

**Statement to the 2025 Compliance Committee (COC)
by BirdLife International**

A recent paper ([SCRS 2024 079](#)) identified that seven CPCs comprise more than 75% of the fishing effort in the area south of 20° south, where Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09 on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries apply.

Vessels fishing in this area are required to implement and report on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

BirdLife International have collated the compliance reporting related to Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09 (CP44-BirdMit) from 2022-2025 for the seven CPCs identified in SCRS_2024_079.

Our assessment concluded:

- Two of the seven CPCs identified in SCRS_2024_079 consistently reported on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures over the last 4 years (since 2022).
- Improvements in reporting are indicated, with an additional two of the seven CPCs consistently reporting on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures since 2023, with another of the seven CPCs initiating reporting this year (2025).
- Continued improvements are required, as two of the seven CPCs have not reported on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in the four-year period assessed.
- Three of the seven CPCs have not reported on the status of their National Plan of Action for Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds) in the last four years.

Based on our assessment, BirdLife International suggest the following action:

- CPCs report on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures where fishing activity occurs south of 20° south, covered by Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09.
- CPCs report on the status of their NPOA-Seabirds.
- Non-reporting by CPCs on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures should be consistently flagged in the Compliance Summary Tables and in Compliance Letters from the COC Chair.
- Capacity building to support CPCs to meet their seabird bycatch mitigation measure reporting obligations should be identified.

- Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09 on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries are considered as measures for priority consideration at the next Compliance Committee meeting.
- Annual CP44-BirdMit forms are collated into a summary table enabling monitoring of CPC compliance reporting trends over time. This recommendation aligns with suggestions by the European Union in their 'Proposal to streamline and strengthen the process for the ICCAT Compliance Committee (COC)' (COC_303/2025).

BirdLife International thank the Compliance Committee for the opportunity to contribute and thank the Secretariat for the extensive work involved in compiling the documents required for this meeting.