



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

**Third Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group**

*Mar del Plata, Argentina, 08 – 09 April 2010*

---

**ACAP Observer Report – WCPFC Scientific Committee 5**

Author: **Secretariat**

This paper is presented for consideration by ACAP and may contain unpublished data, analyses, and/or conclusions subject to change. Data in this paper shall not be cited or used for purposes other than the work of the ACAP Secretariat, ACAP Advisory Committee or their subsidiary Working Groups without the permission of the original data holders.



## ACAP Observer Report – WCPFC Scientific Committee 5



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

### ACAP Observer Report -

**Meeting Title:** 1. 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee  
2. Ecosystem and Bycatch Specialist Working Group

**Meeting Organisation:** Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

**Date and Location:** 10 August 2009 – 21 August 2009

**Website Address:** <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2009/5th-regular-session-scientific-committee>

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

**Capacity of Attendance:** Observer, representing ACAP

**Relevant Papers Tabled:**

- EB-WP-03** BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme. **Seabird bycatch mitigation measures.** BirdLife International, UK
- EB-WP-05** D. Kirby. **Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) Progress Report (2007/8) & Work Plan (2008/9).**
- EB-WP-06** D. Kirby, S. Waugh, D. Filippi. **Spatial risk indicators for seabird interactions with longline fisheries in the western and central Pacific.**
- EB-WP-06 (A)** Susan Waugh[1], Ben Lascelles[2], Phil Taylor[2], Ian May[2], Mark Balman[2], Steve Cranwell[3]. **Range distributions of seabirds at risk of interactions with longline fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean.** [1] BirdLife Global Seabird Programme, 84 Ghuznee St, Wellington, New Zealand. [2] BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, United Kingdom. [3] BirdLife Pacific Secretariat, 10 McGregor Road, Suva, Fiji.
- EB-WP-09** David Seán Kirby. **Monitoring the effectiveness of Conservation and Management Measures for bycatch.** Oceanic Fisheries Programme, Secretariat for the Pacific Community, Nouméa Cédex, New Caledonia.
- EB-IP-09** ACAP. **Mitigation Measures For Pelagic Longline Gear: A Report On The Work Of The Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Agreement On The Conservation Of Albatrosses And Petrels.** Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- EB-IP-12** Sue Waugh. **Analysis of Seabird Measures.** BirdLife International Global Seabird Programme.
- EB-IP-14** FAO. **Expert consultation on best practice technical guidelines for IPOA/NPOA – Seabirds.**
- ST-WP-01** SPC-OFP. **Scientific data available to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.** SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- GN-WP-10** **Secretariat. Cooperation, Consultation and Collaboration with Other RFMOs and Rational Agencies**

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

As shown above.

**Summary of Content:** (Papers requiring action / follow-up)

**EB-WP-03** BirdLife produced this series of 14 Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets. Seven of these are focussed on pelagic longline fisheries, and together they describe the range of potential mitigation measures available to reduce seabird bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries. The sheets assess the effectiveness of each measure, highlight their limitations and strengths, and make best practice recommendations for their effective adoption. They are designed to help decision-makers choose the most appropriate measures for their longline and trawl fisheries.

**EB-WP-05** The main conclusion is that areas of high potential encounter rates are not necessarily the same as areas where fishing has greatest risk of population effects. There are some small, highly vulnerable populations in tropical waters (e.g. Fiji petrel), whose limited range includes some high fishing effort areas. Given these

results it is suggested that WCPFC ultimately move towards more refined spatial management than the large-scale latitudinal bands presently used. However, at this stage there are important factors not included in the analysis, specifically (a) any variation in catchability of different species, and (b) use of mitigation measures. Further work was recommended on these aspects prior to revision of the seabird CMM.

**EB-WP-06** This paper assesses the risk of interactions between longline fisheries and seabirds in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area. A spatially explicit Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) is used to determine (a) the probability of seabird-fisheries interactions occurring; by comparison of fishing effort and species range distributions, and (b) the risk of adverse effects of fishing-induced mortality on populations of seabirds. The authors also identify areas of high seabird diversity as well as areas with the potential for fisheries interactions if fishing effort were to increase in those areas. On the basis of the analysis recommendations are made for future research and for future refinement of management measures.

**EB-IP-12** Provides information from BirdLife International on the effectiveness of seabird mitigation measures in response to the request for information from the WCPFC secretariat "that the WCPFC Secretariat seek advice from other RFMOs on the wording of CMM-2007-04. see WCPFC4 Summary Report, Attachment O, Annex 1, 1 a) (iv) and 1 b) (iv)] to ensure that tori lines include branch streamers along the aerial extent of the line and that in 1 a) (iv), the branch streamers are of a length that ensures that they would touch the surface of the water in the absence of wind and swell."

**ST-WP-01** Section 3.2 identifies the main data gaps related to ecosystem approach to fisheries. Data gaps related to the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries include the following:

- The coverage of catch data for non-target species, including species of special interest (marine reptiles, marine mammals, sharks and sea birds), collected by observers needs to be increased for most longline and purse-seine fleets, and particularly the distant-water longline fleets, for which observer coverage has been negligible. Exceptions to the need for increased coverage are the longline fleets of New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the United States (based in Hawaii), the purse seine fleet of Papua New Guinea and purse seiners fishing under the United States Treaty and the FSM Arrangement. Coverage of the Australian longline fleet has increased in recent years.
- Biological data covering non-target species are lacking; the types of data required include length and weight, length and age at maturity, longevity, growth rate, fecundity, habitat use (vertical and horizontal range), and trophic interactions.

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

45. The SC recommended that:

*Ecological Risk Assessment*

i. Funding to support the continuation of the ERA project should be provided for the period 2010-2012

*Seabirds*

46. The SC recommended that :

- i. CCMs should be encouraged to provide information on new or existing mitigation measures on seabird interactions to the SC consistent with para. 6 of CMM-2007-04.
- ii. Reviews of the effectiveness of mitigation measures for seabirds currently required under CMM-2007-04, and reviews of any new mitigation measures for possible incorporation into the CMM should be conducted.
- iii. Ongoing research, following from the spatial risk assessment presented in WCPFC-SC5-2009/EB-WP-6, during the inter-sessional period and for review at SC6 should be conducted. The EB-SWG further recommends the use of data from the Regional Observer Programme in order to validate spatial risk assessments so that a recommendation can be brought before SC6 to determine initial spatial zones for the differential management and monitoring of seabird bycatch. These assessments should be updated as new information becomes available. Access to observer data for these scientific purposes will be granted under the terms of the Commission's rules and procedures for access to data.

*Data gaps and progress towards addressing gaps*

54. The SC recommended that:

- iv. All CCMs familiarize themselves, and comply with, the obligations of the Commission's data submission standards (Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission).
- v. CCMs report to the TCC their progress in overcoming —domestic legal constraints to the provision of data.
- vi. The TCC consider non-compliance with data reporting obligations as a significant part of the CCMM (Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures) working group.

**Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:**

*Ecological Risk Assessment*

Further development of the ecological risk assessment process should be strongly supported by ACAP to allow more refined spatial application of seabird conservation measures, particularly in areas where there is a high overlap of fishing effort and ACAP species.

*Review of Mitigation Measures*

Reviews on the effectiveness of mitigation measures need to be provided as a high priority. These reviews need to be conducted using proper experimental approaches, i.e. devices and controls used under identical conditions with variables minimized.

*Data Collection*

The filling of data gaps, particularly on non-target species, to allow the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries should be strongly supported.

**Recommended Actions for ACAP:**

A strong message came out of the Scientific Committee that it wanted CCMs to provide it with reviews of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures currently endorsed under CMM 2007-04, based on **their** experience using these measures. ACAP Parties who are also WCPFC CCMs should be encouraged to submit reviews for consideration at SC6.

ACAP Parties who are WCPFC CCMs should also be encouraged to support the development of improved data collection programmes by WCPFC and in particular the collection and provision of data to WCPFC-SC on non-target species.

ACAP Parties who are WCPFC CCMs should support the use of the ERA process to refine the spatial application of CMM 2007-04.

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