

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Eighth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p><i>Wellington, New Zealand, 4 – 6 September 2017</i></p> <p><b>Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide – next steps</b></p> <p><b><i>Wiesława Misiak, Anton Wolfaardt, Marco Favero</i></b></p>
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### SUMMARY

Working with the Japanese National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF), the Secretariat recently produced a seabird bycatch identification guide for use by observers at sea. The most recent version, updated in August 2015, is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese. Korean and Japanese versions are still in the editing process. The ID Guide has been very well received in the RFMO and seabird conservation communities. In order for the Guide to remain relevant and useful, it now needs to be revised and re-issued. This was originally proposed as a suitable secondment project but has not proceeded due to the suspension of the Secondments Programme. An alternative model of progressing this important task is now sought.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the SBWG

1. notes the importance of the ID Guide to the work of the Agreement and,
2. recommends to the AC the allocation of resources in a way which will enable the Secretariat to facilitate and co-ordinate efforts to update the Guide.

### **Guía de identificación de aves marinas capturadas: próximos pasos**

### RESUMEN

En colaboración con el Instituto Nacional de Investigación de Pesquerías de Ultramar (NRIFSF) de Japón, la Secretaría elaboró recientemente una guía de identificación de aves marinas capturadas para que puedan usarla los observadores en el mar. La versión más

reciente, actualizada en agosto de 2015, está disponible en inglés, francés, español, portugués, chino tradicional y chino simplificado. Las versiones en coreano y japonés aún se encuentran en edición. La guía de identificación fue muy bien recibida por las comunidades de conservación de aves marinas y de las OROP. Para que la guía siga siendo pertinente y útil, ahora es necesario revisarla y volver a publicarla. Esto se propuso inicialmente como un proyecto apropiado de pasantías, pero no se llevó a cabo por la suspensión del Programa de Pasantías. Actualmente, se busca un modelo alternativo para realizar esta importante tarea.

### **RECOMENDACIONES**

Se recomienda al GdTCS realizar las siguientes acciones:

1. observar la importancia de la guía de identificación para las tareas del Acuerdo; y
2. recomendar al CA que asigne recursos de forma tal que la Secretaría pueda facilitar y coordinar los esfuerzos para actualizar la guía.

## **Guide d'identification de capture accessoire d'oiseaux de mer – prochaines étapes**

### **RÉSUMÉ**

En collaboration avec le *Japanese National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries* (NRIFSF) [Institut National de recherche halieutique japonais], le Secrétariat a récemment produit un guide d'identification de capture accessoire d'oiseaux de mer à destination des observateurs en mer. La version la plus récente, mise à jour en août 2015, est disponible en anglais, français, espagnol, portugais, chinois traditionnel et chinois simplifié. Les versions coréennes et japonaises sont en voie d'édition. Le Guide d'identification a été très bien accueilli par les ORGP et les communautés de conservation des oiseaux de mer. Afin que le Guide demeure pertinent et utile, il doit maintenant être révisé et remis en circulation. Cela avait été proposé à l'origine comme un projet de détachement approprié, mais n'a pas abouti en raison de la suspension du Programme de détachement. On cherche maintenant une autre solution pour faire avancer cette tâche importante.

### **RECOMMANDATIONS**

Que le GTCA :

1. note l'importance du Guide d'identification pour le travail de l'Accord; et
2. recommande au CC d'affecter les ressources d'une manière qui permettra au Secrétariat de faciliter et coordonner la mise à jour du Guide d'identification.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

At the first meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO Technical Working Group on Bycatch in July 2011, ACAP offered to develop a standardised seabird identification guide to assist with the harmonisation of data collection across the RFMOs. Working with the Japanese National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF), in March 2015, the Secretariat produced a photo identification guide for use by observers at sea. Following some initial feedback, an updated version was produced in August 2015 in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese. The guide was also translated into Korean and Japanese, but the publication of these versions has stalled due to the time and resources required to incorporate updates suggested by experts during the editing process.

The ID Guide is available from the ACAP website and the Secretariat has distributed printed copies at relevant fora in the past two years. The ID Guide has been very positively received in the RFMO and seabird conservation communities, and helpful feedback from users and seabird experts has been provided to the Secretariat on ways to improve it in the future.

The ID Guide was intended to also be used as a basis for adapting or developing regionally specific ID materials. This has already been the case with some ACAP Parties and range states taking advantage of this freely available resource. However, in order for the Guide to remain relevant for this purpose, and remain useful in its own right, it now needs to be revised and re-issued. This was originally planned as a suitable secondment project (2016-2018 WP task 5.4), where a secondee with a suitable background would not only revise the Guide, but also develop their seabird ID skills in collaboration with a suitable host institution. Due to the suspension of the Secondments Programme, this task has not been accomplished, and due to the resources required, cannot be easily absorbed by the Secretariat Work Programme.

## **2. REVISING AND UPDATING THE ID GUIDE**

Given the effort and resources that have been invested in producing the ID Guide so far, and the potential for capacity building, this review should proceed without further delay. The Secretariat therefore asks that an alternative model of progressing and resourcing this important task is agreed. This could involve funds being made specifically available from the Secondments Programme allocation in the absence of the wider Programme going ahead, and the allocation of financial resources as a core project in the AC Work Programme. Alternatively, WG members are asked to investigate the availability of volunteers to work locally to incorporate the feedback received to date.