

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Seventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p><i>La Serena, Chile, 2 - 4 May 2016</i></p> <p>Update on the seabird component of the Common Oceans Tuna Project</p> <p><i>Bronwyn Maree, Cleo Small, Berry Mulligan, Yuna Kim</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The project “Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”, (also known as the Common Oceans Tuna Project) is a critical component of the GEF supported ABNJ Program “ABNJ Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”. The program objective is to achieve responsibility, efficiency and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach in tuna fisheries through: (i) supporting the use of sustainable and efficient fisheries management and fishing practices by the stakeholders of the tuna resources; (ii) reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and (iii) mitigating adverse impacts of bycatch on biodiversity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the implementing agency of the project. BirdLife International, through its local partner, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), is implementing the seabird bycatch component of the Common Oceans Tuna Project.

The overall aims of this component are to:

- ensure that the use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and;
- strengthen the capacity of national institutions to manage and conduct analyses of seabird bycatch data and the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures and facilitate a joint tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) assessment of the current bycatch mitigation measures contained in the relevant Conservation and Management Measures in tuna longline fisheries.

It will comprise of four elements:

1. National Awareness Workshops
2. Observer Training Workshops
3. Port-based Outreach Pilot Project
4. Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshops (regional and global)

This paper will report on:

1. The Common Oceans Tuna Project activities since inception
2. The planned activities of the project from 2016-2018.

Actualización sobre el componente relativo a las aves marinas del Proyecto Atún del Programa Common Oceans

RESUMEN

El proyecto de Ordenación Sostenible de la Pesca del Atún y Conservación de la Biodiversidad en las Zonas Situadas Fuera de la Jurisdicción Nacional (ABNJ), también conocido como "Proyecto Atún del Programa Common Oceans", es un componente crítico del Programa ABNJ Mundial de Ordenación Sostenible de Pesquerías y Conservación de la Biodiversidad en las Zonas Situadas Fuera de la Jurisdicción Nacional (ABNJ), que cuenta con el apoyo del FMAM. El objetivo del programa es lograr que la producción del atún y la conservación de la biodiversidad en las ABNJ se realicen con responsabilidad, efectividad y sostenibilidad mediante la aplicación sistemática de un enfoque ecosistémico en las pesquerías atuneras que consiste en: (i) fomentar el uso de prácticas sostenibles y efectivas en materia de pesca y ordenación por parte de aquellos que están interesados en los recursos del atún; (ii) reducir la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada (INDNR); y (iii) mitigar los efectos adversos de la captura secundaria en la biodiversidad.

La Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) es la agencia que implementa el proyecto. BirdLife International, a través de su socio local BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), está implementando el componente relativo a la captura secundaria de aves marinas del Proyecto Atún del Programa Common Oceans.

Los objetivos generales de dicho componente son:

- asegurarse de que las flotas que operan en zonas pesqueras críticas de los océanos Atlántico e Índico perfeccionen y aceleren la implementación de las medidas de mitigación de la captura secundaria de aves marinas que son consideradas mejores prácticas; y
- fortalecer las capacidades de las instituciones nacionales para gestionar y realizar análisis tanto de datos sobre la captura secundaria de aves marinas como de la efectividad de las medidas de mitigación de la captura secundaria, además de facilitarles a las OROP atuneras la posibilidad de llevar adelante, en conjunto, una evaluación de las medidas actuales de mitigación de la captura secundaria incluidas en las Medidas de Ordenación y Conservación que rigen en las pesquerías de atún con palangre.

El componente constará de cuatro elementos:

1. Talleres nacionales sobre concientización
2. Talleres de capacitación de observadores
3. Proyecto piloto de concientización en puertos
4. Talleres sobre evaluación de captura secundaria de aves marinas (regionales y mundiales)

Este documento informará sobre:

1. Las actividades del Proyecto Atún del Programa Common Oceans desde sus inicios
2. Las actividades del proyecto planificadas para el período 2016-2018

Actualisation sur la partie du projet « Common Oceans Tuna » relative aux oiseaux marins

RÉSUMÉ

Le projet de « gestion des pêcheries de thons et conservation de la biodiversité dans les zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale (ABNJ) », (également connu comme le projet « Common Oceans Tuna ») constitue un élément essentiel du programme mondial d'ABNJ financé par le FEM d'« aménagement des pêches et de conservation de la biodiversité dans les zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale ». L'objectif du programme est de parvenir à la responsabilité, à l'efficacité et à la pérennité de la production thonière et de la conservation de la biodiversité dans les ABNJ, grâce à une application systématique d'une approche écosystémique dans les pêches de thons à travers les actions suivantes : (i) la promotion d'une gestion et de pratiques de pêche plus durables et efficaces par les parties prenantes des ressources de thons ; (ii) la réduction de la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INN) ; (iii) l'atténuation des impacts négatifs de la capture accessoire sur la biodiversité.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) est l'agence qui met en œuvre ce projet. BirdLife International, au travers de son partenaire local, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), met en œuvre la partie du projet « Common Oceans Tuna » relatives aux captures accessoires d'oiseaux de mer

Les objectifs généraux de cette partie sont les suivants :

- assurer que l'utilisation des bonnes pratiques pour atténuer les captures accessoires d'oiseaux marins soit optimisée et accélérée par les flottes opérant dans des zones de pêche critiques des océans Atlantique et Indien et ;
- renforcer la capacité des institutions nationales à gérer et analyser les données des captures accessoires et l'efficacité des mesures d'atténuation, ainsi qu'à faciliter une évaluation conjointe des mesures actuelles d'atténuation contenue dans les Mesures de conservation et de gestion dans les pêches de thon à la palangre par les organisations régionales de gestion de la pêche (ORGP).

Cette partie du projet comprendra quatre éléments :

1. Des ateliers nationaux de sensibilisation
2. Des ateliers de formation à destinations des observateurs
3. Un projet pilote d'activités portuaires de promotion
4. Des ateliers portant sur l'évaluation des captures accessoires (régionaux et mondiaux)

Ce document rendra compte :

1. Des activités du projet « Common Oceans Tuna » depuis sa création
2. Des activités du projet prévues de 2016 à 2018.

1. BACKGROUND

The project “Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”, (also known as the “Common Oceans Tuna Project”) aims to achieve responsibility, efficiency and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach in tuna fisheries through: (i) supporting the use of sustainable and efficient fisheries management and fishing practices by the stakeholders of the tuna resources; (ii) reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing; and (iii) mitigating adverse impacts of bycatch on biodiversity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the implementing agency of the project. BirdLife International, through its local partner, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), is implementing the seabird bycatch component of the Common Oceans Tuna Project. Three new staff will be working on this project: a Project Output Coordinator; Fleet-based Training Coordinator and Port-Based Outreach Expert.

The overall aims of this component are to:

- ensure that the use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (including testing of additional methods to monitor the uptake, use and effectiveness of these measures) and;
- strengthen the capacity of national institutions to manage and conduct analyses of seabird bycatch data and the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures and facilitate a joint tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) assessment of the current bycatch mitigation measures contained in the relevant Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for tuna longline fisheries.

Delivery of this will be achieved through four separate but interlinked elements:

1. National Awareness Workshops: effective seabird conservation in tuna fisheries
2. Observer Training Workshops: seabird bycatch mitigation
3. Port-based Outreach Pilot Project
4. Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshops

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

2.1 RFMO Engagement

The Commons Oceans Tuna Project has been presented to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC-2015-WPEB11-34) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas subcommittee on ecosystems (SCRS/2015/118).

2.1.1. Project Inception and Planning

A project Inception and Planning Workshop was held in Cape Town, South Africa in November 2015. The aims of the workshop were to introduce key Atlantic/Indian Ocean national scientists and seabird bycatch mitigation experts from BirdLife’s Albatross Task Force (ATF) teams to the new/revised activities within the BirdLife component of the

Common Oceans Tuna Project, and to discuss, agree and initiate planning of the work required. This included all elements of the project: electronic monitoring, port-based outreach pilots, observer training, bycatch data analyses and national scientist capacity building. Seventeen participants attended the workshop, including BirdLife experts and ATF representatives from South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay.

2.1.2. National Awareness Workshops (Element 1) and Observer Training Workshops (Element 2)

A Seabird Bycatch Workshop was held on 17 April 2015 in Shanghai, China, with over 50 participants. The outcomes of the workshop included awareness raising of seabird bycatch issues, discussion on the use of the mitigation measures, and delivery of observer training (including practical demonstrations on mitigation gear options, seabird identification and data collection protocols).

The Korean National Institute of Fisheries Sciences (NIFS) and BLSA have been coordinating seabird training to Korean Observers. An initial workshop was held in Korea in November 2014, followed by NIFS hosting a Birdlife staff member in December 2014 to analyze the 2014 Korean at-sea trials observer data. In 2015, one observer training workshop was held in Cape Town, South Africa, and two observer training workshops in Busan, Korea. The first was a 5-day intensive seabird training including a pelagic trip (field experience in seabird identification). This resulted in the Fleet-based Training Coordinator being invited to assist in NIFS regular training and being the lead on the seabird sessions. To date, very positive feedback has been received and the collaboration of the training will continue in 2016. The next one is planned for the end of March 2016 in Cape Town.

Another major outcome of working with NIFS, has been conducting collaborative research to test line weighting options to mitigate seabird bycatch in Korean tuna longliners. Results from the trials have shown that 45g of Lumo leads at the hook or 50 cm from the hook can be used without altering their normal fishing activities, and did not cause any safety incidents, or a decrease in target catch rates. However, there is no firm conclusion about the impact of lummo leads on seabird bycatch rates as the seabird abundance during the trials were very low.

The information and results of this aspect project have been disseminated widely through academic conferences and other events. The results of Korean trials were presented at Korean Society of Fisheries and Aquatic Science in July 2015 in Busan, Korea and the 2nd World Seabird Conference in October 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. We will have a seabird photo exhibition at National Fisheries Museum in May 2016 in Busan, Korea to increase awareness of seabird bycatch issues and promote the Common Oceans Tuna Project.

2.1.3. Port-based Outreach Pilot Project (Element 3) and Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshops (Element 4)

The Project Personnel for Element 3 (Port-Based Outreach Expert) and 4 (Project Output Coordinator) were recently appointed in February 2016.

3. PLANS GOING FORWARD

3.1.1. National Awareness Workshops: effective seabird conservation in tuna fisheries (Element 1)

To achieve the objective of enhancing uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, 2 day workshops are planned in Namibia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Seychelles, Mozambique and the European Union. The workshops will engage with industry representatives, observer programme agencies and fisheries officials to improve awareness of seabird bycatch and its mitigation. Seven workshops are planned for 30 participants.

3.1.2. Observer Training Workshops (Element 2)

Capacity building of the Chinese, Indonesian and Namibian fisheries observer programmes will be facilitated through the organization and implementation of three 5-day training workshops on the use and monitoring of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, two of which will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, and the other in Namibia. These workshops will follow the National Awareness Workshops.

3.1.3. Port-based Outreach Pilot Project (Element 3)

This element aims to use port-visits to vessels to build awareness and capacity amongst crews and observers in relation to the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, and to collect proxy information on the extent of use of these measures. It will also assess the value of this approach for monitoring purposes. The port-based outreach work will be piloted in Cape Town, which is visited regularly by a wide range of vessels fishing in the critical areas of the Atlantic and Indian oceans. As part of this, a 1 day Inception Workshop is planned for May 2016. Port-based monitoring tools will be developed and implemented for vessels from China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia and outreach materials will be translated into Bahasa Indonesia, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.

3.1.4. Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshops (Element 4)

The main outcomes of this element are i) that the capacity of national scientists and institutions to manage and conduct analyses of seabird bycatch data and the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures is strengthened, and ii) assessment methods are harmonized to facilitate a joint tuna RFMO assessment of current bycatch mitigation measures contained in the relevant CMMs. These outcomes will be achieved by a programme of work to support national scientists in the management, analysis and reporting of seabird bycatch data, and help facilitate a collaborative global assessment of seabird bycatch in tuna longline fisheries. This will be undertaken through the implementation of two regional seabird bycatch assessment workshops (one in Papua New Guinea in July 2016 and one on Cape Town in August 2016), and the provision of technical assistance and training. Through this process, a forum will be created for national scientists to continue collaborating on the development and implementation of analytical tools for seabird bycatch assessments. These activities will also serve to facilitate data preparation for and thus help lay the groundwork for the first-ever global assessment of seabird bycatch and the effectiveness of tuna RFMO seabird conservation measures. This global seabird bycatch assessment workshop (planned for Sept/Oct 2017) will be complemented by a follow up workshop towards the end of the project

(July/August 2018), which will serve as the final review of the global seabird bycatch assessment process.

3.1.5. Other activities

Another aspect of the project which will also be included is a pilot trial into the use of Electronic Monitoring (EM) to collect seabird bycatch data on pelagic tuna longline vessels. The pilot is planned to take place on 5 local vessels operating in South Africa and 5 in Brazil. The objective is to assess how data collected by the video cameras can complement and improve human observer programmes by providing improved estimates of seabird bycatch, fishing effort and/or use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures. For the duration of the pilot project, participants (government, vessel owners and crew) will benefit from an additional tool to collect fish and bycatch data which could be used to fulfill RFMO reporting obligations. The use of data collected on the EM system will not be used for compliance purposes. An Inception Workshop is planned for May 2016 in South Africa, where government, scientists, fisheries managers, fishing industry members and members of project will meet to discuss the project in detail, including potential challenges, data access and compliance issues.