

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

73RD MEETING

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)
20-24 JUNE 2005

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CONSERVATION OF SEABIRDS

The attached letter was received from the Chairman of [CCAMLR](#), Mr. Kunio Yonezawa, seeking the collaboration of Regional Fisheries Organizations with responsibility over the waters adjacent to the CCAMLR Convention Area, in the matter of mitigating seabird mortality associated with fishing. Mr. Yonezawa also expressed the hope that the IATTC consider placing the issue on the agenda of relevant forthcoming meetings. The staff has also received an informal communication from a non-governmental organization interested in seabirds asking if the Commission is involved in seabird conservation.

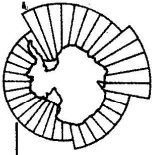
In the reply to this request, it was noted that the staff does not have any information suggesting that the fisheries covered by the IATTC have an impact on seabirds found in the CCAMLR area. The IATTC has not established any measures to reduce the catch of seabirds, and the staff is not aware of voluntary measures that may be in force in the EPO. There has been no systematic collection of mortality data by the IATTC.

Seabirds are incidentally caught in various commercial longline fisheries in the world, and concerns are arising about the impacts of this incidental catch. Incidental catches of seabirds are known to occur in tuna, swordfish and billfish fisheries in some oceans. In 1999 FAO adopted an [International Plan of Action on Seabirds](#) (IPOA-SEABIRDS) aimed at reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries where this occurs.

The IPOA establishes that States with longline fisheries should conduct an assessment of these fisheries to determine if a problem exists with respect to incidental catch of seabirds. If a problem exists, States should adopt a National Plan of Action for reducing this incidental catch. Such NPOAs should include, *inter alia*:

- appropriate mitigation methods;
- plans for research and development of, *inter alia*, devices, technologies and practices which reduce the incidental capture of seabirds;
- research to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
- provision of relevant information aimed at improving the understanding of the problem resulting from incidental catch of seabirds and the use of mitigation measures;
- programs to collect data to determine the incidental catch of seabirds and the effectiveness of mitigation measures;

Given the global nature of the issue, the IPOA considers that cooperation among States is essential to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds, and States are encouraged to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations, such as the IATTC, in research, training and the production of information and promotional material.



CCAMLR

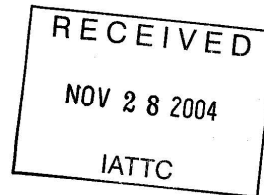
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Our Ref.: 8.1

18 November 2004

The Chairperson
C/- Dr Robin Allen
Director
IATTC
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, Ca. 92037-1508
USA



To all Secretariats of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations,

**On collaborative work relations and data exchange with
regional fisheries organisations on matters related to the
reduction of by-catch of Convention Area seabirds in fisheries**

Dear Chairperson,

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was founded under the 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. CCAMLR's aims include the conservation of marine living resources and management of fishing activities in the seas surrounding the Antarctic continent. All regulated fishing activities are managed in such a way as to maintain ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of marine living resources. Further information on CCAMLR and its activities can be found on its website 'www.ccamlr.org'.

Over the last few years, the above Commission has played an important role in the creation and implementation of measures designed to reduce incidental seabird mortality associated with fishing. CCAMLR's leading role in this area has received international recognition.

At the recent meeting of CCAMLR in October–November 2004, the Commission recollected the advice of its Scientific Committee that, together with the potential impact of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported longline fishing for toothfish within the CCAMLR Convention Area, the greatest current threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to the area. CCAMLR believes that there is an urgent need to implement seabird mitigating measures, at least as effective as those in use within the Convention Area, in all relevant fisheries in areas adjacent to the Convention Area within the remit of your organisation.

Therefore CCAMLR is inviting all appropriate regional fisheries management organisations with responsibility over waters adjacent to the CCAMLR Convention Area to establish cooperative working relationships relating to, and on the exchange of, relevant information on the prevention of incidental mortality of seabirds during fishing operations, the state of Southern Ocean seabird populations affected by longline fisheries, incidental catches of seabirds in these fisheries, and CCAMLR's and your own organisation's experience with mitigating techniques and implementation of conservation measures.

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As a matter of priority, CCAMLR requests your organisation's cooperation in establishing an ongoing exchange of information regarding the following issues:

- (i) fishing effort (at least at the scale of FAO area) in each type of fishery;
- (ii) rates of incidental mortality of seabirds associated with each fishery, details of the species involved and estimates of total seabird mortality;
- (iii) mitigating measures to minimise or avoid incidental seabird mortality in use in each fishery and the extent to which any of these are voluntary or mandatory together with an assessment of their effectiveness; and
- (iv) the nature of observer programs, including observer coverage, associated with each fishery.

CCAMLR is looking forward to your cooperation and your provision, where available, of summary and relevant information on the topics highlighted above. CCAMLR hopes that you will consider placing this matter on the agenda of relevant forthcoming meetings of your organisation.

A map of the CCAMLR Convention Area and a briefing note describing CCAMLR activities on the reduction of seabird mortality associated with fishing is attached for your information. A resolution adopted by the recent 2004 CCAMLR meeting is also attached to amplify the various points above.

I would like to take this opportunity of assuring you of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely



Mr Kunio Yonezawa
CCAMLR Chairman

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