



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS ON SEABIRDS**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2006-02**

*The Commission For The Conservation And Management Of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks In the Western And Central Pacific Ocean*

*Concerned* that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction.

*Noting* advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area.

*Noting* scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in surface longline fisheries has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present.

*Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee* that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non Members and participating Territories (CCMs) shall, to the extent possible, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.
2. CCMs shall report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

*Adopts*, in accordance with Article 5 (e) and 10( i)(c ) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the Commission the following measure to address seabird by-catch:

1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A in areas South of 30 degrees South and North of 23 degrees North.

**Table 1: Mitigation measures**

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Tori line<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Weighted branch lines</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
	<i>Underwater setting chute</i>
	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>

2. In other areas, where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1.
3. The Commission will at its 2007 Annual Meeting adopt minimum technical specifications for the mitigation measures, based on the advice and recommendations of SC3 and TCC3.
4. Guidelines for measures described in Column A, until future research suggests otherwise, are provided in Attachment 1.
5. Guidelines for technical specifications when applying mitigation measures in Column B are provided in Attachment 2.
6. For research and reporting purposes, CCMs that fish in the area south of 30°S and north of 23°N shall submit, to the Commission by 30 November 2007, the specifications of the mitigation measures listed in Columns A and B, that they will require their vessels to employ.
7. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the hauling process. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.
8. The SC and TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes. Where necessary an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.
9. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned.
10. The inter-sessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of by-catch mitigation measures.

<sup>1</sup> This measure can only be applied in the area north of 23 degrees north until research establishes the utility of this measure in waters south of 30 degrees south. If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from column A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

<sup>2</sup> If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

11. CCMs shall provide the Commission with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including by-catches and details of species, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies.

12. Paragraph 1 of this Conservation and Management Measure shall be implemented by CCMs in the following manner:

- In areas south of 30 degrees South, no later than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 in relation to large scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length and no later than 31 January 2009 in relation to smaller longline vessels of less than 24 meters in overall length. .
- In areas North of 23 degrees North, and in relation to large scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length, no later than 30 June 2008.

13 CCMs shall as of 1 January 2007 initiate a process to ensure that vessels flying their flag will be able to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1 within the deadlines referred to in paragraph 12.

14. This Conservation and Management measure replaces Resolution 2005-01 which is hereby repealed.

- Attachment 1: Guidelines for Column A mitigation measures.

1. Tori Lines:

- Minimum length: 100m
- Minimum aerial coverage: 90m
- Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- Streamers must be less than 5m apart and be using swivels.
- Streamers must be long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
- If the tori line is less than 150m in length, must have a drogue attached to the end that will create enough drag to meet the 90 meter coverage requirement.

2. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines:

- Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
- When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- Bird curtain must be employed:
  - Pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long;
  - Min of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole;
  - Main streamer diameter min 20mm;
  - Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – min diameter 10 mm.

3. Night setting:

- No setting between local sunrise and one hour after local sunset ; and
- Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum, noting requirements for safety and navigation.

4. Weighted branch lines:

- Weights attached to all branch lines:
  - minimum of 45 grams weight attached to all branch lines;
  - less than 60 grams weight must be within 1 meter of the hook;
  - greater than 60 grams and less than 98 grams must be within 3.5 meters of the hook; and
  - greater than 98 grams must be within 4 meters of the hook

Attachment 2: Guidelines for Column B mitigation measures.

1. Weighted branch lines:

- Weights attached to all branch lines:
  - minimum of 45 grams weight attached to all branch lines;
  - less than 60 grams weight must be within 1 meter of the hook;
  - greater than 60 grams and less than 98 grams must be within 3.5 meters of the hook; and
  - greater than 98 grams must be within 4 meters of the hook

2. Blue dyed bait:

- The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized color placard.
- All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

3. Management of Offal Discharge:

- Either:
  - No offal discharge during setting or hauling; or
  - Strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.