Inspiring Innovation by Capitalizing Creativity

Bycatch: A Critical Threat To Marine Biodiversity

Bycatch is largely avoidable

“Smarter,” more selective fishing

Circle Hooks

TEDs

Sonar pingers

To inspire innovative, practical, cost-effective ideas that allow fishermen to fish “smarter” – to better target their intended catch while reducing bycatch.

Open to all: fishermen, professional gear manufacturers, teachers, students, engineers, scientists and backyard inventors.

2005: 50 entries from 16 countries
2006: 83 entries from 26 countries
2007: 70 entries from 22 countries
2009: 71 entries from 27 countries
2011: 74 entries from 31 countries

What's your innovative idea for reducing bycatch?

$30,000 Grand Prize

Two $10,000 Runner-Up Prizes

$7,500 Special Tuna Bycatch Reduction Prize

Entry deadline is August 31, 2011

Visit smartgear.org for rules and guidelines

Partners


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SEA CHANGE INVESTMENT FUND


BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S
ASSOCIATION


Fisheries and Oceans
Canada
Pêches et Océans
Canada


Cefas

2007 Judges Workshop

Judging Criteria

Effectively reduces bycatch

Innovative

Practical

Cost-effective

Maintains target catch

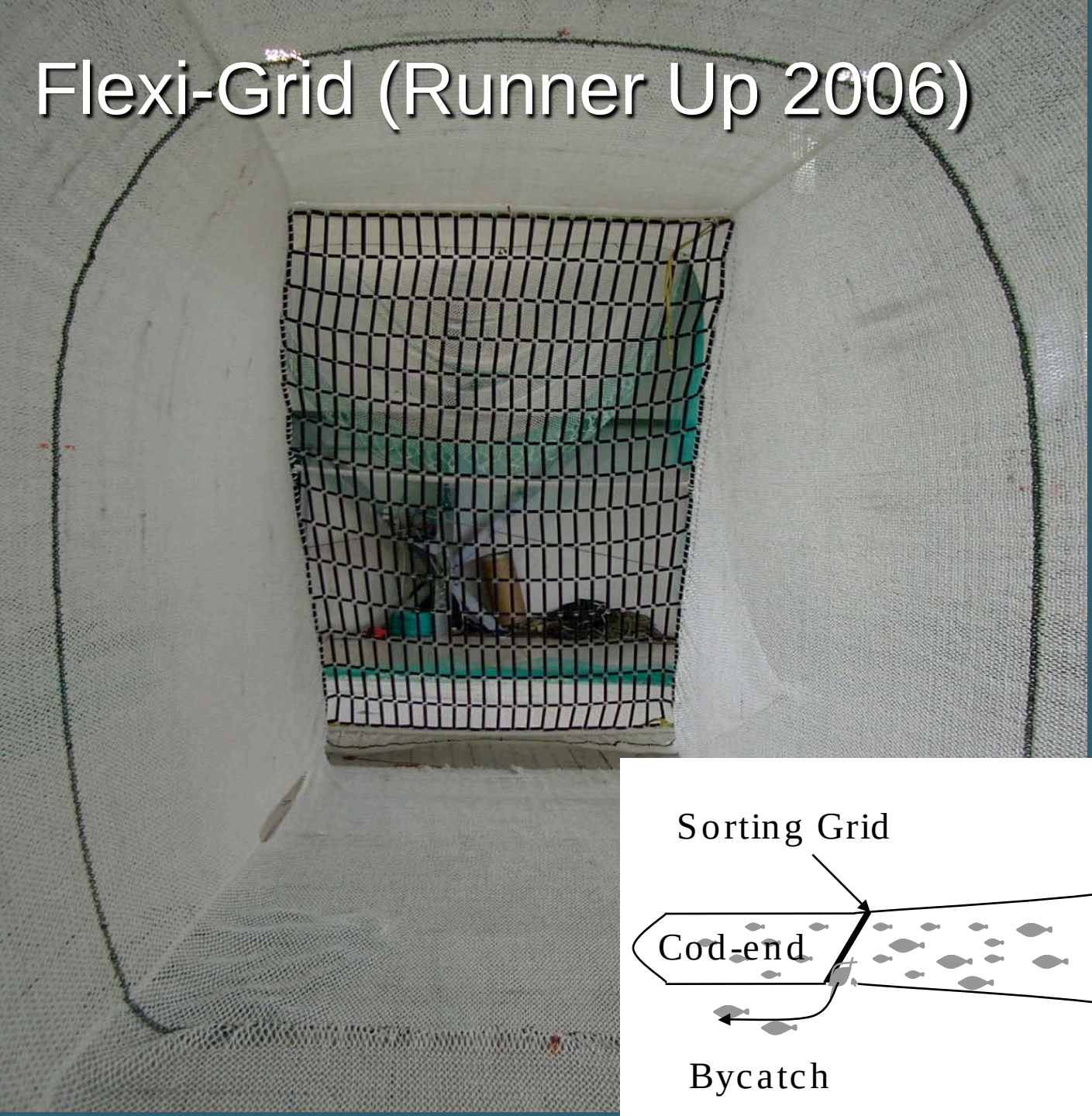
Conservation impact

Smart Gear Initiative

1. International Smart Gear Competition.

2. Advance winning ideas toward ultimate goal of commercial adoption.

Flexi-Grid (Runner Up 2006)



Advancing the Winning Ideas

- Trials: hake, flat fish, blue whiting fisheries
- Mandatory adoption by Faroese fleets. Now also being used by Russian, Norwegian, U.S. and Icelandic vessels.
- Interest in adaptation for purse seine vessels fishing tuna.
- Available in commercial retail on a global basis.

The Flying Bottlebrush (Runner Up 2006)

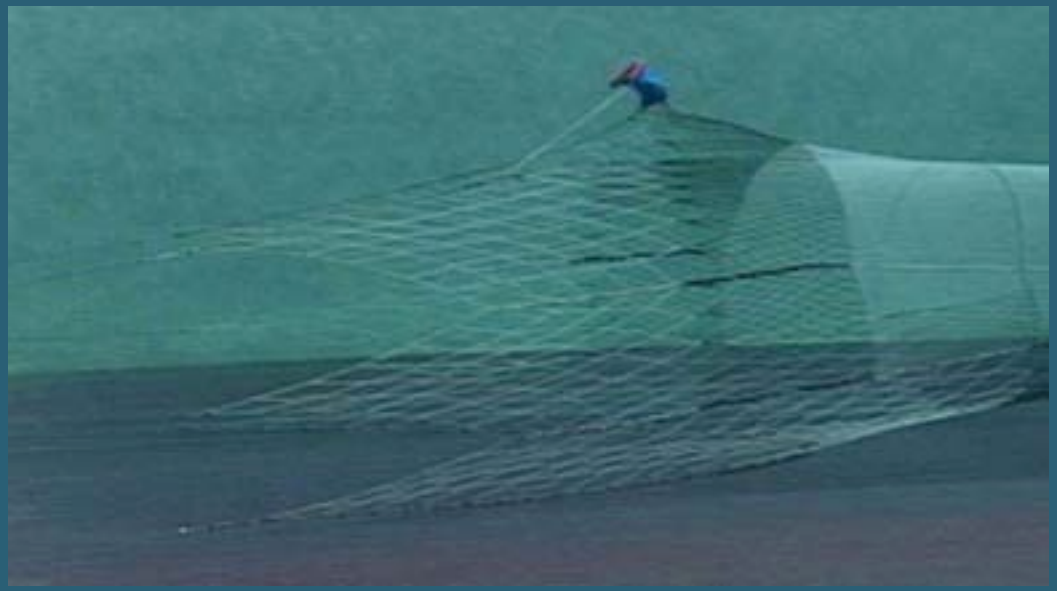
Advancing the Winning Ideas

- WWF sponsored seabird mitigation workshop in New Zealand for industry, government, scientists, and NGO's from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A., and Argentina.
- Flying Bottle-Brush is now part of mandatory measures available to vessels in New Zealand.

The Eliminator (Grand Prize 2007)

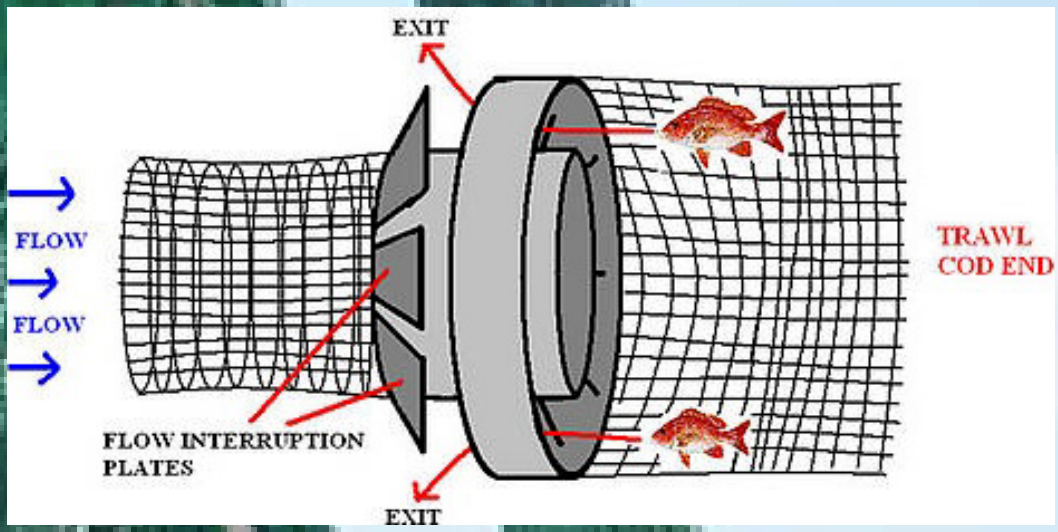
Advancing the Winning Ideas

- All required trials completed. Fulfilled NOAA protocol for adoption.
- Regulated for commercial use in August 2008. More than 12 in use in eastern U.S. fisheries.



- Solved a difficult problem for mixed species fishery on the east coast.
- A modified version of the net is in use in the U.K. with the net being adapted for different bottom types.

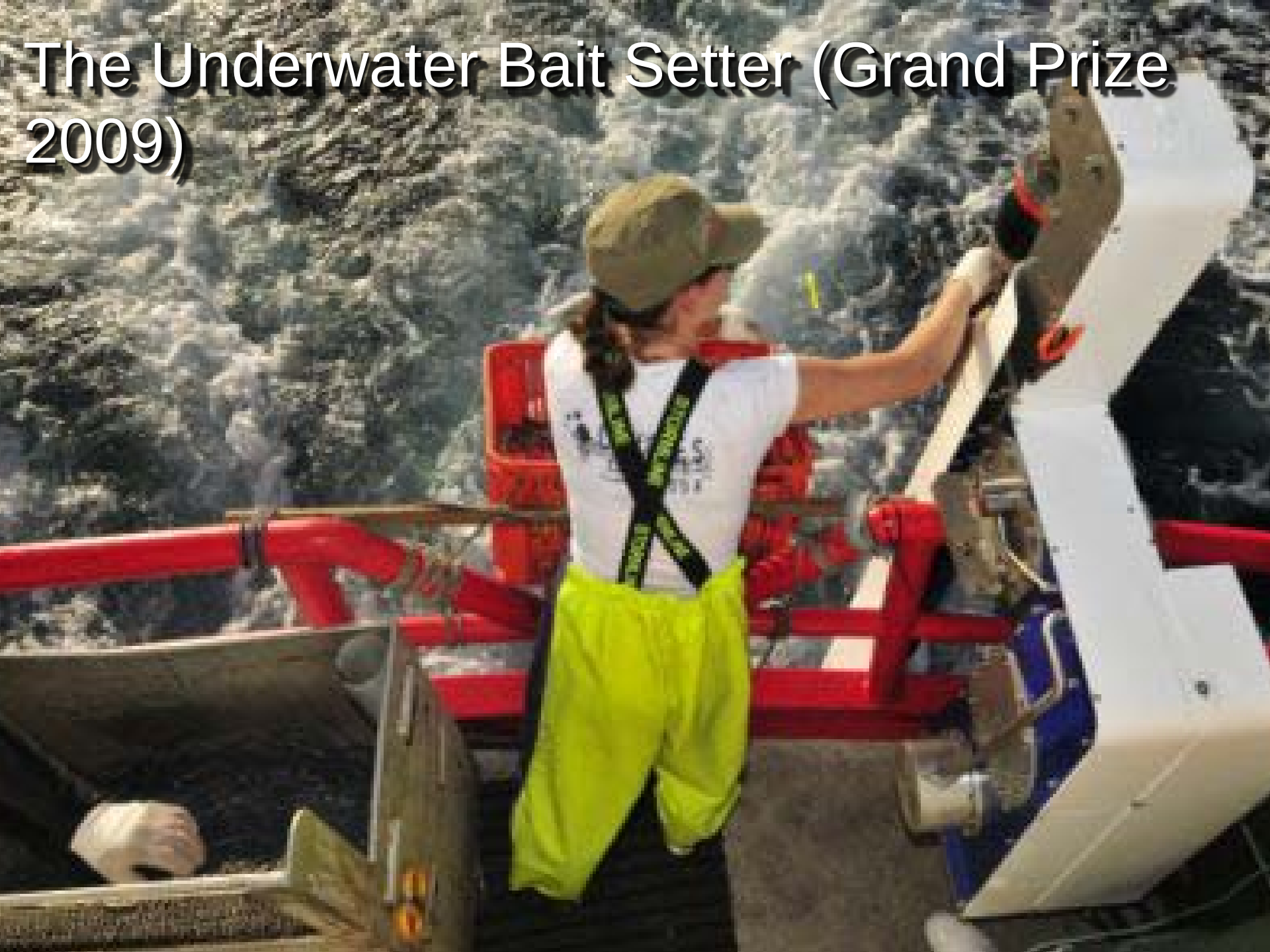
Nested Cylinder Bycatch Reduction Device (Runner Up 2007)



Advancing the Winning Ideas

- Submitted to NOAA Fisheries for certification trials.
- Lot of commercial interest from fisheries in the Gulf region as well as along the east coast.
- Exploring other fisheries who could benefit from this device.

The Underwater Bait Setter (Grand Prize 2009)



Advancing the Winning Ideas

- Mechanical trials conducted in Jan/Feb 2010 off Australia
- Comparison trials undertaken off the coast of Uruguay in 2010.
- Device approved for use in longline vessels off the east coast of Australia.

- Introduced to industry in Iceland, Nov 2011. Additional trials in Uruguay 2012 to test faster capsule cycling advancement.


Batwing Otter Board (Runner Up 2009)

Advancing the Winning Ideas

- WWF providing funding to help develop and trial larger version of Batwing Otter Board
- David Sterling invited to present the device at the “Energy Use In Fisheries Symposium”, Seattle, November, 2010 .
- Commercial interest already developing in the board.
- Successful in securing large government grant in Australia for further development.


Yamazaki Double-Weighted Branchline
(Grand Prize 2011)

Advancing the Winning Ideas

- ICAT has already adopted this as part of their seabird mitigation measures.
- Momentum to have it adopted by additional tRFMO’s.
- ACAP and Birdlife Int’l were invited to discuss this device with representatives of the Taiwanese fleet, largest longline fleet in the world.


The Seaqualizer (Runner Up 2011)

Advancing the Winning Ideas

- Winners already have contracts for manufacturing and distribution.
- Potential for significant bycatch reduction in recreational fishing industry on both sides of the U.S.
- WWF will work with inventors to assess potential for overseas distribution.

Turtle Lights for Gillnets (Runner Up 2011)

Advancing the Winning Ideas

- WWF will work with winners to test idea on additional species of turtles where interactions with gillnets are an issue of concern.
- Examining potential to improve battery life in light sources.

WWF’s Next Steps

Interested parties

Funding for trials

Technical assistance from Smart Gear partners

Use by commercial fisheries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