



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Second Meeting of Advisory Committee**

*Brasilia, Brazil, 5 – 8 June 2006*

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**Bycatch Working Group  
Draft Terms of Reference**

## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

### **BYCATCH WORKING GROUP**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE & INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

The following terms of reference and indicative work program are proposed for adoption by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the establishment of a Working Group on Bycatch of albatrosses and petrels covered by the Agreement.

##### **Terms of Reference**

Undertake actions that will assist in assessing and reducing negative interactions between fishing operations and albatrosses and petrels. Efforts to achieve this aim will include the provision of information and products to assist Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and national fishery management organisations in assessment, mitigation and reduction of bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.

In developing solutions to reduce bycatch of albatrosses and petrels consideration will be given to ensure approaches to mitigation do not adversely affect other marine species.

The work of this working group should broaden and enhance the existing work of other national and international bodies in the reduction and mitigation of bycatch and conservation of albatrosses and petrels.

##### **Indicative Work Program for Bycatch Working Group**

Develop a strategy for ACAP and member parties to engage and assist RFMOs and national fishery management organisations to assess and minimise fisheries-related mortality of albatrosses and petrels.

Where required by the strategy, and consistent with the overall recommendations of AC 2, the following work items will be undertaken:

1. Collate available information on the foraging distribution of ACAP species and the degree of spatial and temporal overlap with fisheries;
2. Review and utilise available information on foraging distribution and incidental mortality to assess the risk of fishing operations on ACAP listed species in fishing regions e.g. RFMOs, national EEZs
3. Review information on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels. Initial work shall focus on pelagic longline methods;
4. Develop products to assist RFMOs in reducing seabird bycatch. These could include:
  - observer program designs including bycatch data collection protocols
  - analytical methods for assessing mortality
  - best-practice mitigation measures
5. assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of FAO NPOA—Seabirds including the development of best-practice guidelines;
6. Develop materials and guidelines to assist ACAP representatives attending RFMO and other fishery meetings to maximise effective participation and consideration of issues relevant to ACAP.

