



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Tenth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

Virtual meeting, 17 - 19 August 2021 (UTC+10)

Hookpod-mini: a smaller potential solution to mitigate seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries

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Attachment: Goad D, Debski I, Potts J. 2019. Hookpod-mini: a smaller potential solution to mitigate seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries. *Endangered Species Research* 39:1-8. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00953>

SUMMARY

Hookpods are an emerging technology designed to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries. Hookpod-minis were trialled in the New Zealand surface longline fishery in 2016–2017 during short-term experimental (20 longline sets) and longer-term operational (110 longline sets) trials. Two sets of experimental trials were conducted. The first compared snoods fitted with Hookpod-minis with a tori line to unweighted snoods with a tori line. The second compared snoods fitted with Hookpod-minis as a stand-alone mitigation measure to weighted snoods in combination with a tori line. All gear, across both trials, was set at night. Operational trials compared snoods fitted with Hookpod-minis and tori lines to standard mitigation requirements for unweighted gear and tori lines, with all gear set at night. Both sets of trials demonstrated that Hookpod-minis fit easily into fishing operations, do not reduce target species catch rate, and may reduce seabird bycatch to low levels. Our findings suggest that Hookpod-minis as a stand-alone mitigation measure are as effective, or more effective, than current bycatch mitigation measures including the combination of line weighting and tori lines