



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

**Second Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group**

*Hermanus, South Africa, 17 – 18 August 2008*

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**Title: ACAP Observer Report – CCSBT, Ecologically  
Related Species Working Group 7**

**Author: Secretariat**

*SBWG-2 Doc 22*  
*Agenda Item No. 6*

**ACAP Observer Report – ERSWG 7**

**Meeting Title:** 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

**Meeting Organisation:** Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

**Date and Location:** 3 – 6 July, 2007 Tokyo, Japan

**Website Address:** <http://www.ccsbt.org/>

**Your Name/Affiliation:** Warren Papworth, ACAP Interim Secretariat

**Capacity of Attendance:** ACAP representative

**Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:**

**Working Papers**

CCSBT-ERS/0707/05 – Update of RFMO Resolutions Concerning Incidental Catches of Ecologically Related Species (Secretariat)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/06 – A draft ERS WG recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7 (Aust/NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/07 – Estimation of seabird captures in fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, NZ

CCSBT-ERS/0707/08 – A draft ERS recommendation on data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7 (Aust/NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/10 – Review of International Instruments Relevant to Ecologically Related Species: changes since ERSWG 6. (Australia)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/14 – Estimation of incidental take of seabirds in the Japanese southern bluefin tuna longline fishery in 2005 (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/16 – Effective factors of tori-poles in reducing incidental catch of albatrosses in southern bluefin tuna longline fishery (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/18 – Note on large-scale environmental changes and its possible influence to ecosystems in the Southern Ocean (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/19 – Estimation of fisheries bycatch and risk assessment for short-tailed albatross using a Bayesian state-space model (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/20 – Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on seabirds (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/22 – Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on interactions between ecologically related species with surface fisheries including SBT farming activities (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/23 – Guidance, extension and educational activities for reducing bycatch in longline fishery.

**Background Documents (CCSBT-ERS/0707/BGD)**

CCSBT-ERS/0602/09 – A review of methodologies aimed at avoiding and/or mitigating incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. Bull, L. S. (NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0602/04 – Review of international instruments relevant to ecologically related species data requirements and recommendations for sharks and seabirds (Australia)

**Information Papers (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info)**

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 01 – The development of reporting forms for reporting ERS data in New Zealand fisheries (NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 02 – A guide for the identification of ERS species in New Zealand fisheries (NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 04 – The resolution on seabirds agreed by the WCPFC in 2006. (NZ)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 06 – Australia's threat Abatement Plan 2006 for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations (Australia)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 09 – Review of the Japanese RTMP observer program in the high sea waters in 2005 fishing year (Japan)

CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 11 – Summary of the Outcomes of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group Review of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures in Pelagic Longline Fisheries (ACAP)

**National Reports (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Rep)**

National reports were submitted by New Zealand (ERS/0707/Rep 01), Australia (ERS/0707/Rep 02), Japan (ERS/0707/Rep 03), Taiwan (ERS/0707/Rep 04) and Korea (ERS/0707/Rep 05).

**Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different:**

All of the above papers were presented by the respective delegations.

**Summary of Content:**

CCSBT-ERS/0707/05 – Provides an update of RFMO Resolutions Concerning Incidental Catches of Ecologically Related Species. This was prepared by the CCSBT Secretariat and provided a useful reference in the meeting.

- CCSBT-ERS/0707/06 – This recommendation on seabird bycatch mitigation was proposed by Australia and NZ. It seeks retention of the tori line requirement, plus offal manage and one of either night-setting, line weighting or a second tori line.
- CCSBT-ERS/0707/08 – Contains a draft ERS recommendation prepared by Australia and NZ on data collection and reporting. It proposes ERS data be collected in both logbooks and by observers and defines how this data will be reported to the Commission. An appendix lists the species of interest for ERS data collection.
- CCSBT-ERS/0707/20 – Proposes a draft recommendation from Japan on seabird bycatch mitigation. In order to avoid duplication and confusion it proposes that the CCSBT cooperates with other tuna-RFMOs by following their Resolutions/Recommendations/Measures for seabird bycatch mitigation. It also encourages further research on population dynamics of seabird breeding colonies to identify negative impacts affecting breeding colonies, to reduce these impacts, and to exchange information on these research activities, as well as developing and implementing NPOA-Seabirds.
- CCSBT-ERS/0707/22 – This paper from Japan proposes a draft recommendation on information collection in relation to interactions between ERS and surface fisheries, including SBT farming activities.
- CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info 11 – Summarizes the outcomes of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) review of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in pelagic longline fisheries. Tables 1 and 2 of the SBWG report are attached to guide discussion on this issue.

**Outcome (e.g. summary of relevant discussions, resolutions, etc):**

Outcomes from the meeting were minimal as much of the discussion in the meeting focused on the interpretation of the definition of 'fishing' and whether this extended to SBT farming activities. Some useful discussion was held on the draft Australian/NZ data collection recommendation (CCSBT-ERS/0707/08) particularly in regard to the level of data to be collected in logbooks; however, discussions were not concluded due to the impasse referred to above.

It was agreed to attach all of the proposed recommendations to the final report of the meeting and to forward them to the next Extended Commission meeting for its consideration. Guidance will also be sought from the Extended Commission on how to proceed with the draft recommendations.

**Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:**

Further involvement in the work of the ERSWG will depend on the decisions made in the Extended Commission regarding the future of the ERSWG and how it decides to progress the draft recommendations.

**Recommended Actions for ACAP:**

1. Consult with ACAP Parties who are members of CCSBT in the lead-up to the next Extended Commission meeting to discuss possible approaches that may be taken to progress action on the seabird and data collection recommendations.
2. Give consideration to the Japanese proposal that the CCSBT adopt/apply the Measures of other RFMOs in relation to seabird bycatch mitigation.

**Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat:** Yes

Paper copies of the meeting documents are held by the Secretariat. Electronic copies will not be available until they are released for public viewing by the Extended Commission.