



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourth Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group

Guayaquil, 22 – 24 August 2011

ACAP Observer Report – Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

Secretariat

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ACAP Observer Report – Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

Meeting Title: Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction Of Discards

Meeting Organisation: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

Date and Location: December 6-10. Rome, Italy

Website Address: www.fao.org

Your Name/Affiliation: Barry Baker, ACAP Secretariat

Capacity of Attendance: ACAP Representative

Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:

TC-BM/2010/2. Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction Of Discards. Secretariat Working Paper.

TC-BM/2010/Inf.4. Report of the Expert Consultation on International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction Of Discards

Working Papers None

Background Documents None

Summary of Content:

TC-BM/2010/2. Provided background information on the Technical Consultation prepared by the Secretariat, and included the guidelines drafted by the Expert Consultation held in 2009..

TC-BM/2010/Inf.4. Report of the Expert Consultation held in Rome on 30 November-3 December 2009. The Expert Consultation was convened to review an initial draft of the International Guidelines as called for by the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its twenty-eighth session in 2009. The Expert Consultation adopted a draft text containing International Guidelines to be reviewed and finalised in a technical Consultation.

Outcome (e.g. summary of relevant discussion, resolution, etc):

The Technical Consultation was held to:

- further develop the concept and text of the draft International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and the Reduction of Discards;
- provide advice on the ways and means to ensure that the implementation of the International Guidelines would have the desired impact; and
- consider the utility of appending appropriate reference material to the guidelines.

The meeting was attended by 35 FAO Members, one FAO Associate Member, a representative from the United Nations, and observers from four intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisations.

The meeting reviewed and adopted International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. A key outcome of the development of the text was the agreement that the guidelines should complement appropriate bycatch measures addressed in the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) and its Best Practice Technical Guidelines, the International Plan of Action For the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and Guidelines to Reducing Sea Turtle Interactions and Mortality in Marine Capture Fisheries.

The Guidelines were subsequently adopted by the FAO at the 29th Session of its Commission on Fisheries held in Rome in January 2011. They are published as Appendix E in the report of the meeting (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 957).

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

Not applicable

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

ACAP Parties are encouraged to implement the International Guidelines as appropriate in the management of their fisheries.

Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat: Yes