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**PROPOSAL TO REVISE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON
SEABIRDS (CMM 2012-07)**

**WCPFC12-2015-DP11
31 October 2015**

Proposal by FFA Members



FFA

31 October 2015

Feleti P. Teo OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia
Dear Feleti,

Conservation and Management Measure for Seabirds

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee. Please find attached draft amendments to CMM2012-07 on seabirds. The amendments seek to shift the southern boundary for the application of seabird mitigation measures northward to 25° South.

We look forward to discussing this proposal with CCMs in Bali and would welcome any inquiries before then, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat (samasoni.sauni@ffa.int or pamela.maru@ffa.int).

Yours Sincerely

Samasoni Finikaso
Chair
Forum Fisheries Committee

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS ON SEABIRDS

Conservation and Management Measure ~~2012-07~~¹

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction.

Noting advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area.

Noting scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in surface longline fisheries has showed that the effectiveness of various measures varies greatly depending on the vessel type, season, and seabird species assemblage present.

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that combinations of mitigation measures are essential for effective reduction of seabird bycatch.

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) shall, to the greatest extent practical, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.
2. CCMs shall report to the Commission on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5 (e) and 10 (i)(c) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the Commission the following measures to address seabird bycatch:

South of ~~30°~~ 25° South

1. ~~CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 30°S, CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing south of 25°S (excluding the EEZs of those CCMs with less than 15% of their EEZ in the area south of 25°S: French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji),~~ to use at least two of these three measures: weighted branch lines, night setting and tori lines. Table 1 does not apply south of ~~30°~~ 25° South. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

North of 23° North

2. CCMs shall require their longline vessels fishing north of 23°N, to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. See Annex 1 for specifications of these measures.

¹ This conservation and management measure will replace CMM ~~2007-04~~2012-07-04 and go into effect on 1 July 2014~~2016~~; until then, all the provisions of CMM ~~2007-04~~2012-07 will remain in effect.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
<i>Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines²</i>	<i>Tori line³</i>
<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Blue-dyed bait</i>
<i>Tori line</i>	<i>Deep setting line shooter</i>
<i>Weighted branch lines</i>	<i>Management of offal discharge</i>

Other Areas

3. In other areas (between 25-30°S and 23°N), where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to have their longline vessels employ one or more of the seabird mitigation measures listed in Table 1.

General Principles

4. For research and reporting purposes, each CCM with longline vessels that fish in the Convention Area south of 3025°S or north of 23°N shall submit to the Commission in part 2 of its annual report annually information describing which of the mitigation measures they require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each such CCM shall also include in its annual reports for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

5. CCMs are encouraged to undertake research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the setting and hauling process and should submit to the Secretariat for the use by the SC and the TCC any information derived from such efforts. Research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas to which the measure will be used.

6. The SC and TCC will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes. Where necessary, an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application will then be provided to the Commission for its consideration and review as appropriate.

7. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned. Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged.

8. The intersessional working group for the regional observer programme (IWG-ROP) will take into account the need to obtain detailed information on seabird interactions to allow analysis of the effects of fisheries on seabirds and evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures.

² If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from Column A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

³ If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

9. CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers, including mitigation used, observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPFC Convention applies. See Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline. Alternatively, statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers should be reported.

10. This Conservation and Management Measure shall be implemented by CCMs in the following manner:

- south of 25°S (excluding the EEZs of those CCMs with less than 15% of their EEZ in the area south of 25°S: French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji), no later than 1 July 2016
- In areas south of 30 degrees South, no later than 1 July 2014.
- In areas north of 23 degrees North, and in relation to large-scale longline vessels of 24 meters or more in overall length, no later than 1 July 2014.

In 2013 the SC will assess to the extent possible the implications of the North Pacific small-vessel exemption on seabird interaction rates and make any appropriate recommendations, the TCC will evaluate the constraints and opportunities for small vessels to employ seabird mitigation measures in the North Pacific, and the Commission will consider appropriate seabird mitigation requirements for vessels less than 24m in length in the North Pacific.

12. This Conservation and Management measure replaces CMM201297-074, which is hereby repealed.

Annex 1. Specifications

1. Tori lines (South of ~~30°~~25° South)

1a) For vessels ≥ 35 m total length

- i. Deploy at least 1 tori line. Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori line at times of high bird abundance or activity; both tori lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. If two tori lines are used baited hooks shall be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
- ii. A tori line using long and short streamers shall be used. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured, a mix of long and short streamers.
 - a. Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and long streamers must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used.
 - b. Short streamers (greater than 1m in length) shall be placed no more than 1m apart.
- iii. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200m, and shall be attached to a tori pole >7 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.
- iv. If vessels use only one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits.

1b) For vessels <35 m total length

- i. A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only shall be used.
- ii. Streamers shall be: brightly coloured long and/or short (but greater than 1m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:
 - a. Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5m for the first 55 m of tori line.
 - b. Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1m.
- iii. Long streamers shall be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm conditions.
- iv. Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 100m, and shall be attached to a tori pole >6m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length, it must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- v. If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Tori lines (North of 23° North)

2a) Long Streamer

- i. Minimum length: 100 m
- ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
- iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
- v. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2b) Short Streamer

- i. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
- ii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
- iii. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm minimum length.
- iv. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

3. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.

ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.

iii. Bird curtain must be employed:

- Pole aft of line shooter at least 3 m long;
- Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2 m of pole;
- Main streamer diameter minimum 20 mm;
- Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10 mm.

4. Night setting

- i. No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk.
- ii. Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.
- iii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

5. Weighted branch lines

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
 - one weight greater than or equal to 40g within 50cm of the hook; or
 - greater than or equal to a total of 45g attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
 - greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
 - greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

6. Management of offal discharge

- i. Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling;
- ii. Or strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

7. Blue-dyed bait

- i. If using blue-dyed bait it must be fully thawed when dyed.
- ii. The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized colour placard.
- iii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

8. Deep setting line shooter

- i. Line shooters must be deployed in a manner such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be lacking the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.

Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report [\(needs updating\)](#)

The following tables should be included in the Part 1 country reports, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N - 30°S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks) and mitigation types used by the fleet.

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2006						
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						

¹ State North of 23°N, South of 30°S or 23°N - 30°S, for CCMs fishing in all areas provide separate tables for each; ² Provide as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	North of 23°N	23°N - 30°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross				
E.g. Gibson's albatross				
E.g. Unidentified albatross				
E.g. Flesh footed shearwater				
E.g. Great winged petrel				
E.g. White chinned petrel				
E.g. Unidentified				
Total				

CMM 2013-06 Evaluation of proposal to raise the southern boundary of the WCPFC seabird mitigation measure

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

CCMs with vessels that operate on the high seas within the Convention area south of 25° South.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

A minor change to an existing requirement in high seas permits or licence conditions for CCMs with vessels operating longline vessels on the high seas of the Convention area south of 25° South. A new requirement for vessels that only operate between 25° and 30° South.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

no

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

This is a minor change to an existing measure. Implementation impacts on SIDs are mitigated by the exclusion of EEZ areas between 25° and 30° South. SIDS with flagged vessels fishing between 25° and 30° South already will require vessels to use mitigation measures in this area

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

No

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

Existing

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

Exclusion of EEZs between 25° and 30° South.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

Exclusion of SIDS EEZs from the proposal