

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Thirteenth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p><i>Swakopmund, Namibia, 27 - 29 May 2026</i></p> <p><b>Charter arrangements: an opportunity to improve data collection and reporting of endangered, threatened and protected species bycatch in distant-water longline fleets</b></p> <p><b><i>BirdLife International, Namibia Nature Foundation, and the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform</i></b></p>
---	---

**A password is required to view the full text document**

## SUMMARY

Accurate data collection and transparent reporting of Endangered, Protected and Threatened species is a major barrier to understanding the scale of the impact of High Seas longline fishing operations on seabird populations.

Strengthening the implementation of measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations that ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of fishing operations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental taking of seabirds is an objective of the ACAP Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations engagement strategy.

We report on obligations associated with charter arrangements and use a case study of the Namibian large pelagic fishery that targets sharks, tuna and associated species in the South Atlantic. We highlight positive progress made on data collection and reporting and reflect on the potential for further work across tuna RFMCOs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That SBWG:

1. Consider including a cross-RFMC0 review of chartering arrangements and access agreements to the ACAP SBWG work plan.
2. Recommend to the Advisory Committee that ACAP Parties promote improvements to the transparency of chartering arrangements and access agreements across the five tuna RFMCOs.
3. Recommend to the Advisory Committee that ACAP Parties commit to 100% monitoring, using a mix of observer coverage and electronic monitoring systems on Distant Water vessels fishing under chartering arrangements and access agreements to improve data collection and reporting to RFMCOs.