

Seychelles, June 1st 2006

The Chair
c/o Dr Denzil G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary
CCAMLR
P.O. Box 213 North Hobart
Hobart
Tasmania 7002
Australia
Tel: +61-3-62101111
Fax: +61-3-62248744

Subject: Adoption of IOTC Resolution 06/04 on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

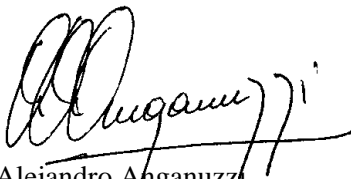
Dear Sir

On behalf of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Commission has adopted, at its Tenth Session, held in Goa, India, May 22nd -26th, 2006, the Resolution 06/04 "On reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries", attached for your information.

This Resolution, which will come into force 120 days after its date of publication, expands on the actions taken earlier by IOTC, and relates to the actions listed in your Resolution 22/XXIII "*International actions to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds arising from fishing*"

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Sincerely yours,



Alejandro Anganuzzi
Executive Secretary

Cc: Mr John Spencer, Chair, IOTC

RESOLUTION 06/04

ON REDUCING INCIDENTAL BYCATCH OF SEABIRDS IN LONGLINE FISHERIES

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC),

RECALLING *Recommendation 05/09 On Incidental Mortality of Seabirds*;

RECOGNISING the need to strengthen mechanisms to protect seabirds in the Indian Ocean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds), and the IOTC Working Party on Bycatch objectives;

ACKNOWLEDGING that to date some Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”) have identified the need for, and have either completed or are near finalising, their National Plan of Action on Seabirds;

RECOGNISING the concern that some species of seabirds, notably albatross and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

NOTING that the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, done at Canberra on 19 June 2001, has entered into force;

NOTING that the ultimate aim of the IOTC and the CPCs is to achieve a zero bycatch of seabirds, especially threatened albatross and petrel species, in longline fisheries;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. The Commission shall, within a year, develop effective mechanisms to enable CPCs to record and exchange data on seabird interactions, including regular reporting to the Commission, and seek agreement to implement all mechanisms as soon as possible thereafter.
2. CPCs shall collect and provide all available information to the Secretariat on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches by fishing vessels flagged to these CPCs.
3. CPCs shall seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons, and fisheries through the use of effective mitigation measures.
4. All vessels fishing south of the parallel of latitude 30 degrees South shall carry and use bird-scaring lines (tori poles):
 - Tori poles shall be in accordance with agreed tori pole design and deployment guidelines (provided for in Appendix A);
 - Tori poles are to be deployed prior to longlines entering the water at all times south of the parallel of latitude 30 degrees South;
 - Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird-scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity;
 - Back-up tori lines shall be carried by all vessels and be ready for immediate use.
5. Surface longline vessels, whilst targeting swordfish, utilising the “American longline system”¹ and equipped with a line-throwing device, shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Resolution.
6. The Commission shall, upon receipt of information from the Scientific Committee, consider, and if necessary, refine, the area of application of the mitigation measures specified in paragraph 4.
7. The Commission shall consider adopting additional measures for the mitigation of any incidental catch of seabirds (including those applied and tested by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) at its annual meeting in 2007.

¹ “American longline system” shall be taken to mean the use of light monofilament gear components for both mainline and droplines, incorporating light sticks. By design, baits will sink rapidly when this gear is set.
