SBWG1_Paper 6_Pelagic LL Mitigation Research Plan - Outline.doc

Draft Pelagic Longline Seabird Mitigation Research Plan (outline)

1. Need for a Plan

- Independent efforts yielding limited science to ID "best practice mitigation"
- 17 years and little progress in pelagic vs. demersal

2. Elements of Experimental Design

- Controlled Experiments (pros, cons and limitations)
- Mitigation specifications and performance standards
- Essential variables (bird CPUE, Fish CPUE, etc)
- Other variables
    - Behavioral (attack rate/abundance/proxies for CPUE?)
    - Temporal and spatial
    - Physical and environmental variables (wind speed and direction, etc)
    - Operational variables (safety, tangles, cost, labor, etc.)
- Optimal sample size (focus on fish or birds)
- Scope (number of vessels)

3. Goals of Mitigation Research

- Pilot
    - Preliminary testing (practicality and variability)
- Definitive quantitative comparisons
    - Effective at reducing seabird mortality by ?%
    - Effect on target species
    - Effect on the catch of other non-target organisms
- Demonstration
    - Repeating definitive work in a new location with new fishers
    - Focus on implementation

4. Pelagic Fishery Characterization (bracket the range)

- Vessel Classes
- Gear variations by target species
- ID Worst-Case (highest priority) fisheries

5. ID Key Experiments

- Review of Hobart Workshops outcomes
- Priorities to specific experiments
    - PI and collaborators to specific experiments w/ timelines
    - Synergies among programs

6. Host Locations

- Prioritize "worst-case" locations in space (where exactly) and time (months)
- Link to locations with local support (industry, scientific and logistical)
- Link to "worst –case" fisheries

7. Potential Funding Sources IAATO, RFMOs, NGOs, Governments, Benefactors, other