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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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Prepared by FFA Members

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

Concerned that some 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 is not yet conclusive and the effectiveness of various measures has been shown to vary greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5 (e) and 10 (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 bycatch:

1. In areas, south of 30°S and north of 23°N, Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall require their longline vessels to use at least one of the mitigation measures from Column A.
2. In areas south of 30°S and north of 23°N CCMs shall encourage their longline vessels to use one of the mitigation measures from Column B.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

Column A	Column B
Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines ¹	Tori line ²

¹ This measure can only be applied in the area north of 23°N until research establishes the utility of this measure in waters south of 30°S.

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

<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Weighted branch lines</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
	<i>Underwater setting chute</i>
	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>

In other areas, where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1. [*straight from SC recommendation*]

The minimum specifications for measures described in column A until future research suggests otherwise are provided in Attachment 1: CCMs should consider the following specifications in regard to Column B measures provided in Attachment 2, and shall submit, to the Commission by May 2007, the specifications of the mitigation measures, as detailed in Table 1, that they are requiring their vessels to employ.

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 May 2007, the specifications of the mitigation measures, as detailed in Table 1, that they are requiring their vessels to employ.

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.

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.

CCMs shall require observers aboard their vessels to collect the following information in accordance with the operation of the Regional Observer Program (once established)

- Seabird interactions including the fate of seabirds
- Use and effectiveness of mitigation measures, including any voluntary measures (including Column B)

CCMs shall require their fishers to report seabird interactions, including the fate of the seabirds [*to standards agreed by the Commission? – to allow for a decision on the appropriate taxonomic level for fisher reporting*]

Attachment 1: Minimum Specifications for Column 1 measures

1. Tori Lines:

- Minimum length: 100m
- Minimum aerial coverage: 90m
- Must be attached so that tori line runs directly over the point where bait enters the water
- Streamers must be less than 5m apart
- 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 metre 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.

Attachment 2:

1. Weighted branch lines:

- Weights attached to all branch lines:
 - 60 grams or less must be within 3.5m of the hook; or
 - greater than 60 grams must be within 4m 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.