



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

Valdivia, Chile, 12 - 15 June 2007

Title: I South American Fishers Forum to Reduce Seabird Bycatch

Author: Projeto Albatroz – Brazil

Meeting Title: I South American Fishers Forum to Reduce Seabird Bycatch

Date and Location: 12 to 14 December, 2006, at the Delphin Hotel in Guarujá, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Website Address: <http://www.forumdepescadores.com.br/>

Your Name/Affiliation: Projeto Albatroz

Capacity of Attendance: 60 people

Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different: Tatiana Neves, Brazilian Delegation

Summary of Content:

The Forum's main aim was to promote information exchange between fishermen, ship owners, researchers, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations to illustrate and talk about the fisheries practices to reduce seabird bycatch in South American countries, especially by longline and trawler fisheries. Sixty participants, including fishermen and researchers from many different countries including Australia, New Zealand, United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Chile, Ecuador and Brazil participated in this experience.

The Forum was divided in three sessions, in the first day was presented the Opening Ceremony with some important authorities including the Minister Altemir Gregolin, from the Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, the Director of Fauna and Fisheries Resources from IBAMA, Rômulo Mello, the representant of Southern Seabird Solutions, Janice Molloy from New Zealand, the General Director of Instituto Albatroz, Patrícia Palumbo and the Municipal Environmental Secretary of Guarujá City, Elson Maceió dos Santos. In this same day it was carried out the Session 1 called "Seabird and Fisheries Interactions in south America Countries / Regions: Updates and Future Priorities" where a researcher and a fisherman from each South American country/region involved talked about their experience and point of view on the issues and the solutions to reduce seabird bycatch. This partnership between fishermen and researchers was extremely rich considering that both sides had the opportunities to present their information in a complementary way, making the discussion during the forum more dynamic and objective.

The first talk was from Chile, by Dr. Carlos Moreno, from the Universidade Austral del Chile and by the longline fisherman Mr. Benjamín Azua from Pesca-Chile. Brazil was

represented by the Projeto Albatroz representative, Ms. Patrícia Mancini (MSc) together with longline fishing skipper Mr. Say Costa. Ecuador was represented by Mrs. Sandra Loor-Vela from Aves & Conservacion and the fisherman Manuel Parrales. After lunch, Mrs. Patrícia Gandini from Universidade Nacional de La Patagônia Austral and the Fisheries Industries represented by Julian Crugeiras. Peru was represented by Mrs. Elisa Goya, from the Instituto del Mar del Peru – IMARPE and the fishermen Francisco e Manuel Ramos. Mr. Isaac Forster, from Falklands Conservation and Mrs, Justine Mary. The last speakers were Uruguayan representatives, Mr. Andrés Domingos from Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos – DINARA and Gabriel Tomás, a longline fisherman.

In the second day was presented the Session 2: “Learning from Each Other – Experiences of Overseas Fishermen” started with the fishery consultant, Mr. Richard Wells from New Zealand. This was followed by Mr. David Kreutz, fisherman and observer from Australia. The industry initiatives to reduce seabird bycatch in the longline fishery in Alaska were presented by the fisherman Mr. Mark Lundsten. Mr. José Tenório, fishery skipper from Spain, talked about concerns in the Antarctic longline fishery in the CCAMLR area (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources). After the second speaker session there were Working Groups: “Working Together – opportunities for collaboration on seabird bycatch within and between countries” where the participants were divided into four groups for a discussion when the followings topics were raised: What are the strong areas of expertise and knowledge in South America? What are the undeveloped areas of expertise and knowledge in South America? Who can we collaborate with and how? After the working Groups, the third speaker session began and it was called: “How Conservation Groups, Researchers and Government Can Support Fishermen?”, the first to speak was Dr. Esteban Frere, coordinator of BirdLife International in South America, introducing the Albatross Task Force Program whose goal is to reduce global seabird mortality in all fisheries, through field instruction and environmental education. After him, Dr. Roberto Warhlich, the Coordinator of Observer Program of Leased Fleet – PROA, jointly with Vale do Itajai University – UNIVALI, spoke on the observers’ roles and how these could benefit fishermen. And then Mr. Douglas Meyer, on behalf of Bernuth & Williamson Consulting / Seafood Choices Alliance, of the United States introduced the emerging markets for sustainable seafood and its relevance to seabirds. And finally Dr. Martin Hall, from the Inter American Tropical Tuna

Commission IATTC, presented the last talk entitled “All together now – the turtle initiative and lessons for seabirds”.

On the last day of Forum there were some Breakout Sessions where the participants were then separated into groups to discuss four topics. The first one “Best Known Mitigation Measures for Each Fishing Method Used in South America” was coordinated by Mrs. Janice Molloy (New Zealand) and there were three speakers: Mr. Gabriel Tomás (Uruguay), Humerto Flores (Chile) and José Tenório (CCAMLR) that talked in relation to the experiences of their countries. The second group discussed “On Board Observers – Increasing their Acceptance in Fisheries”, was coordinated by Dr. Esteban Frere and Andres Domingo. Dr. Roberto Wahrlich and Mrs. Justine Mary talked about the experiences of their countries. The third group was coordinated by Dr. Carlos Moreno and Patrícia Mancini (MSc) and dealt with “Effective Ways to Introduce Fishermen to Mitigation Measures”. Other members of this group that provided presentation were Mr. Fabiano Peppes (Brazil), Elisa Goya (Peru) and Isaac Foster (Malvinas/Falklands). The discussion was centered around finding effective ways to introduce the mitigation theme to fishermen, based on the experiences of each country. The fourth working group discussed “Strategies to attain the benefits of sustainable seafood markets for South America” and was coordinated by Tatiana Neves and Douglas Meyer (EUA). Presentations were provided by Martin Hall (IATTC) and Guilherme Soares (Special Secretariat of Aquiculture and Fisheries of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil) were speakers in this group. In the end of the day there was the Closure Session and the working groups presented their reports in plenary where they were briefly discussed. Each participant promised to help in the seabird issues, within their professional area. The fishermen talked about their feelings (impressions) about the forum and made some suggestions for the next one; they congratulated those who initiated the event, as well the Projeto Albatroz team for their organization. Finally there was a group dynamic with all the participants that marked the end of the I South American Fishermen Forum to Reduce the Seabirds Bycatch. The event was largely covered by Brazilian media and all the authorities and some participants were interviewed.

Outcome (e.g. summary of relevant discussion, resolution, etc):

During the discussions, the participants identified that the official observers programmes that cover some areas in South America were one of the strongest areas of expertise and knowledge. All countries have a technical ability to work on conservation issues and

in all cases there is a friendly relationship among the NGOs, Government and the fishery sector. There are also several positive fisheries examples from the CCAMLR area and the ability to work together on regional matters was noted. In several countries the National Plan of Actions activities are being implemented including testing and adopting mitigation measures in longline fleets.

However, the group agreed that in all cases there is a lack of perception from fishermen and industries about the relevance of Observer Programs. It was pointed that the problem can be solved through the observers, captains and fishermen and through training courses, projects and direct contacts.

About the certification processes, four main questions were raised: 1. What is the goal? 2. Who is the target public? 3. What message would we like to give? and 4. What is the strategy to get the message to the public? The group that discussed this issue agreed that it is necessary to answer these questions as a first step to evaluate, case by case, the feasibility / necessity of certification processes implementation.

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

Argentina announced its desire to host the II South American Fishers Forum - II SAFF that should be hold in 2008 in Mar del Plata.

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

This Forum is strongly related with the ACAP/WGSB's objectives. In this way we recommended that such WGSB designate a participant to follow the discussions in the II SAFF.