

INTERNATIONAL SEABIRD ACTIVITIES NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA Fisheries has engaged in numerous international activities relating to efforts to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. The United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organizations (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) (see paragraphs 19 and 20) specifically calls on its States (member countries) to do the following: States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, should strive to cooperate through regional and subregional fisheries organizations or arrangements, and other forms of cooperation, to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

In implementing the IPOA-SEABIRDS States recognize that cooperation among States which have important longline fisheries is essential to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds given the global nature of the issue. States should strive to collaborate through FAO and through bilateral and multilateral arrangements in research, training and the production of information and promotional material.

For additional information about NOAA Fisheries activities on seabird/fishery interactions as well as a link to the FAO's IPOA-Seabirds, see <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/national.htm>

International activities undertaken by NOAA Fisheries to address seabird 'bycatch' include:

Promotion/encouragement of the implementation of the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organizations (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) at regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs), bilateral fishery meetings, international conferences and workshops, and other appropriate venues.

Seabird-fishery items occurred at the following:

- FAO's 22th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy (adopt resolution to develop International Plan of Action on Seabirds) (Mar 97)
- Preparation for FAO technical consultation on seabirds, Seabird Technical Working Group, Tokyo, Japan (Mar 98)
- US/Mexico fisheries bilateral meeting, Seattle, WA (Sept 98)
- FAO technical consultation on seabirds, Rome, Italy (Oct 98)
- US/Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Seattle, WA (Jan 99)
- FAO's 23th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy (adopt International Plan of Action on Seabirds) (Mar 99)
- US/Chile fisheries bilateral meeting, Monterey, CA (Nov 99)
- US/Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Moscow Russia (Mar 00)
- International Fishers Forum, Auckland, New Zealand (Nov 00)
- US adopts National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) (Feb 01)
- US participation in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) workshop on seabird bycatch, Cape Town, South Africa (Apr 01)
- US Representation at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF (Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Working Group—Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing), Hobart, Australia (Oct 01)
- US International Bycatch Reduction Task Force, includes seabirds, formed Jan 02
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial (April 02)

- US/People's Republic of China fisheries fisheries bilateral meeting (May 02)
- APEC Fisheries Working Group (FWG) (May 02)
- FAO-IPOA Case Study (May 02)
- Demarche sent to 23 nations (including EU) on seabird bycatch issues (June 02)
- US/European Union (EU) fisheries bilateral meeting, Washington DC (July 02)
- US/Canada fisheries bilateral meeting, Washington DC (Aug 02)
- US/Chile fisheries bilateral meeting, Vina del Mar, Chile (Sept 02)
- US/Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Moscow Russia; progress on MOU that may include exchange of information and technical advice on seabird bycatch issues (Sept 02)
- US Representation at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF, Hobart, Australia (Oct 02)
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Bilboa, Spain (Nov 02); US co-sponsor of resolution on seabird bycatch that is adopted by ICCAT
- 2nd International Fishers Forum, Honolulu, HI (Nov 02)
- Final Report on 'Performance Assessment of an Underwater Setting Chute to Minimize Seabird Mortality in the Hawaii Pelagic Longline Tuna Fishery'; collaborative research effort between US and Australian scientists (Dec 02)
- Collaborative international research efforts to study the use of Integrated Weight groundlines in longline fisheries and paired streamer lines as seabird bycatch deterrent devices; US scientist (from Washington Sea Grant Program, University of Washington) working in Australia and New Zealand (Dec 02-Dec 03)
- US/Japan fisheries fisheries bilateral meeting, La Jolla, CA (Jan 03)
- NMFS Science Board endorses concept of a global seabird bycatch database (Jan 03)
- FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 25th Session; head of US delegation includes seabird talking points in conveyance to COFI (Feb 03)
- NMFS-sponsored International Technical Expert Workshop on Marine Turtle Bycatch in Longline Fisheries; presentation on seabird bycatch issues in longline fisheries; Seattle, WA (Feb 03)
- APEC's FWG; joint proposal submitted by Chile and US on seabird bycatch (May 03)
- US/EU fisheries fisheries bilateral meeting, Washington DC (June 03)
- US/Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Portland, OR; development of draft MOU which includes element on seabird bycatch (Sept03)
- US Representation at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF, Hobart, Australia (Oct 03)
- Demarche sent to ICCAT nations re: implementation of seabird bycatch resolution (02-14) (Oct 03)
- ICCAT annual meeting, US includes seabird bycatch information in national report, Dublin, Ireland (Oct 03)
- US/Taiwan fisheries meeting, agenda includes seabird bycatch; reference made to technical seabird bycatch workshop in Taiwan sponsored by BirdLife International and endorsed by Taiwan Fisheries Administration; Rosslyn, VA (Nov 03)
- ICCAT annual meeting; previously sent demarche to ICCAT members re: implementation of Resolution 02-14, seabird bycatch resolution adopted last year; Dublin, Ireland (Nov 03)
- Participation at FAO/BirdLife International workshop, Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, in Valdivia, Chile (Dec 03)
- US participation and support planned for technical workshop on seabird bycatch in longline fisheries, focus on Asian nations, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; workshop hosted by BirdLife International and Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan, endorsed by Taiwan Fisheries Administration (Jan 04)
- US/Mexico fisheries bilateral meeting, Mazatlan, Mexico (Mar 04)
- Short-tailed Albatross Recovery Team meeting, Chiba, Japan (May 04)

- US/Taiwan fisheries meeting, agenda includes seabird bycatch, Rosslyn, VA (June 04)
- World Wildlife Fund's Russia Far East Program holds seabird bycatch workshops with Russia longline fishermen and government representatives; US experts familiar with Alaska seabird bycatch mitigation solutions are invited to participate; Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia (June 04)
- US/Canada fisheries bilateral meeting, Washington, D.C. (July 04)
- US/Chile fisheries bilateral meeting, Juneau, AK (July 04)
- Third International Albatross & Petrel Conference; NOAA Fisheries-sponsored workshop, "Quantifying Seabird Bycatch: A Global Perspective", Montevideo, Uruguay (Aug 04)
- US/Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, St. Petersburg, Russia (Sept 04)
- US Representation at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF, Hobart, Australia (Oct 04)
- 4th International Fisheries Observer Conference; NOAA Fisheries-sponsored workshop, "Development of Best Practices for the Collection of Longline Data to Facilitate Research and Analysis to Reduce Bycatch", Sydney, Australia (Nov 04)
- Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels, First Meeting of the Parties, US attends as an observer, Hobart, Australia (Nov 04)
- US-sponsored side session "IPOA-Seabirds: Best Practices for NPOA Development" at FAO's 26th Session of COFI, Rome, Italy (Mar 05)
- presentation "IPOA-Seabirds: Implementation by RFMOs" for 4th Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies, RFB-4, Rome, Italy (Mar 05)
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), 73rd Meeting, Lanzarote, Spain; Resolution C-05-01 on Incidental Mortality of Seabirds (June 05)
- 1st Advisory Committee of Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Hobart, Australia (July 05)
- Co-presentation "Seabirds: Review of International Governmental Initiatives" at International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries & 3rd International Fishers Forum, Yokohama, Japan (July 05)
- Seabird presentation at 16th Session of the U.S.-Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on Fisheries, Seattle, Washington (Sept 05)
- Seabird briefing provided at US-Brazil Common Agenda for the Environment Meeting, Washington, D.C. (Sept 05)
- US Co-Convener at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF, Hobart, Australia (Oct/Nov 05)
- USFWS releases its draft Short-tailed Albatross Recovery Plan; NOAA Fisheries participates on Recovery Team (Nov 05)
- US-Chile Fisheries Cooperation Talks, January 2006, Punta Arenas, Chile (Jan 06)
- International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, Bycatch Working Group Meeting, LaJolla, CA (Mar 06)
- IATTC's Stock Assessment Working Group Meeting, LaJolla, CA (May 06)
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels Advisory Committee Meeting, June 2006, Brasilia, Brazil (June 06)
- Seabird presentation at 17th Session of the U.S.-Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on Fisheries, Kalingrad, Russia (Sept 06)
- Presentation on implementation of FAO's IPOA-Seabirds at North American Ornithological Congress, Veracruz, Mexico (Oct 06)
- US participation at "Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Pelagic Longline Fisheries Workshop", hosted by Washington Sea Grant Program, held in Hobart, Australia (Oct 06)
- US Co-Convener at CCAMLR's WG-IMAF, Hobart, Australia (Oct/Nov 06)
- US represented at ACAP's 2nd Meeting of the Parties, Christchurch, New Zealand (Nov 06)

- Western Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, 3rd Session, Apia, Samoa (adoption of binding seabird measure) (Dec 06)
- US fishermen at South American Fishers Forum Guaruja, Brazil (Dec 06)
- Joint Meeting of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Kobe, Japan (Jan 07)
- ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, Madrid, Spain (work on Resolution's seabird assessment) (Feb 07)
- IATTC's 6th Meeting of the Bycatch Working Group, La Jolla, CA, USA (Feb 07)
- FAO's 27th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy (Mar 07)

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