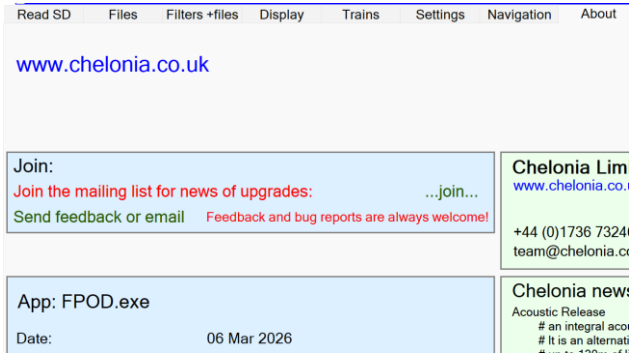
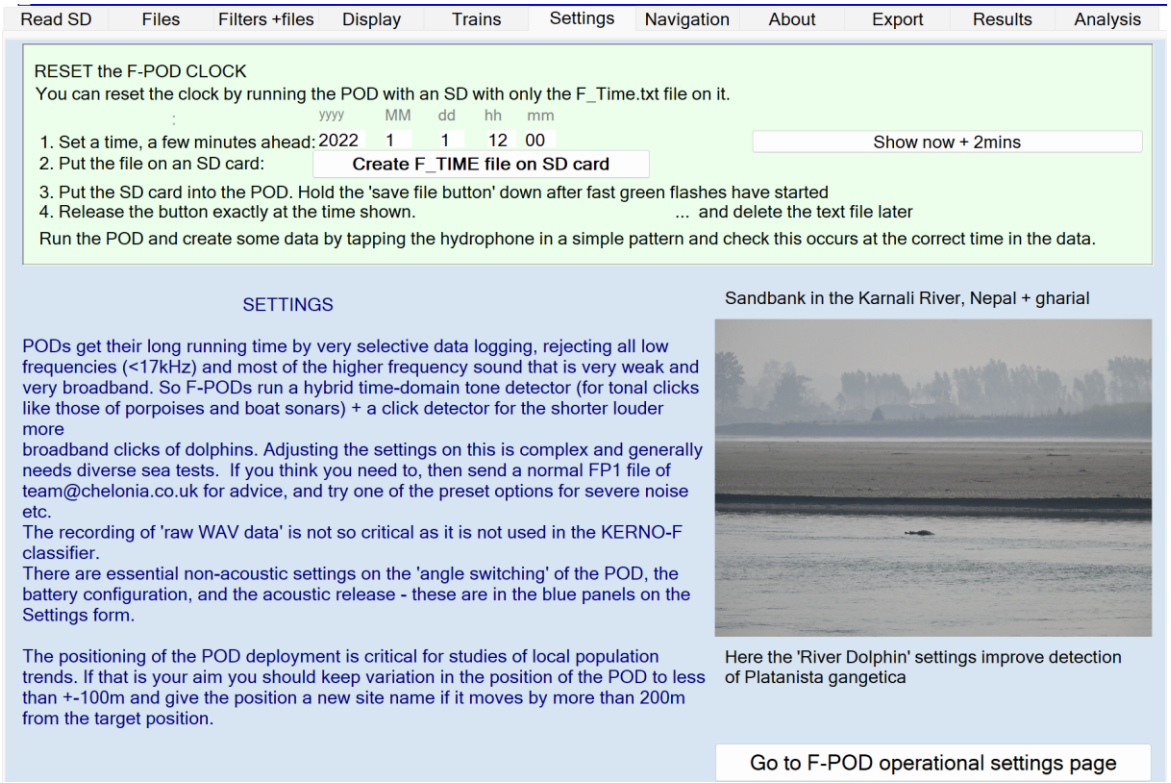
How to set your F-POD acoustic release

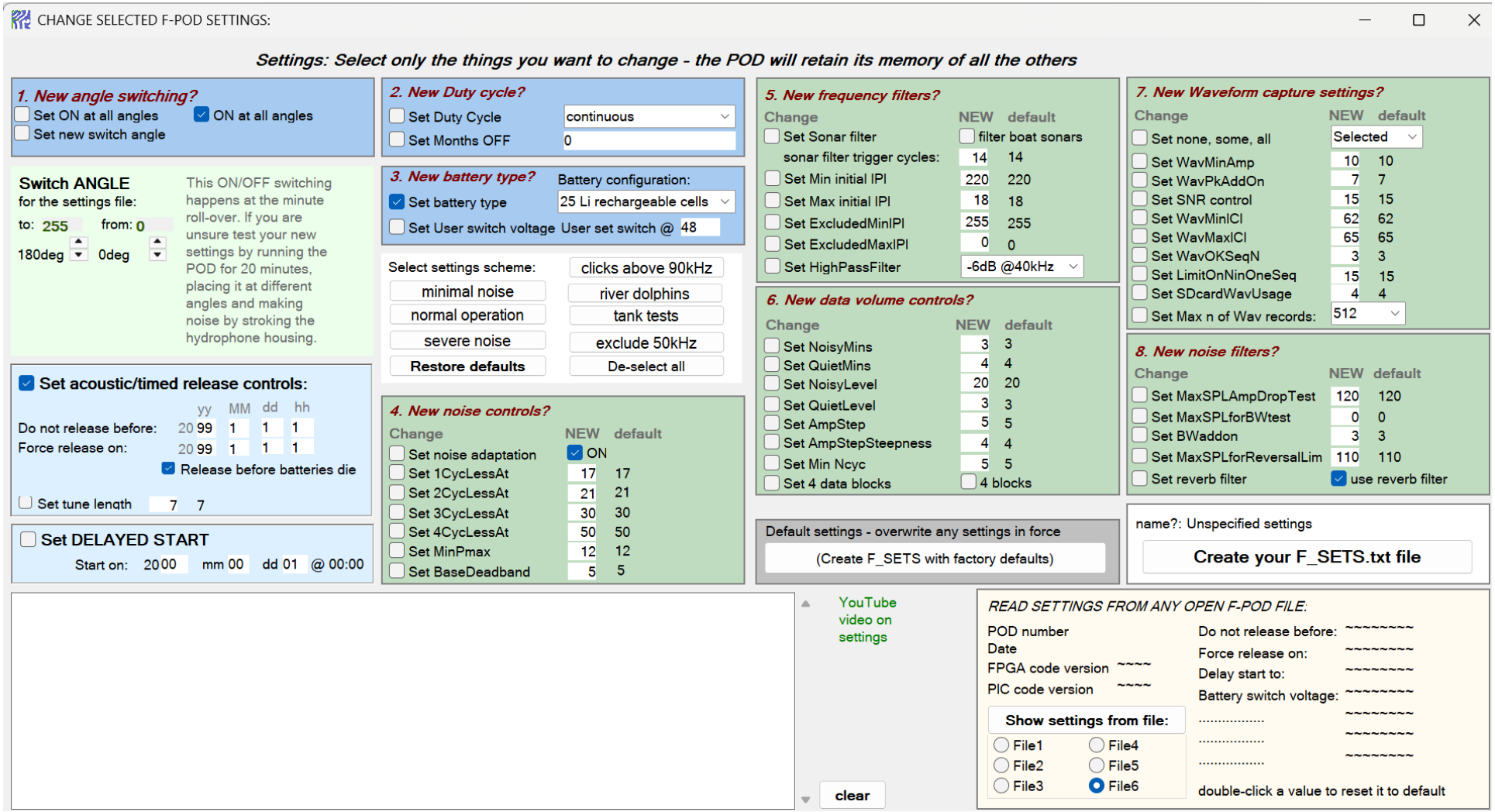
1. Check on the ‘About’ page of the menu that your version of the FPOD app is recent:



2. Open the Settings page of the menu and click the button bottom right



3. You now see all the possible settings:

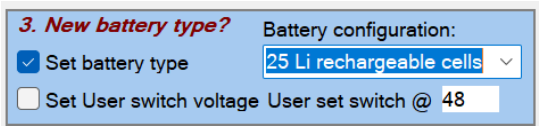


What you will do now is create a settings file 'F_SETS.txt' that will change only the acoustic release settings and the battery selection setting.

4. The battery selection must be set so that the POD knows when to go into a special mode when its batteries are getting low. In this mode it is only awake for 10 seconds each minute. This extends the running period a lot so that it has a chance of hearing the Acoustic Release signal.
This assumes that your normal settings will allow the POD to be ON when you going to try to release it. Those settings are here:

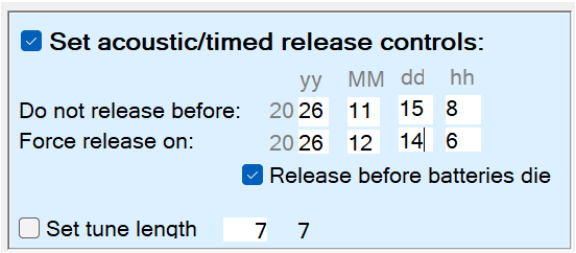
They will not be changed by the F_SETS.txt we are making now because the ☐ Set check boxes are empty.

5. Set the battery selection:



Do not do anything with 'Set User switch voltage' - that's for strange experimental stuff!

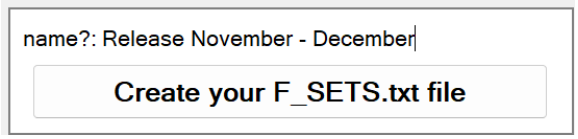
6. Now for actual release settings...
The check box **Set acoustic/timed release controls:** must be ticked or nothing will happen



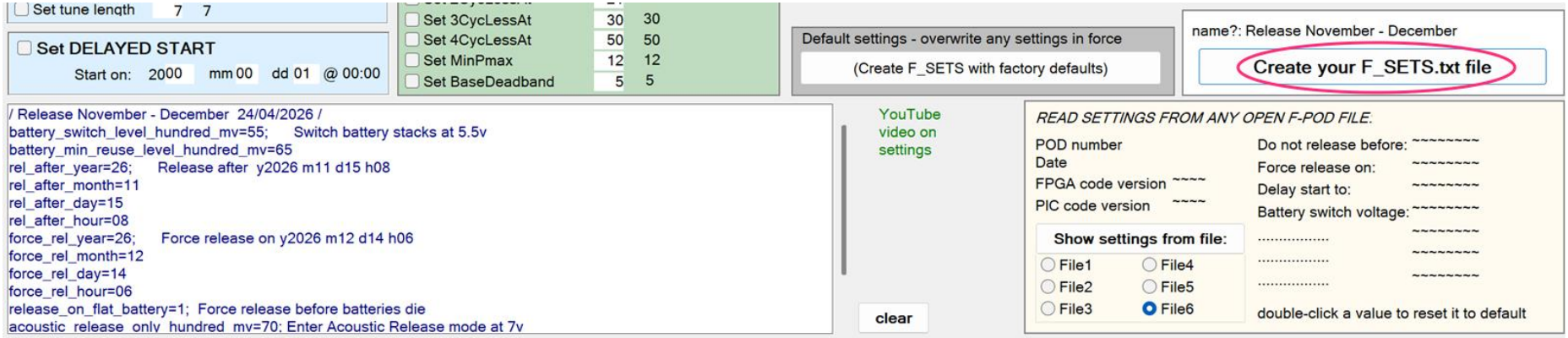
The POD will not release before the **'Do not release before'** date.
There is usually no risk in setting that in the past so the POD could release any time if it heard its own tune, but there are two circumstances that might very rarely create a false alarm. These in the presence of multiple pingers like the Banana Pinger - it randomises tones to reduce the chance of cetaceans habituating to it, but they are a bit like an automated code cracker! The other is the occurrence of a 'WUTS storm' - these mysterious biological events contain huge numbers of tones in huge numbers of different sequences. So 'do not release before' is generally a good idea and it's usually easy to say, 'we will not be going to sea to get this POD before ....'

The **Force release on** date does what it says but often the **Release before batteries die** option makes it unnecessary. If, when a POD failed to appear, when the deck unit called to it, you can easily dive on the site you should not set either of these because once the POD is released it is held only on a nylon line of about 100kg breaking strain. While at the surface this may be cut by a boat propeller or break through abrasion, and then your POD is living free and may go on an overseas holiday

7. You can, if you wish, put a note in the first line of F_SETS.txt saying what it does here:



8. Then click Create your F_SETS.txt file. You will be asked to confirm the important things and then you get:

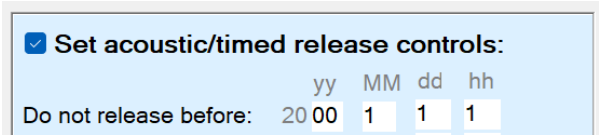


The box, bottom left, shows the contents of F_SETS.txt which includes helpful notes on some lines.
There are some lines that the POD needs that you didn't set, such as:
battery_min_reuse_level_hundred_mv=65
These are created by the software using the information you did set.
'Set tune length' is set to a default automatically.

9. An SD card with this F_SETS file can be placed in any POD that has batteries and it will start, read the file and adopt these settings which is will then keep indefinitely and use when run with a blank SD card.

   If the POD has no acoustic release the only effect of these settings is that the POD will enter the 'acoustic release mode' of logging only a short period in each minute when the batteries get low.

10. **Testing the Acoustic Release**
    This needs the 'do not release before' date to be in the past:



After giving these settings to
Then you connect the acoustic release, start the POD with a blank SD card, let it run for a few minutes and then touch the acoustic release deck unit transducer against the POD transducer housing while the AR deck unit is transmitting the POD number. It should release at the end of the first minute or two - the motor in the AR will run and the two parts will separate between the copper bands.

If this does not work send the FP1 file to Chelonia with notes on what you did.