



Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Assessing the sustainability of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna fishing in the UK

Chief Investigator: Eloise White (eloise.white@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

We would like to invite you to participate in a new research study. Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. This information sheet explains the background and aims of the study. Please take time to read it carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is unclear, or if you would like more information, please ask us. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary.

I am a Masters Marine Conservation student at Plymouth University. I am conducting a survey on attitudes to the trial Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery in the UK. This project is working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust to help inform their 'Cornwall Good Seafood Guide'. I am aware that there is a lot of debate on the issue of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna fishing; answering this questionnaire will give you the opportunity to provide your views.

What is the aim of the project?

The overarching aim of the work is to assess the sustainability of hook & line fishing for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABFT), in line with the UK's commercial trial fishery. The project will aim to improve the stock assessment for ABFT and evaluate how effectively the stock is managed.

This questionnaire will help with the evaluation of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna management in the southwest. This will involve assessing stakeholders' opinion on the trial fishery, recreational fishery, and incidental bycatch of ABFT in the UK.

Your participation in this study will contribute towards the completion of a masters' dissertation project. It will also contribute to the assessment and management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna stock in the UK.

Why have I been invited?

Participants have been selected to represent a broad range of stakeholders regarding the fishery.

What would I have to do?

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to participate in a short questionnaire, lasting no more than ten minutes. The information recorded is anonymous, confidential and will not be used, stored or retained beyond this exercise.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you whether or not to take part. If you decide not to take part, you will not be affected in any way.

Data confidentiality

Plymouth University is the sponsor for this study, based in the United Kingdom. Information will be stored anonymously and securely and will remain confidential in line with GDPR requirements.

Who is organising the study?

The organisers of the study are the student investigator of the study Eloise White and the supervising investigator Dr Sarah Gall.

Who has reviewed this study?

All university research is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given approval by the Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity committee.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results collected will form part of my masters' dissertation. All work will be presented to senior lecturers for them to assess the findings, but only aggregated results will be published in my thesis and any subsequent research papers.

Your rights & Right to Withdraw

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw at any time whilst completing the questionnaire without giving a reason for withdrawal. However, information will be stored anonymously; this means that once the questionnaire is submitted you will not be able to withdraw your information.

What if I have any further questions or require further information?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact Eloise White at Eloise.white@students.plymouth.ac.uk

What if I have a complaint?

If you are dissatisfied with the way the research is conducted, please contact the principal investigator in the first instance. If you feel the problem has not been resolved please contact the secretary to the Faculty of Science and Environment Human Ethics Committee: (scienghumanethics@plymouth.ac.uk)

If you have a general question about how your personal information is used by the University, wish to exercise any of your rights or make a complaint about the way you believe your data is being processed, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer: dpo@plymouth.ac.uk.

Lead Researcher: Eloise Rachel White

Eloise.white@students.plymouth.ac.uk