

RESOLUTION 22/XXV

International actions to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds arising from fishing

Species	seabirds
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	all

The Commission,

Recollecting that the greatest current threats to species and populations of Southern Ocean seabirds breeding in the Convention Area are fishery-related incidental mortality and the potential impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing,

Noting the substantial reduction of incidental mortality of seabirds in the Convention Area as a result of conservation measures implemented by the Commission,

Concerned that, despite such measures, many populations of albatross and petrel species breeding in the Convention Area continue to decline and that such reductions in their populations are unsustainable,

Concerned at increasing evidence of fishery-related incidental mortality of seabirds that breed and forage in the Convention Area,

Noting that the seabirds caught are almost entirely albatross and petrel species which are threatened with global extinction,

Recognising that some populations of albatrosses and petrels will not stabilise until total incidental mortality levels are significantly reduced,

Recalling CCAMLR's collaborations with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), a multilateral agreement that provides a focus for international cooperation and exchange of information and expertise towards the conservation of the declining populations of these seabirds,

Recalling repeated attempts to communicate these concerns to RFMOs,

1. Invites listed RFMOs (Appendix 1), consistent with the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the IPOA-Seabirds, to implement or develop, as appropriate, mechanisms to require the collection, reporting and dissemination of annual data on seabird incidental mortality, particularly:
 - (i) rates of incidental mortality of seabirds associated with each fishery, details of the seabird species involved, and estimates of total seabird mortality (at least at the scale of FAO area);
 - (ii) measures to reduce or eliminate incidental mortality of seabirds that are in use in each fishery and the extent to which any of these are voluntary or mandatory, together with an assessment of their effectiveness;
 - (iii) scientific observer programs that can provide comprehensive spatial and temporal coverage of fisheries to allow statistically robust estimation of incidental mortality associated with each fishery.

2. For high-seas areas within the range of seabirds that breed and forage in the Convention Area, where unregulated fishing takes place or where systematic data reporting has not yet been introduced by listed RFMOs, the Executive Secretary should contact Flag States which have vessels in these areas to:
 - (i) express CCAMLR's interest in such seabird species,
 - (ii) indicate the need to require such fishing vessels to collect and report the data specified in paragraph 1 above, and
 - (iii) forward these data to the CCAMLR Secretariat to be made available to ad hoc WG-IMAF.
3. Encourages Contracting Parties to:
 - (i) request that the topic of seabird incidental mortality be included on the agenda of meetings of pertinent RFMOs and, where possible and appropriate, to send relevant experts to these meetings;
 - (ii) identify those areas and circumstances where incidental mortality of seabirds that breed and forage in the Convention Area occurs;
 - (iii) identify and continue to develop those mitigation measures which would be most effective at reducing or eliminating such mortality and to require such measures to be implemented in the relevant fisheries.
4. Encourages Contracting Parties involved with new and developing RFMOs to request that incidental mortality of seabirds is adequately addressed and mitigated. Appropriate initiatives might include:
 - (i) establishment or expansion of existing observer programs and adoption of appropriate data collection protocols on seabird incidental mortality;
 - (ii) establishment of by-catch working groups that will address incidental mortality issues and make recommendations for practicable and effective mitigation measures, including evaluation of established and innovative technologies and techniques;
 - (iii) evaluations of fishery impacts on the affected seabird populations;
 - (iv) collaborations (e.g. on data exchange) with listed RFMOs.
5. Encourages Contracting Parties to:
 - (i) implement, as appropriate, measures to reduce or eliminate seabird incidental mortality;
 - (ii) require their flagged vessels to collect and report the data specified in paragraph 1 above;
 - (iii) report to the CCAMLR Secretariat annually on the implementation of such measures, including their effectiveness in reducing seabird incidental mortality.

6. Requests ad hoc WG-IMAF, at its annual meeting, to collate and analyse reports relating to paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 above and advise the Commission, through the Scientific Committee, on the implementation and effectiveness of this resolution.
7. Further requests the Secretariat to bring this resolution to the attention of the RFMOs listed in Appendix 1 and seek their cooperation on its implementation.

APPENDIX 1

REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS IDENTIFIED FOR CONTACT WITH RESPECT TO COLLABORATIONS ON THE MITIGATION OF BY-CATCH OF SOUTHERN OCEAN SEABIRDS

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Agreement on the Organization of the Permanent Commission on the Exploitation and Conservation of the Marine Resources of the South Pacific, 1952 (CPPS)

Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

Commission for Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC)

Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization Convention (WIOTO)

The organization does not have regulatory power.

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)