



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Eighth Regular Session

27 September- 2 October 2012

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Draft Revised CMM2007-04 2012

WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP18

2 October 2012

Paper prepared by New Zealand

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO CMM2007-04 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY
FISH STOCKS ON SEABIRDS**

WCPFC9-2012-DP-XX

October 2012

Paper prepared by New Zealand

SC8 has recommended that CMM 2007-04 be revised to remove ineffective measures and include better specifications for tori lines and line weighting. New Zealand supports the recommendation of SC8 and has been working with others to develop the attached revised draft seabird measure ahead of WCPFC9.

New Zealand would welcome comments from other CMMs on these draft amendments before 1 November 2012. If all comments could be sent to Steve Brouwer stephen.brouwer@mpi.govt.nz (Principal Scientist at the Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand) he will guide this intercessional work.

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT
OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS ON SEABIRDS¹**

New Zealand proposed amendment to CMM2007-04

Conservation and Management Measure 2012-xx

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Concerned that some seabird 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 has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present.

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) shall, to the extent possible, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.
2. CCMs shall report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

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

South of 30° South

1. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, to use at least two of these three measures: weighted branch lines, night setting and tori lines. Table 1 does not apply south of 30° South. ~~at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A in areas south of 30 degrees South and north of 23 degrees North.~~

¹ By adoption of this CMM (CMM-2012-xx) the Commission rescinds CMM-2007-04 which has been revised and replaced.

North of 23° North

2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines²</i>	<i>Tori line³</i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Weighted branch lines</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Blue dyed bait</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
	<i>Underwater setting chute</i>
	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>

Other Areas

23. In other areas (between 30°S and 23°N), where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1 in Paragraph 1.

General Principals

34. Minimum technical specifications for measures in Paragraphs 1 and 2 Table 1 are provided in Annex 1.

45. For research and reporting purposes, each CCM with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area south of 30°S or north of 23°N shall submit to the Commission in part 2 of its annual report annually for 2007 (due in 2008) information describing which of the mitigation measures in Table 1 they require or will require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each such CCM shall also include in its annual reports for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

56. 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 and should submit to the Secretariat for the use by the SC and the TCC any information derived from such efforts. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.

67. 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 for its consideration and review as appropriate.

² This measure can only be applied in the area north of 23 degrees north until research establishes the utility of this measure in waters south of 30 degrees south. If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from eColumn A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

³ If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

78. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned. [Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged.](#)

89. The intersessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of by-catch mitigation measures.

910. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds, including [mitigation used, observed and reported species specific seabird bycatches rates and numbers and details of species](#), to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies.

~~10. Paragraph 1 of this Conservation and Management Measure shall be implemented by CCMs in the following manner:~~

~~———— In areas south of 30 degrees South, no later than 1 January 2008 in relation to large scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length, and no later than 31 January 2009 in relation to smaller longline vessels of less than 24 meters in overall length.~~

~~———— In areas north of 23 degrees North, and in relation to large scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length, no later than 30 June 2008.~~

~~11. CCMs shall as of 1 January 2007 initiate a process to ensure that vessels flying their flag will be able to comply with the provisions of para 1 within the deadlines referred to in para 10.~~

1211. This Conservation and Management measure replaces [Resolution 2005-04/CMM2007-04](#), which is hereby repealed.

Attachment O, Annex 1

~~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 fulfilment 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 bycatch.~~

Specifications for Column A mitigation measures

1) Tori lines

1a) For vessels ≥ 35 m total length Tori Lines

- ~~i. Simultaneous use of two tori lines, one on each side of the sinking longline, is recommended as best practice for larger vessels. Baited hooks shall be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.~~
- ~~ii. A tori line using long and short streamers should be used. Streamers should be: brightly coloured, a mix of long and short streamers. Long streamers should be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and long streamers must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers should reach the sea-surface in calm conditions. Short streamers should be no less than 30 cm long and should be placed no more than 1m apart.~~
- ~~iii. Vessels should deploy tori lines to achieve a desired aerial extent of 100 m; or use a tori line with a minimum length of 100 m. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length, it must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.~~
- ~~iv. If large vessels use only one tori line, the tori line should be deployed windward of sinking baits. If baited hooks are set outboard of the wake, the tori line attachment point to the vessel shall be positioned several meters outboard of the side of the vessel that baits are deployed. This position is best achieved using a purpose build davit (tori pole) located as close to the stern and as far aft as practical. Proper outboard positioning also minimises the likelihood of tori lines tangling on float lines.
 - ~~i. Minimum length: 100 m~~
 - ~~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 two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.~~

1b) For vessels <35 m total length ~~Tori Line (light streamer)~~

- i. A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only can be used.
 - ii. Streamers should be: brightly coloured, a mix of long and short streamers. Long streamers should be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and long streamers must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers should reach the sea-surface in calm conditions. Short streamers should be no less than 30 cm long and should be placed no more than 1m apart.
 - iii. Vessels should deploy tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent 75 m; or use a tori line with a minimum length of 100 m. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length, it must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
 - iv. If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.
-
- ~~i. 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.~~
 - ~~ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.~~
 - ~~iii. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm in minimum length.~~
- ~~If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.~~

2. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. 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.
- ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
 - Pole aft of line shooter at least 3 m long;
 - Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2 m of pole;
 - Main streamer diameter minimum 20 mm;
 - Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10 mm.

3. Night setting

- i. No setting between local sunrise and one hour after local sunset.
- ii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum, noting requirements for safety and navigation.

~~4. Weighted branch lines~~

- ~~i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:~~
- ~~ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:~~

- ~~• less than 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook or;~~
- ~~• greater than 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 ms of the hook or;~~
- ~~• greater than 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.~~

Specifications for Column B mitigation measures

4. Weighted branch lines

i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:

~~ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:~~

- ~~• one weight of at least 40g within 50cm of the hook; or~~
- ~~• less than greater than a total of 45g to 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook; or~~
- ~~• greater than a total of 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 m of the hook;~~
or
- ~~• greater than a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m 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

i. 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.