

 <p data-bbox="215 537 446 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="502 235 1404 280">Fifth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p data-bbox="837 291 1404 336"><i>La Rochelle, France, 1 - 3 May 2013</i></p> <p data-bbox="518 403 1380 504">Seabird Bycatch During Pelagic Longline Fishing: Gear Retrieval vs. Gear Deployment</p> <p data-bbox="909 593 981 638">USA</p>
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SUMMARY

In the United States, mitigation measures in the Hawaii pelagic longline fisheries (deep- and shallow-set) ensure low levels of seabird interactions. In 2011, the interaction rates were 0.006 birds/1,000 hooks in the deep-set fishery and 0.045 birds/1,000 hooks in the shallow-set fishery. Recent investigation into reducing seabird bycatch even further focused on differences in catch rates during gear deployment versus retrieval. The preliminary results suggest that most interactions in the deep-set fishery occur during gear deployment, most interactions in the shallow-set fishery occur during gear retrieval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACAP should compile information from nations with longline fleets to facilitate evaluation of the extent of seabird bycatch during longline retrieval versus deployment and other operational factors.

Captura secundaria de aves marinas durante la pesca con palangre pelágico: Recuperación de equipos en comparación con el despliegue de equipos

En Estados Unidos, las medidas de mitigación en las pesquerías con palangre pelágico de Hawaii (aguas profundas y de poca profundidad) aseguran niveles bajos de interacción de las aves marinas. En 2011, las tasas de interacción eran de 0,006 aves/1.000 anzuelos en la pesquería de aguas profundas, y de 0,045 aves/1.000 anzuelos en la pesquería de aguas poco profundas. Las investigaciones recientes para reducir la captura secundaria de aves marinas se centraron incluso en las diferencias entre las tasas de captura durante el despliegue de equipos en comparación con la recuperación. Los resultados preliminares sugieren que la mayoría de las interacciones en la pesquería de aguas profundas se producen durante el despliegue de los equipos, y la mayoría de las interacciones en la pesca de aguas poco profundas se producen durante la recuperación de los equipos.

RECOMENDACIONES

El ACAP debe recopilar información de los países con flotas de pesca con palangre para facilitar la evaluación del nivel de captura secundaria de aves marinas durante la recuperación del palangre en comparación con el despliegue y otros factores operacionales.

Capture accessoire d'oiseaux de mer pendant la pêche à la palangre : phases de récupération/déploiement de l'engin de pêche

Les mesures d'atténuation dans les eaux des États-Unis d'Amérique, telles qu'elles s'appliquent dans les pêcheries à la palangre de la région pélagique de Hawaïi (pour des poses en profondeur comme en surface), résultent en un faible taux d'interaction avec les oiseaux de mer. Ainsi en 2011 le taux d'interaction s'élevait à 0.006 oiseaux/1000 hameçons dans la pêcherie de fond et à 0.045 oiseaux/1000 hameçons dans la pêcherie de surface. Des études plus poussées et plus récentes pour réduire encore plus la capture accessoire d'oiseaux de mer ont porté sur les différences que l'on peut noter dans les taux de capture, selon soit le déploiement soit la récupération de l'engin de pêche. Les résultats préliminaires suggèrent que la plupart des interactions du palangrier de fond surviennent pendant le déploiement de l'engin de pêche, alors que pour la palangre de surface les interactions les plus importantes ont lieu pendant la période de récupération de l'engin.

RECOMMANDATION

L'ACAP se devrait de compiler les informations venant des pays menant des opérations de pêche palangrière, afin d'évaluer l'étendue de la capture accessoire d'oiseaux de mer selon soit la récupération soit le déploiement de l'engin de pêche, ainsi que d'autres facteurs d'ordre opérationnel.

The bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries is a long-recognized problem and the focus of many best practices mitigation developed through ACAP. The current best practices, and the corresponding conservation measures in various regional fisheries management organizations, appear to focus on implementation during gear setting. In some conservation measures, best practices are required during gear setting and in others, the timing is not specified. Thus far, the recommendations from ACAP for mitigating bycatch during gear retrieval involves timing and location of offal discharge from the vessel (see p.119 AC6 Report Rev 1.2 Annex 13 and p. 128 AC6 Report Rev 1.2 Annex 14).

The application of mitigation measures during gear setting has been so successful that seabird mortality incidental to pelagic longlining has become much less of an issue. In the U.S. Hawaii pelagic longline shallow-set fishery (shallow-set fishery), the use of weighted branchlines, mandatory night setting, and other measures have resulted in most of the low levels of seabird bycatch occurring during gear retrieval. The shallow-set fishery typically must set at night and typically hauls during the day; therefore, most of the interactions occur

when fishermen retrieve the gear and birds are actively feeding. In 2011, this fishery interacted with 49 Laysan albatrosses and 19 black-footed albatrosses and 78% of these seabirds were released injured and alive.

NMFS will continue to monitor interactions and fishing techniques through its observer program to examine ways to avoid interactions.

While seabird bycatch during gear setting occurs at a rate lower than during gear retrieval and most of the seabirds can be released alive in the shallow-set fishery, simple actions may further minimize such bycatch and obviate the need for persons onboard vessels from handling seabirds, as well as avoid harm to seabirds present during gear retrieval.

The United States is interested to know the extent of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries during gear deployment versus retrieval in other countries' fleets. If such bycatch differences are significant, or if some simple actions have the potential to eliminate seabird bycatch during gear retrieval, we recommend ACAP evaluate this problem, gathering information as needed. This may lead to an action plan to address the issue.

References: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2013. 2011 Annual Report: Seabird Interactions and Mitigation Efforts in Hawaii Longline Fisheries. Pacific Islands Regional Office, Honolulu, Hawaii. 18 p. (Weblink: http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/pdfs/seabird/2011_Annual_Seabird_Report_revised_2013-03-05.pdf)