

PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AN IATTC SEABIRD WORK PLAN

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Contextualization

- § IATTC has recognized that their fisheries are having a measurable impact on seabird species, and thus the need to reduce seabird bycatch.
- § IATTC has adopted measures to achieve the aim of reducing seabird bycatch, Resolution C-11-02.
- § Resolution C-19-08 determines that data on incidental catch of seabirds by species should be recorded through on-board observers and reported annually
- § Over the years, seabird bycatch has been a standing item on the agenda of IATTC's Bycatch Working Group (the precursor the Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch)
- § CPC scientists and others have presented a large volume of work dealing with seabird bycatch, its mitigation, assessment and monitoring

Proposal

We propose that a multi-year seabird strategy and action plan be developed to help guide and evaluate efforts to reduce seabird bycatch in IATTC fisheries.

1. Serve as a tool to underpin an adaptive approach to the management of seabird bycatch.
2. Ensure that the various actions and initiatives relating to seabird bycatch mitigation are clearly articulated, prioritized, routinely monitored and, where necessary, modified.
3. Facilitate a collaborative, co-ordinated and informed approach to seabird bycatch management by IATTC and others.

The plan would be informed by the relevant IATTC Resolutions and would serve to provide the linkages to other IATTC work, and indeed "external", wider-scale seabird bycatch related initiatives.

Proposal

The objectives and actions might include, but not be limited to, the following aspects:

- § Facilitate a link between the outputs of ongoing and new research and the review of seabird conservation measures, as well as the assessment of seabird bycatch in IATTC fisheries, both outlined in Resolution C-11-02.
- § Support and monitor the implementation of NPoAs by CPCs, as outlined in Resolution C-11-02
- § Reflect on the CCSBT multi-year seabird strategy (adopted at their 2019 Commission meeting), aspects of which could be considered in developing an IATTC-specific strategy, and with which synergies.

CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy


To reduce or eliminate seabird bycatch, such that SBT fisheries do not impose a significant adverse impact on seabirds.

- § **Objective 1:** To reduce the level of impact of seabird bycatch by SBT fishing operations on seabird populations (**6 actions**).
- § **Objective 2:** To ensure the collection of timely, reliable, representative data to support accurate regular estimations of total seabird mortality in SBT fisheries and its impact on seabird populations (**9 actions**).
- § **Objective 3:** To develop and refine, in collaboration with industry and ACAP, practical, cost-effective and safe seabird bycatch mitigation technologies and techniques (**4 actions**).
- § **Objective 4:** To develop and refine compliance approaches to ensure fleet-wide compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures required while conducting fishing for SBT (**4 actions**).
- § **Objective 5:** To enhance education and outreach programs highlighting the importance of mitigating seabird interactions while fishing, and advocating effective implementation of mitigation measures (**5 actions**).

Pulling together the various initiatives into a coherent plan will help facilitate an efficient and effective approach to manage seabird bycatch in IATTC fisheries.

As indicated, the plan would helpfully identify priority areas and actions, as well as roles and responsibilities.



A sunset over the ocean with two birds flying in the sky. The sun is a bright yellow circle on the horizon, casting a red glow across the sky. The ocean is dark blue with white-capped waves. Two birds are flying in the upper left quadrant of the frame.

Thank you very much!