

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p><i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 15 - 17 May 2023</i></p> <p><b>Seabird Interactions with hook-and-line Southeast Brazilian small-scale fisheries: fleet dynamics and bycatch rates</b></p> <p><b><i>Gabriel Canani, Leandro Bugoni, Augusto Silva-Costa, Tatiana Neves, Eduardo Gomes Pimenta, Mariana Dantas Alberto, Caio Azevedo Marques, Dimas Gianuca</i></b></p>
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#### SUMMARY

Bycatch in small-scale hook-and-line fisheries poses a significant threat to seabirds, and understanding the extent of this impact and identifying target fleets for management actions remains a challenge, including for Brazilian fisheries. We analysed voluntarily self-reported set-by-set and cruise information by fishing skippers in a major port in southeast Brazil to assess seabird bycatch in southeast Brazilian small-scale fisheries (BSSF). The dataset analysed comprised information on demersal and dolphinfish surface longlines and handline/multigear fisheries, with a focus on Albatrosses and Petrels, the most frequently captured group. Bycatch was most predominant during the non-breeding season, and night setting reduced the number of captures. Considering the bycatch rates recorded in all fishing gears and the fleet size (~800 vessels with all fishing gears combined), the BSSF pose an additional threat to albatrosses and petrels, already imperilled by bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries in the SW Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, a management plan is highly recommended to reduce fisheries-related mortality of threatened albatrosses and petrels in hook-and-line Southeast Brazilian small-scale fisheries, and interactions with this fleet should be incorporated in ecological risk assessments of effects of fisheries on seabirds in the SW Atlantic Ocean.