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Mitigation and education resources for small-vessel and recreational fisheries in New Zealand

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SUMMARY

A number of inshore commercial fisheries in New Zealand executed by small vessels are known to pose a bycatch risk to seabirds. Seabirds are also known to be bycaught in recreational fishing. In recent years there has been increased effort to develop resources targeted at these fisheries, which have different operational attributes to large scale offshore fisheries to which historically most bycatch mitigation work has been targeted. This paper highlights some current work areas and provides links to mitigation and education resources developed.

Recursos de mitigación y capacitación para pequeñas embarcaciones pesqueras y de pesca recreativa en Nueva Zelandia

Se sabe que varias pesquerías comerciales costeras de Nueva Zelandia a cargo de pequeñas embarcaciones presentan riesgos de captura secundaria para las aves marinas. También se conocen casos de captura secundaria de aves marinas en la pesca recreativa. En los últimos años, se ha observado un mayor esfuerzo por diseñar recursos dirigidos a estas pesquerías, que tienen características operativas distintas a las de las pesquerías de alta mar a gran escala, hacia las cuales siempre se ha orientado la mayor parte del esfuerzo de mitigación de captura secundaria. Este documento destaca las actuales áreas de trabajo y proporciona diversos vínculos a los recursos de mitigación y capacitación elaborados a la fecha.

Ressources en matière d'atténuation et d'éducation à destination des petits navires et des pêcheries récréatives en Nouvelle-Zélande

Un certain nombre de pêcheries commerciales côtières néo-zélandaises dans lesquelles opèrent de petits navires présentent un risque de capture accessoire pour les oiseaux de mer. Les oiseaux de mer sont également victimes de captures accessoires dans les pêcheries récréatives. Ces dernières années, des efforts accrus ont été engagés dans le but de mettre en place des ressources destinées à ces pêcheries, dont les caractéristiques opérationnelles diffèrent des pêcheries à grande échelle, qui, traditionnellement, sont celles sur lesquelles sont axées les mesures d'atténuation de capture accessoire. Le présent document met en lumière les travaux entrepris actuellement et fournit des liens renvoyant vers les ressources qui ont été élaborées en matière d'atténuation et d'éducation.

1. INTRODUCTION

A number of inshore commercial fisheries in New Zealand, executed by small vessels, are known to pose a bycatch risk to seabirds. Of particular relevance to ACAP is the bycatch of black petrels in the northern inshore demersal longline fisheries. Seabirds are also known to be bycaught in recreational fishing in New Zealand, including albatrosses and petrels.

Historically most seabird bycatch mitigation work has been targeted towards offshore fisheries executed by large vessels, and in New Zealand regulations governing the use of seabird mitigation in some of these fisheries have been in place for more than ten years. In recent years there has been increased effort to develop resources targeted at smaller vessel inshore fisheries and recreational fisheries, where existing bycatch strategies or devices developed for large vessels are often not appropriate.

We provide links to some current projects, and resources that have been developed, specifically targeted at small vessels and recreational fishing.

2. PROJECTS AND RESOURCES

2.1. Projects and resources targeted at small vessel commercial fisheries

A series of projects have investigated the efficacy of operational practices in use in these fisheries for reducing seabird bycatch risk and explored potential new measures for reducing seabird captures. A final report is available: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/csp-reports/2012-13/reducing-seabird-bycatch-in-inshore-bottom-longline-fisheries/>

A novel underwater setting device targeted at small vessel demersal longline vessels is in development. Progress is described in SBWG6 Inf 02.

Under contract to the New Zealand government two 'liaison officer' roles were established during the 2013/14 season, aiming to document and improve seabird bycatch mitigation practices, in the snapper demersal line fishery off the North East coast of New Zealand. Individual vessel management plans were drawn up, for the majority of the fleet, detailing the mitigation practices and equipment used to minimise seabird interactions. A final report will soon be available, and further work is planned for 2014/15.

Over 180 skippers and crew from New Zealand inshore commercial fishing fleets have attended one-day seabird smart training workshops to increase understanding about New Zealand seabirds and ways of reducing fishing-related seabird injuries or death. Workshops are hosted by the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust (SSST). Further information: <http://southernseabirds.org/news-events/news-single/item/fishers-commit-to-seabird-smart-fishing/>

Two videos have been produced by SSST to highlight collaborative efforts between inshore fishermen and seabird conservationists:

<http://southernseabirds.org/resources/sharing-the-hauraki-gulf-fishers-and-black-petrel-dvd/>

<http://southernseabirds.org/resources/sharing-worlds-seabirds-and-fishing-otagosouthland-dvd/>

2.2. Projects and resources targeted at recreational fisheries

A two year project by SSST to build a 'seabird smart fishing' culture amongst northern New Zealand recreational fishers has recently been awarded funding by the New Zealand government, and will include a range of advocacy and education activity.

Distribution of a laminated card that explains how to reduce the risk of catching a seabird, and how to handle the seabird in the event it is captured http://southernseabirds.org/fileadmin/documents/Products/Rec_anglers_card_website_version_updated_credits.pdf

Development of YouTube style DVD clips with leading television fishing celebrity Graeme Sinclair promoting 'seabird smart' fishing practices – see <http://southernseabirds.org/resources/gone-fishin-with-seabirds-tips-for-recreational-anglers-dvd/>

Development of a promising recreational fishing seabird bycatch mitigation method, the "milk bottle technique". Full details in SBWG6 Inf 03.