

**DRAFT CONSERVATION MEASURE – INCIDENTAL  
MORTALITY OF SEABIRDS IN THE LONGLINE FISHERY**

## **DRAFT CONSERVATION MEASURE – INCIDENTAL MORTALITY OF SEABIRDS IN THE LONGLINE FISHERY**

Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds in the course of longline fishing or longline fishing research in the Convention Area.

The Commission,

Noting the need to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing by minimising their attraction to the fishing vessels and by preventing them from attempting to seize baited hooks, particularly during the period when the lines are set.

Recognising that successful techniques for reducing the mortality of albatrosses have been employed in the longline fishery for tuna immediately to the north of the Convention Area.

Agrees to the following measures to reduce the possibility of incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing.

1. Fishing operations shall be conducted in such a way that the baited hooks sink as soon as possible after they are put in the water.
2. During the setting of longlines at night only the minimum ship's lights necessary for safety shall be used.
3. Trash and offal are not to be dumped while longline operations are in progress.
4. A streamer line designed to discourage birds from settling on baits during deployment of longlines shall be towed during daylight operations. The specification of the streamer line and its method of deployment is given in the Appendix to this Measure.
5. This Measure shall not apply to designated research vessels investigating better methods for reducing incidental mortality of seabirds.

## APPENDIX

1. The streamer line is to be suspended at the stern from a point approximately 4.5 m above the water and such that the line is directly above the point where the baits hit the water.
2. The streamer line is to be approximately 3 mm diameter, have a minimum length of 150 m and be weighted at the end so that it streams directly behind the ship even in cross winds.
3. At 5 m intervals commencing from the point of attachment to the ship 5 branch streamers each comprising 2 strands of approximately 3 mm diameter cord should be attached. The length of the streamer should range between approximately 3.5 m nearest the ship to approximately 1.25 m for the fifth streamer. When the streamer line is deployed the branch streamers should reach the sea surface and periodically dip into it as the ship heaves. Swivels should be placed in the streamer line at the towing point, before and after the point of attachment of each branch streamer and immediately before any weight placed on the end of the streamer line. Each branch streamer should also have a swivel at its attachment to the streamer line.

