BirdLife International Statement to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee

November 2026

Bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is a primary driver of albatross and petrel population declines. Approximately 40% of seabird deaths in the southern hemisphere are estimated to occur in the ICCAT Convention Area. This is causing a conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels.

Seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is a solvable issue, if mitigation measures are used.

ICCAT mandates the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09. ICCAT Members are required to report use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures when fishing south of 25° South in the ICCAT Convention Area, as per Recommendation 11-09, Paragraph 7. Members report this information via the CP44-BirdMit form.

ICCAT Member reporting on use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures

75% of fishing effort in the area south of 20° South (covered by Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09) is attributable to seven ICCAT Members (SCRS_2024_079; hooks deployed 2012-2020, EffDis).

BirdLife International summarise reporting on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures by those seven Members for the five-year period 2022-2026 (as documented in ***COC_303***):

a) One Member has not reported during the five-year period.
b) One Member has reported in one year since 2022.
c) This year, one Member reported for the first time since 2022.
d) Two Members have consistently reported since 2023.
e) Two Members have consistently reported since 2022.

Table 1: Graphical summary of reporting on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures for the period 2022-2026 by the seven ICCAT Members attributed to 75% of total fishing effort south of 20° South in the ICCAT Convention Area. Green indicates reporting, red indicates no report.

Member	Year of reporting				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Our summary provides evidence of non-compliance. For 2026, it provides evidence of non-reporting by two of the seven assessed Members, with one Member not complying with reporting requirements in any of the five years assessed.

Requests for action

Reporting on seabird bycatch mitigation measure use is an obligation that applies to all Members, in accordance with Recommendation 11-09, Paragraph 7.

Based on the evidence of non-compliance, BirdLife International request the Compliance Committee (COC):

1. Ensure all ICCAT Members fishing south of 25° South report their use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, as required by Recommendation 11-09.
2. Consistently highlight non-compliance with reporting in the Compliance Summary Tables and Compliance Letters from the COC Chair.
3. Identify Members where repeated non-compliance with reporting is occurring and provide capacity building to support Members to meet reporting obligations.
4. Collate and summarise Member reported data across the most recent five-year period to facilitate tracking of reporting trends.