

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Fifth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b> <i>La Rochelle, France, 1-3 May 2013</i></p> <p><b>Addendum to SBWG5 Doc 51</b></p> <p><b><i>Graham Robertson, Australian Antarctic Division</i></b></p>
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This document provides information additional to **SBWG5 Doc 51**.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 1) ACAP encourage nations where lumo hook leads are being adopted in fisheries to conduct port-based inspections of gear bins and record incidences of non-compliance to the correct positioning of hook leads in branch lines; and
- 2) Report the findings to ACAP at an appropriate future date.

### **Anexo al GdTCS5 Doc 51**

Este documento brinda información adicional para el **GdTCS5 Doc 51**.

### **RECOMENDACIONES**

Se recomienda que:

- 1) El ACAP aliente a las naciones en las que se están adoptando las pesas de anzuelos lumo se realicen inspecciones en los puertos de los depósitos de los equipos y se registren las incidencias de incumplimiento respecto de la colocación correcta de las pesas de anzuelos en los reinales; y
- 2) Se informen los hallazgos al ACAP en una fecha oportuna en el futuro.

### **Addenda au SBWG5 Doc 51**

Ce document fournit des informations en complément du **SBWG5 Doc 51**.

#### **RECOMMANDATIONS**

Il est recommandé que:

- 1) L'ACAP encourage les nations qui ont adopté les plombs de pêche Lumo à inspecter, dans les ports, les coffres à matériel et à enregistrer tous les cas où les plombs de pêche ne sont pas correctement positionnés sur les lignes secondaires; et
- 2) Les conclusions soient présentées à l'ACAP à une date ultérieure.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Lumo hook leads are designed to be placed either at the hook or on very short leaders. They are designed to slide along the branch line to dissipate the energy of dangerous recoils when gear is bitten off or when lines break under tension during hauling. Their capacity to slide is essential to improved crew safety. Their rapid sink rate – and effectiveness in reducing seabird bycatch- depends on the ability of crews to maintain the leads in the correct position in the branch lines. Failure to do so will slow hook sink rates and increase risks to seabirds. Although strong incentives exist (e.g. reduced bin tangles and line repairs, ease of deployment) for crews to maintain the leads in the correct position the extent to which crews will self regulate is unknown (as would be expected given adoption in fisheries is only just commencing).

#### **METHOD**

To gain an indication of crews capacity to self regulate, port-based inspections of gear bins were conducted on three fishing vessels in the Australian pelagic longline fishery. The inspections were conducted by an officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority who was well-known to vessel crews with many years experience working with them at sea as observer. The inspections involved counts of the number of lumo lead branch lines in bins and the number of branch lines with leads in the incorrect positions. Of three fishing vessels inspected two were inspected on four occasions and one was inspected on three occasions. This gave a total of 11 fishing trips.

#### **RESULTS**

The results of the inspections are presented in Table 1. The inspections comprised a total of 12,020 branch lines assess as to the position of lumo leads in branch lines. Of these, leads on all but two branch lines were in the correct positions at the hook. Both leads that were out-of-place were positioned just 2 cm from the hooks.

Vessel #	Inspection date	Branch lines examined (n)	Branch lines non-compliant (n)	Comments
1	26/11/2012	930	2	Leads ~2 cm from hooks
	2/2/2013	1150	0	All compliant
	18/2/2013	1320	0	All compliant
	21/3/2013	1250	0	All compliant
2	6/12/2012	2250	0	All compliant
	3/2/2013	2200	0	All compliant
	2/3/2013	1700	0	All compliant
	11/3/2013	1650	0	All compliant
3	19/12/2012	790	0	All compliant
	30/1/2013	900	0	All compliant
	2/3/2013	1150	0	All compliant
	17/3/2013	1380	0	All compliant

*Table 1. Results of unannounced port-based inspection of gear bins of three fishing vessels in the Australian pelagic longline fishery in the phasing-in stage of lumo hook leads. The inspections occurred immediately following the return of the vessels from fishing trips. All leads were required to be positioned at the hook.*

## DISCUSSION

In terms of the sample size, the number of trips monitored is less important than the number of vessel crews involved in the inspections. The latter reflects the attitude of vessel crews *per se* to the concept of self regulation. The evidence presented is a start, but three crews is too small a sample size to allow definitive conclusion to be drawn about self regulation. A much larger sample size, preferably from a number of countries, is required to definitely assess the extent to which crews will maintain lumo leads in their correct positions in branch lines.