



FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

3-7 December 2007

Tumon, Guam, USA

FINAL REPORT OF THE SMALL GROUP ON “SEABIRD BYCATCH MITIGATION”

WCPFC4-2007/22
4 December 2007

As the methods below have not all been given due consideration by the SC and TCC all are subject to review and are considered to be provisional. Recognizing that the SC and the TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions that indicate their effectiveness in reducing seabird bycatch for that measure. CCMs with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area shall submit to the Commission detailed information describing the minimum technical specifications being used in fulfillment of this measure as well as any data resulting from research undertaken and/or monitoring measures to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird by catch.

Specifications for Column A mitigation measures.

1a). Tori Lines:

- i. Minimum length: 100m
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible,
- v. If the tori line is less than 150m in length, must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks
- vi. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

1b). Tori Line (light streamer):

- i. Minimum length of tori line: 100m or three times the total length of the vessel,
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks
- iv. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30cm in minimum

- v. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

4. Weighted branch lines:

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required
- ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 grams, with the following options:
 - less than 60 grams weight attached to within 1 meter of the hook or;
 - greater than 60 grams and less than 98 grams weight attached to within 3.5 meters of the hook or;
 - greater than 98 grams weight attached to within 4 meters of the hook; or

Specification for Column B mitigation measures.

1. Weighted branch lines:

- i. Weights attached to all branch lines:
- ii. Following minimum weight specifications are required
 - minimum of 45 grams weight attached to all branch lines; or
 - less than 60 grams weight attached within 1 meter of the hook; or
 - greater than 60 grams and less than 98 grams weight attached to within 3.5 meters of the hook; or
 - greater than 98 grams weight attached to within 4 meters of the hook