



COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
4-8 December 2023
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

New Zealand-led process for the review of WCPFC CMM 2018-03

WCPFC20-2023-DP18
8 December 2023

New Zealand

WCPFC19 agreed that the *conservation and management measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds* (CMM 2018-03) will be reviewed over 2023 and 2024. The agreed purpose of the review is: “*to ensure that effective mitigation methods are required and applied across the Convention Area where there is bycatch risk to vulnerable seabirds from longline fishing*”.

The New Zealand-led informal review process includes:

1. Before the end of 2023, New Zealand will collate and share scientific papers on seabird mitigation methods with interested CCMs and invite identification of gaps and contributions of relevant science.
2. The first informal online meeting will be held on **20 February 2024** over 4.5 hours; chaired by NZ. Proposed topics include:
 - An overview presentation from NZ on different mitigation methods.
 - Discussions on mitigation methods that have been proven to be inefficient.
 - Discussions on detailed specifications of tori lines and branch line weighting and their efficacy in different fleets and fisheries.
 - A presentation from Marine Stewardship Council on certifications and how the CMM 2018-03 and any revisions thereof may relate to these.
 - Opportunities for CCMs to present their work.
3. The second informal online meeting will be **7 May 2024**, over 6.5 hours; chaired by NZ. Proposed topics include:
 - An overview presentation from NZ to reiterate main points from the first meeting.
 - A presentation from the US on their shallow-set experiments in the Northern Hemisphere (pending confirmation).
 - A presentation from NZ on seabird tracking, and the associated distribution and overlap analyses.

- Discussions on the different combinations of options in the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.
 - Discussions on the spatial extent of the CMM requirements in relation to fishing effort and seabird distribution.
 - Discussion on current and potential MCS tools and requirements to be included in the CMM.
 - Opportunities for CCMs to present their own work.
 - Suggestions for further work to be submitted to SC20 and TCC20.
4. Taking into account the feedback and expert input of CMMs, New Zealand will draft a revised CMM 2018-03 for submission to SC20, TCC20, and for approval at WCPFC21.
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