

Original: English

**STREAMLINING OF ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Measures for consideration by PANEL 4**

ICCAT Secretariat, in consultation with Chairs of subsidiary bodies

PANEL 4

1. [07-07] *Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries*

[11-09] *Supplemental recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries*

Rec. 11-09 established requirements intended to replace requirements of Rec. 07-07 in certain areas. Paragraph 11 provides that Rec. 07-07 will continue to apply in the area between 20°S to 25°S. It was agreed in 2018 that these two measures could be combined. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Panel 4 Chair, has developed the attached draft for consideration; **Attachment 1**. Rec. 07-07 was used as the base, with the notes in italics indicating change coming from 11-09. Note: there is no intention to make any change to the existing measures or to impose any new obligations, but merely to combine the existing requirements for ease of implementation and reporting.

Suggested action: Consider, and possibly put forward to the Commission for adoption, the draft contained in **Attachment 1**.

2. [96-14] *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*

[97-08] *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the South Atlantic Swordfish*

[01-13] *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*

Treatment of overage and underage on western Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish is stipulated specifically in the Recommendations for bluefin, but not for swordfish.

Suggested action: The Secretariat suggests that the Commission consider inserting paragraph 3 of Rec. 96-14 if/when amending Rec. 17-02 and 17-03 in the future. Probably no action is required for 2019; this element is for information only.

**Recommendations which were specifically repealed by the
measures adopted in 2018 and have been deactivated**

Panel 4

- [15-05] *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks*

Repealed by Rec. 18-04, para 14

- [16-10] *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation Rec. 15-05 by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks*

Repealed by Rec. 18-04, para 14

[16-13] *Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*

Repealed by Rec. 18-06, para 5

[12-05] *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management*

Repealed by Rec. 18-06, para 5

Attachment 1

**Draft recommendation by ICCAT on reducing
incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries**

[Note: Rec. 07-07 was used as a base, with elements from 11-09 incorporated]

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries [Rec. 07-07] and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries [Rec. 11-09];

RECOGNISING the need to continue to strengthen mechanisms to protect endangered seabirds in the Atlantic Ocean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds); and the IOTC Working Party on By-catch objectives;

ACKNOWLEDGING that to date some Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") have identified the need for, and have either completed or are near finalizing, their National Plan of Action on Seabirds;

RECOGNISING the concern that some species of seabirds, notably some albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

NOTING that the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels has entered into force;

NOTING that the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/3 launching a process, to be carried out in coordination with other RFMOs, with a view to reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in fisheries in the GFCM Competence Area;

CONSCIOUS that the ICCAT seabird assessment has been completed and has concluded that ICCAT fisheries are having a measurable impact on seabird species and that there are on-going scientific studies which may result in the identification of more effective mitigation measures;

RECOGNIZING the progress that some CPCs have made in addressing seabird bycatch in their fisheries:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

- ~~1. The Commission shall develop mechanisms to enable CPCs to record data on seabird interactions, including regular reporting to the Commission, and seek agreement to implement such mechanisms as soon as possible thereafter.~~
- ~~2. CPCs shall collect and provide all available information to the Secretariat on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches by their fishing vessels.~~

1. CPCs shall record data on seabird incidental catch by species through scientific observers in accordance with the Recommendation 16-14 and report these data annually. *[From 11-09 and updated]*
2. CPCs shall seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird by-catch across all fishing areas, seasons and fisheries, through the use of effective mitigation measures, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members and the practicability of mitigation measures. *[Addition from 11-09]*
3. a) All vessels fishing between 20°S and 25°S shall carry and use bird-scaring lines (tori poles): *[Inserted to clarify area where only one compulsory measure applies]*
 - Tori poles shall be used in consideration of the suggested tori pole design and deployment guidelines (provided for in **Annex 1**);
 - Tori lines are to be deployed prior to longlines entering the water at all times south of 20°S;
 - Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird-scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity;
 - Back-up tori lines shall be carried by all vessels and be ready for immediate use.
- b) In the area south of 25 degrees South latitude, CPCs shall ensure that all longline vessels use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1. These measures should also be considered for implementation in other areas, as appropriate, consistent with scientific advice. *[From 11-09]*
- c) In the Mediterranean, mitigation measures in Table 1 should be implemented on a voluntary basis. The SCRS is encouraged to work in coordination with the GFCM as provided for in GFCM Recommendation 35/2011/3. *[From 11-09 and GFCM reference corrected; error in 11-09]*
4. Mitigation measures used pursuant to paragraph 3b) shall conform to the minimum technical standards for the measures as shown in Table 1. *[From 11-09 and paragraph reference updated]*
5. Longline vessels targeting swordfish in the area between 20°S and 25°S using monofilament longline gear may be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 3a of this Recommendation, on condition that these vessels set their longlines during the night, with night being defined as the period between nautical dusk/dawn as referenced in the nautical dusk/dawn almanac for the geographical position fished. In addition, these vessels are required to use a minimum swivel weight of 60g placed not more than 3m from the hook to achieve optimum sink rates. *[Additions to clarify that exemption refers only to 07-07]*

CPCs applying this derogation shall inform the SCRS of their scientific findings resulting from their observer coverage of these vessels.
6. The Commission shall, upon receipt of information from the SCRS, consider, and if necessary, refine, the area of application of the mitigation measures specified in paragraph 3. *[Reference update]*
7. This measure ~~is a provisional measure which~~ will be subject to review and adjustment in the light of future available scientific advice. *[CPCs may choose to keep clause, but somewhat redundant]*
- ~~8. The Commission shall consider adopting additional measures for the mitigation of any incidental catch of seabirds at its annual meeting in 2008 based on the results of the ICCAT seabird assessment which is currently underway.~~ *[Outdated]*
8. CPCs shall collect and provide to the Secretariat information on how they are implementing these measures and on the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. *[From 11-09]*

Table 1. Mitigation measures that comply with the following minimum technical standards.

<i>Mitigation measure</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Specification</i>
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum	Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.
Bird-scaring lines (Tori lines)	Bird-scaring lines shall be deployed during longline setting to deter birds from approaching the branch line.	<p>For vessels greater than or equal to 35 m:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity; both tori lines should be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set - Aerial extent of bird-scaring lines must be greater than or equal to 100 m. - Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used. - Long streamers must be at intervals of no more than 5m. <p>For vessels less than 35m:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. - Aerial extent must be greater than or equal to 75m. - Long and/or short (but greater than 1m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Short: intervals of no more than 2m. o Long: intervals of no more than 5m for the first 55 m of bird scaring line. <p>Additional design and deployment guidelines for bird-scaring lines are provided in Annex 1 of this Recommendation.</p>
Line weighting	Line weights to be deployed on the snood prior to setting	<p>Greater than a total of 45 g attached within 1 m of the hook or;</p> <p>Greater than a total of 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook or;</p> <p>Greater than a total of 98 g weight attached within 4 m of the hook.</p>

Supplemental Guidelines for Design and Deployment of Tori Lines

Preamble

Minimum technical standards for deployment of tori lines are found in **Table 1** of this Recommendation and are not repeated here. These supplemental guidelines are designed to assist in preparation and implementation of tori line regulations for longline vessels. While these guidelines are relatively explicit, improvement in tori line effectiveness through experimentation is encouraged, within the requirements of **Table 1** in the Recommendation. The guidelines take into account environmental and operational variables such as weather conditions, setting speed and ship size, all of which influence tori line performance and design in protecting baits from birds. Tori line design and use may change to take account of these variables provided that line performance is not compromised. On-going improvement in tori line design is envisaged and consequently review of these guidelines should be undertaken in the future.

Tori line design

1. An appropriate towed device on the section of the tori line in the water can improve the aerial extension.
2. The above water section of the line should be sufficiently light that its movement is unpredictable to avoid habituation by birds and sufficiently heavy to avoid deflection of the line by wind.
3. The line is best attached to the vessel with a robust barrel swivel to reduce tangling of the line.
4. The streamers should be made of material that is conspicuous and produces an unpredictable lively action (e.g. strong fine line sheathed in red polyurethane tubing) suspended from a robust three-way swivel (that again reduces tangles) attached to the tori line.
5. Each streamer should consist of two or more strands.
6. Each streamer pair should be detachable by means of a clip so that line stowage is more efficient.

Deployment of tori lines

1. The line should be suspended from a pole affixed to the vessel. The tori pole should be set as high as possible so that the line protects bait a good distance astern of the vessel and will not tangle with fishing gear. Greater pole height provides greater bait protection. For example, a height of around 7 m above the water line can give about 100 m of bait protection.
2. If vessels use only one tori line it should be set to windward of sinking baits. If baited hooks are set outboard of the wake, the streamer line attachment point to the vessel should be positioned several meters outboard of the side of the vessel that baits are deployed. If vessels use two tori lines, baited hooks should be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
3. Deployment of multiple tori lines is encouraged to provide even greater protection of baits from birds.
4. Because there is the potential for line breakage and tangling, spare tori lines should be carried onboard to replace damaged lines and to ensure fishing operations can continue uninterrupted. Breakaways can be incorporated into the tori line to minimize safety and operational problems should a longline float foul or tangle with the in-water extent of a streamer line.
5. When fishers use a bait casting machine (BCM), they must ensure coordination of tori line and machine by:
 - i) ensuring the BCM throws directly under the tori line protection, and
 - ii) when using a BCM (or multiple BCMs) that allows throwing to both port and starboard, two tori lines should be used.
6. When casting branchline by hand, fishers should ensure that the baited hooks and coiled branchline sections are cast under the tori line protection, avoiding the propeller turbulence which may slow the sink rate.
7. Fishers are encouraged to install manual, electric or hydraulic winches to improve ease of deployment and retrieval of tori lines.