

## MP Email Template

Subject: Urgent: Request for action on dolphin bycatch and marine monitoring

Dear [MP Name],

As one of your constituents, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the alarming number of common dolphins and porpoises washing up on Cornwall's beaches.

In January alone, 27 dolphins were found dead stranded around the Cornish coast. Post-mortem examinations confirmed that a significant number of these deaths were the direct result of bycatch—the unintentional capture of marine life in fishing gear. Years of research from Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Strandings Network indicates that over a quarter of these animals may be dying in this way. While many of our local fishers are working hard to adopt more sustainable practices, they are working in a financial and policy environment which does very little to incentivise this (and often in fact does the opposite). It is clear that voluntary action is not enough to tackle this crisis.

We are currently seeing a "perfect storm" of high-risk fishing activity and a lack of robust national oversight.

The UK has international obligation to protect these animals in its waters. To protect our marine heritage while supporting a sustainable, transparent and resilient fishing industry, I urge you to ask the Government to:

- Roll out Universal Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM): We need mandatory camera monitoring across both inshore and offshore fleets. This is not about surveillance, but about gathering the robust data needed to understand where risks exist and to prove the efficacy of sustainable practices.
- Support and Formalise Net Husbandry Best Practices: Many local fishers already employ high standards of gear management and net husbandry to minimise interactions with marine mammals. Government policy should formally recognise, incentivise, and share these "best practice" methods across the entire industry.
- Remove Financial and Regulatory Barriers: Changing fishing practices and implementing mitigation devices costs significant money and often faces complex legal and regulatory barriers. Our fishing industry needs direct government support and a clearer legislative framework to make these transitions viable for small businesses.
- Invest in source to market tracking: The technology exists to track fish from boat to market to table. Paired with REM this would create transparency for consumer choice, creating a market for bycatch free fish.

- Strengthen national policy: Ensure the UK Bycatch Strategy moves beyond "objectives" and into legally binding requirements that protect sensitive species in Cornish waters.

Cornwall's marine life is a vital part of our local economy and identity. We cannot stand by while these intelligent, protected animals continue to die in such high numbers.

I look forward to hearing how you plan to raise this issue in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Postcode]