



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Report on South American bycatch workshop and updating of the Agreement prioritization framework

Marco Favero (Advisory Committee)

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Between 14 and 16 September 2010 the workshop *“Improving the data collection on incidental mortality of seabirds in South American observer programmes”* took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The workshop was funded by the Agreement’s Advisory Committee (Project ACAP 09-10), and was attended by experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and BirdLife International (see SBWG-4 Doc 39 for a full description of the meeting). This paper provides an outline of the exercise conducted in that workshop where representatives of the South American ACAP Parties participated of the review of the at-sea threats prioritization framework.

Experts from each Country conducted a case by case (combination population-fishery) peer-review of their “own” fisheries. Where appropriate, additional consultations were conducted after the workshop with the relevant Organisations within each country, and information sent to the author of this document for final edition and compilation.

Experts advised on both changes to the partial scores, the existence of non relevant cases and also the addition of cases not considered in the original database. Besides an important number of changes proposed in the partial scores, experts proposed the removal of 6 cases (Argentina: White capped albatross interacting with Pelagic LL fishery, and Northern Royal albatross with demersal LL fishery [two cases]; Brazil: Wandering albatross with demersal trawl and White capped albatross with trawl; Uruguay: Grey-headed albatross with Pelagic longline). There were 82 new cases proposed to be added, 78 of which belonged to Brazilian, 2 to Ecuadorian and 2 to Peruvian fishing areas. This was caused by the addition of new fisheries potentially interacting with Waved albatross in Ecuadorian and Peruvian areas (e.g. demersal longline, purse seine) and the addition of new species-fisheries combinations proposed by Brazil. Details of the proposed changes are provided in AC6 Inf 1.

The exercise carried out by people working in local National Observer Programmes, National Fisheries Institutes and other relevant organizations in the region, allowed the refinement of the database originally built with very limited participation of South American experts (although some experts in previous working groups had experience in fisheries within the region). In early 2011, the peer-reviewed data was incorporated into the complete prioritization database. This exercise also allowed the identification and fixing of other inconsistencies along the framework. Simulations were further performed in order to determine to which extent modifications to weighting regime and partial scores significantly affect final scores and rankings (see AC6 Doc 15, SBWG-4 Doc 29).