

 <p data-bbox="213 515 456 555">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="644 241 1401 277" style="text-align: center;">Seventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p data-bbox="817 300 1401 336" style="text-align: center;"><i>La Rochelle, France, 6 - 10 May 2013</i></p> <p data-bbox="549 412 1343 663" style="text-align: center;">ACAP Observer Report to the Thirty-First Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), held in Hobart, Australia, 23 October to 1 November 2012</p> <p data-bbox="836 752 1053 788" style="text-align: center;"><i>New Zealand</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXXI) was held in Hobart, Australia, from 23 October to 1 November 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives of all 25 CCAMLR Members in addition to Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties and Observers, the latter including the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). In accordance with previous CCAMLR meetings, the assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality was included as an agenda item. No documents were submitted to the Commission or Scientific Committee in relation to this agenda item, but the Scientific Committee considered advice on this issue from the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment. While there is a continued low level of seabird bycatch in some parts of the Convention Area, the Commission welcomed efforts by France to address seabird bycatch issues within the French EEZs in Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.5.1. Opportunities for CCAMLR to work with RFMOs in terms of information sharing and cooperation were noted as an important way forward in the successful reduction of seabird bycatch mortality globally.

Informe de observadores del ACAP a la Trigésimo Primera Reunión de la Comisión para la Conservación de los Recursos Vivos Marinos Antárticos (CCRVMA), realizada en Hobart, Australia, del 23 de octubre al 1 de noviembre de 2012

La Trigésimo Primera Reunión Anual de la Comisión para la Conservación de los Recursos Vivos Marinos Antárticos (XXXI-CCAMLR) tuvo lugar en Hobart, Australia, del 23 de octubre al 1 de noviembre de 2012. Asistieron a la reunión representantes de los 25 miembros de la CCRVMA, además de las Partes Contratantes, las Partes no Contratantes y Observadores, estos últimos incluyen el Acuerdo sobre la Conservación de Albatros y Petreles (ACAP). Conforme a las reuniones previas del CCRVMA, se incluyó la evaluación y prevención de la mortalidad incidental como un punto de la agenda. No se presentaron documentos a la Comisión ni el Comité Científico en relación con este punto de la agenda, aunque el Comité Científico consideró el asesoramiento sobre este tema brindado por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Evaluación de Poblaciones de Peces. Si bien existe un nivel bajo continuo de la captura secundaria de aves marinas en algunas partes de la Zona de la Convención, la Comisión recibió con agrado la iniciativa de Francia de abordar los problemas de captura secundaria de aves marinas dentro de la ZEE de Francia, en la Subárea 58.6 y la División 58.5.1. Se destacaron las oportunidades para que la CCRVMA trabaje con OROP en términos de intercambio de información y cooperación como una forma importante de avanzar en la reducción exitosa a nivel mundial de la mortalidad de aves marinas por captura secundaria.

Rapport de l'observateur de l'ACAP à la 31^{ème} réunion de la Commission pour la conservation de la faune et la flore marines de l'Antarctique (CCAMLR) qui s'est tenue à Hobart, en Australie, du 23 octobre au 1^{er} novembre 2012

La 31^{ème} réunion annuelle de la Commission pour la conservation de la faune et la flore marines de l'Antarctique (CCAMLR-XXXI) s'est tenue à Hobart, en Australie, du 23 octobre au 1^{er} novembre 2012. Des représentants des 25 Membres de la CCAMLR ont participé à la réunion, de même que les Parties contractantes, les Parties non-contractantes et les Observateurs issus, notamment, de l'Accord sur la conservation des albatros et des pétrels (ACAP). Conformément aux précédentes réunions de la CCAMLR, l'évaluation et l'atténuation de la mortalité accidentelle ont été inscrites à l'ordre du jour. Aucun document lié à ce point à l'ordre du jour n'a été remis à la Commission ni au Comité scientifique, mais le Comité scientifique a tenu compte des conseils en la matière dispensés par le Groupe de travail sur l'évaluation des stocks de poisson. Bien que le nombre de captures accidentelles d'oiseaux marins reste peu élevé dans certaines parties de la zone de la Convention, la Commission a salué les efforts de la France qui s'est attaquée au problème des captures accidentelles d'oiseaux marins au sein des zones économiques exclusives françaises, dans la sous-zone 58.6 et dans la division 58.5.1. Il est important que la CCAMLR collabore et échange des informations avec les ORGP afin d'atténuer significativement la mortalité liée aux captures accidentelles d'oiseaux marins.

1. ASSESSMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF INCIDENTAL MORTALITY

1.1. Levels of seabird bycatch in the CCAMLR Area

The Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources recognised that while there was a continued low level of seabird bycatch in some parts of the Convention Area, there was an ongoing need to review incidental mortality and the implementation of Conservation Measures associated with bycatch mitigation. Further, the Scientific Committee reiterated that the target for seabird bycatch in the Convention Area should be zero, as is the case in the Ross Sea region of the Convention Area.

In 2011/12, a total of 3 seabirds were reported as bycatch in the Convention Area (outside the French exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as noted below), including two in Subarea 48.3 (one black-browed albatross and one southern giant petrel) and one Cape petrel from the krill fishery in Subarea 48.1. There were no recorded seabird mortalities from finfish trawl fisheries.

Within the EEZ of France a total of 16 seabird mortalities (all white-chinned petrels) were recorded from Subarea 58.6 (extrapolated to an estimated total of 65 individuals) and 41 (mostly white-chinned petrels) were recorded from Division 58.5.1 (extrapolated to an estimated 157 individuals). While it was noted that the French Action Plan had allowed a reduction in seabird bycatch in the French EEZ, the Commission acknowledged the significant improvements already achieved and encouraged France to continue to take additional steps to mitigate seabird bycatch within its EEZ.

In 2013, there will be a review of the results of an Australian research trial on the bycatch of seabirds, associated with the fishery in Division 58.5.2. The review will be undertaken by the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment, following consultation with relevant experts.

1.2. Marine debris

Marine debris monitoring undertaken as part of CCAMLR's marine debris monitoring programme has shown that there has been no trend (either up or down) in the amount of debris recorded in beach surveys or in seabird nests over the last decade. CCAMLR Members were encouraged to establish collection of marine debris data in areas where there was no current monitoring of debris, but where there were active fisheries, such as in the Ross Sea region.

1.3. Offal

The prohibition of offal discharge during fishing operations is currently applied to all CCAMLR finfish fisheries south of 60°S (CM 26-01, paragraph 6) and offal retention has been proven to be one of the most effective methods of minimising the attraction of fishing vessels to seabirds and minimising the risk of seabird interactions and bycatch. It is considered "best-practice mitigation measures" and was noted that the incidental mortality in these areas remains at, or near, zero. The prohibition of offal discharge may also serve to reduce the attractiveness of fishing vessels to some marine mammals.

2. SEABIRD RESEARCH

2.1. Estimates of abundance and krill consumption

While there is ongoing research in relation to estimating the abundance of penguins and their consumption of krill and other prey, the Scientific Committee noted that there is additional effort required to expand this research to flying seabirds. The Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management has been encouraged to consider any feasible means for developing estimates of abundance and prey consumption by these species.

3. WORKING WITH RFMOS

During the meeting, it was noted that significant issues exist for seabirds that breed in the Convention Area but forage in fisheries to the north. CCAMLR Members noted that opportunities for collaboration with regional initiatives on conservation of seabirds with distributions that span management areas.

4. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ACAP AND CCAMLR

The CCAMLR Commission commended ACAP's work in reducing incidental mortality of seabirds in fishing and recommended strengthening the links between CCAMLR and ACAP, including renewing the existing memorandum of understanding. France expressed its strong support for cooperation between CCAMLR and ACAP, in particular in relation to addressing the levels of seabird mortality in areas adjacent to the Convention Area.