

 <p data-bbox="231 533 470 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="512 241 1401 280"><b>Ninth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p data-bbox="847 297 1401 336"><i>Florianópolis, Brazil, 6 - 8 May 2019</i></p> <p data-bbox="512 414 1401 555"><b>Reviewing the nature and level of interactions between seabirds and jigging vessels in the Falkland Islands</b></p> <p data-bbox="815 584 1098 622"><b><i>Amanda Kuepfer</i></b></p>
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### SUMMARY

In September 2017, the Seabird Bycatch Working Group of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) re-emphasised the need to review the knowledge of the extent of deliberate capture of ACAP species at sea globally. In response, and as a result of historic reports of deliberate taking of seabirds in the Southwest Atlantic and the Falkland Islands jigging fleet, a review was made of the nature and level of interaction between seabirds and jigging vessels licenced to operate around the Falkland Islands.

With regards to incidental catches of seabirds in the jigging fleet, opportunistic observations are consistent with historic accounts, indicating negligible levels of interactions between seabirds and the Falkland Islands jigging fleet.

In terms of deliberate taking, the review concludes that, since 2006, there has been no clear evidence of this practice still occurring in the Falkland Islands jigging fleet. It is likely that increased management and educational efforts, as well as requests for improved humanitarian standards aboard the vessels, will have contributed to reducing the risk and attraction of this deliberate taking of seabirds. Whilst the available information strongly suggests that the practice is not entrenched in the fleet, opportunistic taking cannot be ruled out completely, warranting continued vigilance and educational efforts.

This report lists further work envisaged to help improve the confidence in the level of interaction between seabirds and the Falkland Islands jigging fleet, and which should assist with reducing the risk of deliberate taking of seabirds potentially prevailing in international waters.

**This paper has an attachment:**

Kuepfer, A. 2018. Reviewing the nature and level of interactions between seabirds and jigging vessels in the Falkland Islands. Tech. Rep. FIG Fisheries Dept., Stanley, Falkland Islands.

*Noting Article XIII(1)(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, the references included in the present document are made exclusively for academic/scientific purposes and have no implications whatsoever for recognition of territorial sovereignty or the legal status of a state, territory, area, or their authorities, where relevant.*