

An introduction to the Catch Welfare Platform and its work on Crustaceans

**Catch
Welfare**
PLATFORM

SAGB Annual Conference

14 July 2026

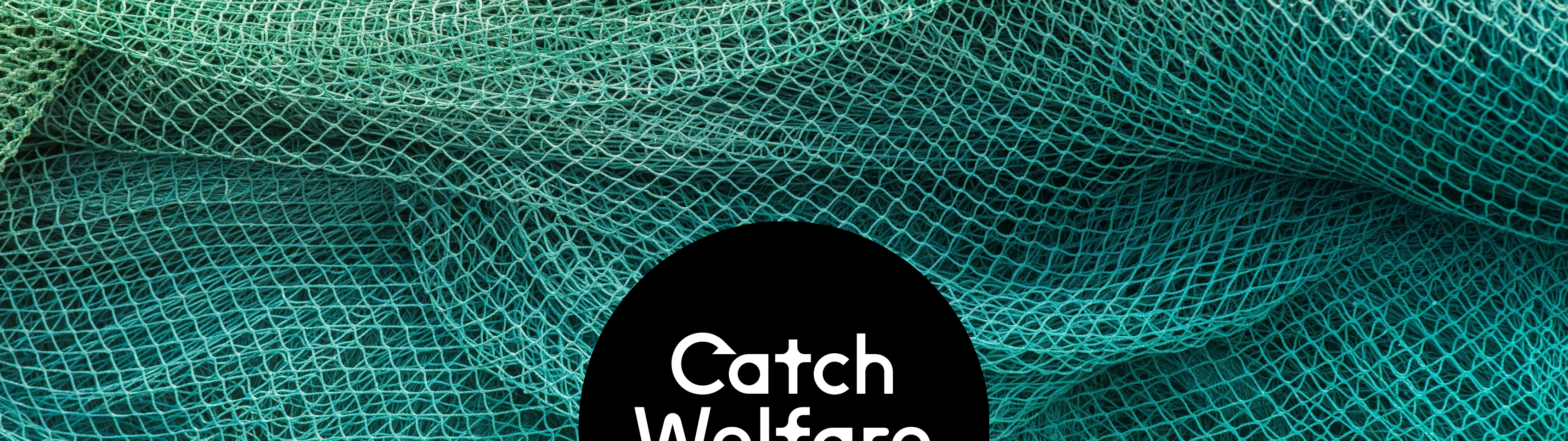
Mike Breen & Michelle Boonstra



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



MICHELLE BOONSTRA
CONSULTANCY

A close-up, textured background of a teal-colored fishing net, with the mesh pattern clearly visible. The net is draped, creating soft folds and shadows.

Catch Welfare

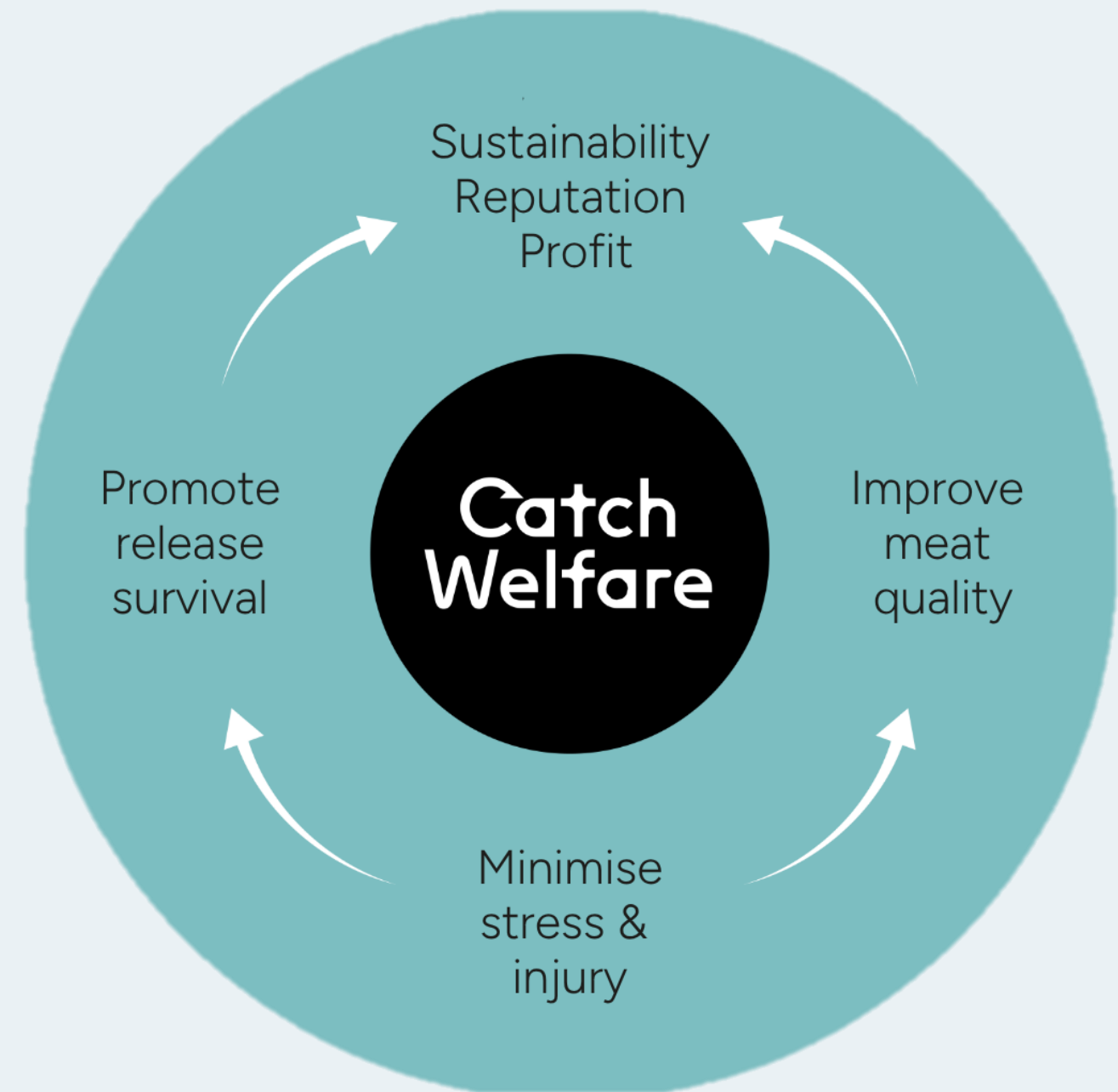
PLATFORM

An industry-science driven platform to guide
the transition toward better catch welfare.

Catch Welfare, a functional definition

Good catch welfare practices are: “capture and handling methods that minimise the physical damage to, and stress on, any retained fish until after they are either slaughtered or released”.

Breen et al, 2020a.



A teal-colored fishing net with a diamond mesh pattern, serving as a background for the top section of the slide.

Platform Goals

01

Giving the industry a voice in the catch welfare conversation

02

Steering away from feelings and focusing on facts

03

Sharing knowledge and creating realistic expectations

04

Creating practical and profitable solutions for catch welfare

Kick-off Conference 2023

Bergen, Norway

Catch
Welfare
PLATFORM

121 participants



Catch
Welfare
PLATFORM

Catch Welfare Platform Conference 2025

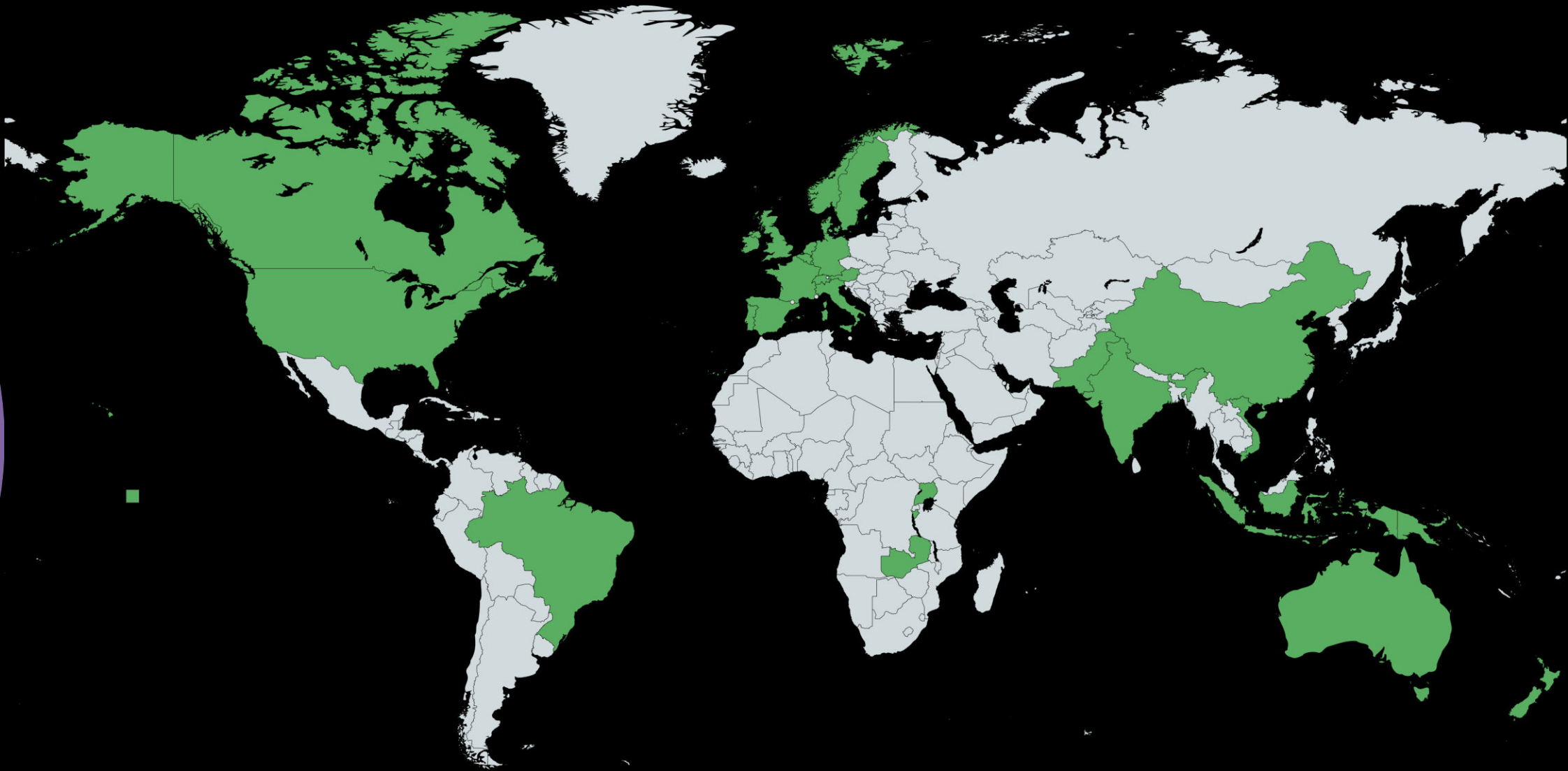
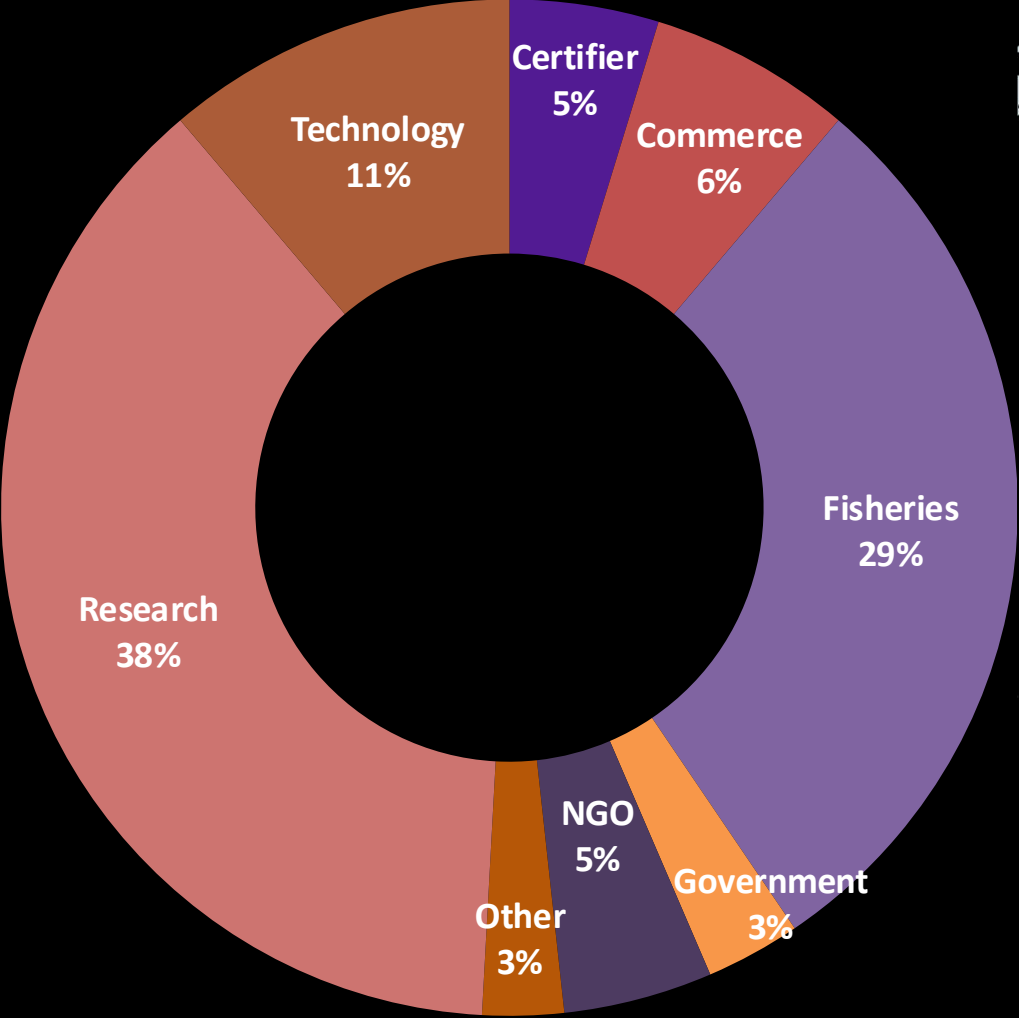
IJmuiden, the Netherlands





Catch Welfare Platform in 2025

243 Members



EXPERT GROUPS



PELAGIC



DEMERSAL



**SMALL
SCALE**



**CRUSTA-
CEAN**



**STUNNING
& KILLING**

Working Objectives

Risk Assessments

Identifying welfare hazards

Characterising the problem

Best Practices

OWI's

Best practices/
guidelines

Moving Forward

Criteria

Training toolkits

Education materials

Case studies



Skipjack Tuna
Katsuwonus pelamis

Pole & line &
Purse seine



Norway lobster
Nephrops norvegicus

Demersal trawl &
Creels



Atlantic Mackerel
Scomber scombrus

Pelagic trawling &
Purse seine

Catch Welfare Innovation Award



Nephrops stunning
and tailing machine

FIS – Optimar – M&S – Associated
Seafoods – CatchCam – Stirling
University

Catch Welfare Idea Challenge



Clawbinder Pro

Pot Fishing the Agency – Tijssen
Elektrotechniek - Stano Engineering
- WM Techniek



DAY
03

Crustacean Day

PROGRAM

Friday 21st November

1. Presentations: Update current status
Crustacean Science and innovation
2. Workshop 'Shaping Best practice for
crab & lobster'

**Catch
Welfare**
PLATFORM

INVITATION ONLY
catchwelfareplatform.com



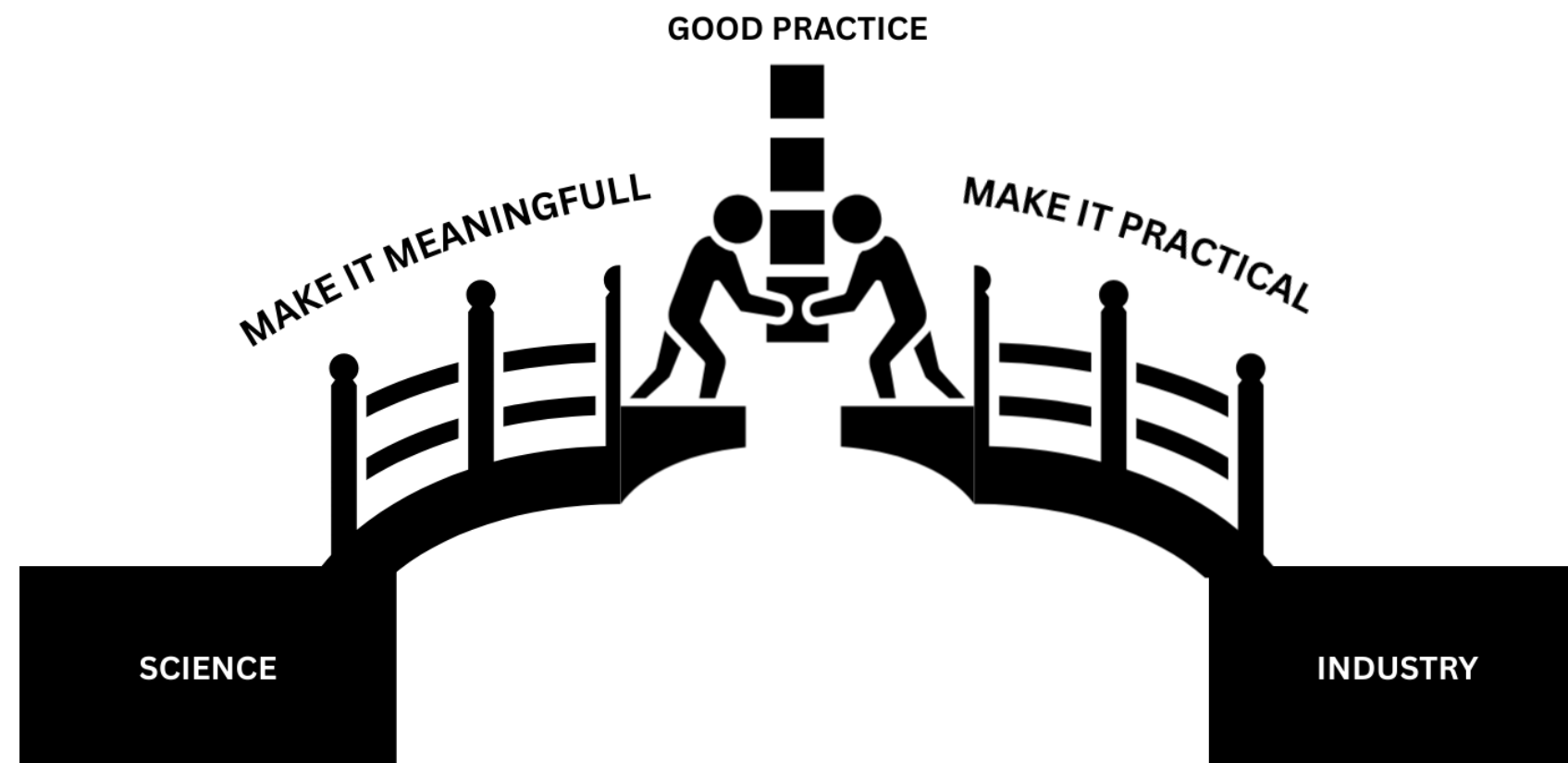
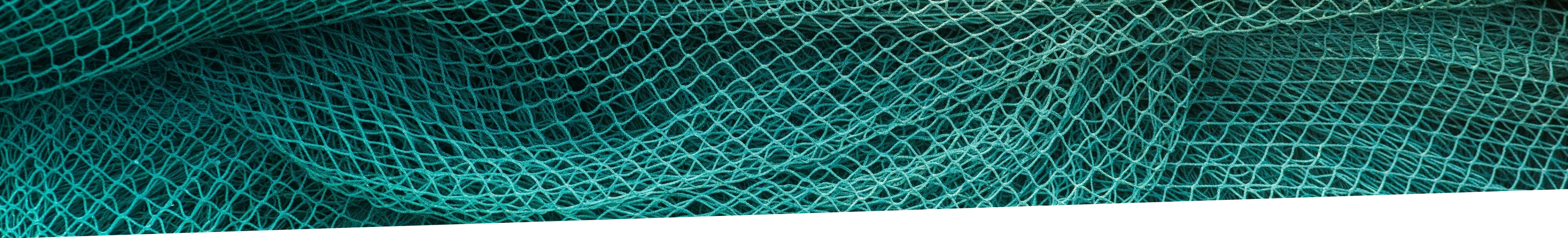
THE CWP CRUSTACEAN EXPERT GROUP

To bridge the gap between scientific research
and commercial practice for live shellfish.



48 participants

Fishermen – Wholesalers – Processors – Technology developers - Researchers



Scope



Brown Crab
Cancer pagurus



European lobster
Homarus gammarus



American lobster
Homarus americanus

Goal

- Gain a comprehensive overview of the current state of science
- Evaluate how existing research is, or could be, applied in commercial practice
- Building consensus on how to bridge the gap between scientific advice and industry codes of practice
- Develop actionable ideas on how each stakeholder group can support progress and implementation

Important: the workshop was the first step in a longer process → outputs will form the input for further elaboration and in-depth working groups.

Working Session - Breakout Groups

CAPTURE

ONBOARD
HANDLING

LIVE
STORAGE

STUNNING &
KILLING

A lot of information went over the table, we will only present the highlights

Outcomes - CAPTURE

Practice	Recommendations	Actions
Bycatch mitigation	The use of a hard eye Escape panels	To be discussed
Ghost fishing mititgation	Guidance on: Static gear demarcation Communication between vessels Retrieval technology	Investigate and adopt Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) codes
Predation mitigation	The use of a hard eye	

- Currently not included in SAGB codes
- Will initialy focus on pots/traps/creels



Outcomes – STUNNING & KILLING

Clarity on **which methods**
are available and approved

List of stunners

Operational guidance

Training material

Calibration

Quality assurance

Verification protocols

Critical Control Points

Performance control on
settings

Conclusions

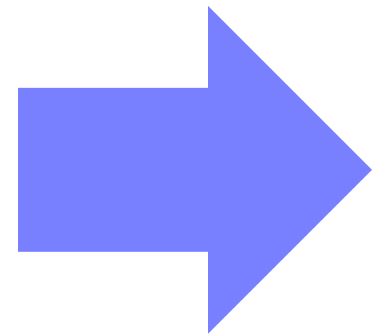
LIVE
STORAGE

ONBOARD
HANDLING

- ✓ Science is largely aligned with SAGB codes

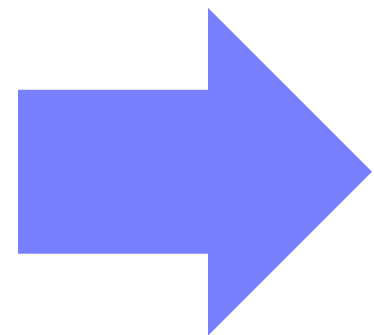
Next steps

CAPTURE



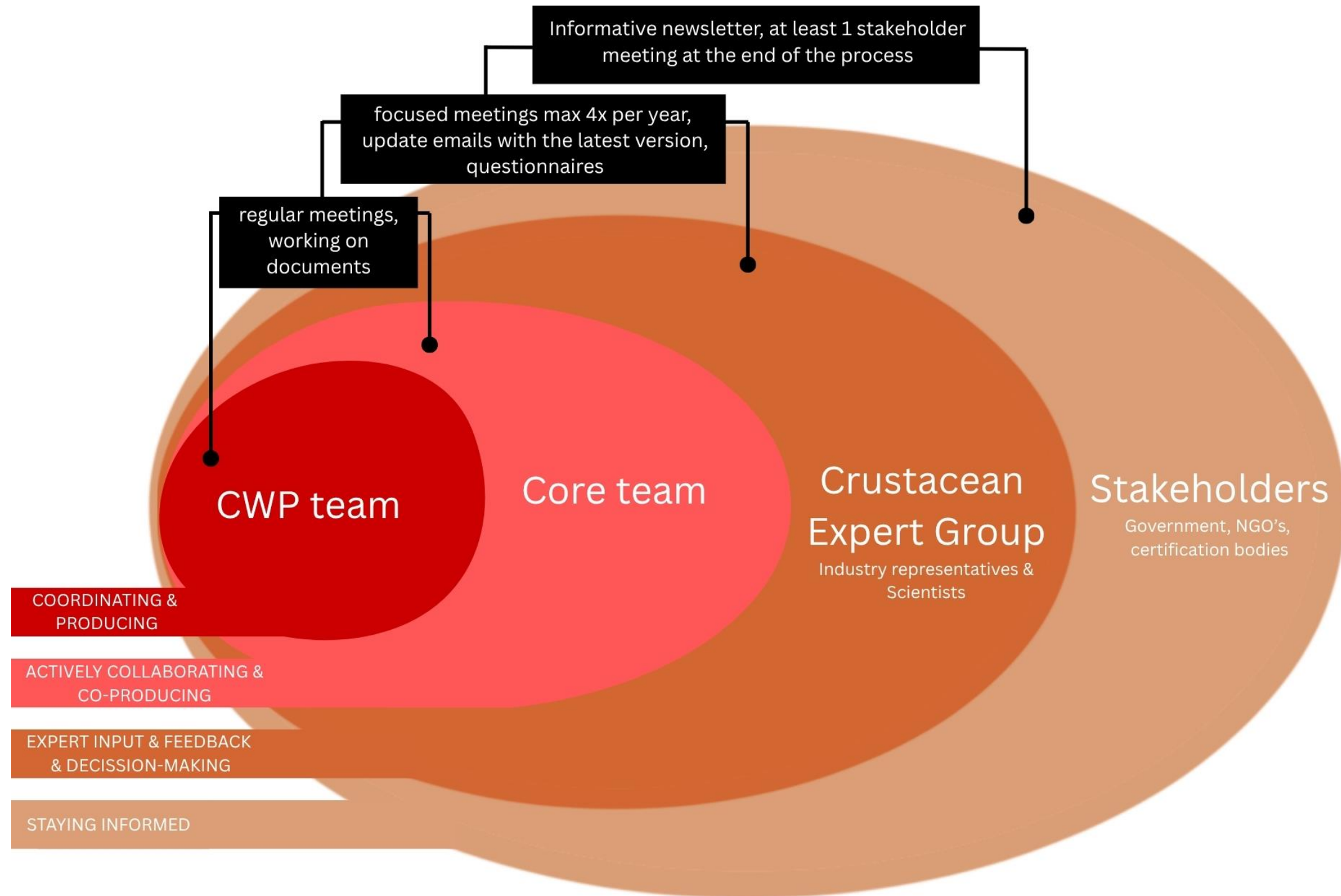
Follow up (online) session with fishermen & scientists to further develop codes > After summer break.

STUNNING & KILLING



Clear industry needs > work to be done by scientists in Expert Group Stunning & Killing in collaboration with core group of crustacean EG.

CWP CRUSTACEAN EXPERT GROUP



THE CWP CRUSTACEAN EXPERT GROUP

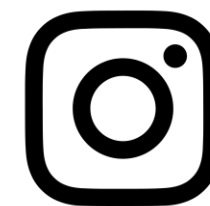
Do you want to join the conversation?

Send an email to michelle@catchwelfareplatform.com





CATCHWELFAREPLATFORM.COM





Catch Welfare Platform

@CatchWelfarePlatform · 40 abonnees · 45 video's

Meer informatie over dit kanaal ...meer



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**3rd Catch Welfare Platform
Conference - 2025**

Hele playlist bekijken

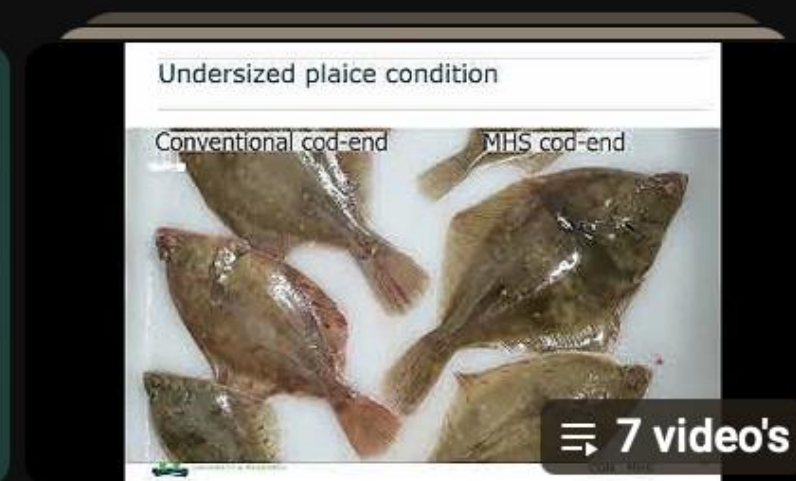


**Catch Welfare Platform
Conference 2024**

Hele playlist bekijken



Catch Welfare, The Podcast
Hele podcast bekijken



**Presentations Kick-off
Conference 2023**

Hele playlist bekijken



Vincent van Gogh