

# Protecting the marine environment

## UN Sustainable Development Goal #14:

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

In the ongoing debate on fisheries, it's often forgotten that their management and development is for the express purpose of ensuring global populations can benefit from the resource in terms of **employment, food supply and revenue**.

Of course, this has to be done in a way that does not jeopardise the future sustainability of any fish stock. Fortunately, the UK fishing industry is one of the **best managed and most regulated in the world**. Scientific evidence drives fisheries and marine environment management decisions.



Pelagic vessels have among the lowest bycatch levels of any other vessel – predicted to be less than 1%.



Our mid-water (pelagic) nets never touch the seabed, while catches are always a single species from a single stock, making NAFC vessels amongst the world's most ecologically friendly.

Our vessels fish for only 4 pelagic (midwater) species:

- Mackerel
- Horse Mackerel
- Herring
- Blue Whiting



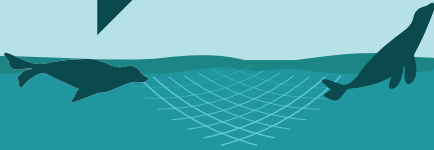
All the pelagic fish that we catch come from well-managed, sustainable stocks. All fish is frozen at sea and landed packed in polythene and then outer cardboard cartons. Our vessel fishes using pelagic (midwater) trawls, which never come into contact with the seabed and thus does not have any effect on the bottom habitat.

## Our on-board technologies minimise environmental impacts

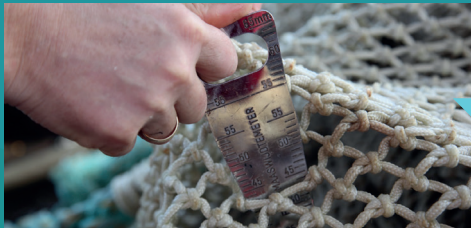
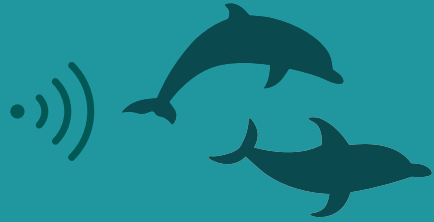
We use special nets designed to let juvenile fish escape. This ensures they can go on to reproduce and contribute to the future sustainability of the stock.



All pelagic vessel nets have **escape panels** to prevent seal bycatch.



We use the latest generation of acoustic deterrent devices ('pingers'), avoiding dolphin bycatch to the highest possible extent. They scare away cetaceans (such as dolphins) with underwater acoustic signals. NAFC's are the most advanced and can be used to 200 metres.



Advanced 2D and 3D imaging technology identify and catch the right species and right fish size.



Leading edge  
**acoustic equipment**  
pinpoints the size and depth of a shoal.

