

Determining group priorities for research needs, gear modifications and mitigation techniques

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This extra session was offered fairly spontaneously, and the goal was to use the group's combined experience and knowledge to prioritise the potential options available for research needs, gear modifications and mitigation techniques.

This prioritisation process was necessary, as over the previous days the participants had generated literally dozens of mitigation options – which would be extremely costly in terms of time and money to test each alternative individually. A different approach was used in order to attempt to use the collective knowledge / experience of the workshop participants to determine the methods most likely to be worthy of further investigation.

Separate lists were produced on butcher's paper that highlighted the available options for each of the three categories (research needs, gear modifications and mitigation methods). Participants were then asked to identify their preferred top three options by placing a single tick next to them, on each of the category sheets.

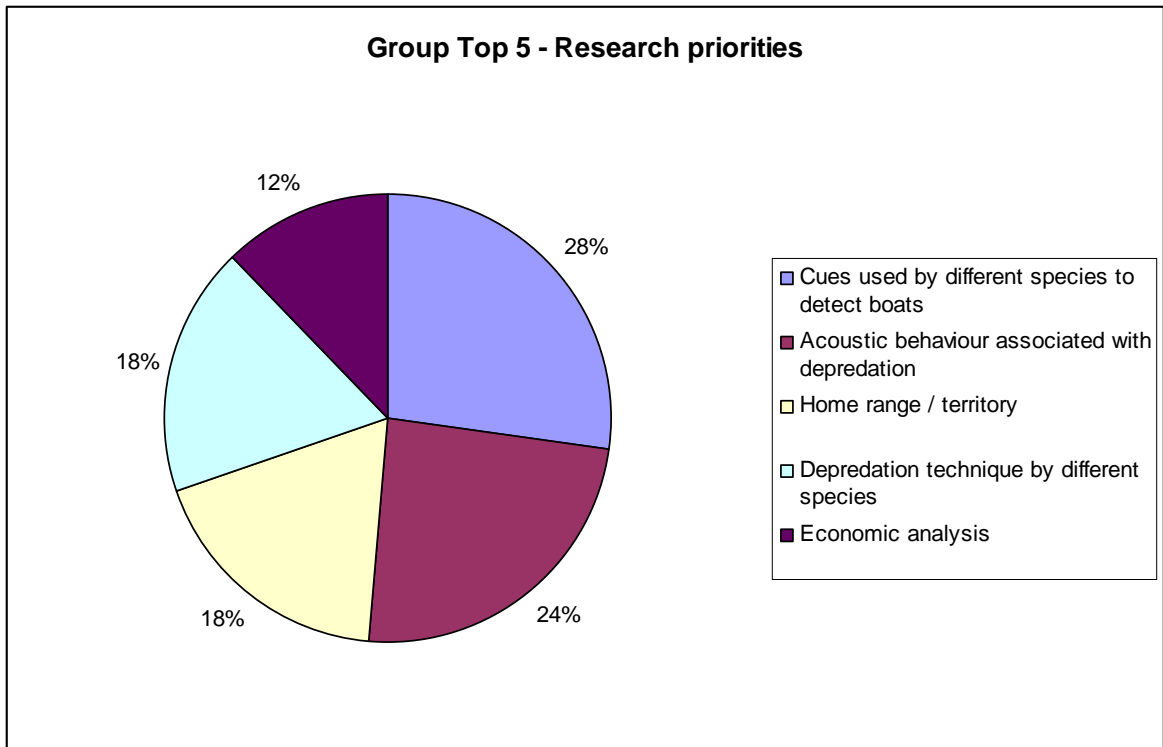
Pens were provided to do this, using a different colour to identify each main stakeholder group (blue for fishermen, green for researchers and red for managers). This enabled any distinctions between the stakeholders responses to be noted. At the conclusion of the workshop, the lists were marked by the attendees and results are shown below.

Results

The group ranked the following as their top 5 **research priorities**:

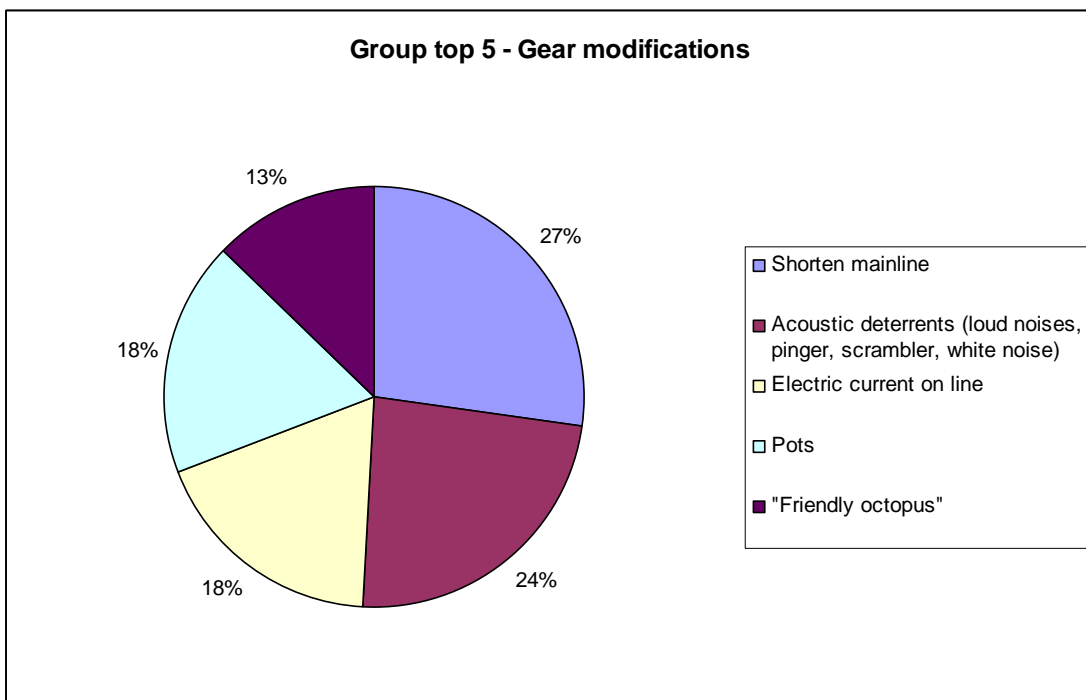
(N.B. The percentages below refer to the proportion of all responses; and the pie charts identify percentage as a proportion of the top 5):

- Cues used by different species to detect boats
16.1%
- Acoustic behaviour associated with depredation
14.3%
- Home range / territory 10.7%
- Depredation technique by different species 10.7%
- Economic analysis 7.1%



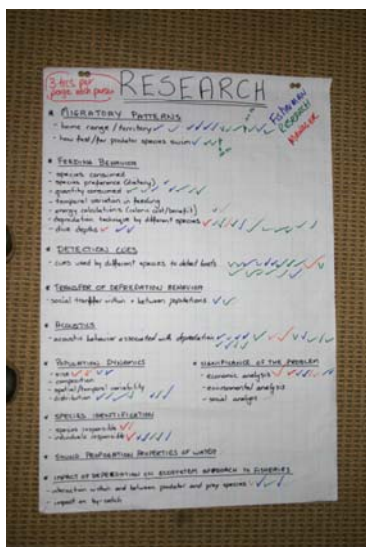
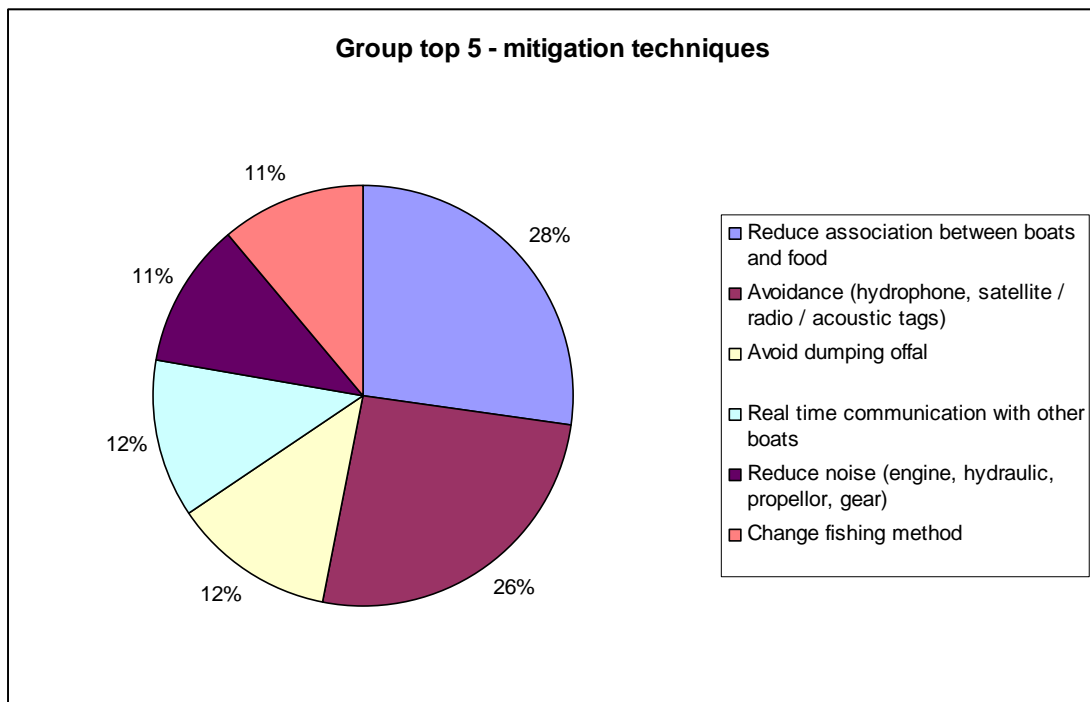
These were the top 5 ranked **gear modifications**:

- Shorten mainline 14.9%
- Acoustic deterrents (loud noises, pinger, scrambler, white noise) 12.9%
- Electric current on line 9.9%
- Pots 9.9%
- "Friendly octopus" 6.9%



The highest priority top 5 (6 as two are equally ranked) **mitigation techniques** were:

- Reduce association between boats and food
20.2%
- Avoidance (hydrophone, satellite / radio / acoustic tags)
19.3%
- Avoid dumping offal 9.2%
- Real time communication with other boats 9.2%
- Reduce noise (engine, hydraulic, propellor, gear)
8.3%
- Change fishing method
8.3%



Example of completed tally sheet.