



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

Valdivia, Chile, 19 - 22 June 2007

**ACAP Observer Report – WCPFC Scientific Committee
Ecosystem and Bycatch Specialist Working Group**

Author: **Secretariat**

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Meeting Title: Scientific Committee Second Regular Session, Ecosystem and Bycatch Specialist Working Group Meeting

Meeting Organisation: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Date and Location: 10 August 2006, Manila, Philippines

Website Address: <http://www.wcpfc.org/>

Your Name/Affiliation: Warren Papworth, ACAP Interim Secretariat

Capacity of Attendance: Observer, Intergovernmental Organisations

Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:

Document Number	Title	Author
GN WP-6	Cooperation with other organizations.	Secretariat
GN IP-1	Consolidated terms of reference of the Specialist Working Groups	Secretariat
GN IP-3	Information on seabird mitigation measures of other RFMOs.	Secretariat.
EB WP-1	Kirby, D. S., Molony, B. An ecological risk assessment for species caught in WCPO longline and purse seine fisheries.	Oceanic Fisheries Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.
EB WP-4	Waugh, S. Additional information on the distribution of seabirds in the WCPF Convention area.	Ministry of Fisheries, Wellington, New Zealand.
EB WP-5	Bull, L.S. A review of methodologies aimed at avoiding and/or mitigating incidental catch of protected seabirds.	Department of Conservation Research and Development, New Zealand.
EB WP-12	Soon-Song Kim, Dae-Yeon Moon, Doo-Hae An and Jeong-Rack Koh. Comparison of circle hooks and J hooks in the catch rate of target and bycatch species taken in the Korean tuna longline fishery. National Fisheries Research and Development Institute. Republic of Korea.	National Fisheries Research and Development Institute. Republic of Korea.
EB WP-14	Hobday, A. J., A. Smith, H. Webb, R. Daley, S. Wayte, C. Bulman, J. Dowdney, A. Williams, M.	CSIRO, Pelagic Fisheries and

	Sporcic, J. Dambacher, M. Fuller, T. Walker. Ecological risk assessment for the effects of fishing: methodology.	Ecosystems, Australia.
EB WP-15	Yokota K & M. Kiyota. Preliminary report of sidesetting experiments in a large sized longline vessel.	National Research Institute Far Seas Fisheries, Shimizu, Japan.
EB IP-1	Gilman, E., D. Kobayashi, T. Swenarton, P. Dalzell, I. Kinan, and N. Brothers. Analyses of observer data for the Hawaii-based longline swordfish fishery.	Blue Ocean Institute, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, USA.
EB IP-4	Stobutzki, I. Bycatch mitigation approaches in Australia's Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery: seabirds, turtles, marine mammals, sharks and nontarget fish.	Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra, Australia.
EB IP-7	IATTC. Review of Seabird Status and Incidental Catch in Eastern Pacific Ocean Fisheries.	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, La Jolla, USA.
EB IP-9	Watling, R. Interactions Between Seabirds and Pacific Islands' Fisheries, Particularly the Tuna Fisheries.	Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.
EB IP-11	J. Ariz, A. Delgado de Molina, M ^a L. Ramos and J. C. Santana. Check list and catch rate data by hook type and bait for bycatch species caught by Spanish experimental longline cruises in the south-western Indian Ocean during 2005.	Instituto Español de Oceanografía, PO Box 1373, 38080 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.
	BirdLife International. Distribution of albatrosses and petrels in the WCPFC Convention Area and overlap with WCPFC longline fishing effort.	Birdlife International Global Seabird Program.
	Small, C. Summary of seabird bycatch rates recorded in the Western and Central Pacific.	Birdlife International Global Seabird Program.

Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different: Nearly all of the above papers were presented by delegations on behalf of the authors. Cleo Small (BirdLife International) and Warren

Papworth (ACAP Secretariat) were the only dedicated seabird advisors present at the meeting and were able to provide useful advice/assistance to assist the meeting in its deliberations

Summary of Content: The above papers provided a good overview of the current state of knowledge regarding seabird bycatch mitigation measures and on seabird distribution within the WCPFC Convention area. This was in stark contrast to the availability of such information on sharks and turtles. As a consequence, the meeting was able to make concrete recommendations in relation to seabird bycatch issues, but was unable to do so for sharks and turtles.

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

It was readily apparent from the information provided to the meeting that there was a lack of information on seabird bycatch in the region between 25S and 20N. The meeting agreed that there was a need for increased observer coverage of this area and drafted a recommendation proposing 25% coverage for an initial period of two years.

The meeting also drafted a recommendation requiring all WCPFC vessels to use at least two seabird bycatch mitigation measures when fishing outside the above areas.

Copies of the draft recommendations are attached.

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

The draft recommendations will be forwarded for consideration at the Scientific Committee and, if adopted, they will then be forwarded to the next Commission meeting for its consideration.

It was noted that the recommendations (if adopted) are likely to need amendment at future EBS WG meetings to take account of information obtained from the increased observer coverage and in response to the development of new mitigation measures. As the EBS WG delegates are primarily fish biologists/ecologists it is important that ACAP ensure someone with seabird expertise is available to provide advice to the meeting.

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

ACAP Parties who are represented at the Scientific Committee and Commission meetings should be encouraged to strongly support adoption of the draft recommendations.

Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat: Yes