

 <p data-bbox="215 533 454 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="491 241 1406 280">Sixth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p data-bbox="630 297 1406 336"><i>Punta del Este, Uruguay, 10 - 12 September 2014</i></p> <p data-bbox="574 414 1316 452">Review of RFMO Engagement Strategy</p> <p data-bbox="534 548 1364 586"><i>Warren Papworth, Marco Favero, Anton Wolfaardt</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Progress has been made against a number of the action items in revised RFMO Engagement Strategy approved at AC7. The lack of data from observer programmes and other sources continues to constrain an accurate assessment of the extent to which seabird conservation measures are being effectively implemented within RFMO/RFBs. CCAMLR is a notable exception in this regard. It is recommended that future actions focus on improving data reporting and the implementation of seabird conservation measures. Progress was also made with the adoption of a seabird conservation measure by the South Pacific RFMO (SPRFMO). Further actions are recommended in this fishery to determine the effectiveness of some components of the seabird conservation measure. Some additional actions to implement the framework are recommended for the consideration/endorsement of SBWG6 and for referral to the Advisory Committee for its approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The SBWG is requested to review progress made against the actions identified in the RFMO engagement strategy, as approved by AC7;
2. Provide endorsement for the additional actions to be taken in the SPRFMO during 2015-2016; and
3. To request the Advisory Committee to support the implementation of these actions and to provide the resources necessary to achieve them.

Revisión de la estrategia de participación de las OROP

Se han logrado avances hacia la consecución de varios puntos de acción de la Estrategia revisada de participación de las OROP, según se aprobó durante la CA7. La falta de datos provenientes de los programas de observadores y otras fuentes de información continúa siendo un obstáculo a la hora de evaluar con precisión el grado de implementación efectiva de las medidas de conservación dentro de las OROP/ORP. La CCRVMA es una excepción notable en este sentido. Se recomienda que las acciones futuras se concentren en la tarea de mejorar la presentación de datos y la implementación de medidas de conservación de

aves marinas. Asimismo, también se avanzó con la adopción de una medida de conservación de aves marinas por parte de la OROP del Pacífico Sur (SPRFMO). Se recomienda tomar medidas adicionales en esta pesquería para establecer la efectividad de algunos componentes de la medida de conservación de aves marinas. Se recomienda adoptar algunas acciones más para implementar el marco de trabajo con el fin de ponerlas bajo consideración/aprobación durante la GdTCS6 y remitirlas al Comité Asesor para su aprobación.

RECOMENDACIONES

1. Se solicita al GdTCS que evalúe los avances logrados hacia la consecución de las acciones identificadas en la estrategia de participación de las OROP, según se aprobó durante la CA7.
2. Que se aprueben las acciones adicionales que deben adoptarse en el marco de la SPRFMO durante el período de 2015-2016.
3. Que se solicite al Comité Asesor respaldo para implementar estas acciones y facilitar los recursos necesarios para su consecución.

Passage en revue de la stratégie d'engagement des ORGP

Des progrès ont été accomplis concernant un certain nombre de points d'action repris dans la stratégie d'engagement des ORGP révisée approuvée lors du CC7. L'absence de données émanant de programmes observateurs et d'autres sources continue d'entraver l'évaluation précise de l'étendue de la mise en œuvre effective des mesures de conservation des oiseaux de mer dans les ORGP et les ORP. À cet égard, la CCAMLR constitue une exception notable. Il est recommandé que des mesures supplémentaires soient axées sur l'amélioration de la communication des données et sur la mise en œuvre de mesures de conservation d'oiseaux de mer. L'adoption d'une mesure de conservation d'oiseaux de mer par une ORGP du Pacifique sud (SPRFMO) constitue également un progrès. Des mesures complémentaires sont recommandées dans cette pêcherie afin de déterminer l'efficacité de certains aspects de la mesure de conservation d'oiseaux de mer. Il est recommandé de soumettre des actions supplémentaires relatives à la mise en œuvre du cadre de travail au GTCA6 pour examen/aval et renvoi devant le Comité consultatif pour adoption.

RECOMMANDATIONS

1. Le GTCA est appelé à passer en revue les progrès accomplis concernant les mesures identifiées dans la stratégie d'engagement des ORGP telle qu'approuvée par le CC7 ;
2. Il est recommandé d'approuver les mesures supplémentaires à entreprendre dans la SPRFMO durant la période 2015-2016 ; et
3. Il est recommandé d'appeler le Comité consultatif à soutenir la mise en œuvre de ces mesures et à fournir les ressources nécessaires pour y parvenir.

1. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN 2013-14

1.1. Current Framework

At the sixth meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC6), the meeting adopted a framework for the development of seabird conservation measures within the tuna RFMOs (refer Section 15.12 of the AC6 Report). A revised list of actions to be taken within the framework was subsequently approved by AC7 (refer para 11.1.3(8)(ii) of the AC7 Report). This framework was followed by the RFMO Coordinators in seeking to address the priority actions for each RFMO identified by SBWG5 (refer SBWG5 Doc 24, Table 2).

There are currently three RFMO Coordinators representing ACAP at RFMO meetings. They are: Anton Wolfaardt - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); Marco Favero - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); and Warren Papworth - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). It is proposed that relevant meetings of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisations also be attended. Marco Favero would be ACAP's RFMO Coordinator for this RFMO.

1.2. Review of Outcomes Achieved

Progress achieved during 2013-14 against the priority actions identified at AC7 are summarised in Table 1. Further details on the progress achieved within each of the tuna RFMOs are provided in the attached annexes.

In addition a significant achievement was made with the adoption of a seabird conservation measure at the Second meeting of the South Pacific RFMO Commission (SPRFMO2) earlier this year. The SPRFMO includes both longline and trawl fisheries and the conservation measure includes provisions for mitigating seabird bycatch in both fisheries.

2. REVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015-2016

In view of the significant challenges remaining to implement the actions identified in the 2013-2016 plan no further additions are proposed, with the exception of new actions to be taken within the SPRFMO. The recently adopted seabird conservation measure includes a number of review mechanisms to ensure that specific approaches adopted in the measure are effective. ACAP's participation in these reviews is recommended. Specific actions to be taken within the 2015-16 time frame are:

- Review information on the incidence of seabird mortalities with trawl operations where no biological material is discharged;
- Provide advice to the SPRFMO on the potential use of trigger limits to manage the incidental catch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Table 1. Review of Progress against the 2013-2016 plan

RFMO/ OTHER ORGANISATION	Action Proposed for 2013-2016	Comments
WCPFC	1 Seek amendment of CMM 2012-07 so that the north Pacific fishery follows the two out of three approach; (2015 & 2016, sooner if possible)	WCPFC-SC9 recommended that seabird bycatch rates for vessels <24m and >24m fishing with longline gear be investigated. Although a paper on this issue was submitted by the USA at WCPFC-SC10 it was not considered as it was an information paper only. Members have been encouraged to submit data on this issue for consideration at WCPFC-SC11.
	2 Support the implementation of CMM 2012-07 through improved data collection and reporting (2013-2015);	Paper submitted to WCPFC-SC9 on use of e-monitoring to improve data collection. Attended WCPFC e-monitoring and e-reporting workshop in 2014 to advocate for adoption of these technologies. At WCPFC-SC10 reports were provided on e-reporting and e-monitoring trials conducted within WCPFC fisheries. There was wide-spread support for the implementation of e-reporting and e-monitoring within the WCPFC. To be discussed further at WCPFC-TCC10.
	3 Advocate for a methodology to be adopted to review the effectiveness of mitigation measures being used. Apply this to review the effectiveness of CMM 2012-07 (2014 & 2016);	To be addressed initially through the work of the CCSBT Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group (ESBM Technical Group), which has been established to develop this methodology, and also through the work of the ACAP Intersessional Group established to identify minimum data elements to review the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation regulations in tuna RFMOs (see SBWG6 Doc 20).
	4 Seek adoption of seabird data collection protocols (2013).	Completed. WCPFC-SC8 and WCPFC-TCC8 supported inclusion of ACAP recommended data. Subsequently approved by WCPFC8. Data to be collected from 1 Jan 2015.
IOTC	1 Advocate for full implementation of IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (2013-2014).	Little progress. Many Members are not achieving the 5% minimum level of observer coverage.
	2 Advocate for a methodology to be adopted to review the	To be addressed initially through the work of the CCSBT

	effectiveness of mitigation measures being used. Apply this to review the effectiveness of Resolution 12/06 (2016);	ESBM Technical Group, established to develop this methodology, and also through the work of the ACAP Intersessional Group established to identify minimum data elements to review the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation regulations in tuna RFMOs (see SBWG6 Doc 20).
	3 Review data currently being submitted through the IOTC Regional Observer Programme (2013-2016).	The IOTC Working Party on Data and Statistics proposed to change the unit of effort for determining observer coverage to number of days at sea, rather than the number of trips. ACAP & BLI advocated for assessment to be based on actual effort (number of operations/sets for each gear type). IOTC Commission subsequently agreed that coverage rates should be calculated on the actual effort observed (i.e. number of hooks/sets).
	4 Advocate for development of allocation criteria to ensure quotas can be used to deal with non-compliance with observer, data submission, seabird and other conservation measures	
CCSBT	1 Seek adoption of seabird data collection protocols (2013).	ERSWG9 agreed that there was a need to develop a set of minimum requirements for observer data, taking into account the potential for harmonisation across RFMOs. To be progressed through the Kobe Bycatch Technical Working Group.
	2 Work with New Zealand in development of a Level-2 Risk Assessment.(2013-14)	New Zealand presented ERSWG10-Doc20 to the ERSWG. A number of practical responses were identified to improve future risk assessments.
	3 Advocate for a methodology to be adopted to review the effectiveness of mitigation measures being used. Review data on the effectiveness of mitigation measures being used (2013 & 2014)	Following a recommendation from ERSWG10 the CCSBT Commission agreed to establish an Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group (ESBM Technical Group) to provide advice on feasible, practical, timely and effective technical approaches for measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of seabird mitigation measures in SBT

IATTC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Seek adoption of a revised conservation measure that reflects two out of three approach (2013-2014); 2 Improve communication between ACAP Parties to ensure consistent positions are put forward to IATTC meetings; 3 Seek adoption of seabird data collection protocols (2013); 4 Address the needs of artisanal fisheries in relation to mitigation. 	<p>longline fisheries. The WG will meet in January 2015.</p> <p>Some progress made at 5th meeting of IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee and during intersessional work, with support also from a staff recommendation from the IATTC Secretariat to the Commission. A full agenda at the 87th Commission meeting prevented further consideration of the new conservation measure. Further intersessional work to take place with a view to adoption of a revised measure at the Commission meeting in 2015.</p> <p>Good progress made with relevant ACAP Parties and EU, Japan and USA coordinating work on a revised seabird conservation measure to be presented in 2015.</p> <p>Completed. 87th IATTC Regular Meeting adopted seabird data collection form, following on from work in 85th Regular Meeting.</p> <p>Work currently in progress. Refer SBWG6 Doc 08.</p>
ICCAT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Advocate for a methodology to be adopted to review the effectiveness of mitigation measures being used. Review data on the effectiveness of mitigation measures being used (formal review planned for 2015) 2 Assist with the development of data collection and reporting protocols (2013 & 2014) 	<p>To be addressed initially through the work of the CCSBT ESBM Technical Group, established to develop this methodology, and also through the work of the ACAP Intersessional Group established to identify minimum data elements to review the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation regulations in tuna RFMOs (see SBWG6 Doc 20).</p> <p>To be progressed through the Kobe Bycatch Technical Working Group meeting in January 2015.</p>
Kobe Bycatch Technical Working Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Coordinate the development of a seabird identification guide for use by the tRFMOs; 2 Provide input into the discussions of the Technical Working Group to assist with the harmonisation of best-practice seabird conservation measures, including data 	<p>The seabird identification guide has been completed. To be disseminated through relevant RFMO observer programmes</p> <p>A meeting of relevant experts has been organised for January 2015 to harmonise data collection systems.</p>

collection and reporting, between the tRFMOs.

CCAMLR

- 1 Low priority – Incidental Mortality Arising from Fishing Working Group (IMAF now meets biennially, next meeting October 2013, and seabird bycatch reduced substantially in most fisheries. At the request of CCAMLR, a paper has been prepared for consideration at SC-CCAMLR XXXIII. The paper (SBWG6 Doc 21) provides information available on the levels of seabird bycatch in adjacent fisheries, and will be considered initially by the SBWG at SBWG6 before being presented to CCAMLR.

ANNEX 1

ICCAT

Review of engagement since AC7

ACAP was formally represented at the 23rd regular meeting of the ICCAT Commission in November 2013. The main objective for ACAP at the meeting was to present and try and secure the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ACAP Secretariat and ICCAT, in accordance with the request by ACAP's Third Meeting of the Parties (MoP3). The proposed MoU was very similar in scope and content to those established between ACAP and other RFMOs, such as CCSBT, IATTC, IOTC and WCPFC. The objective of the proposed MoU is to facilitate scientific collaboration between ACAP and ICCAT, with a view to supporting efforts to reduce incidental bycatch of seabirds, and particularly albatrosses and petrels, in ICCAT fisheries. This would include collaboration regarding techniques and knowledge relevant to assessment of interactions between seabirds and fishing fleets in the ICCAT Convention Area. Although ACAP, through its Parties and Range States, has been involved in ICCAT work, formalising this arrangement by means of an MoU, would help establish these arrangements within the work and forward work planning of ACAP. The MoU would provide formal recognition of the collaboration and strengthen this association. The proposed MoU was considered together with a similar proposal for a MoU between the Inter-America Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and ICCAT. All ACAP Parties and collaborating Range States who are also members of ICCAT spoke strongly in support of the proposed MoUs, and highlighted the value of such a mechanism. It was noted that ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) is battling to cope with all the requests from the Commission, and the MoUs will help support the SCRS in meeting its demands, especially in light of the upcoming review of ICCAT's Recommendation 11-09 dealing with seabird bycatch mitigation. However, some ICCAT CPCs, although agreeing with the notion of ICCAT working with outside organisations such as ACAP, did not see the need for this to be underpinned by a formal MoU, and opposed the proposal. Interestingly, most of the countries that opposed the MoU were not countries that are actively involved in seabird bycatch mitigation initiatives, but seem more concerned about the principle of entering into a formal MoU with an outside organisation. Due to a lack of consensus, the proposed MoU was not adopted, and the Chair of the Commission requested that the issue be considered further in an attempt to find a solution. It is of interest to note that ICCAT does not have any formal MoUs with other organisations. ICCAT and CITES have established 'Guidelines for Co-operation' on a number of areas, and this may be something ACAP could consider pursuing.

Recommendations for future engagement

If ACAP wishes to pursue further the establishment of a MoU with ICCAT, it would be advisable to initiate some discussion with the newly elected Chair of the ICCAT Commission to determine how best to present a proposal at the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled to take place from 10-17 November 2014. Alternatively, ACAP could continue to engage in ICCAT matters without a MoU.

Whether a MoU is established or not, it is important for ACAP to continue engaging with ICCAT on a number of issues. The key areas in which ACAP should seek to contribute and be involved include the development (and implementation) of methods to review the

effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation regulations (see also SBWG6 Doc 20 Identification of minimum elements to review the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation regulations in tuna RFMOs). This is especially important given the formal review of the seabird bycatch mitigation regulations that ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), through their Subcommittee on Ecosystems, is required to conduct in 2015. Linked to this is the need for further development and proper implementation of data collection and reporting protocols, and the harmonisation of these protocols between tuna RFMOs, which ICCAT has offered to lead.

ANNEX 2

IOTC

Review of engagement since AC7

IOTC Resolution 12/06, which came into force on 1 July 2014, requires all IOTC vessels fishing south of 25°S to use two of three listed seabird bycatch mitigation measures (bird scaring lines, line weighting and night setting). In December 2013, the IOTC and BirdLife International organised a technical seabird bycatch mitigation workshop to provide fishing vessel captains, fishery observers and fishery managers' practical advice to assist fleets with the implementation of Res 12/06. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss and address any concerns that the industry held in relation to the seabird bycatch mitigation requirements. Of the mitigation measures presented and discussed, bird-scaring lines are the best known to the fishing crews present (from South Korea and Japan). They are considered to be relatively easy and cheap to use, and so are likely to be used by most vessels. Night setting is well understood, but there is a concern/perception amongst some fishers that fishing at night may adversely affect catch rates of target species. Line weighting poses the greatest difficulties for crews. Even when research was presented showing no significant differences in catch rates between branchlines with and without weighting, many crews remained sceptical, and there is clearly a need for further research and engagement with fishers to address these concerns. It was useful that the Japanese presented and promoted the Yamazaki double weight line-weighting system that one of their fishers has designed, and that their crews are using successfully. One of the key outcomes of the workshop is the need for ongoing work and engagement on line weighting, especially the practical, safety and fishing efficiency (catch rates of target species) aspects, to build support amongst sceptical fishers. It is both in the policy arena and on the decks of vessels that we need to be influencing practices, and it isn't good enough to simply have Resolutions adopted that require certain practices, if these practices are not being implemented properly at sea.

Although the IOTC has established reasonably effective data collection and reporting protocols, the implementation of these has been very poor. Submission/reporting of observer data remains at a very low level, which precludes any meaningful assessment of bycatch levels and the efficacy of the recently introduced mitigation regulation. Consequently, this is an area that needs urgent advocacy and attention. Another area of concern is the fact that many IOTC members are not achieving the minimum level of observer coverage required by IOTC (5%). There was some discussion at the IOTC Scientific Committee meeting in December 2013 about a proposal from the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics to change the unit effort for determining observer coverage to the total number of days at sea covered by observers, rather than the total number of trips. The rationale for this proposal was that the Secretariat receives many reports that use trips as the metric for calculating observer coverage, which is not at all helpful, as longline fishing trips can extend for more than one year and are usually not fully covered by scientific observers. Both ACAP and BirdLife pointed out that the proposal was not consistent with, and much weaker than, the relevant prescription of Res 11/04, which requires observer coverage of at least 5% to be based on actual effort (number of operations/sets for each gear type). However, a number of CPCs at the meeting supported the proposed change, and it was adopted as a Recommendation of the Scientific Committee. Fortunately the IOTC Commission did not subsequently endorse the proposal at their 2014 meeting as it was felt that observer

coverage rates were better calculated on the actual effort observed (i.e. number of hooks/sets), as is required by Res 11/04.

Recommendations for future engagement

Further engagement with the IOTC regarding the recently enacted Res 12/06 (the seabird bycatch mitigation regulations), and helping build capacity for proper implementation of the mitigation measures, is recommended. It would be especially helpful to receive early feedback on the degree of implementation and any problems that are being experienced, so that these can be timeously addressed. The other critical area of engagement relates to the Regional Observer Programme, especially the low level of reporting and the quality of the data submitted by CPCs. It is important to advocate for full and proper implementation of the data collection and reporting protocols that are already in place, and to comply with the minimum observer coverage requirement. Otherwise, any assessment of bycatch levels, and of the efficacy of the recently enacted regulations, will not be possible. Although the seabird bycatch mitigation regulations have only recently come into force, it would be useful to start promoting the need to develop a methodology to review the effectiveness of Res 12/06. The proper implementation of the Regional Observer Programme protocols are linked to this. The work being proposed for ICCAT's review is also of relevance (see also SBWG6 Doc 20).

ANNEX 3

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Review of engagement since AC7

ACAP was formally represented at the 85th regular Meeting of the IATTC in June 2013. The main objective for the Agreement at the Commission meeting was to support the adoption of a revised seabird conservation measure to mitigate the impact of longline vessels fishing in the East Pacific Ocean. The existing Conservation Measure (Resolution C-11-02), does not reflect current ACAP best practice advice for pelagic longline fisheries, utilising a two-column menu of mitigation options which includes a number of mitigation measures that are not considered effective. Intersessional discussions on the drafting of a revised measure were held with relevant ACAP Parties and with the EU Delegation and in collaboration with BirdLife International. However, due to the busy agenda and higher priorities defined during the course of meeting it was not possible to achieve the adoption of a revised conservation measure at this meeting.

Progress was made however on the development of a seabird form for the gathering of seabird bycatch data in relation with Resolution C-11-08 adopted in 2011. This requires Members and cooperating non-Members to task scientific observers aboard longline vessels greater than 20 metres length, with a coverage of at least 5% of fishing days.

ACAP was also represented at the Fifth meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (May 2014) which supported the adoption of a revised seabird conservation measure and a review of the area of application of the measure (refer SAC-05-INF-E).

Further Intersessional work was conducted with ACAP Parties, the US, EU and Japan (in coordination with BirdLife International) for the presentation of a seabird bycatch proposal at the 87th regular Meeting of the IATTC in June 2014. In spite of the support of the Scientific Advisory Committee and staff recommendations for the IATTC Secretariat, agenda issues again frustrated the adoption of a revised seabird conservation measure at this meeting. Some progress was achieved however, with the completion and adoption of the seabird data collection form, which is available on the IATTC Commission website.

Recommendations for future engagement

Continued engagement with the IATTC is recommended particular in regard to the adoption of a seabird conservation measure that reflects ACAP's best practice advice. This requires further inter-sessional consultations with the EU, USA, Japan, Peru and Ecuadorian representatives, who were actively engaged on this issue during the last commission meeting. In addition, and in line with the guidelines provided by the MoU between the IATTC and ACAP, further engagement with the Secretariat staff is recommended to work on updates of the distribution of fishing effort. In relation to this, updated maps of seabird distribution in the East pacific and their overlap with fishing effort will allow a better understanding and discussion of the need for revision of the area of application of the seabird measure currently in place. The implementation of the observer programme should also be followed up with the purpose of assessing the need for revision of the seabird data forms and the implementation of ACAP's seabird identification guide.

ANNEX 4

WCPFC

Review of engagement since AC7

ACAP was formally represented at the 9th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (WCPFC-SC9), the 9th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (WCPFC-TCC9), the 10th Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC10), a WCPFC E-monitoring and E-reporting Workshop and at the 10th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (WCPFC-SC10). Two papers were submitted by ACAP to WCPFC-SC9 on ACAP's seabird identification guide and electronic monitoring.

Key issues addressed at these meetings of relevance to ACAP were the exemption for fishing vessels less than 24m in length in the North Pacific from the requirement to deploy seabird mitigation measures, which is required by larger vessels in accordance with conservation measure CMM 2012-07; the presentation of ACAP's seabird identification guide for WCPFC's review; pursuing implementation of the requirement for 5% observer coverage for longline fishing vessels; and advocating for the use of e-monitoring by longline vessels.

Some progress was made on the exemption for small vessels from CMM 2012-07, with a recommendation made by WCPFC-SC9 that seabird bycatch rates for vessels less than 24m and equal to or greater than 24m fishing with longline gear need be investigated. The USA submitted a useful paper, Bigelow, K, '*Seabird interaction rates in the Hawaii-based shallow and deep-set longline fisheries by vessel size as estimated from observer data (2004-2013)*'. WCPFC-SC10-2014/EB-IP-10. The paper concluded that there were no appreciable differences by vessel size (≥ 24 m and < 24 m) in either the shallow or deep-set fishery. This indicated that using consistent seabird mitigation techniques across vessels ≥ 24 m and < 24 m resulted in similar interaction rates. Unfortunately, the paper was not considered at the meeting as it was classified as an information paper. Members were encouraged to submit further information on this issue for consideration at WCPFC-SC11.

There was extensive discussion at WCPFC-SC10 on the metric to be used to measure observer coverage. Longline fleets are required to have 5% observer coverage, however there is currently no agreement on how this should be measured. An informal small group (ISG7) noted that there are a variety of metrics that can be used to measure observer coverage and identified the following hierarchy of four metrics (from best downwards):

- i. number of hooks deployed
- ii. number of days fished
- iii. number of days-at-sea
- iv. number of trips

While ISG7 agreed that CCMs should be encouraged to achieve a coverage rate which accords with the best metric in the above hierarchy (or the second best), ISG7 recommended that SC10 request TCC10 identify the metric of observer coverage to be used for compliance purposes. WCPFC-SC10 agreed that the ISG's output be forwarded to TCC10 to progress this work.

ACAP's seabird identification guide was distributed within the WCPFC regional observer programme for review; and a recommendation made to establish an E-reporting (ER) and E-monitoring(EM) Working Group, with a priority task of developing draft standards, specifications, and procedures for the use of ER and EM technologies in Commission-managed fisheries. The Delegate from China requested that the seabird ID guide be provided for use within their observer programme. Translation of the guide into Mandarin will be given a high priority. A pilot project to assess the utility of electronic monitoring will be undertaken under the umbrella of the GEF funded, ABNJ programme.

Recommendations for future engagement

Continued attendance at relevant WCPFC meetings is recommended to: 1. Remove the exemption for small vessels from the requirements of CMM 2012-07; 2. Advocate for the effective implementation of the requirement for 5% observer coverage for longline vessels; 3. Advocate for the implementation of e-monitoring and e-reporting; and 4. To lay the groundwork for the revision of CMM 2012-07 to require that mitigation measures used in the North Pacific are based on ACAP's best practice advice.

ANNEX 5

CCSBT

Review of engagement since AC7

ACAP was formally represented at the 10th meeting of the CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG10). ACAP presented four papers at the meeting, 'An Update on the Status and Trends of Albatrosses and Petrels Listed Under Annex 1 of the ACAP Agreement'; 'Review of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures for Pelagic Longline Fisheries'; 'Electronic Monitoring of Seabird Bycatch'; and 'Photo Identification Guide for Seabird Bycatch'.

The key of relevance to ACAP addressed at the meeting were a review of the status of species listed under Annex 1 of the Agreement; the review of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures; a review of an ecological risk assessment for seabirds in New Zealand managed fisheries; an assessment on ways to improve the estimates of seabird mortalities in tuna fisheries; the review of observer data collection requirements; and advocacy for the adoption of an electronic monitoring trial.

A key outcome from this meeting was the recognition by the ERSWG of the importance of measuring and monitoring effectiveness of seabird mitigation measures in SBT longline fisheries. ERSWG10 recommended that an Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group be formed to provide advice to the ERSWG on feasible, practical, timely, and effective technical approaches for measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of seabird mitigation measures in SBT longline fisheries. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the CCSBT Commission. The first meeting of the technical group will be held in November 2015.

Another outcome from the meeting was agreement to include ACAP's minimum data requirements into a draft revision of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards.

Recommendations for future engagement

The participation by ACAP in the Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group is strongly recommended as the outcomes of this groups work has potential application across all longline fisheries where seabird bycatch occurs.