

RECOMMENDATION 05/09
ON INCIDENTAL MORTALITY OF SEABIRDS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries;

RECOGNISING the need to evaluate the incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing operations for tunas and tuna-like species;

NOTING that fisheries other than longline fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species may also contribute to the incidental mortality of seabirds;

FURTHER NOTING that other factors, such as swallowing marine debris, are also responsible for seabird mortality.

RECOMMENDS, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article IX of the Agreement, that:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”) should inform the Scientific Committee, if appropriate, and the Commission of the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. The Commission should urge CPCs to implement, if appropriate, the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries if they have not yet done so.
2. CPCs should be encouraged to collect and voluntarily provide Scientific Committee with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches in all fisheries under the purview of IOTC.
3. When feasible and appropriate, Scientific Committee should present to the Commission an assessment of the impact of incidental catch of seabirds resulting from the activities of all the vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species, in the IOTC Area.
4. CPCs are encouraged to support developing countries in their implementing the Guidelines.