

Best Practice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic Longline Fisheries on Seabirds

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Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

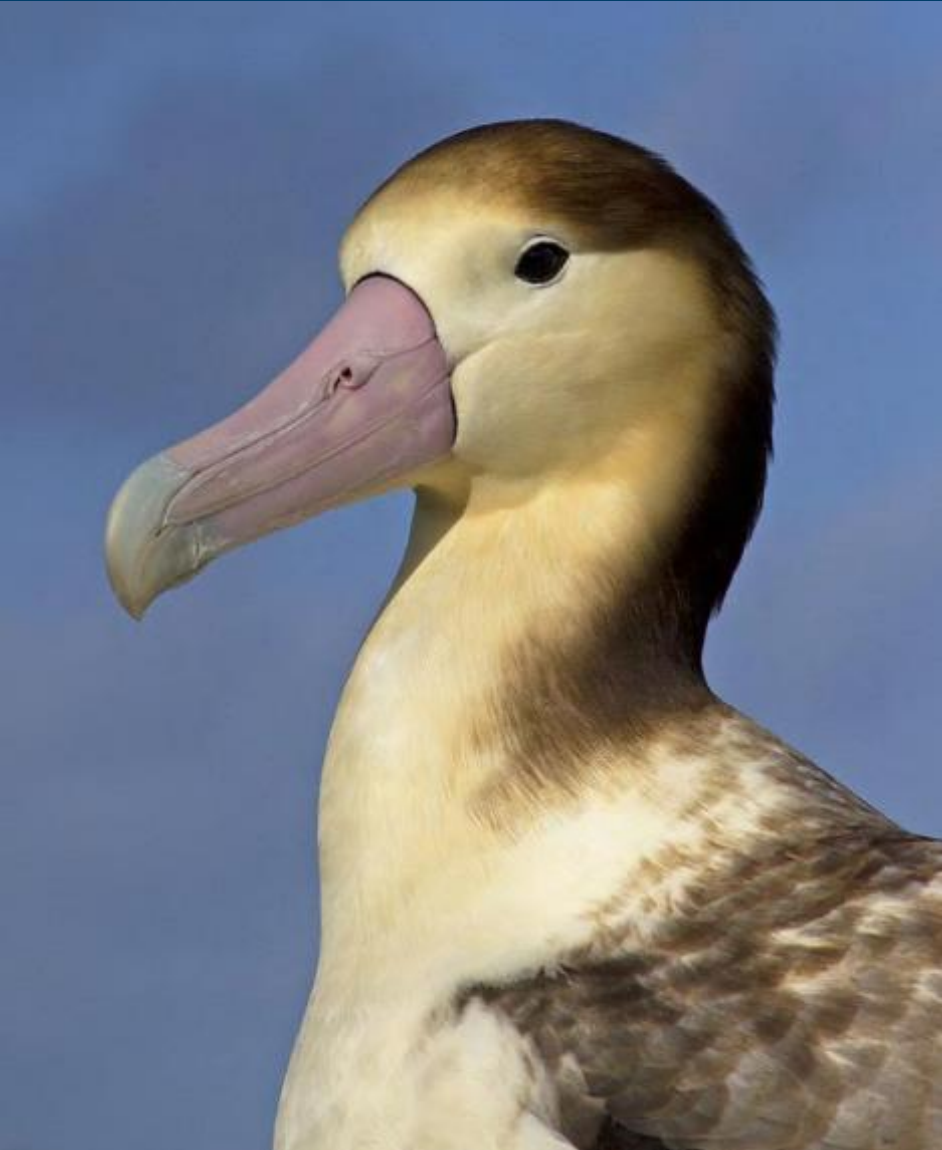
... “to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status of albatross and petrel species”



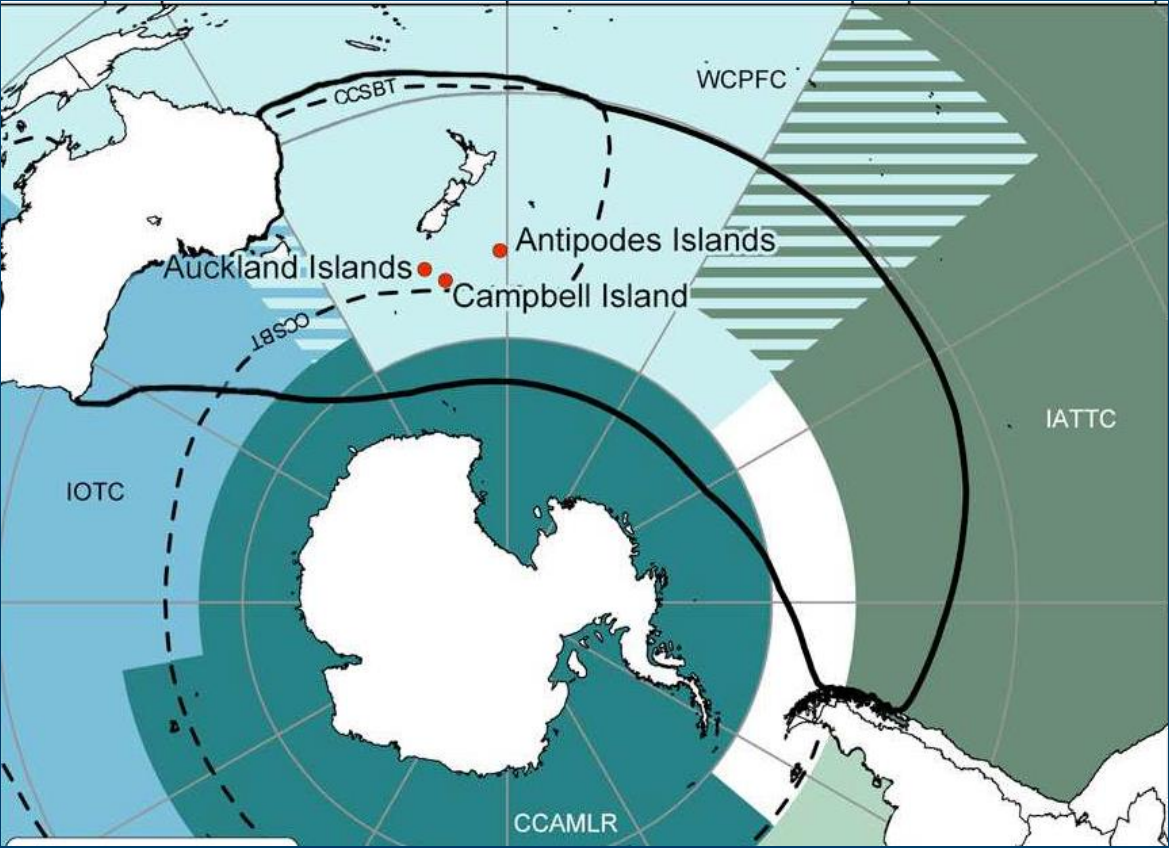
- Multilateral environmental agreement; 2004
- 13 Member Countries
- 31 species of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters



Distribution



Distribution



Review of seabird bycatch mitigation measures

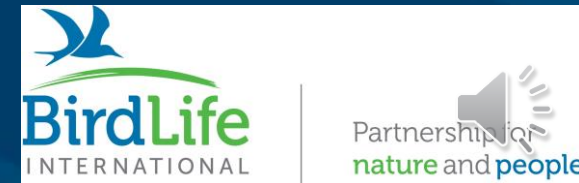


- ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group routinely reviews research relating to seabird bycatch mitigation
- Determination of best practice based on a set of criteria

- Most recent review conducted in **May 2019**

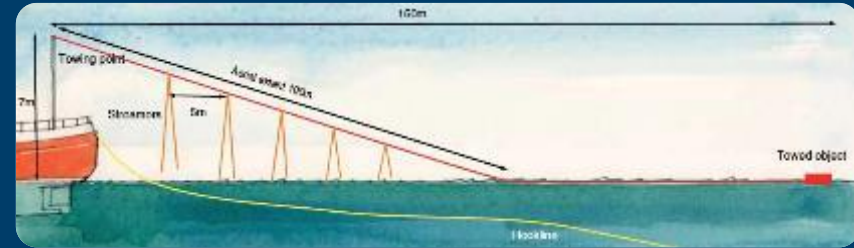
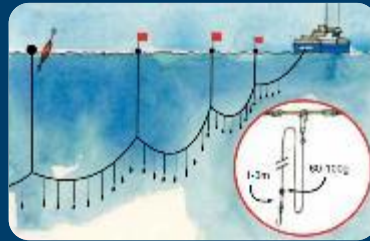
ACAP criteria for assessing efficacy of mitigation measures

- Demonstrated by **EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH** to significantly reduce the rate of seabird incidental mortality to the lowest achievable levels
- Should have clear and proven **SPECIFICATIONS** and **MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**
- Should be demonstrated to be **PRACTICAL, COST-EFFECTIVE & WIDELY AVAILABLE**
- To the extent practicable, should **MAINTAIN CATCH RATES OF TARGET SPECIES**
- To the extent practicable, should **NOT INCREASE BYCATCH RATES OF OTHER TAXA**



ACAP recommended best practice mitigation

Combination of weighted branch lines, BSL and night setting



OR hook shielding devices



Changes to ACAP Best Practice Advice

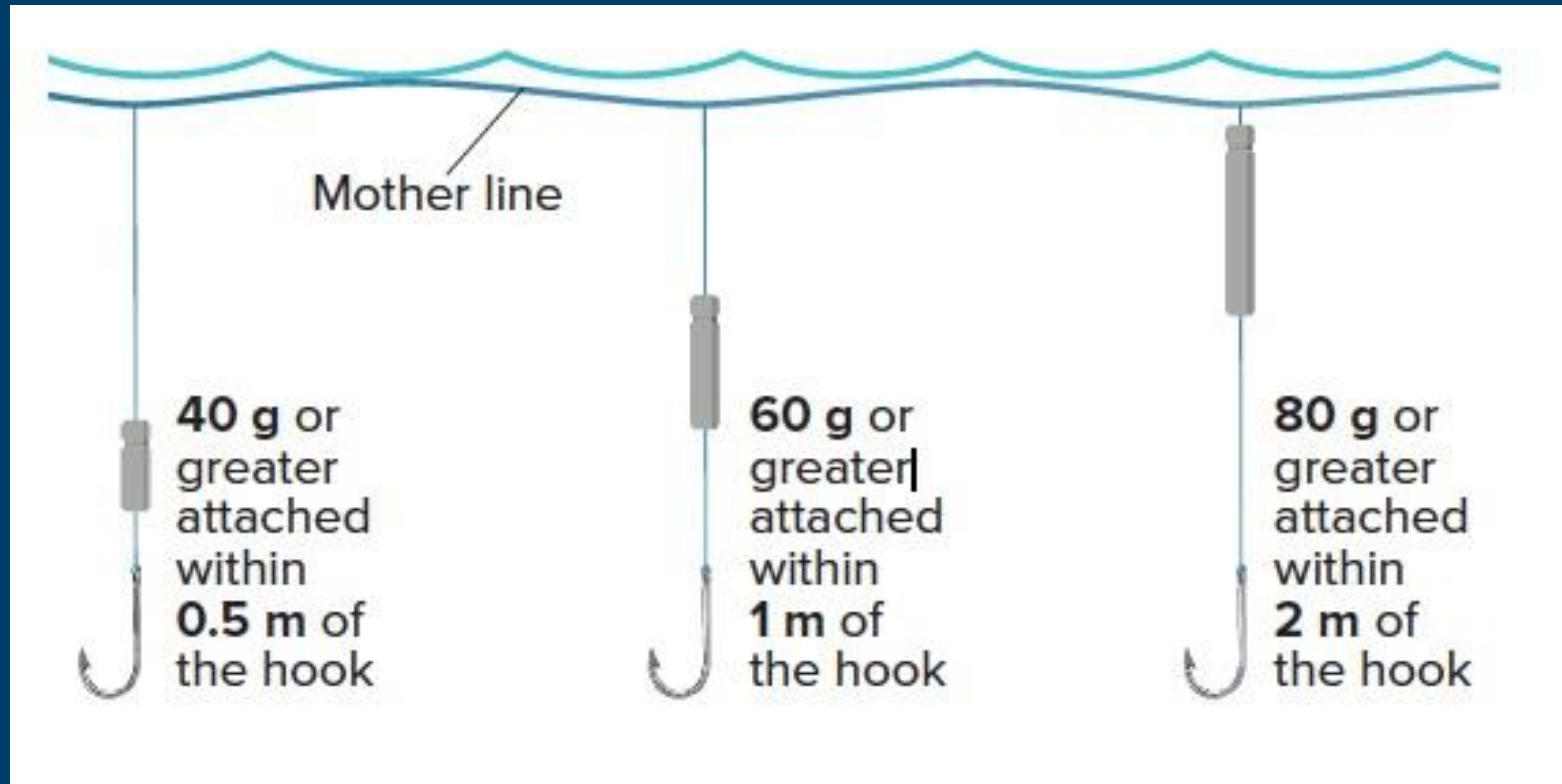
Previously	Revised (in May 2016)
≥ 45 g attached within 1 m of the hook	≥ 40 g attached within 0.5 m of the hook
≥ 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook	≥ 60 g attached within 1 m of the hook
≥ 98 g attached within 4 m of the hook	≥ 80 g attached within 2 m of the hook

All RFMOs have these previous specifications

ICCAT Rec. 11-09
IOTC Res. 12-06
WCPFC CMM 2018-03
IATTC Res. 11-02



Following ACAP review in May 2016

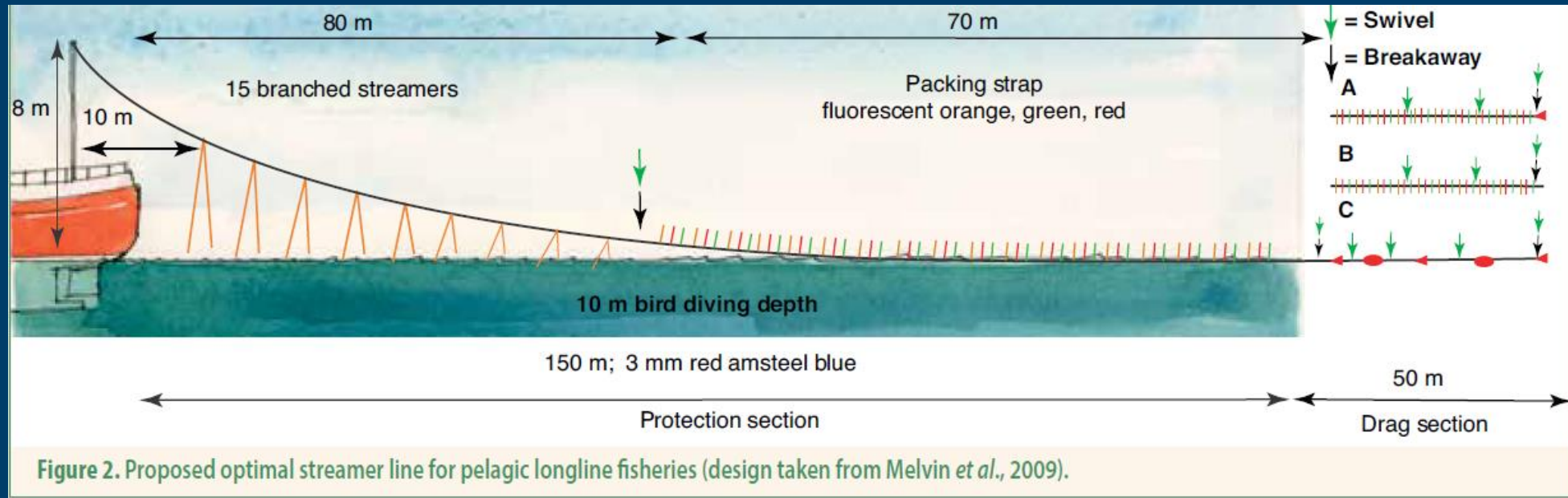


Bird scaring lines

Vessels >35 m - Two BSLs, one on each side of the sinking longline

Aerial extent of 100 m

Attachment height of 8 m.



Bird scaring lines

Vessels <35 m - Single BSL

Two designs :

1. Mix of long and short streamers.
2. Short streamers.

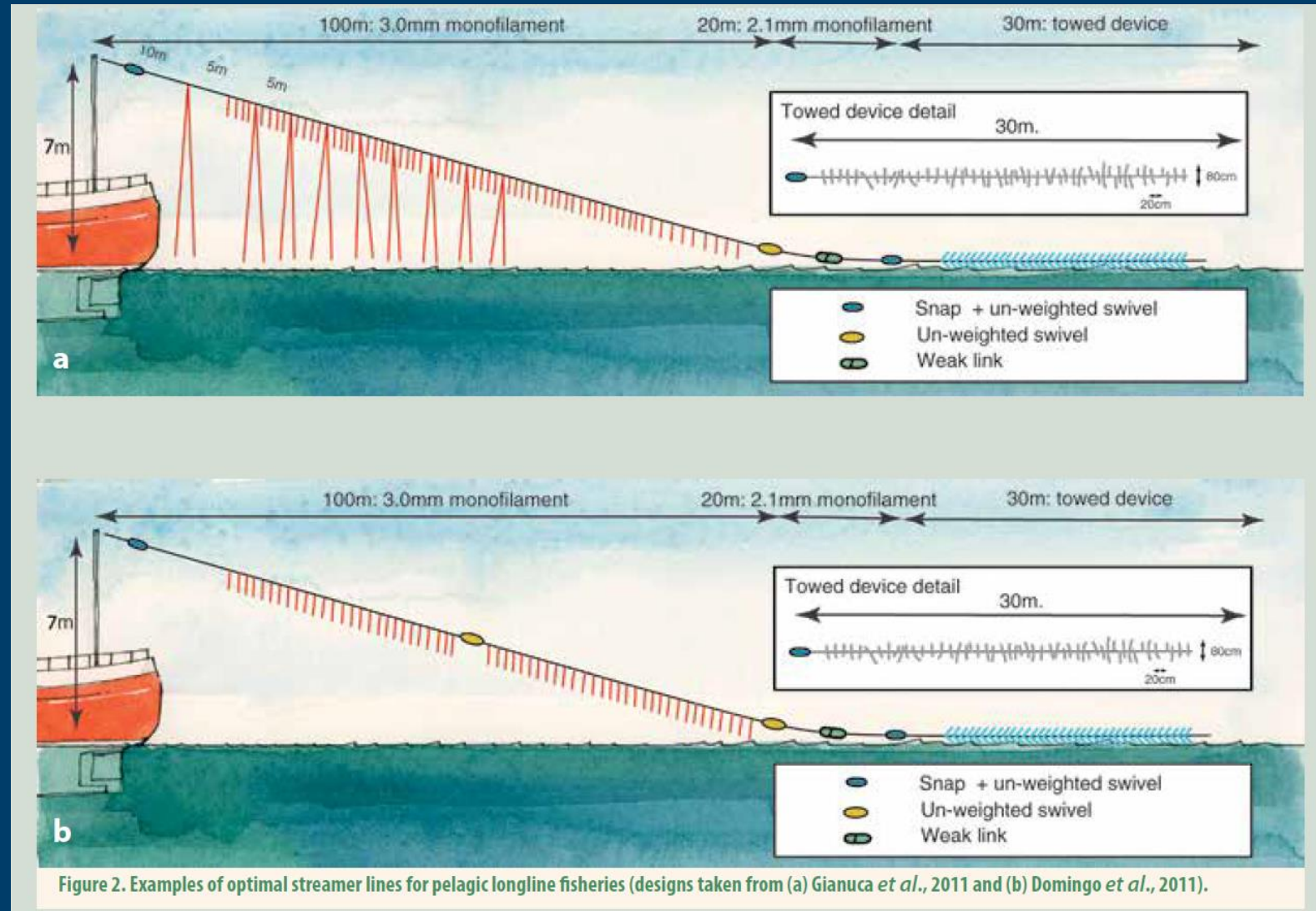


Figure 2. Examples of optimal streamer lines for pelagic longline fisheries (designs taken from (a) Gianuca *et al.*, 2011 and (b) Domingo *et al.*, 2011).

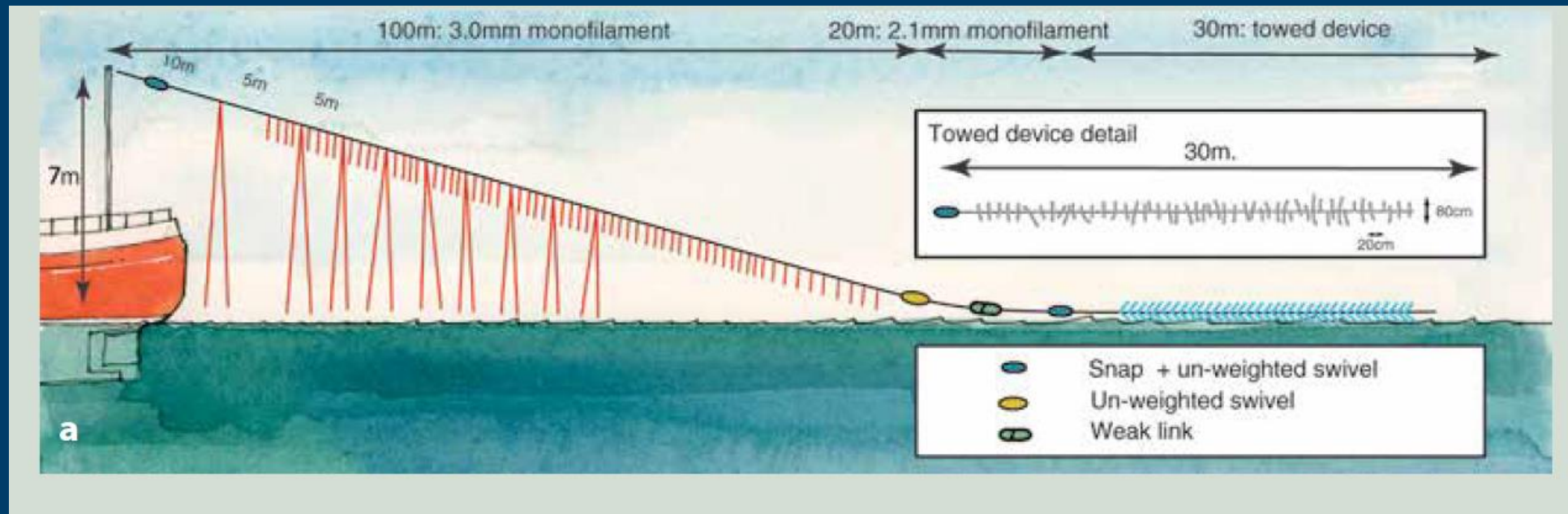
Bird scaring lines

Vessels <35 m - Single BSL

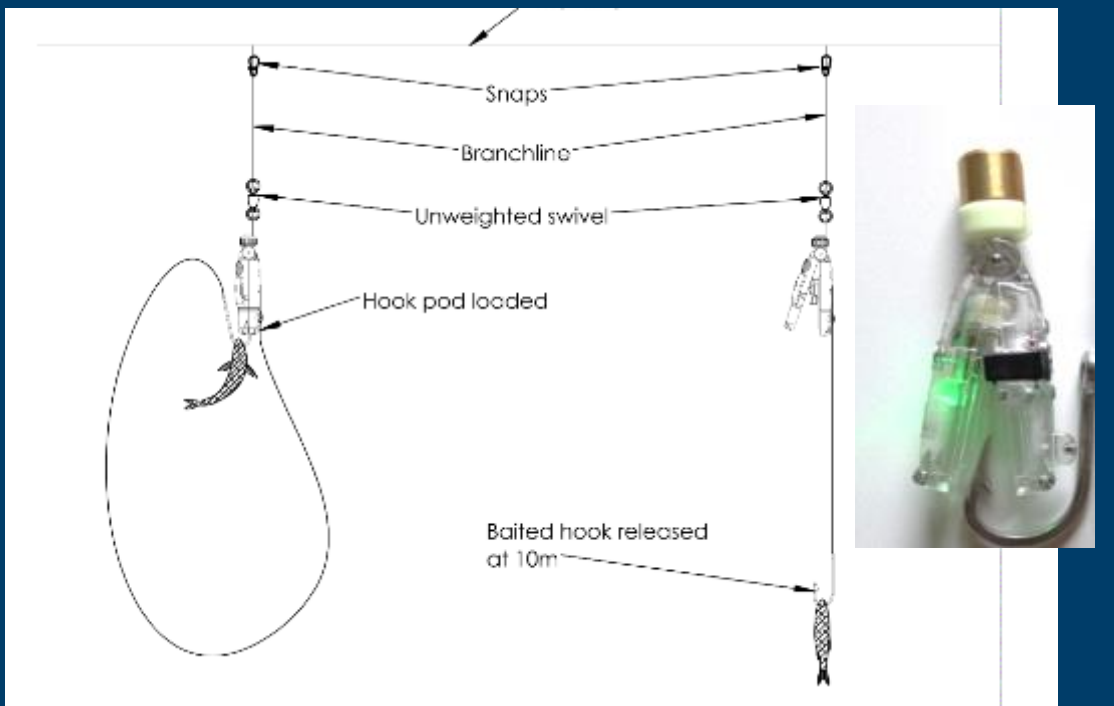
Aerial extent of 75 m.

ACAP minimum standards revised in Sept 2017

- Attachment height of 6 m.
- Weak links.
- Drag.



Hook-shielding devices



Preventing Seabird
Bycatch in Longline
and Trawl Fisheries

Created by:



Hook shielding

ACAP and BirdLife Best Practice Factsheet X

What is it and how does it work?

Hook shielding devices encase the point and barb of longline hooks during line setting, and thus prevent seabirds from being hooked during this period. Because these attacks occur primarily in the upper reaches of the water column (down to 10m), effective hook shielding devices should release hooks from their protective encasements at a depth of at least 10m, or after 10 minutes of soak time, by which time they would have sunk below 10m depth.



DANGER
DEPTH ZONE 10m

BirdLife
INTERNATIONAL

Partnership for
nature and people



Hook-shielding devices

ACAP performance requirements :

- the device shields the hook until a prescribed depth of 10 m or immersion time of 10 minutes is reached
- the device meets current recommended minimum standards for branch line weighting
- experimental research has been undertaken to allow assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and practicality of the technology against the ACAP best practice seabird bycatch mitigation criteria

‘Hook Pod’ and ‘Smart Tuna Hook’



Recomendation to improve the C-11-02

Seabird CMM does not meet Best Practice standards and falls behind other RFMOs:

Harmonization with WCPFC Seabird Measure



Partnership for
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- The two-column menu approach should be replaced by a requirement to use at least two of three mitigation methods (line weighting, night setting, and bird-scaring lines) in combination
- Remove mitigation options:
blue-dyed bait, deep-setting line shooters, and underwater setting chutes. No best practices
- Adding hook-shielding devices as a mitigation option (eg. Hook pods), as an optional measure
- Review the target area where seabird-MM is mandatory (gaps?)



Data & Reporting

(Resol: C-11-08)

Recomendations:

- Increase on-board observer coverage for longline vessels(> 20 m length) from 5% to 20% is important but,
 - An standarized protocol to report seabird bycatch is necessary;
 - Measures of effort used by CPCs are inconsistent
 - Seabird bycatch (observer data) still missing from most CPCs



Thank you

