

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Eighth Meeting of the Parties <i>Dunedin, New Zealand, 19 - 23 May 2025</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Advisory Committee Intersessional Correspondence Group, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Large numbers of ACAP-listed species continue to be bycaught by fisheries managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Engagement with RFMOs and relevant conservation organisations (e.g. CCAMLR) has been - and continues to be - a paramount component of ACAP's strategy to mitigate and reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds (see **MoP8 Doc 15**). Following discussion at SBWG11, the Working Group agreed that a clear and updatable summary of developments and a clear engagement strategy for RFMOs were needed. Recognising that MoP7 had given high priority to successful engagement with RFMOs, AC13 endorsed the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group (ICG) to undertake a review of the RFMO Engagement Strategy. A revised ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCO Engagement Strategy) was drafted by the ICG, and reviewed at AC14. AC14 indicated the need for some additions and updates and agreed to present an updated RFMCO Engagement Strategy to MoP8 for its consideration. ANNEX 1 presents the revised RFMCO Engagement Strategy including targeted outcomes for each organisation and ANNEX 2 contains the Priority Actions.

The aims of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy are to:

1. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
2. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries and conservation organisations that ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of fishing operations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
3. Ensure the ongoing review by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations of measures that prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds, including the update of such measures in light of changes in best practices.

This document also sets out the actions to be taken, the focus of engagement (across three categories of international organisations), the basis for engaging with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations, and proposed individualised approaches with targeted outcomes for each regional fisheries management and conservation organisation. The document proposes that the RFMCO Engagement Strategy be reviewed at periods of no more than every three years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Meeting of the Parties:

1. endorse a revised ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations detailed in ANNEX 1; and
2. allocate sufficient funding in the 2026 – 2028 Advisory Committee Work Programme to fully implement the priority actions outlined in the ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (see ANNEX 2).

1. BACKGROUND

Great numbers of ACAP-listed species continue to be bycaught in fisheries managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Accordingly, engagement with RFMOs and relevant conservation organisations (e.g. CCAMLR) has been - and continues to be - a paramount component of ACAP's strategy to mitigate and reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds. ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) and, more recently, jointly with the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), has reviewed and updated actions listed in ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy at each of its meetings and made recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

Recognising that MoP7 had given priority to successful engagement with RFMOs (see [MoP7 Report](#), paragraph 6.1.14), AC13 agreed that a clear and updatable summary of developments and a clear engagement strategy for RFMOs was needed and endorsed a list of prioritised areas of engagement and activities for the 2023-2025 triennium. AC13 also endorsed the establishment of an Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) to undertake a review of the RFMO Engagement Strategy. AC13 agreed that the ICG would: 1) review the aims of the then current RFMO Engagement Strategy with a view to updating them as necessary; 2) review the theme-based format of the Strategy and decide whether a different format might be preferable; 3) develop an updated list of priority actions concerning advocacy, communications and education to be reviewed on a rolling basis; and 4) report back to SBWG12 and AC14.

The ICG reviewed the aims of the RFMO Engagement Strategy and the theme-based format of the strategy and developed an updated list of priority actions. The draft "ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations" (RFMCO Engagement Strategy) was presented by the ICG to AC14 ([AC14 Doc 20](#)) together with reports from its Working Groups that considered two related documents ([SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03 Rev 2](#), [SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 04 Rev 1](#)). AC14 indicated the need to make further additions and agreed to present an updated RFMCO Engagement Strategy for the 2026 - 2028 triennium to MoP8 for its consideration.

AC14's advice in relation to the RFMCO Strategy included the following:

14.3 Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs

- i. Endorse the proposed priority actions as set out in **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03 Rev 2** and support the completion of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy for 2026 – 2028.
- ii. Endorse, and propose to MoP8, the allocation of funding in the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028 to fully implement the priority actions.
- iii. Request the Secretariat to develop a cooperation arrangement between the ACAP Secretariat and the Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front, for presentation to the Meeting of the Parties.

The request in paragraph 14.3.iii is discussed in **MoP8 Doc 21**.

2. UPDATED ACAP RFMCO ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

ANNEX 1 presents a revised ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations produced by the Advisory Committee's Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG). The revised text incorporates updates requested by AC14 (see [AC14 Report](#), paragraph 14.8). The Strategy sets out objectives (based on the current themes); actions to be taken; focus of engagement; basis for engaging with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations; individualised approaches; and reviewing progress. AC14 noted that the strategy should guide the actions of ACAP, ACAP officials, ACAP Parties, and the ACAP Secretariat, as well as cooperating NGOs (as relevant) (see [AC14 Report](#), paragraph 14.7).

A key element of this revised Engagement Strategy is the setting out of outcome-focused individualised approaches for each regional fisheries management and conservation organisation (**Tables 1 to 9**), grouped by the three categories of international organisations identified in **ANNEX 1**.

The target audience for this component of the Strategy is the ACAP Official/ACAP Secretariat representative attending relevant meetings of the international organisation, and the ACAP Parties who are members of that organisation. The individualized approaches provide clear guidance to ACAP officials attending meetings of regional fisheries management and conservation organisations about 'what is being requested', and how the ACAP representative(s) can leverage their capabilities so that identified enabling factors are enhanced and constraining factors diminished.

Another key element of the Strategy is reporting to the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups on the relevant outcomes and activities within individual organisations, and identifying further actions required to achieve the targeted outcomes. This then enables the preparation of an updated list of Priority Actions for the next period of interaction. At AC14, [SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03 Rev 2](#) set out Proposed Actions of the ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisation for 2026-2028, and AC14 endorsed these (see [AC14 Report](#), paragraph 14.3.i).

The review process at future meetings of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups should include a snapshot of progress in achievement of targeted outcomes within each

organisation (as provided in **ANNEX 1 Tables 1 to 9** and **ANNEX 2**) and setting out recommended changes to the individualised approaches for each organisation. This should be implemented at each Advisory Committee meeting.

ANNEX 1. ACAP RFMCO ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations

Basis for engaging with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations

ACAP Parties are committed to achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels.

Seabirds are being incidentally caught in great numbers in various high seas fisheries and there are long-standing concerns about the impacts of this incidental catch.

Not all Range States are currently Parties to ACAP, and so cooperation among (and with) States which have significant high seas fisheries is essential to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds, given the global nature of the issue.

The conservation status of albatrosses and petrels would significantly benefit from international cooperation between ACAP and regional fisheries management and conservation organisations.

ACAP is the global leader in developing and assessing best practice technologies and techniques to prevent, minimize or reduce the mortality of seabirds resulting incidentally from fishing activities.

ACAP has developed a range of current best practices to prevent, minimize or reduce the mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting incidentally from fishing activities, and undertakes ongoing review of these practices in light of changes in current knowledge.

ACAP is the global repository of current information about actual and potential changes in the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels arising from threats at-sea and on land.

Objectives of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy

The engagement with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations aims to:

1. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
2. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries and conservation organisations that ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of fishing operations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
3. Ensure the ongoing review by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations of measures that prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds, including the update of such measures in light of changes in best practices.

Actions to be taken

ACAP Parties' engagement with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations will:

- Develop and maintain relationships with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations on matters concerning the conservation and management of seabirds.
- Provide advice and guidance to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations about actual and potential changes in the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.
- Provide advice and guidance to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations on current best practices to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels in fishing activities.
- Influence the development by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations of best practice measures by those organisations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental take of albatrosses and petrels.
- Influence the development of best practice measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations for ensuring the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of measures to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental take of albatrosses and petrels.

The **ACAP Secretariat's** engagement with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations will:

- Develop and maintain relationships with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels.
- Consult and cooperate with the Secretariats of other regional fisheries management and conservation organisations on matters of common interest.
- Enter into cooperation arrangements with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations, as may be appropriate.

The **ACAP Officials'** engagement with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations will:

- Ensure that ACAP's objectives for participation in regional fisheries management and conservation organisations meetings are reflected in the priority actions for the triennium of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
- Reach out to ACAP Parties ahead of key regional fisheries management and conservation organisations" meetings to engage with national delegations.
- Provide advice and guidance to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations on ACAP's best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels due to fishing activities. This advice should be based on evidence endorsed by ACAP's working groups and the Advisory Committee.

- Contribute constructively to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations’ reviews of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- Contribute constructively to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations’ assessments and risk analyses on seabird bycatch.
- Present ACAP products at regional fisheries management and conservation organisations’ meetings to help focus efforts on strengthening bycatch data collection requirements and promoting the inclusion of effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures within compliance monitoring frameworks.
- Highlight at regional fisheries management and conservation organisations’ meetings the ongoing albatross conservation crisis, its underlying causes, and propose practical solutions.

Focus of engagement

This engagement strategy focuses on three categories of international organisations:

<p>1. Regional fisheries management organisations with competence for tuna fisheries</p>	<p>Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)</p>
<p>2. Regional fisheries management organisations with competence for non-tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>South East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SEAFO) Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)</p>
<p>3. Regional conservation organisations with competence for living marine resources.</p>	<p>Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)</p>

Individualised approaches

Individualised approaches have been developed for each regional fisheries management and conservation organisation (**Tables 1 to 9**). These are based on targeted outcomes identified for each ACAP triennium. Consideration is given to enabling factors and constraining factors affecting the potential achievement of the targeted outcomes, as well as ways to leverage the enabling factors and diminish the constraining factors.

For the 2026 - 2028 triennium, **Tables 1-5** set out the targeted outcomes for the regional fisheries organisations with competence for tuna fisheries (Tuna RFMOs); **Tables 6-8** set out the targeted outcomes for the regional fisheries organisations with competence for non-tuna fisheries (Non-tuna RFMOs); and **Table 9** sets out the targeted outcomes for the regional conservation organisations with competence for living marine resources.

Reviewing progress

The engagement strategy will be reviewed at periods of no more than every three years.

Individualised approaches for regional fisheries organisations with competence for tuna fisheries (Tuna - RFMOs)

Table 1. Targeted outcomes for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG). ▪ Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment (SEFRA). ▪ Meetings and workshops on EMS development. 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution to Align CCSBT’s Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs. <p>Non-binding measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna. ▪ Multi-year Seabird Strategy. 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCSBT Scientific observer program standards. ▪ High level electronic monitoring/systems (EM/S) guiding principles for CCSBT. ▪ Minimum performance requirements to meet CCSBT Obligations. 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCSBT- ACAP Memorandum of Understanding, MoU expires Dec 2027.
<p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extended Scientific Committee (SC). ▪ Extended Commission (EC). 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 3. Risk-based approaches lead to delineation of high-risk areas for fisheries interactions with albatrosses and petrels, with strengthened seabird conservation measures developed and agreed to that ensure seabird interactions are abated in high-risk areas. 4. CCSBT fully implements its Multi-year Seabird Strategy. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EM systems are designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 2. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 3. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with CCSBT maintained. 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Australia, European Union (France and Spain), New Zealand and South Africa. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ ACAP Parties are engaged in each of ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC, whose seabird conservation measures are binding on CCSBT. ▪ Coordinated advocacy in ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC and IATTC by ACAP Parties may lead to strengthened conservation outcomes for seabirds, as each entity is reviewing its seabird conservation measures. ▪ MoU between ACAP and CCSBT facilitates cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the SBT fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the CCSBT membership. Spain and France caucus with European Union delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. ▪ Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for SBT is set in three-year periods and increased from 17,647 t in 2021–2023 to 20,647 t in 2024–2026, without any additional measures to avoid or minimise any increase in seabird bycatch due to the 17% increase in SBT catch and associated fishing effort. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about whether to develop a binding seabird conservation measure specific to SBT fishing operations, particularly in higher latitudes where there is evidence of higher risk of bycatch of ACAP-listed albatrosses and petrels. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about aligning seabird conservation measures with best practices, in part due to concerns about flyback hazards. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about the relevance of published scientific findings from other regions. ▪ ACAP protocols are needed on measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ Skadia Technologies continues to experience difficulties in bringing its Underwater Bait Setter to market; recent funding support from the Australian Government is intended to address this constraint. ▪ CCSBT’s seabird bycatch target not yet agreed between targets based on nominal reported seabird bycatch rates, and targets based on Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment (SEFRA) outputs. SEFRA is unable to resolve risk to species level.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending CCSBT meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice branch line weighting recommendations, and about defining standards for Underwater Bait setting Technologies, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representatives to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practice branch line weighting recommendations should be adopted. ▪ Development of ACAP guidelines and protocol for measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ ACAP Advice on Improving Safety when Hauling Branch lines during Pelagic Longline Fishing Operations addresses the potential hazard posed by flybacks to crew; Australian research on avoidance technologies that avoid flyback hazards.

Table 2. Targeted outcomes for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (PWGEB). ▪ Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). 	<p>Seabird Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution C-11-02 - Resolution to Mitigate the Impact on Seabirds of Fishing for Species Covered by the IATTC. 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution C-24-09 - Interim Minimum Standards for the Use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (ems) in IATTC fisheries. ▪ Resolution C-11-08 - Resolution on Scientific Observers for Longline Vessels. ▪ Resolution C-11-07 - Resolution on the Process for Improved Compliance of Resolutions Adopted by the Commission. 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IATTC - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding, MoU expires May 2029
<p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission meetings 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. IATTC updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure, (particularly about branch line weighting, using hook-shielding and underwater bait setting devices), and to exclude mitigation measures lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness (thus not recommended as best practices). 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 4. IATTC supports implementation of the Antipodean Albatross Concerted Plan of Action. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 2. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 3. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 4. IATTC Regional Observer Programme includes minimum data field that enable assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 5. IATTC Regional Observer Programme includes minimum data fields that enable assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 6. IATTC inspection procedures include protocols for the assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with IATTC maintained 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Chile, Ecuador, European Union (France and Spain), Peru. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ ACAP collaboration with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) in addressing issues relevant to both organisations. ▪ MoU between the ACAP and IATTC to facilitate cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the IATTC Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the IATTC membership; Spain and France caucus with European Union delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. France represents its overseas territories independently of the EU. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about aligning seabird conservation measures with best practices, in part due to concerns about flyback hazards. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about the relevance of published scientific findings from other regions. ▪ ACAP protocols are needed on measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ Skadia Technologies continues to experience difficulties in bringing its UBS to market; recent funding support from Australian Government is intended to address this constraint.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending WCPFC meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice branch line weighting recommendations, and about Underwater Bait setting Technologies, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practice branch line weighting recommendations should be adopted. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why mitigation measures lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness, thus not recommended by the ACAP best practice advice, should be excluded from the C-11-09. ▪ ACAP Advice on Improving Safety when Hauling Branch lines during Pelagic Longline Fishing Operations addresses the potential hazard posed by flybacks to crew.

Table 3. Targeted outcomes for International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO) ▪ Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)- Plenary meeting ▪ Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (EMS WG) <p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting of the Commission 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation 11-09 Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries ▪ Recommendation 07-07 On Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation 16-14 Minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs ▪ Recommendation 23-18 Minimum standards and programme requirements for the use of electronic monitoring systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <p>Guidelines for cooperation between ICCAT and ACAP secretariat, expire Sept 2028</p>
	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. IATTC updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure, particularly about branch line weighting, using hook-shielding and underwater bait setting devices, and to exclude mitigation measures lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness, thus not recommended as best practices. 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 2. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 3. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 4. ICCAT Observer Programmes includes minimum data fields that enable assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with ICCAT maintained. 2. Support provided for development of ICCAT Ecosystem Report Card. 3 Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 4 Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Brazil , European Union (France and Spain), Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for branch line weighting. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation of the performance requirements associated with Underwater Bait Setting technologies. ▪ Guidelines for cooperation between ICCAT and ACAP facilitate cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the ICCAT Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the ICCAT membership; Spain and France caucus with European Delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about aligning seabird conservation measures with best practices, in part due to concerns about flyback hazards. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about the relevance of published scientific findings from other regions. ▪ ACAP protocols are needed on measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ Skadia Technologies continues to experience difficulties in bringing its UBS to market; recent funding support from the Australian Government is intended to address this constraint.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP official attending ICCAT meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice branch line weighting recommendations, and for Hook-shielding Devices and Underwater Bait setting Technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practice branch line weighting recommendations should be adopted. ▪ ACAP Advice on Improving Safety when Hauling Branch lines during Pelagic Longline Fishing Operations addresses the potential hazard posed by flybacks to crew.

Table 4. Targeted outcomes for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Institutional forums <i>Prioritise engagement in</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB). ▪ Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM). ▪ Scientific Committee (SC). ▪ Compliance Committee (CoC). ▪ Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS). 	Conservation Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution 23/07 on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries. 	Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution 22/04 on a Regional Observer Scheme. ▪ Resolution 23/08 on electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries. 	Relationship between organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter of intent between IOTC and ACAP Secretariat, expires Feb 2026.
<i>Other potential engagement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS). ▪ Commission meetings. 	Targeted outcomes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. IOTC updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure (particularly about branch line weighting, using hook-shielding and underwater bait setting devices), and to exclude mitigation measures lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness, thus not recommended as best practices. 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	Targeted outcomes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 2. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 3. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 4. IOTC Regional Observer Scheme includes minimum data field that enable assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 	Targeted outcomes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with IOTC maintained. 2. Support development of IOTC Seabird Strategy and Action Plan that prioritises actions to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 3. Development of IOTC Ecosystem Report Card supported . 4. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 5. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Australia, France (OT), South Africa, United Kingdom. ▪ Resolution 23/07 commits Scientific Committee, by 2024 at the latest, to develop advice to the Commission on best practice line weighting. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for branch line weighting. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation of the performance requirements associated with Underwater Bait Setting technologies. ▪ Joint ACAP/BLI proposal for development of an IOTC seabird strategy and action plan agreed. ▪ CCSBT’s <i>Multi-year Seabird Strategy</i> may be a foundation for an IOTC seabird strategy and action plan (see Report of ERSWG-14 Report att. 4). ▪ Letter of intent between IOTC and ACAP facilitates cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the IOTC Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the IOTC membership; Spain and France (OT) caucus with European Union Delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. France represents its Overseas Territories separately from the EU. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about aligning seabird conservation measures with best practices, in part due to concerns about flyback hazards. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about the relevance of published scientific findings from other regions. ▪ ACAP protocols are needed on measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ Skadia Technologies continues to experience difficulties in bringing its UBS to market; recent funding support from the Australian Government is intended to address this constraint. ▪ An IOTC Member is needed to lead the development of IOTC Seabird Strategy and Action Plan.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP official attending IOTC meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice branch line weighting recommendations, and about Underwater Bait setting Technologies. ▪ ACAP/BLI to work intersessionally on developing a draft IOTC seabird strategy and action plan, including engaging with ACAP Parties within IOTC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practice branch line weighting recommendations should be adopted. ▪ Development of ACAP guidelines and protocol for measuring hook sinking rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ ACAP Advice on Improving Safety when Hauling Branch lines during Pelagic Longline Fishing Operations addresses the potential hazard posed by flybacks to crew.

Table 5. Targeted outcomes for Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific Committee (SC). ▪ Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). ▪ E- reporting and E-monitoring Working Group. ▪ WCPFC Regular Session of the Commission. ▪ Other potential engagement 	<p>Seabird Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM 2018-03 - Conservation and Management Measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds. ▪ Suppl CMM 2018-03 - Safe Handling and release Guidelines for Seabirds. 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM 2018-05 - Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme. ▪ CMM 2023-04 – Conservation and Management Measures for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme. ▪ WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines updated 2023. ▪ Observer Guide to WCPFC CMMs - Booklet 2024. ▪ CMM 2006-08 - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures. 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WCPFC - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding, MoU ongoing.
	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. WCPFC updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure (particularly about branch line weighting, using underwater bait setting devices), and to exclude mitigation measures lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness (which are thus not recommended as best practices). 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 4. WCPFC supports implementation of the Antipodean Albatross Concerted Plan of Action. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 2. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 3. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 4. WCPFC Regional Observer Programme includes minimum data field that enable assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 5. WCPFC Regional Observer Programme includes minimum data field that enable assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 6. WCPFC inspection procedures includes protocols for the assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with WCPFC. 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Australia and New Zealand. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ MoU between the WCPFC and ACAP to facilitate cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the WCPFC Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the WCPFC membership; Spain will caucus with European Union Delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about aligning seabird conservation measures with best practices, in part due to concerns about flyback hazards. ▪ There are divergent views among Members about the relevance of published scientific findings from other regions. ▪ ACAP protocols are needed on measuring hook sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries. ▪ Skadia Technologies continues to experience difficulties in bringing its UBS to market; recent funding support from the Australian Government is intended to address this constraint.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP official attending WCPFC meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice branch line weighting recommendations, and about Underwater Bait setting Technologies, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. ▪ New Zealand leading the process to review the CMM 2018-03. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practice branch line weighting recommendations should be adopted. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why the CMM 2018-03 should be aligned with the ACAP best practice advice. ▪ ACAP Advice on Improving Safety when Hauling Branch lines during Pelagic Longline Fishing Operations addresses the potential hazard posed by flybacks to crew.

Individualised approaches for regional fisheries organisations with competence for non-tuna fisheries (Non-tuna RFMOs)

Table 6. Targeted outcomes for the South East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SEAFO)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific Committee (SC) ▪ Compliance Committee (CC) 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CM25/12 – On Reducing Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in the SEAFO Convention Area 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of Reporting Obligations 2025 ▪ SEAFO Observer Manual 2019 ▪ SEAFO System of Observation, Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement 2022, updated Nov 2023. 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEAFO - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding, MoU expires Dec 2030.
<p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission (COM) ▪ Relevant ad-hoc intersessional working groups 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by non-tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. SEAFO updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure. 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEAFO Observer Programme includes minimum data fields that enable assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 2. SEAFO Observer Programme includes minimum data field that enables assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 3. SEAFO Reporting System of incidental bycatch of seabirds standardised. 4. Advocate for investment by SEAFO in incorporating EM systems and standards that are designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions and align with ACAP best practice EM guidelines. 5. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with SEAFO Maintained. 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: European Union (for Spain), South Africa. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in demersal longline fisheries and trawl fisheries. ▪ CM 25/12 in presently under review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Parties represent a minority within the SEAFO membership; Spain will caucus with European Union Delegation under the Common Fisheries Policy. ▪ Some Parties are reluctant to consider changes or additions to mitigation measures due to the apparent, current low-level of seabird bycatch reported within the SEAFO Convention Area. ▪ Some ACAP resources not utilised by SEAFO to their full potential.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending SEAFO meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Demersal Longline Fisheries on Seabirds and ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Trawl Fisheries on Seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. ▪ EU leading, with ACAP support to review CM25/12 during 2025-26 intersessional period. , ▪ ACAP supporting reviews of seabird bycatch CMM in other non-tuna RFMOs. ▪ SEAFO Member Namibia actively considering accession to ACAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ Current SEAFO membership is relatively small (7 Parties), thereby providing greater opportunity to develop 1:1 relationship with delegation members. ▪ ACAP representative to provide evidence-based information on why ACAP’s Best Practice Advice recommendations should be incorporated in the review of CM25/12. ▪ Capitalise on current low-levels of fishing activity with SEAFO Convention Area to embed culture of implementing ACAP’s Best Practice Advice recommendations, and which will then extend to new vessels that fish in the SEAFO Convention Area in the future. ▪ Explore options to make some ACAP resources more user-friendly.

Table 7. Targeted outcomes for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG) ▪ Scientific Committee (SC) <p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings of the Parties (MoP) ▪ Compliance Committee (CC) 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM-13 (2022) Conservation and Management Measure on mitigation of seabird bycatch in demersal and pelagic longlines and other demersal fishing gears fisheries (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch) 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM-02 (2023) Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards) ▪ CMM-11 (2020) Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of a Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Compliance Monitoring Scheme (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) ▪ CMM-14 (2021) Conservation and Management Measure for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures) 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SIOFA - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding, expires November 2030.
	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by non-tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. SIOFA updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure and expands the conservation measure to include binding measures for all specified fishing gears used in the Convention Area. 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SIOFA data standards include minimum data field that enables assessment of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species. 2. SIOFA data standards include minimum data field that enables assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 3. Participation in any future development of EM systems to ensure EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 4. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with SIOFA maintained. 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels..

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Australia, European Union (for Spain), France (OT). ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in demersal longline and trawl fisheries. ▪ ACAP has previously offered to review, and identify proposed amendments to the relevant SIOFA seabird conservation measure to achieve more complete alignment to ACAP advice. ▪ MoU between ACAP and SIOFA to facilitate cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the SIOFA Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing seabird conservation measure includes a few general provisions, with specific measures for demersal longline fishing operations, but SIOFA is yet to establish comprehensive, binding measures for other fishing gears, such as trawl. ▪ With H5N1 bird flu now present in the Southern Indian Ocean the safe release of live birds that collide with or are bycaught by fishing vessels may no longer adhere to the safe handling requirements in CMM-13 (2022).
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending SIOFA meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Demersal Longline Fisheries on Seabirds and ACAP Review of Mitigation Measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic and Demersal Trawl Fisheries on Seabirds provide substantiation for the best practice mitigation technologies and techniques, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s best practices recommendations should be adopted into CMM-13 (2022). ▪ ACAP should offer again to review, and identify proposed amendments to the seabird conservation measure, to achieve a more complete alignment with ACAP advice. ▪ ACAP should provide SIOFA with its latest Guidelines on handling seabirds during the H5N1 bird flu zoonotic.

Table 8. Targeted outcomes for the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific Committee (SC) ▪ Compliance and Technical Committee (CTC) <p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission (COM) ▪ Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM 09-2017 – For minimising bycatch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMM 16 – Establishing the SPRFMO Observer Programme ▪ CMM 02-2022 – On Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data (Annex 7: Standard for Observer Data) ▪ CMM 10-2020 – For the establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme in the SPRFMO Convention Area ▪ COMM13 – Doc 08 – Report of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPRFMO - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding; ongoing, signed October 2014.
	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by non-tuna RFMOs that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. 2. SPRFMO updates definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices in its seabird conservation measure. 3. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates to the definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of ACAP's data collection standards incorporated into the review of CMM 02-2022. 2. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. 3. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. 4. RFMOs agree to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. 5. SPRFMO inspection procedures includes protocols for the assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 	<p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currency of MoU with SPRFMO maintained. 2. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. 3. Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Australia, Chile, Ecuador, European Union (for Spain), New Zealand, Peru. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in demersal longline fisheries and trawl fisheries. ▪ CMM 09-2017 and CMM 02-2022 (Annex 7: Seabird related data collection/standards) are under review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are divergent views among Parties about changes or additions to mitigation measures, in part due to uncertainty about the level of seabird bycatch reported within the SPRFMO Convention Area. ▪ Seabird bycatch is not reported in all SPRFMO fisheries where mitigation measures have not been established, but where there is potential for significant impact on seabird populations, e.g. jig fishery. ▪ Best practices have not yet been developed for all fishing methods used in the SPRMFO Convention Area, including those which have potential to have significant impact on seabirds. ▪ Some ACAP resources not utilised by SPRFMO to their full potential.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending SPRFMO meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Demersal Longline Fisheries on Seabirds and ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Trawl Fisheries on Seabirds provide substantiation for the best practice, as well as for the mitigation measures not recommended. ▪ New Zealand and Peru are leading, with support from ACAP, a review of CMM 09-2017 and CMM 02-2022. ▪ ACAP is supporting reviews of seabird conservation measures in other non-tuna RFMOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ ACAP representative to develop evidence-based presentation focused on why ACAP’s Best Practice Advice recommendations should be adopted in the review of CMM 09-2017 and 02-2022. ▪ Support risk assessment of SPRFMO jig fishery on seabird populations, and onward development of mitigation measures for minimising seabird bycatch if required. ▪ Explore options to make some ACAP resources more user-friendly.

Individualised approaches for Regional Conservation Organisations with competence for living marine resources

Table 9. Targeted outcomes for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

<p>Institutional forums</p> <p><i>Prioritise engagement in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF). Scientific Committee. Commission. <p><i>Other potential engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC). Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM). Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA). 	<p>Conservation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM 25-02 (2023) Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds in the course of longline fishing or longline fishing research in the Convention Area. CM 25-03 (2023) Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in the course of trawl fishing in the Convention Area. <p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform seabird conservation measures are developed and agreed to by non-tuna RFMOs and regional conservation organisations that are based on best practices for preventing, minimizing or reducing the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities. CCAMLR develops a seabird conservation measure for CCAMLR krill and finfish trawl fisheries that includes definitions, specifications, and minimum standards of best practices. Reviews of seabird conservation measures occur at intervals no greater than 5 years. 	<p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Measure 10-02 (2022) Licensing and inspection obligations of Contracting Parties with regard to their flag vessels operating in the Convention Area. Conservation Measure 10-03 (2019) Port inspections of fishing vessels carrying Antarctic marine living resources. Conservation Measure 10-04 (2022) Automated satellite-linked Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). Conservation Measure 10-06 (2016) Scheme to promote compliance by Contracting Party vessels with CCAMLR conservation measures. Conservation Measure 10-07 (2016) Scheme to promote compliance by non-Contracting Party vessels with CCAMLR conservation measures. Conservation Measure 10-08 (2017) Scheme to promote compliance by Contracting Party nationals with CCAMLR conservation measures. Conservation Measure 10-10 (2023) CCAMLR Compliance Evaluation Procedure. <p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Effective monitoring of the occurrence and magnitude of seabird bycatch events. EM systems designed to ensure management performance assessment of seabird interactions. EM standards incorporate ACAP best practice guidelines. CCAMLR agrees to invest in incorporating Artificial Intelligence into EM systems, particularly to assist in the efficient and effective review of video footage and species identification. CCAMLR inspection procedures include protocols for the assessment of compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures. 	<p>Relationship between organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCAMLR - ACAP Memorandum of Understanding MoU expires Nov 2027. <p>Targeted outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Currency of MoU with CCAMLR maintained. Routine advice provided about new and updated ACAP best practices and guidelines. <p>Routine advice provided about actual and potential changes to the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.</p>
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Enabling Factors	Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party participation: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Uruguay. Peru is a co-operating non-member. France and Spain are also represented by the European Union. France represents its overseas territories separately from the EU. ▪ ACAP’s advice provides evidence-based substantiation for the best practices for mitigating seabird bycatch in demersal longline and trawl fisheries. ▪ CCAMLR mandatory requirement for 100% observer coverage for all longline fishing vessels operating within the Convention Area. ▪ MoU between CCAMLR and ACAP to facilitate cooperation to minimise the by-catch of albatrosses and petrels within the CCAMLR Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to ACAP Parties three months in advance of key meetings to engage with national delegations. ▪ ACAP representative to reach out to relevant non-ACAP Parties ahead of key meetings to liaise with delegation members to engender support for ACAP objectives. ▪ Technical and operational challenges for developing practical and effective mitigation measures to minimize the incidental mortality of seabirds in CCAMLR trawl fisheries due to strikes with warp and net monitoring cables, as well as entanglements with the net. ▪ There is considerable uncertainty about the magnitude and nature of warp strikes in CCAMLR trawl fisheries due to limitations in the quantity and quality of warp strike observations. ▪ There are divergent views within CCAMLR about improving seabird bycatch mitigation and observation requirements.
Leveraging Enabling Factors	Diminishing Constraining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACAP Party representatives encouraged to caucus and give support to ACAP representative attending CCAMLR meetings. ▪ ACAP Review of mitigation measures and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline and of trawl fisheries on seabirds provides substantiation for the best practice mitigation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The WG-IMAF has sought further collaboration with ACAP to develop and refine mitigation measures to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds in continuous trawl fisheries. ▪ China voluntarily uses seabird bycatch mitigation on trawl vessels and there is demonstrated clear progress in the work on its continuous krill trawl trial. ▪ WG-IMAF has recognised that an increased level of observations would be required to improve the precision of estimates of warp strike rates and recommended to the Scientific Committee to reach a minimum of 5% of fishing time on a per-vessel basis, ideally from the 2024/25 season onwards.

ANNEX 2. PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE ACAP ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH REGIONAL FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 2026 – 2028 TRIENNIUM

Regional fisheries organisations with competence for tuna fisheries (Tuna RFMOs)

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Continue to take part in the ERSWG, the Commission, and the Compliance Committee.
2. Contribute to further development and implementation of the multi-year seabird strategy.
3. Contribute to the further development of definitions and thresholds for and management implications of high-risk areas for seabirds.
4. Continue to contribute our Best Practice Advice, guidelines, and status reports to ERSWG meetings, including newly approved and updated mitigation measures.
5. Continue to provide inputs to and support for the CCSBT-led Seabird Project under the FAO ABNJ Common Oceans Tuna Project Phase 2, to enhance implementation of and compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
6. Contribute material for the work programme as requested by ERSWG.
7. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
8. Work with Australia, New Zealand and other Parties to promote the Antipodean Albatross Action Plan.
9. Further engagement with CCSBT Compliance Committee towards contributing to efforts to improve compliance in the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
10. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in CCSBT.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Proposed Actions for 2026-2028

1. Participate in the IATTC Ecosystems and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG), which provides an opportunity to exchange information on threats affecting ACAP species, and to present to them ACAP's revised best practice advice and conservation priorities.
2. Prioritise the work with ACAP Parties that also are members of the IATTC (Chile, Ecuador, France, Peru, Spain), as well as other key members and organisations (United States, European Union, BirdLife International), in the update of Resolution C-11-02 which still following the 'two-column approach' and proposing mitigation methods not recommended in the ACAP advice.
3. Support the implementation of the IATTC Seabird Action Plan

4. Consider attendance at future meetings for the development of the EM programme and contribute information on ACAP's EM guidelines.
5. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP advice and guidelines including guidelines on observer programmes, and crew safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.
6. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
7. Work with Chile and other Parties to promote the Antipodean Albatross Action Plan.
8. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP Best Practice Advice, including the inclusion of the underwater bait setting devices and assessment of the Underwater Bait Setter (Skadia Technologies) and hook-shielding devices.
9. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in IATTC.
10. Collaborate with the Inter - American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) in addressing issues (e.g. need of increasing IATTC observer coverage, capacity building in observer programmes) relevant to both organisations.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Continue to participate in ICCAT meetings, including the Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO) and the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), to ensure that seabird bycatch issues do not disappear from the ICCAT agenda.
2. Continue to engage in ICCAT initiatives that are relevant to seabirds, to support efforts that will lead to favourable outcomes for ACAP species.
 - 2.1. Support ICCAT work to advance seabird bycatch monitoring and mitigation, and associated capacity building, in relevant ICCAT processes, such as the initiatives underway (including intersessionally) to identify eco-regions and to develop an ICCAT Ecosystem Report Card.
3. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
4. Contribute information on updated ACAP advice on improving crew safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.
5. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP guidelines, including guidelines on observer programmes and on electronic monitoring.
6. Continue to work with CPCs (especially those that are ACAP Parties) and ICCAT towards a review of Rec 11-09 and Rec. 07-07 that is informed by the current ACAP best practice advice.
7. Contribute to the process of reviewing Rec 11-09 and Rec. 07-07 against ACAP Best Practice Advice.

8. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP Best Practice Advice, including the inclusion of the underwater bait setting devices and assessment of the Underwater Bait Setter (Skadia Technologies) and Hook-shielding devices as seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
9. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in ICCAT.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Continue to participate in IOTC meetings, including WPEB and the Scientific Committee, to ensure that seabird bycatch issues do not disappear from the IOTC agenda.
2. Continue to engage in IOTC initiatives that are relevant to seabirds, to support efforts that will lead to favourable outcomes for ACAP species.
 - 2.1. Work with ACAP Party CPCs, other CPCs and BirdLife International to support IOTC on developing a work plan for seabirds.
 - 2.2. Support IOTC work to advance seabird bycatch monitoring and mitigation, and associated capacity building, in relevant IOTC processes, such as the initiatives underway (including intersessionally) to identify eco-regions and to develop an IOTC Ecosystem Report Card.
3. Contribute information on updated ACAP advice on improving crew safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.
4. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
5. Follow and participate in the (intersessional) initiative of the of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS), and specifically to its ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS), to review the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) data fields and to develop the minimum standards for EMS for IOTC. This engagement should aim to ensure that seabird bycatch requirements are usefully incorporated into the IOTC standards.
6. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP guidelines including guidelines on observer programmes and on electronic monitoring.
7. Consider how best to support the review of the Resolution 23/07, scheduled for the meeting of the WPEB in 2026, to bring it in line with the current ACAP advice.
8. Consider how best to support the SC on developing advice to the Commission on best practice branch line weighting, as requested on Resolution 23/07.
9. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP Best Practice Advice, including the inclusion of the underwater bait setting devices and assessment of the Underwater Bait Setter (Skadia Technologies) as seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
10. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in IOTC.

Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Future participation in WCPFC meetings, including of the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee, to maintain our profile and give support to initiatives in line with our priorities.
2. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP guidelines including guidelines on observer programmes and on electronic monitoring.
3. Contribute information on updated ACAP advice on improving crew safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.
4. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
5. Work with Australia, New Zealand and other Parties to promote the Antipodean Albatross Action Plan.
6. Work with relevant ACAP Parties, and attend SC/TCC meetings to encourage adherence to reporting requirements and to seek ways to improve the situation, given the concerns raised through Project 68.
7. Continue to engage with the review of CMM 2018-03.
8. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP Best Practice Advice, including the inclusion of the underwater bait setting devices and assessment of the Underwater Bait Setter (Skadia Technologies).
9. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in WCPFC.

Regional fisheries organisations with competence for non-tuna fisheries (Non-tuna RFMOs)

South East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SEAFO)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. As resources allow and depending on the relevance of agendas, continue participation in future SEAFO annual meetings, including the Scientific Committee, the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Commission.
2. If requested, work with the SEAFO Secretariat and any interested CPCs to develop proposed changes to seabird bycatch and seabird bycatch mitigation and data standard CMMs to maintain alignment with ACAP advice.
3. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in SEAFO.

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. As resources allow and depending on the relevance of agendas, continue participation in future SIOFA meetings, including the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG), the Scientific Committee (SC), the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties (MoP).
2. Pay attention to further work to harmonise observer programmes, and any development of e-monitoring, so as to identify relevant future opportunities to engage regarding the collection of seabird bycatch data in this RFMO.
3. Work with interested CPCs to develop detailed proposed changes to seabird bycatch mitigation and data standard CMMs to achieve better alignment with ACAP advice.
4. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in SIOFA

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Continue participation at future SPRFMO meetings, including Scientific Committee (SC) and the SPRFMO Commission.
2. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
3. Continue to work with CPCs (especially New Zealand and Peru) and SPRFMO to secure SPRFMO agreement on a revised seabird bycatch mitigation measures (CMM09-2017) and revised seabird-related data collection requirements (CMM 02-2022).
4. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in SPRFMO.

Regional conservation organisations with competence for living marine resources

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Proposed actions for 2026-2028

1. Continue to participate in the CCAMLR Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF), Scientific Committee (SC) and Commission meetings.
2. Work with CCAMLR Secretariat periodically to monitor the occurrence and magnitude of seabird bycatch events.
3. Contribute information on new and updated ACAP guidelines including guidelines on mitigation for trawl and demersal longline, observer programmes and electronic monitoring.
4. Follow closely the work of WG-IMAF in emerging bycatch issues in krill and finfish trawl fisheries, including new mitigation designs allowing the use of net monitoring cables in krill trawlers.
5. Hold, as relevant, discussions with/briefings of ACAP Parties, significant Range States and fishing entities, in advance of and during the meetings, to promote ACAP objectives.
6. Encourage ACAP Parties (vast majority of whom are also CCAMLR members) to promote the development and adoption of seabird conservation measures in CCAMLR trawl fisheries.
7. Relevant ACAP Parties/AC Members commit to working to further ACAP objectives in CCAMLR