



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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**Contribution for Brazilian Report on the Implementation
of the Agreement**

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Contribution for Brazilian Report on the Implementation of the Agreement

The Projeto Albatroz is a Non-governmental organization addressed to the seabirds conservation, in special for the reduction of albatrosses and petrels bycatch on oceanic fisheries. Historically Projeto Albatroz have being work closely to the Brazilian Governmental departments of environment and fisheries in order to test and implement mitigation measures on the longline vessels and other fisheries.

In this document Projeto Albatroz describe the main activities developed in 2009 that contributes for the Brazilian implementation of the Agreement.

The Projeto Albatroz projections for 2010 includes the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquiculture and the development of Albatross Task Force Program in Brazil supported, created and coordinated by RSPB, BirdLife International and Save Brazil.

1. RFMOs interfaces

- Projeto Albatroz took part in two ICCAT meetings in 2009. At Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, held in Recife- Brazil in June 2009 it was presented data on seabirds by catch attending the ICCAT Resolution 14/02. It was also presented preliminary results on light toriline tests to support the ICCAT Recommendation 07/07.
- During ICCAT Commission meeting held in Porto de Galinhas – Brazil Projeto Albatroz has given its support for a proposition for a new Recommendation for mitigation measures that was submitted by Brazil, South Africa and Uruguay. That proposition received strong opposition from EC and Japan, Korea and China that presented new propositions. There was not an agreement and the discussion was postponed to the next year.

2. Research and Monitoring

- Three Albatross Task Force field instructors (professional observers) are installed in South and Southeast Country Region in the manly ports where the long line fishing fleet operate. They support the fishermen during the mitigation measures test and to accomplish environmental education onboard.
- Study on torilines design developed comparing short and long streamers have been carried out by the ATF/Brasil (Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife International partnership) in national longline fleet based in Southern Brazil evaluating their efficiency.

- Monitoring longline fishery fleet in Santos-SP and Itajaí-SC and Rio Grande-RS fishing terminals to collect information on seabird bycatch, through logbooks filled by Skippers.
- Monitoring longline fishery fleet at-sea in Santos-SP, Itajaí-SC and Rio Grande-RS (South and Southern Brazil) through the observers onboard with the objective to collect information on seabird bycatch, and distribution, to collect fishery production information and introduce mitigation measures. Observers carry out awareness activities with fishermen during the fishing trips, exchanging experiences and talking about marine environment conservation and sustainable fishery.
- During this period (2009) the Projeto Albatroz monitored twelve fishing cruises in the national longline vessels based in Southern Brazil, and eight cruises voluntarily tested and adopting the mitigation measures, mainly torilines, to reduce the seabird bycatch.

3. Education and Public Awareness

- Projeto Albatroz published a book written based on fisherman, ship owner and researchers interviews about the history on longline fishery in Brazil, the impression of these stakeholders about the seabirds conservation and the use of mitigation measure. The Book called *Passageiros do Vento, Trabalhadores do Mar* is available in Portuguese only.
- Educational and awareness materials were developed to the fishermen, including pamphlets, posters, and one comics magazine addressed to the introduction of mitigation measure on fishing routines.
- Several media programs, articles and reports focusing albatross conservation have been broadcasted on TV, newspapers, magazines, radio, and Internet directed to the public in general.
- Encouragement and education for the return to land of non-degradable wastes, including plastics, batteries, light sticks, and plastic packaging bands, produced by fishing activities.