

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Ninth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group <i>Florianópolis, Brazil, 6 - 8 May 2019</i></p> <p>Updated seabird bycatch estimates for the Namibian demersal Hake longline and trawl fishery</p> <p><i>Authors: Nina da Rocha, Rory Crawford, Tim Reid, Stephanie Prince, Samantha Matjila, Titus Shaanika</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Data collected by BirdLife International's Albatross Task Force (ATF) has identified the demersal hake fishery in Namibia as one of the deadliest in the world for seabirds (Paterson et al., 2017; SBWG5 Doc 41). In 2015, regulations requiring the use of bird-scaring lines (BSLs) on demersal trawl and demersal longline vessels were introduced to mitigate this threat. Data recorded by the ATF and the Namibian Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA) were used to estimate bycatch rates for the demersal trawl and longline fleets before and after the introduction of these regulations. Total fleet effort data was provided by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR).

Bycatch rates in the demersal longline fleet were found to be 0.026 birds/1000 hooks (CI 95% 0.019-0.034) in the post-regulation period, corresponding to a 95% reduction in bycatch rate ($p=0.002$) compared to the pre-regulation period 0.709 birds/1000 hooks (CI 95% 0.372 – 1.321). The revised bycatch estimate indicates 1,102 (CI 95% 805 – 1401) birds were killed in 2017 compared to 23,448 (95% CI 12 303 – 43 688) in 2010.

No significant difference was found between pre-regulation bycatch rates (0.0917 birds/hour; CI 0.0045 - 0.2394) and post-regulation bycatch rates (0.104 bird/hour; CI 0.0 - 0.264) in the demersal trawl fleet. Scaling up to the most recent fleet-wide effort data available, this suggests 4,198 (0 – 10,671) birds were killed in the wet-fish portion of this fleet in 2017. Compliance with regulations remains an issue on trawl vessels in relation to the timing of BSL deployment.