



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Second Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group**

**Hermanus, South Africa, 17 – 18 August 2008**

**ACAP Observer Report – 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting IATTC**

**Chair Advisory Committee**

## Observer Report 78th Meeting, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

### Meeting Title

78<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

### Date and Location

Panama, Panama, 23-27 June 2008

### Website

[www.iattc.org](http://www.iattc.org)

### Observer Name and Affiliation

Marco Favero, ACAP Advisory Committee

### Capacity of Attendance

Observer

### Meeting Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Ratifications of the Antigua Convention
5. The fishery in 2007 and the status of tuna and billfish stocks
6. a. Report of the 9th Stock Assessment Review Meeting  
b. Staff conservation recommendations  
c. Purse-seine net experiments
7. Report of 76th and 77th meetings of the IATTC
8. a. Recommended research program and budget for 2009 and 2010  
b. Amendment of financial regulations to new financial year  
c. Proposal for a regional tuna tagging program
9. Seabird conservation
10. a. Handling of data on fishing west of 150°W  
b. Exchange of data between IATTC and WCPFC
11. Program for transshipments
12. Report of the 8th Permanent Working Group on Compliance
13. Report of the 6th Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties
14. Report of the 3rd WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting
15. Actions following the meeting of Tuna Commissions, Kobe, January 2007
16. Resolution C-06-05, Trade Measures to Promote Compliance
17. Amendment of Resolution C-05-07, IUU vessel list
18. Size limit for inclusion of vessels in the IUU Vessel List
19. Review of 1992 Resolution on the La Jolla Agreement
20. Review of Commission staff's research
21. Resolutions
22. Election of Chairs of Working Groups
23. Other business
24. Place and date of next meeting
25. Adjournment

### **Relevant Paper Tabled/Proposed**

IATTC 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Resolution to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds.  
Presented by Spain and United States.

### **List of Documents relevant to ACAP (and forwarded to the Secretariat)**

- o Resolution C-05-01 on Incidental Mortality of Seabirds (73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting IATTC, 2005)
- o Document IATTC-75-07c. Seabird interactions with longline fisheries: areas and mitigation tools. (75<sup>th</sup> Meeting IATTC, 2007)
- o Document SARM-9. Meeting report. 9<sup>th</sup> Stock Assessment Review Meeting.
- o Document SARM-9-11a. Seabirds and fisheries in IATTC area: an update. Compiled by Kim Rivera. NOAA Fisheries National Seabird Coordinator, USA
- o Document SARM-9-11b. Albatross and petrel distribution within the IATTC area. ACAP.
- o Document SARM-9-11c. Preliminary estimation of seabird bycatch of Taiwanese longline fisheries in the Pacific Ocean. Taiwan.

### **Summary of Content**

This report refers strictly to the 78<sup>th</sup> IATTC Commission Meeting and does not include discussions and achievements from previous meetings in relation to seabird matters (like those described in SBWG-2 Doc 19). Spain and USA submitted a new proposal (modified from that presented in 2007 by Spain) to the Commission Meeting ("*Resolution to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds*"). In this document, a set of mitigation measures to be used by vessels following the well known "two-column approach" included: (1) side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines, (2) Night setting with minimum deck lighting, (3) tori lines (light tori lines included), (4) weighted branch lines, (5) blue-dyed bait, (6) deep setting line shooter, (7) underwater setting chute, and (8) management of offal discharge. The document also included a set of technical specifications, area of application within IATTC waters and minimum size of vessels where the measures should be used. Recommended mitigation measures in the proposal were based on the measure adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in 2007.

### **Outcome**

- o The proposal was broadly supported by IATTC Parties, although some of them showed some concerns about technical specifications for mitigation measures, minimum size of vessels and the area of application. Because of these issues the document was finally not adopted.
- o ACAP expressed its concerns about the inclusion of light tori lines into the set of possible mitigation measures. These concerns were based (1) on the lack of empirical information supporting the effectiveness of this measure, and (2) the fact that light tori lines were not considered as a mitigation measure in the document developed by the SBWG as best practice advice on pelagic mitigation measures, endorsed by the ACAP Advisory Committee in AC3 (see AC3 Final Report, Annex 5).
- o The Commission recommended that the proposal would be reviewed / refined by the IATTC Working Group on Bycatch, but to date there is no schedule for meetings.
- o ACAP observer said in his intervention that ACAP was pleased that the IATTC recognizes that seabird bycatch is a significant problem within its fisheries and is prepared to consider adopting mandatory mitigation measures. The observer also offered ACAP expertise to assist in the further refinement of the proposal.

### **Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement**

The Commission recommended the proposal on mitigation of seabird mortality would be discussed / refined during the next Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch. ACAP involvement in this process (through its Parties in common with IATTC) is highly recommended.

### **Recommended Actions for ACAP**

- o Work actively in the refinement of the proposal to mitigate seabird bycatch in IATTC waters.
- o Improve the engagement with the four Parties in common with IATTC (Ecuador, France, Peru and Spain) to assure their delegations are aware of latest advances achieved and recommendations made by ACAP.

- Another point of potential interest for ACAP that will need to be followed is related to the agreement for exchange of data developed between the IATTC and WCPFC (Doc IATTC-78-10b, see <http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/IATTC-78-10b-data-exchange-agreement.pdf>).
- In the margins of the Commission Meeting, I was contacted by Andrew Wright (Executive Director, WCPFC), who expressed the interest of the WCPFC for developing a bycatch and bycatch mitigation information resource corner on the WCPFC website. This project offers an excellent opportunity for ACAP to work collaboratively with the WCPFC, and serve as pilot experience to be implemented in other RFMOs.