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**JAPAN REPORT: SEABIRDS MITIGATION MEASURES IN NORTH PACIFIC**

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## JAPAN REPORT: SEABIRDS MITIGATION MEASURES IN NORTH PACIFIC

### **Introduction**

This report provides information for TCC10 regarding the use of seabird mitigation measures in the North Pacific Ocean.

### **Evaluate the Effectiveness of Multiple Mitigation Measures on pelagic longline operations in the North Pacific Ocean**

At SC9 Japan presented the results of research to evaluate the effectiveness of multiple mitigation measures on pelagic longline operations in the North Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC9-2013/ EB-WP-11 Rev 1). The results clearly showed that tori lines used with unweighted branch lines effectively reduced seabird attack and bycatch rates in pelagic longline operations in the Western and Central North Pacific. Weighted branch line also effectively reduced bycatch, but less so than tori lines. Combining tori lines and weighted branch lines showed little to no improved performance. These results differ from those of similar research staged in the Southern Hemisphere (Melvin et al. 2014) due primarily to differences in seabird assemblages. Melvin et al. (2014) reported that albatross attacks on baits brought to the surface by white-chinned petrels drove albatross mortality. However, unlike the Southern Hemisphere, the seabird community attending longline vessels in the North Western Pacific included few diving seabirds (Sato et al. 2012). These results suggest that, unlike the Southern Hemisphere, deployment of a single mitigation measure – well-designed tori lines – dramatically reduce albatross bycatch in the pelagic longline fisheries in the Western North Pacific, and therefore are recommended as best-practice seabird mitigation for these fisheries.

### **Constraints on using mitigation methods (following up to paragraph 354, TCC9 report and paragraph 1- of CCM 2012-07)**

At SC10 Japan presented information of utilization of seabird mitigation techniques voluntarily used in in Japanese small-sized longline vessels operated in in the North Pacific Ocean collected from a hearing survey (WCPFC-SC10-2014/ EB-WP-07). In the survey it is found that tori line is a very popular mitigation technique for Japanese small longline vessels in North Pacific. However, many fishing masters complained and concerned to use long streamers, double tori-line and towing devices because these specifications led tori-line entanglement with longline gear in rough sea. Fishing master's concern about deployment style of tori-line related to gear entanglement also suggests that it should be cautious to decide appropriate designs of tori-line.

## References

- Melvin, E. F., Guy, T. J. and Read, L. B. 2014. Best practice seabird bycatch mitigation for pelagic longline fisheries targeting tuna and related species. *Fish. Res.* 149: 5-18.
- Sato, N., Ochi, D., Minami, H. and Yokawa, K. 2012. Evaluation of the effectiveness of light streamer tori-lines and characteristics of bait attacks by seabirds in the western North Pacific. *Plos One* 7: e37546.