**ReadMe.txt file** for Zenodo Project Page “A randomized implementation of a marine pay-to-release program”, which supports the publication “Conservation impacts and hidden actions in a randomized trial of a marine pay-to-release program” by Hollie Booth, Thomas Pienkowski, M Said Ramdlan, Kusuma Banda Neira, Muhsin, EJ Milner-Gulland, Luky Adrianto, Paul J. Ferraro

Location: <https://10.5281/zenodo.14849302> (alternatively, one can obtain the files from the project’s Open Science Framework page: <https://osf.io/b27ja/?view_only=2409f44c1bc74659bbacb5f4b7ff795b>).

The Zenodo page for this project consists of five folders, which contain all the files needed to reproduce the results in the published study, as well as a few files to which the published study refers in the supplemental materials.

Below, we describe the contents of these folders and how they should be used to reproduce the published results. To understand how the raw anonymised data was prepared for analysis, users can refer to ‘2 - Processing Code’. To examine the analyses, users can refer to ‘4 - Analysis Code’. Data labels (variable names) are defined in the code files and all code files have been verified to run with the provided data files.

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FOLDER: 1 - Pre-processed Raw Data

* ‘rct\_catch\_raw.csv’: The anonymised raw catch data.
* ‘Releases\_all.csv’: The anonymised raw release data.
* ‘phase\_date\_village.csv’: The treatment exposure dates for each village.
* ‘phase\_date\_boat.csv’: The treatment exposure dates for boats whose exposure differed from other boats within a given village.

FOLDER: 2 - Processing Code

* ‘RCT\_project.Rproj’: The R Project in which the Processing.Rmd script resides.
* ‘Processing.Rmd’: A script that takes the ‘rct\_catch\_raw.csv’ and ‘Releases\_all.csv’, assigns each observation to either the treatment or exposure phase, and aggregates catches and released into phases for each boat. This script generates ‘DF\_anly\_1.rds’ and ‘Release\_1.rds’ and ‘Processing.docx’.
* ‘Processing.docx’: A Word document generated by ‘Processing.Rmd’ that describes the processing steps in detail.
* ‘Template.docx’: A Word document template that provides the formatting to create ‘Processing.docx’.

FOLDER: 3 - Post-processed Data for Analysis

* ‘DF\_anly\_1.rds’: The aggregated catch data file (R) generated by ‘Processing.Rmd’.
* ‘Release\_1.rds’: The aggregated release data file (R) generated by ‘Processing.Rmd’.
* ‘DF\_anly\_1.csv’: A comma-separated values version of ‘DF\_anly\_1.rds’ for use with code files in ‘Analysis Code’.
* ‘Release\_1.csv’: A comma-separated values version of ‘Release\_1.rds’ for use with code file in ‘Analysis Code’.

FOLDER: 4 - Analysis Code

* ‘Marine Pay to Release Program RCT Analysis Code.do': This Stata (v18) .do file has the code to generate all the analyses in the main text and Supplemental Materials, except the average impacts as implied by the Conventional Monitoring & Evaluation Approach.
* ‘Analysis\_of\_DF\_anly\_1\_LOG.txt’: This log file is generated by the file ‘Marine Pay to Release Program RCT Analysis Code.do'. This .txt file allows one to see both the code and the results generated by the do file without opening and running the do file.
* ‘Retained and Released Data File Creation.do': This Stata (v18) .do file has the code to generate the values used to calculate the average impacts as implied by the Conventional Monitoring & Evaluation Approach (i.e., Equation 1 in M&M).
* ‘RetainedandReleased\_Totals.txt: This log file is generated by the file ‘Retained and Released Data File Creation.do’. This .txt file allows one to see both the code and the results generated by the do file without opening and running the do file.

Note: To run the Stata .do files (code) with minimal effort, we recommend downloading the two .csv files from the folder ‘3 - Post-processed Data for Analysis’ and the two .do files in folder ‘4 - Analysis Code’ and placing all four files in the same folder on your hard drive. The ‘pwd’ command in the two .do files will tell Stata to use the same folder (working directory) to input and output files.

FOLDER: 5 - Other Project Files

* ‘Survey instrument 1 [fishers]’:
* ‘Survey instrument 2 [female led households]’:
* ‘Voluntary agreement template’:

Note 1: These files are referred to in the supplemental material of the publication. The survey data themselves are available upon request from Hollie Booth <hollie.booth@biology.ox.ac.uk>

Note 2: The posted data and analysis code files on Zenodo are from the original submission. In the revision of the manuscript, we added text that described potential threats from market-mediated interference in more detail. That description is elaborated in section 1.3 of the Supplementary Materials (SM). On lines 127-157 of the SM, we refer to an alternative estimator that, under assumptions, we describe in the text, can mitigate the potential threat to our inferences from market-mediated interference among vessels (as noted in the SM, the estimator can also mitigate the threat from some forms of stock-mediated interference). That estimator is included in our original Stata analysis code file (Marine Pay to Release Program RCT Analysis Code.do), but it’s “commented out” (i.e., Stata won’t run the command and generate output). The code file tells the reader that we do not need to use this estimator given the treatment was randomized, but it also reports that the estimated program impacts on hammerheads and wedgefish from this estimator are almost identical to the estimates in the main text. However, after reading the first-round reviewer comments, we decided to report the results of this estimator in the SM because the estimator can address potential issues related to interference among vessels. Rather than try to revise and replace the original analysis code and thereby risk introducing errors, we include this “Note 2” and advise readers who wish to see the estimated impacts reported on lines 149-150 in the SM that they will need to remove the asterisks in front of lines 322-326 of the analysis code (i.e., the lines that use the command -ppmlhdfe-).