

Workshop on ACAP's RFMO Strategy

Plan and Agenda

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1. Objective/rationale

Workshop objective: Identify the most effective and efficient ways to engage with tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to deliver on ACAP conservation objectives (2019-2022).

Workshop rationale: ACAP and ACAP Parties, along with other stakeholders such as BirdLife International and Humane Society International, have been active in engaging with tuna RFMOs (and other RFMOs) for circa fifteen years, in order to reduce bycatch of ACAP species.

In the early period (2005-2012), engagement focused on promoting adoption by tuna RFMOs of seabird conservation and management measures plus subsequent refinement (13 seabird CMM iterations adopted during this period). 2012 was the milestone when all five tuna commissions had adopted measures to require their pelagic longline vessels to use some combination of bycatch mitigation measures in (most) areas overlapping with albatross distribution.

In 2012-2018, ACAP and other stakeholders broadened engagement with tuna RFMOs to seek improvement in bycatch data collection and reporting requirements and to promote plans to review the impact of the seabird CMMs, as well as working to support pelagic longline fleets to implement the seabird CMMs. There were also further refinements to seabird CMMs, with four seabird CMMs adopted in this period, three of which were in WCPFC.

However, data presented to tuna RFMOs indicates that bycatch rates of ACAP species remain high, while tuna RFMOs have identified that bycatch data collection and reporting remains inadequate for monitoring bycatch levels. In February 2019, a global seabird bycatch estimation workshop was conducted as part of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project, generating an estimate of current seabird bycatch levels in the global pelagic longline fleets in the Southern Hemisphere. In light of this, 2019 is an important moment to assess how best to engage and support global pelagic longline fleets in order to reduce bycatch of ACAP species.

The core elements that the workshop will cover are:

- (i) Share views on strengths and weaknesses of using tuna RFMOs as a means to enhance bycatch reduction of ACAP species
- (ii) Based on (i), identify the aspects of seabird bycatch mitigation that are best addressed via tuna RFMO structures versus via engagement at country or fleet level.
- (iii) For those aspects identified in (ii), identify the most effective approaches to successful engagement with tuna RFMOs, including what types of meetings to engage with, what inputs will be most effective, who may be best placed to undertake which role.
- (iv) Prioritise which tuna RFMOs to engage with.
- (v) Provide feedback on the draft ACAP RFMO Strategy ([SBWG9 Doc07](#)), to be presented at the SBWG9 meeting.

2. Planning and logistics

Workshop host: ACAP

Workshop date, duration, location: Sunday 5th May, ACAP SBWG meeting venue, intend 9am to 3.00pm (two-thirds of a day)

Organising committee: ACAP: Anton Wolfaardt, Igor Debski, Nathan Walker. BirdLife: Cleo Small, Stephanie Prince.

Participant list: open invitation to SBWG attendees. Registration will be as part of delegate registration process for AC11 and WGs.

3. Agenda

0900 - 1030 Morning session 1

- Welcome to meeting (*Session lead/facilitator to be confirmed*) and round-table intros (20 mins)
- Morning session 1: Progress and challenges of engaging with RFMOs to reduce albatross bycatch in global pelagic longline fisheries.

Four panellists (one ACAP Secretariat, two members states, one NGO) present 5 minutes each on their views on progress/challenges/strengths/weaknesses, followed by facilitated group discussion. Total 25 mins for presentations plus 45 mins facilitated discussion

Output: SWOT analysis of engaging with RFMOs (as opposed to engaging directly with fleets or member states).

1030-1100 Morning tea

1100 - 1300 Morning sessions 2 & 3

- Morning session 2 (1100-1200): What elements are best progressed via RFMOs compared to being coordinated via ACAP or through ACAP/ACAP Parties/other stakeholder engagement with other national fleets? (*Session lead/facilitator to be confirmed*)

Discussion session covering key activities that are identified in IPOA-Seabirds, i.e.:

- Regulations regarding use of mitigation measures and seabird bycatch reduction objectives
- Enhancing uptake by fleets (Education outreach vessels, strengthening compliance monitoring)
- Enhancing bycatch data collection and reporting
- Periodic performance review

The discussion will be run in a carousel format (participants circulate in groups to each of four flip-charts where they make comments on benefits of pursuing progress in that activity via RFMOs as opposed to engaging with national fleets. Each flipchart to have a facilitator, ready with some explanation/context. Report back on key points.

Output: priorities identified for engaging with tuna RFMOs i.e. monitoring vs data standards vs compliance monitoring vs education/outreach, also with priorities identified within each category.

- Morning session 3 (1200-1230): Prioritise which tuna RFMOs to engage with (*Session lead/facilitator to be confirmed*).

Based on bycatch assessments and knowledge of opportunities or synergies, prioritise RFMOs for engagement in 2019-2022.

Output: summary of priority RFMOs identified, by year where relevant (e.g. to maximise any known opportunities or synergies).

LUNCH 1230 -1300

- Afternoon session 1 (1300 - 1400): What are the most effective approaches to engaging with tuna RFMOs (*Session lead/facilitator to be confirmed*)

Discussion session using priorities from previous session to identify what types of meetings and what types of inputs will be most effective, who is best placed to undertake what (e.g. ACAP Members, ACAP Secretariat, NGOs).

Output: summary of approaches identified.

- Afternoon session (1400-1500): Feedback on ACAP RFMO Strategy (*Session lead/facilitator to be confirmed*)

Use the output from all sessions as basis for developing key elements of feedback on ACAP Strategy. This will be documented as a tracked change copy of the ACAP Strategy for presentation to the SBWG9 meeting.

Output: feedback on ACAP strategy.

4. Documents

Documents for the workshop will be made available on the [ACAP website](#). We encourage all participants to read these documents in advance of the meeting.

5. Expected outputs

Summary report with paragraphs on views on strength/weaknesses in RFMOs, aspects where RFMOs are best suited, priorities for engagement and implications for ACAP RFMO Strategy. Drafted on Sunday 5th May (during workshop as far as possible) in order to be presented to the SBWG9 meeting on 6-7th May.