

BIRD MORTALITY IN LONG-LINE FISHERY DISCUSSED IN VLADIVOSTOK AND PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY

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Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk –Kamchatsky hosted working meetings June 1 – 7 on decreasing incidental catch of birds and sustainable fishery principles developed by the Marine Board of Trustees.

The Board was formed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Unilever Company, the largest fish products buyer in Europe. U.S. specialists were invited to the meetings; they were accompanied by Margaret Williams, Director of the WWF Bering Sea Program, Konstantin Zgurovsky, coordinator of WWF- Far East marine program, and Andrey Yablochkov, field coordinator of WWF's marine program in Kamchatka.

Members of the Fisheries Industry Association of Primorsky krai, Fisheries Committee of Primorsky krai administration, and TINRO specialists were present at the meeting in Vladivostok. The meeting in Kamchatka attracted representatives of Akros Company (large ship-owner of long-ling fishing fleet); Association of small vessels of Kamchatka; "Sevvostrybvod" Federal Management Authority, as well as scientists of two leading research institutes in Kamchatka (KamchatNIRO and Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography) and a fisheries university.

At the meetings with fishers data were presented that vividly illustrate the problem of mortality of seabirds, including those listed in the International List of Endangered Species, such as the short-tailed albatross, and losses that fishers suffer due to birds' attacks during long-line fishing. To address this issue, methods used in numerous countries were presented at the meetings. This news report was provided to Echo-DV news agency by Elena Starostina, WWF-Far East press secretary.