)

- Trials with **flexible sorting grids** (TEDs) were conducted in the demersal trawl fishery

- Two different prototypes built by NOAA – design based on previous experiments
- 136 paired hauls completed in September – November 2025
- Significant reductions of sharks (24%), rays (70%) and sea turtles (100%)
- 11% loss of marketable fish
- Evaluation session with stakeholders needed to define next steps



Component 1

Improving fishing practices to manage bycatch and reduce discards and the negative impacts of fishing gears in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities with a focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (Strategy 5)

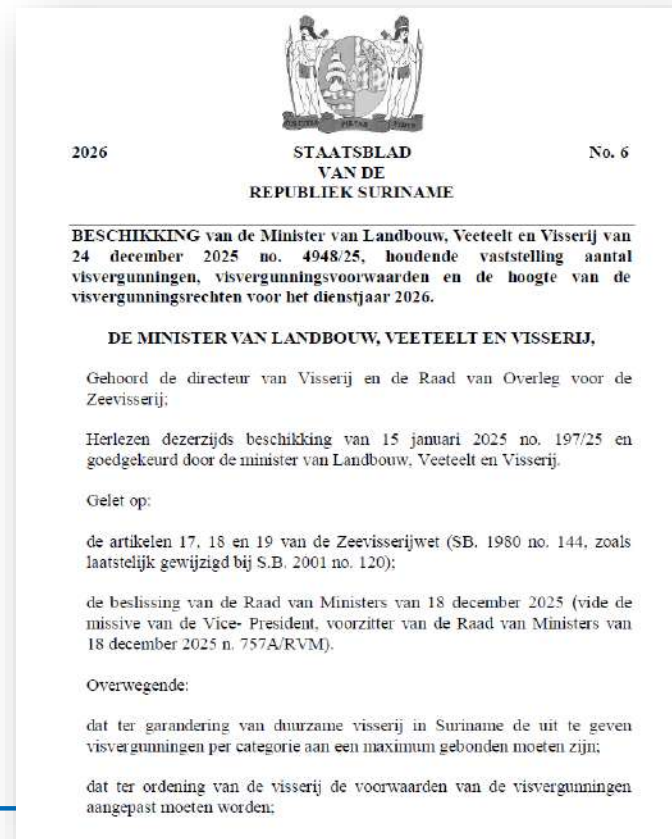
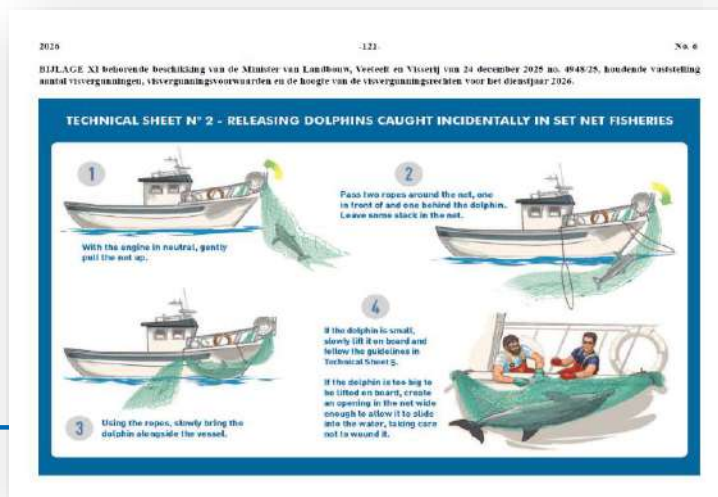
- Trials with **acoustic pingers** commenced in the coastal driftnet fishery
 - Two vessels equipped with pingers for 'shakedown tests'
 - Initial results indicate minimal effect on gear handling and no impact target catch
 - Scientific trials to start in February 2026



Component 2

Strengthening governance and management frameworks and enforcement measures to better manage bycatch and reduce discards in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities

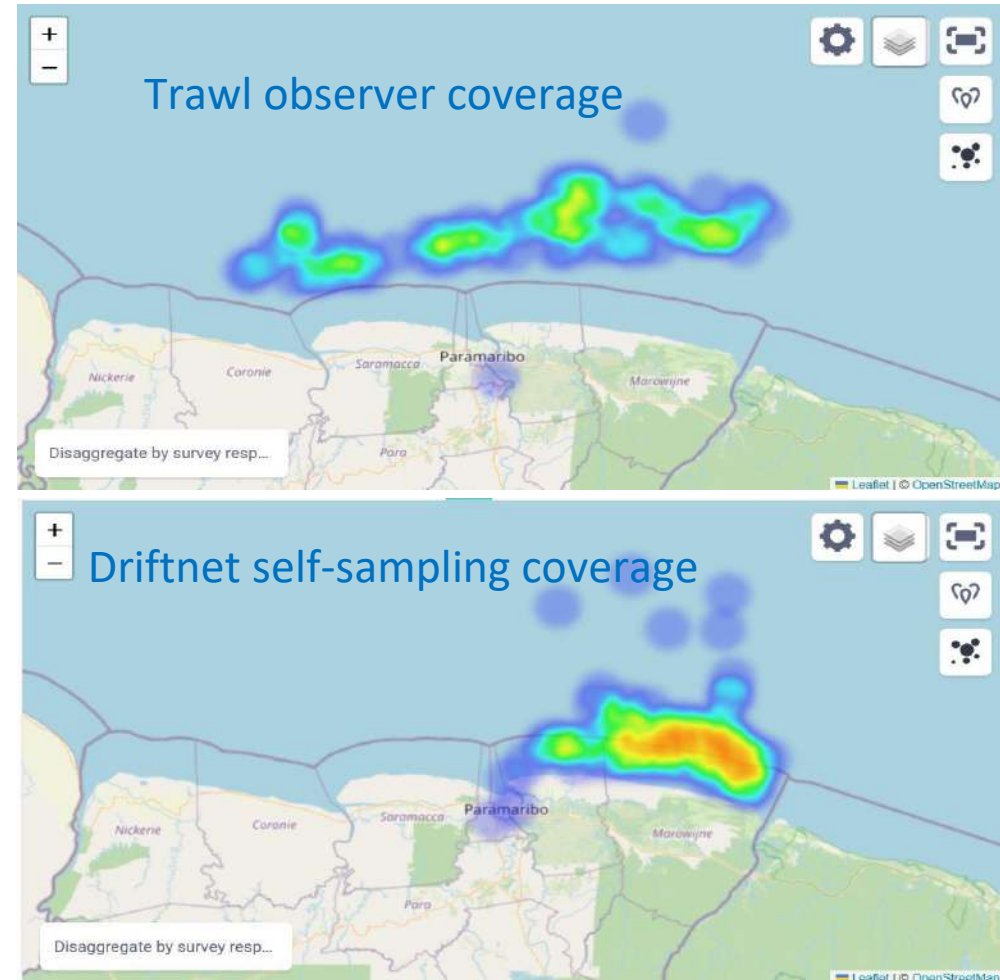
- 2026 Fisheries License Conditions Decree has been amended to include **measures related to bycatch and discard mitigation**, including:
 - Mandatory use of **acoustic pingers** in the drift gillnet fishery
 - Reduction in **maximum net length** in the drift gillnet fishery to 1.8 km
 - Mandatory reporting of **bycatch incidents**
 - Implementation of **turtle and dolphin handling and release practices**



Component 2

Strengthening governance and management frameworks and enforcement measures to better manage bycatch and reduce discards in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities

- **Spatio-temporal data on bycatch and discards** continues to be collected through:
 - Observer program
 - Self-sampling program
 - VMS data analysis
- Draft **NPOA ALDFG** based on ALDFG surveys
- Draft **NPOA sharks**



Component 3

Encouraging behavioural change for adoption of effective bycatch mitigation, discard reduction and ALDFG management measures in target CLME+ fisheries, supporting the implementation of the CLME+ SAP particularly through actions to encourage responsible fisheries practices (Strategy 2)

- Creating new **business opportunities for sustainably captured fish** in the indigenous community of Galibi
- Plans developed for new business opportunities through **proof-of-concept products:** value adding of low-value species and discards





YEAR 3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Component 1

Improving fishing practices to manage bycatch and reduce discards and the negative impacts of fishing gears in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities with a focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (Strategy 5)

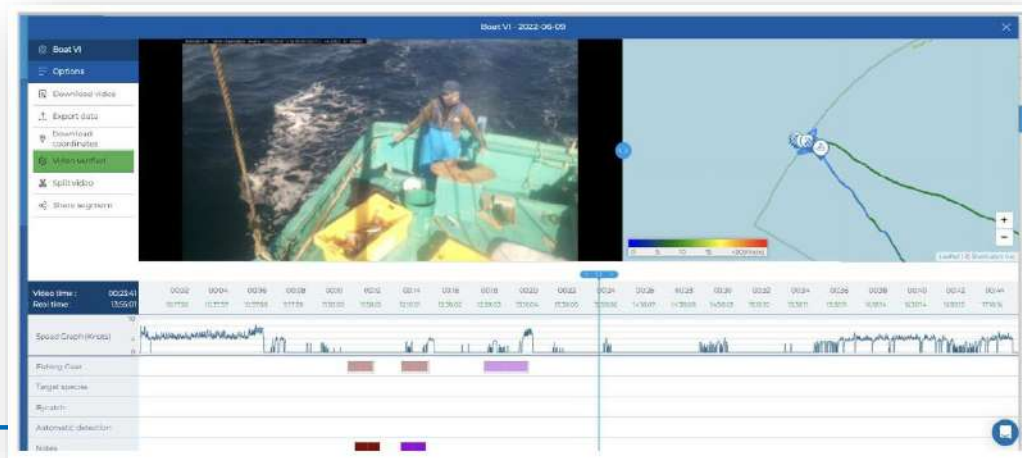
- Execution of **gear trials** in both target fisheries
 - Square-mesh panel BRD in demersal trawl fishery
 - Acoustic pingers in drift gillnet fishery
- Training and awareness raising to **reduce post-release mortality** in target fisheries
- Field trials of potential **gear marking** solutions in the driftnet fishery



Component 2

Strengthening governance and management frameworks and enforcement measures to better manage bycatch and reduce discards in CLME+ fisheries, supporting countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities

- Continuation and expansion of **data collection** programs on spatio-temporal distribution of bycatch, discards and ALDFG
- Finalization of **NPOA sharks**
- Finalization of **NPOA ALDFG**
- Pilot of **e-monitoring** systems to monitor compliance with bycatch and discards regulations



Component 3

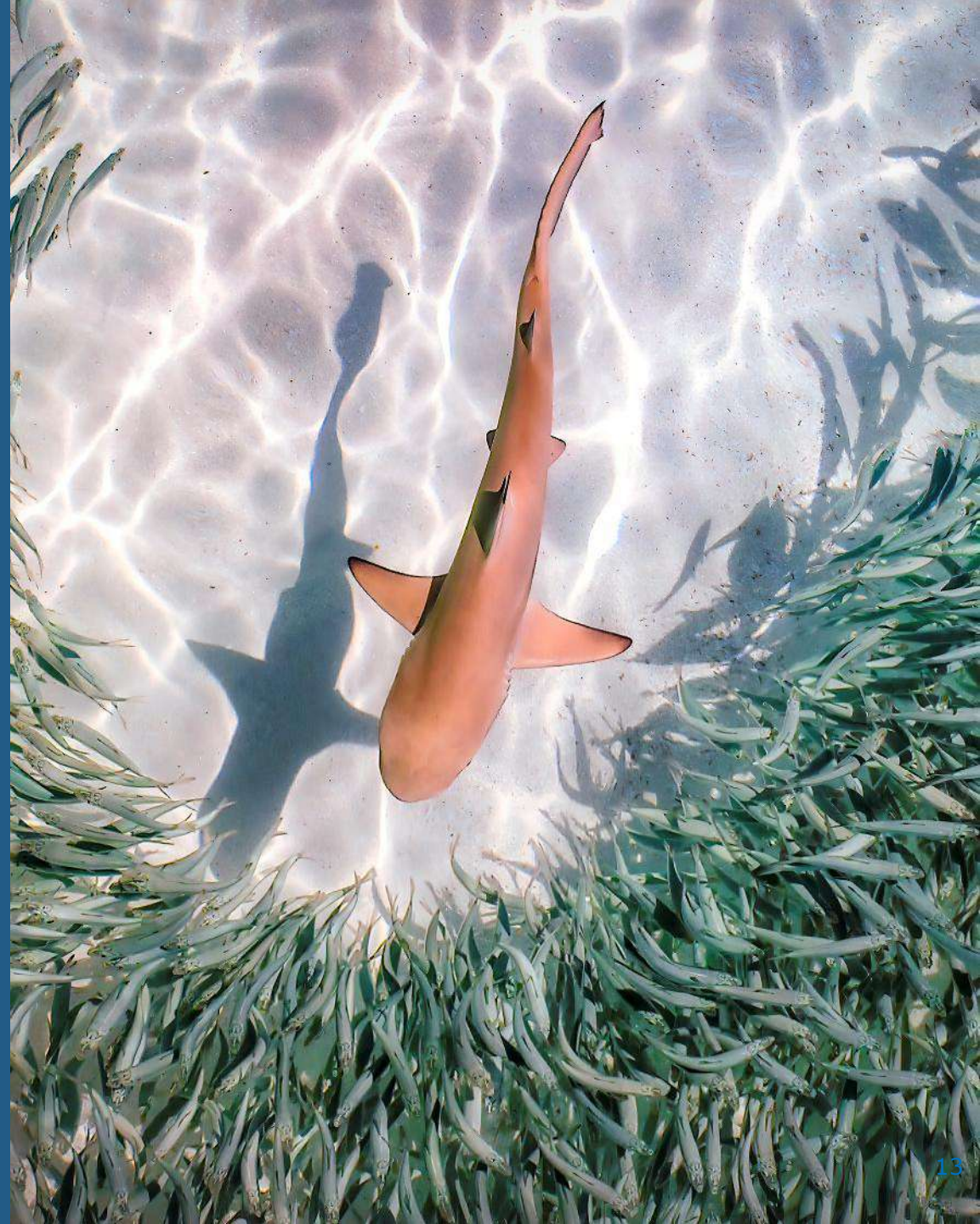
Encouraging behavioural change for adoption of effective bycatch mitigation, discard reduction and ALDFG management measures in target CLME+ fisheries, supporting the implementation of the CLME+ SAP particularly through actions to encourage responsible fisheries practices (Strategy 2)

- Assessment of **economic opportunities** and interest in certification/product identifiers in target fisheries
- Creating new **business opportunities for sustainably captured fish** in the indigenous community of Galibi
- Plans developed for new business opportunities through **proof-of-concept products:** value adding of low-value species and discards



2026 Engagement Strategy & Plan

- Project activities will be planned and executed in discussion with national stakeholders through the **NICs**
- **News and lessons learned** shared with national and regional project partners





Thank You