



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of Advisory Committee

Brasilia, Brazil, 5 – 8 June 2006

**Observer Report on CCAMLR Meetings
(IMAF, FSA, SC, Commission)
10 October – 4 November, 2005, Hobart, Australia**

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Background

The CCAMLR meetings were held in October and November 2005 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The Commission meeting was attended by 23 of 24 Members, 2 Other Contracting Parties, 1 non-Contracting Party, and numerous invited observers. The reports of the Commission and the Scientific Committee are available (or will be) at CCAMLR's website CCAMLR website at <http://www.ccamlr.org/default.htm>

The ACAP Secretariat had asked the USA to act as an observer for the meeting and report back on issues of relevance to the Agreement. CCAMLR and its associated bodies consider a wide array of seabird topics, including: the incidental mortality of seabirds in--the Convention Area, the French and South Africa EEZs of specified subareas and divisions, IUU fishing, and new and exploratory fisheries; continued improvements to seabird conservation measures through mitigation research; international and national initiatives relating to seabird bycatch in longline fishing; seabird interactions in trawl fishery operations for krill and icefish; and discussions on the Scheme of International Scientific Observation. See the associated reports for details. A brief summary of items of relevance to ACAP follows:

ad-hoc Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) 10-14 October 2006

Once available, the WG-IMAF report can be found as Appendix O to the WG-FSA report, which can be found as Annex 5 to the Scientific Committee's report SC-CAMLR-XXIV 2005, posted at http://www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/e_pubs/sr/drt.htm

WG-IMAF reviewed a report on mitigation tests in an Australian tuna fishery, of general relevance to seabird conservation in global tuna fisheries. Tests considered the effects of line-weighting regimes and bait types on the sink rate of tuna branchlines and the effectiveness of bird-scaring streamer lines. WG-IMAF welcomed progress in developing seabird bycatch mitigation for pelagic longline gear and recognized its importance in efforts to reduce seabird mortality in tuna fisheries operating in the migration ranges of Convention Area seabirds. This view is consistent with CCAMLR's Resolution 22/XXIII that identifies one of the greatest current threats to species and populations of Southern Ocean seabirds breeding in the Convention Area is mortality in longline fisheries in waters outside the Convention Area.

ACAP and the chair of the Status and Trends Working Group provided information to WG-IMAF indicating excellent progress toward a global revision of albatross and petrel population status and underscores the considerable interest and relevance of the ACAP work to CCAMLR. It was noted that, with the exception of Argentina, all breeding species of most concern to CCAMLR are represented by signatories to ACAP. Thus, WG-IMAF recognised it was not necessary to update its report 'Summary of population

data, conservation status and foraging range of seabird species at risk from longline fisheries in the Convention Area' (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/22).

WG-IMAF agreed that such information is best compiled and reviewed by ACAP and to avoid duplication, it was agreed that ACAP be the single repository for these data. ACAP would be requested to submit summary documents of albatross and petrel population status to WG-IMAF annually, or as appropriate.

WG-IMAF considered the potential for similar cooperation between WG-IMAF and ACAP in the area of taxonomic revision and molecular research. It was agreed that, at this stage, WG-IMAF would maintain the request to Members for information on relevant national seabird genetic research.

Fish Stock Assessment Working Group (WG-FSA) 10-21 October 2006

Once available, the report of the WG-FSA can be found as Annex 5 to the Scientific Committee's report SC-CAMLR-XXIV 2005, posted at http://www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/e_pubs/sr/drt.htm

Scientific Committee 24-28 October 2006

Once available, the Scientific Committee's report SC-CAMLR-XXIV 2005 will be posted at http://www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/e_pubs/sr/drt.htm. See the Scientific Committee's report for its complete advice to the Commission. An item of particular note to ACAP was that ACAP should be the single repository for data on albatross and petrel population status and trends and that summary documents be regularly submitted to the CCAMLR Secretariat. The Scientific Committee also advised on several mitigation elements: a proposal to develop improved Spanish-system line weighting regimes and a recommendation that integrated weight line continue to be endorsed as a viable line weighting alternative.

Commission 24 October – 4 November 2006

The Commission report CCAMLR-XXIV 2005 is available at http://www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/e_pubs/cr/05/toc.htm. See Item 5 for section on "Assessment and Avoidance of Incidental Mortality". The Commission endorsed the report, conclusions, and advice provided by the Scientific Committee on the assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality of Antarctic marine living resources (which includes seabirds). The Commission report references its Resolution 22/XXIII, aimed to improve communications with and assist in implementation of effective mitigation measures by regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) with areas of application adjacent to the Convention Area. The UK noted concerns expressed by the Scientific Committee at estimated annual mortality levels of 13,500 seabirds, including about 10,000 albatrosses, mostly of species which breed in the Convention Area, the need for more effective mitigation of seabird bycatch in the CCSBT fisheries, and the Commission's endorsement that CCAMLR Members support a review of bycatch related initiatives at the proposed joint meeting of the secretariats of the tuna RFMOs and their members. Japan informed the Commission that it would be hosting a meeting of all tuna commissions in early 2007 and that this concern of seabird bycatch in the areas adjacent to the Convention Area would be forwarded to those organizing the meeting.