



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

**Fourth Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group**

*Guayaquil, Ecuador, 22 – 24 August 2011*

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**ACAP Observer Report for FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI)**

**Secretariat**

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## **ACAP Observer Report – FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI)**

**Meeting Title:** Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries

**Meeting Organisation:** Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO)

**Date and Location:** 31 January – 4 February 2011

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

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

**Capacity of Attendance:** Observer

### **Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:**

COFI 2001/Inf. 12 Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, Rome, Italy, 6 – 10 December 2010

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

FAO

### **Summary of Content:**

#### Scope

The scope of these Guidelines are global, covering all fishing activities in all seas, oceans and inland waters.

#### Purpose

The purpose of these Guidelines are to assist States and RFMO/As in implementing the Code and an ecosystem approach to fisheries through effective management of bycatch and reduction of discards.

#### Objective

The objective of these Guidelines are to promote responsible fisheries by:

- (i) minimizing the capture and mortality of species and sizes which are not going to be used in a manner that is consistent with the Code;
- (ii) providing guidance on measures that contribute towards more effective management of bycatch and reduction of discards; and
- (iii) improving reporting and the accounting of all components of the catch of which bycatch and discards are subsets.

### **Outcome:**

The Committee adopted the Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards and endorsed the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards contained in this report. The Committee also recommended that FAO provide support in capacity building and implementation of these guidelines and to ensure that the guidelines do not become barriers to international trade.

**Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:**

COFI takes a lead role in establishing international fisheries management policy. It is important that ACAP continues engagement in this forum in order to promote fisheries management policies that support the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.

**Recommended Actions for ACAP:**

FAO organized a meeting in the margins of COFI XXIX involving the tuna RFMOs and a number of observer organisations, including ACAP. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about a GEF funding program aimed at improving the governance of tuna fisheries, with a primary focus being to improve the management of bycatch species. The tRFMOs were invited to participate in this process, and in particular to identify possible projects that could be supported with these funds.

One idea put forward was to further develop electronic video monitoring, as a means of obtaining additional data with which to improve the management of tuna fisheries. This technology is currently used effectively in Canadian and Australian fisheries.

As the use of this technology has the potential to fill in many data gaps on seabird bycatch, Parties are encouraged to support the use of this GEF funding for this purpose.

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