

CONSERVATION MEASURE 24-03 (2003)
Experimental Integrated Line-Weighting Trials
in Statistical Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 in the 2003/04 Season

Species	seabirds
Area	88.1, 88.2
Season	2003/04
Gear	longline

The Commission,

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee and the desire to resolve line weighting issues for autoline vessels in the Convention Area, and the proposal to undertake a comprehensive trial to further resolve this issue from Australia and New Zealand in Statistical Subareas 88.1 and 88.2,

Accepting the need to have two specified vessels use longlines that will not meet the normal sink rate requirements during these trials,

Agrees to adopt the following conservation measure to allow the trials to occur only on the specified agreed vessels pursuant to the experimental design put forward by the Scientific Committee.

In respect of fishing in Statistical Subareas 88.1 and 88.2, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Conservation Measure 25-02, protocols A2, A3, B2, and B3 of Conservation Measure 24-02, paragraph 8 of Conservation Measure 41-09, and paragraph 7 of Conservation Measure 41-10 shall not apply to the FV *Janas*¹ and the FV *Avro Chieftain*¹ whilst these vessels comply with the following experimental protocol.

1. The CCAMLR Scientific Observer or the national observer shall observe all sets of longlines during the trial (100% coverage of sets).
2. Vessels shall deploy two streamer lines on all sets of longlines during the trial. Streamer lines shall be deployed on either side of the longline. The windward streamer will be of the same specification as that detailed in the Appendix to Conservation Measure 25-02. The leeward streamer must be as close as possible to that specification, recognising that modifications will be needed to prevent entanglement of the two streamer lines and the vessels in the trial shall have operational discretion to avoid this.
3. The CCAMLR Scientific Observer shall provide a detailed description of the leeward streamer line use and construction in their cruise report.
4. One of the observers shall determine during every trial set whether seabirds of any species enter the 'risk zone' near vessels. The risk zone is defined as:
 - (i) up to 100 m astern of the vessel;
 - (ii) up to 10 m either side of the setting direction of the longline;
 - (iii) up to 10 m above the longline.
5. Whenever a seabird is sighted in the risk zone during a set, the observer shall immediately inform the officer in charge of the setting operation who shall immediately begin firing a bird scaring gas cannon until such time that the seabird(s) leave the prescribed area. The gas cannon shall be fired on a randomised cycle with a firing frequency of at least two times every three minutes.

6. If, on firing the gas cannon three times, seabirds remain in the risk zone:
 - (i) if the seabird(s) is/are an albatross (all species) or giant petrel (both species) the vessel shall immediately deploy external weights on unweighted longlines (but not on integrated weight longlines) at such a rate as to achieve a 0.3 m/s line sink rate (~5 kg per 50 m) until such time that the seabird(s) leaves the prescribed area; or, alternatively
 - (ii) if the seabird(s) is not a species of albatross or giant petrel, the vessel may continue the trial until such time as the seabird catch limits, for species other than in (i) above, prescribed in Annex 24-03/A are reached.
7. If either the second streamer line described in paragraph 2 above, or the gas cannon described in paragraph 6 above are not able to be operated, the trials shall cease immediately until such time as they are able to be deployed again.
8. If any one of the seabird by-catch limits in Annex 24-03/A is reached, the vessel shall revert to fishing under the requirements of Conservation Measure 41-09, Conservation Measure 41-10, Conservation Measure 25-02 and Conservation Measure 24-02.

¹ Subject to a licence being issued by the Flag State

ANNEX 24-03/A

The by-catch limits for seabirds caught¹ during these trials are:

- (i) 50 Antarctic petrels; and/or
- (ii) 20 individuals of all other non-albatross or non-giant petrel species; and/or
- (iii) any one of either of the giant petrel species or any one of any albatross species.

¹ Where the number of birds caught is defined in SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 5, paragraphs 6.214 to 6.217.