

 <p data-bbox="215 526 454 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="587 235 1385 324" style="text-align: center;"><b>Eighth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p data-bbox="630 340 1388 385" style="text-align: center;"><i>Wellington, New Zealand, 4 – 6 September 2017</i></p> <p data-bbox="534 454 1337 600" style="text-align: center;"><b>Working towards the reduction of seabird bycatch in Southern cone fisheries</b></p> <p data-bbox="758 627 1114 667" style="text-align: center;"><i>BirdLife International</i></p>
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### **SUMMARY**

As many as 25,000 seabirds are potentially killed in marine fisheries around the southern cone of South America each year. A group of professionals from government, national fishery institutes and local NGOs collaborated to identify solutions and develop lines of cooperation during a workshop entitled "Incidental Capture of Seabirds: Solutions in the Southern Cone", which was held in Valdivia, Chile between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Inform the ACAP SBWG members of the workshop and main outcomes;
2. Encourage similar opportunities for further collaborations, with special regard to "natural partnerships" that link countries through cross-boundary seabird migration patterns;

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Argentina and Chile together comprise the iconic southern cone of South America, where the principle fisheries include large industrial trawl fleets. The region is a hotspot foraging area for several threatened species of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of ACAP. In recent years the SBWG have considered several reports that identified fisheries in the southern cone that impact species listed under Annex 1 (Argentina, 2013a; Argentina, 2013b; Argentina, 2013c; BirdLife International 2013; Adasme & Vega, 2016; Tamini et al., 2016). In light of the potential cumulative impact of these fisheries on vulnerable seabirds, and with consideration to the potential for dramatic reductions in interactions through the implementation of simple and effective measures described in the same documents, a workshop was held to bring together experts from the two countries to discuss solutions and develop lines of collaborative work.

## 1.1. Workshop objectives

The specific objectives of the workshop were as follows:

1. strengthen the links between the main researchers and managers in Argentina and Chile;
2. identify common goals between the two countries and opportunities for collaboration and sharing experiences;
3. align the objectives in common with the work plan of the ACAP seabird by-catch working group;
4. identify lines of work to experiment with potential mitigation measures;
5. develop future plans for the implementation of mitigation measures.

## 2. MAIN OUTCOMES

Among the four main trawl fleets<sup>1</sup> in the southern cone, according to the evidence shared in the workshop, about 25,000 birds are likely to die each year due to negative interactions with fisheries;

Individuals present at the workshop will continue to strengthen linkages to enhance shared capacity to generate positive changes for the conservation of seabirds;

It was recommended to develop future regional workshops to continue strengthening the links between experts along the Atlantic and Pacific corridors, for which Argentina and Chile are well positioned to offer a leading role;

It was agreed to work together to improve the collection of standardized data on interactions and incidental mortality that would permit spatially and temporally stratified analysis;

It was agreed to promote the integration of information between the different organisations at a national and international level;

It was agreed to collaborate with fishery enforcement authorities in the elaboration, proposal and implementation of conservation measures to mitigate the incidental mortality of seabirds in the southern cone fisheries;

It was agreed to promote the updating and implementation of the National Action Plans to reduce the interactions of seabirds with fisheries;

Finally, an agreement to continue to work together to advance the development and implementation of mitigation measures in the southern cone fleets was discussed and a statement of intent was signed by the workshop participants (ANNEX 1).

## 3. REFERENCES

Adasme, L. and Vega, R. 2016. SBWG7 Doc 19: Captura incidental de aves marinas en la pesquería de arrastre demersal en la zona sur austral de Chile. *Seventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group*. La Serena, Chile, 2 - 4 May 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina: industrial demersal trawl fleet & austral mid-water trawl fleet  
Chile: industrial central-southern demersal trawl fleet & austral mid-water trawl fleet

Argentina. 2013a. SBWG5 Doc 27: Superposición espacial durante el período no reproductivo de Albatros de Ceja Negra de Islas Malvinas con pesquerías de arrastre y palangre. *Quinta Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Captura Secundaria de Aves Marinas*. La Rochelle, Francia, 1 - 3 de Mayo de 2013

Argentina. 2013b. SBWG5 Doc 28: Mortalidad Incidental Asociada a Arrastreros Fresqueros en Argentina: Efecto del Descarte Sobre la Ocurrencia de Interacciones. *Quinta Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Captura Secundaria de Aves Marinas*. La Rochelle, Francia, 1 - 3 de Mayo de 2013

Argentina. 2013c. SBWG5 Doc 36: Tasa de mortalidad de aves marinas y pruebas de eficiencia de líneas espantapájaros en la flota congeladora de arrastre de fondo del Mar Argentino. *Quinta Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Captura Secundaria de Aves Marinas*. La Rochelle, Francia, 1 - 3 de Mayo de 2013

BirdLife International. 2013. SBWG5 Doc 39: Seabird mortality in the Chilean demersal Hake trawl fishery and the effect of bird-scaring lines as a mitigation measure. *Fifth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group*. La Rochelle, France, 1 - 3 May 2013

Tamini, L.L., Chavez, L.N., Dellacasa, R.F., Seco Pon, J.P., Yates, O., and Frere, E. 2016. SBWG7 Inf 05: Uso de tercer cable en el Mar Argentino: registro, impacto potencial y pruebas de medidas de mitigación para reducir la mortalidad de albatros y petreles. *Seventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group*. La Serena, Chile, 2 - 4 May 2016

## **ANNEX 1**

Declaration of Valdivia

Working towards the reduction of seabird bycatch in Southern cone fisheries

Workshop "Incidental Capture of Seabirds: Solutions in the Southern Cone"

Valdivia, Chile - 11 to 13 January 2017

Recognising that:

Seabirds, and albatrosses in particular, are threatened with extinction, in large part due to interactions with fisheries;

There are simple, economical and effective solutions that, when properly implemented, can mitigate the negative effects of these interactions;

Understanding that:

States are responsible for the administration, sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of ecosystems;

Fisheries research institutes have a fundamental and mandatory role in data collection and generation of information on fishing activity including effects on the ecosystem, which contribute to decision making;

The main objective of BirdLife International's Marine Programme is to improve the conservation status of seabirds, through a collaborative approach with national and international organisations;

Highlighting that:

Frequently, efforts by individuals and teams within different government agencies, national research institutes and NGOs are often key drivers of sustainable change;

In light of the reasons stated, the participants of the Workshop "Seabird Bycatch: Solutions in the Southern Cone" declare our willingness to collaborate in conducting actions to improve the conservation status of seabirds, including:

- (1) Improve the standardised collection of seabird interactions and mortality data that allow spatially and temporally stratified analyses;
- (2) Promote the integration of information between the different organisations at a national and international level;
- (3) Develop, propose and implement conservation measures to mitigate the incidental mortality of seabirds in southern cone fisheries;
- (4) Promote the revision and implementation of National Plans of Action to reduce the interactions between seabirds and fisheries;

Signed in Valdivia [in Spanish] on January 13, 2017