



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group

Mar del Plata, Argentina, 08 – 09 April 2010

ACAP Observer Report – CCAMLR XXVIII

Author: **Secretariat**

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Meeting Title: Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (IMAF)
Scientific Committee Meeting XXVIII
CCAMLR Commission Meeting XXVIII

Meeting Organisation: Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Date and Location: WG-IMAF 12 – 16 October 2009
Scientific Committee 26 – 30 October 2009
Commission Meeting 26 October – 6 November 2009

Website Address: <http://www.ccamlr.org/>

Your Name/Affiliation: Marco Favero, Chair, Advisory Committee
Warren Papworth, ACAP Executive Secretary

Capacity of Attendance: ACAP Observers

Relevant Papers Tabled:

CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/19, Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Author: ACAP Secretariat

WG-IMAF-09/4, A Summary of Observations on Board Longline Vessels Operating Within the CCAMLR Convention Area During the 2008/09 Season Author: Secretariat

WG-IMAF-09/17, Presentation of the key outcomes of the Third Session of ACAP's Meeting of the Parties of relevance to WG-IMAF. Author: ACAP Secretariat

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/11, Progress Report (2008-2009) on The Action Plan Aimed at Reducing Seabird By-Catch in The French EEZs in Statistical Division 58.5.1 and Subarea 58.6 Author: Delegation Of France

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/15, Report of the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated With Fishing

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/BG/13, Impact of Longline Fisheries on the Populations of White-chinned Petrels and grey petrels on Crozet and Kerguelen Islands. Author: Delegation of France

Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different:

As above.

Summary of Content:

CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/19 – Proposes a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate cooperation between CCAMLR and ACAP with a view to supporting efforts to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of ACAP within CCAMLR's Convention Area.

The MoU proposes that CCAMLR and ACAP consult, cooperate and collaborate with each other on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels.

WG-IMAF-09/4 - Incidental Mortality The observed seabird catch rates were calculated using the total numbers of hooks observed and the total observed seabird mortality. Two seabird mortalities were observed in Subarea 48.3, a grey headed albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*) and a Southern black browed albatross (*T. melanophrys*). One cape petrel (*Daption capense*) mortality was observed in Division 58.5.2. Twenty three seabird mortalities were observed inside the French EEZ in Subarea 58.6, comprising of 19 white chinned petrels (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*), 3 Northern giant petrels (*Macronectes halli*) and one grey petrel (*P. cinerea*). One hundred and five seabird mortalities were observed inside the French EEZ in Division 58.5.1, comprising of 99 white chinned petrels (*P. aequinoctialis*) and 6 grey petrels (*P. cinerea*).

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/11 - During CCAMLR-XXVII, France presented its action plan aimed at reducing considerably seabird by-catches by longliners operating in the Crozet and Kerguelen EEZs. The plan's objective was to list the set of measures that France is implementing and will implement in the next few years to limit bird mortality.

The aim of this paper is to provide a progress report on the resources employed by France since the initiation of the plan to limit bird mortality, and to present a brief report on by-catches for the period September 2008–August 2009.

Furthermore, this paper has been written in response to a recommendation made to France during CCAMLR-XXVII to “urgently submit a strategic plan to eliminate seabird mortality”.

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/15, WG IMAF Report - The IMAF Working Group strongly supported closer engagement with ACAP, noting that it would potentially benefit the work of CCAMLR in several ways, including data exchange (e.g. reporting of seabird incidental mortalities outside the Convention Area by CCAMLR Parties which are also ACAP Parties) and encouraging RFMOs adjacent to the Convention Area to reduce seabird incidental mortality in the fisheries they manage. Therefore the Working Group supported the proposed MOU between CCAMLR and ACAP.

IMAF noted that the work of ACAP is increasingly relevant to the implementation of Resolution 22/XXV ("International actions to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds arising from fishing") including, in respect of ACAP, gathering data on incidental mortalities of Convention Area species in fisheries outside the Convention Area. The Working Group encouraged ACAP to report this and other relevant information to CCAMLR.

IMAF welcomed ACAP's offer to engage with ACAP Parties to find out where the practice of cutting snoods to dispose of by-catch fish occurred and to seek to address this issue with those Parties in their domestic fisheries.

The development of ACAP, within which WG-IMAF participants have many key roles, has provided a vehicle to address some of the issues previously on the agenda of WG-IMAF, including research into mitigation approaches and the status and distribution of seabirds. Given these changes in circumstances, the WG-IMAF recommended amending its meeting schedule to a biennial basis and holding its next meeting in October 2011.

Outcomes

CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/19 – Many Members spoke in favour of the MOU citing the shared aims of ACAP and CCAMLR, especially in acquiring data on incidental mortality of Convention Area seabirds in fisheries outside the Convention Area. The Commission endorsed an amended version of the MOU and requested the Secretariat to forward the proposed text to ACAP (Annex 8). Once ACAP indicates that it agrees with this text, the CCAMLR Executive Secretary would then be authorised to sign the MOU.

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/11 - Within the framework of the strategic plan, France has reduced incidental mortality by 67.3% within two years, i.e. from 1 944 birds killed in Division 58.5.1 in 2006-2007 to 648 in 2008-2009 and from 313 birds killed in Subarea 58.6 to 90. As part of the third year of its plan of attack, France intends to develop new mitigation measures, including extending the closure of the Kerguelen fishery and collection of additional relevant data.

SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/15, WG IMAF Report - The WG-IMAF reviewed its terms of reference and core tasks that were endorsed by the Scientific Committee in 2008 (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 5.43) and agreed that the core functions continue to be: (vi) coordinate and collaborate with ACAP;

The Working Group agreed that Conservation Measure 25-02 be revised to provide a description of a best-practice BED (bird exclusion device) to reduce haul incidental catch on longline vessels operating in areas defined as average to high-risk areas (levels of risk 4 or 5), where BEDs are required to be deployed. In addition, it was recommended that Conservation

Measure 25-02 also be revised to encourage longliners operating in low to medium risk areas (1–3) to adopt best-practice BEDs.

The Working Group agreed that observation of pot fishing was required to collect descriptive information about the potential for seabird and marine mammal incidental mortality using this fishing method. Observation should focus on hauls for incidental mortality events and description of any entanglements.

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Incidental mortality of seabirds during unregulated fishing in the Convention Area

6.14 The Commission noted with concern the inability to produce an estimate of the levels of incidental mortality of seabirds or marine mammals in IUU fishing due to a lack of information on the potential rate of interactions with IUU gillnet fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.17).

6.15 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request that Members submit information on incidental mortality of seabirds during IUU fishing in the Convention Area, particularly with respect to gillnet fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35(vi)).

6.16 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that WG-IMAF meet on a biennial basis (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35(xiv)).

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

Give consideration to only attending CCAMLR meetings on a biennial basis, in years when WG-IMAF meets.

Continue to maintain strong links between the ACAP and CCAMLR Secretariats to facilitate coordination on issues of joint relevance.

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

1. Survey ACAP Parties to find out where the practice of cutting snoods to dispose of by-catch fish occurred and to seek to address this issue with those Parties in their domestic fisheries.
2. Establish data sharing agreement with CCAMLR Secretariat
3. Work with WG-IMAF to develop a medium to long-term strategy to coordinate actions with ACAP.

Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat: Yes