



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

21 December 2016

**Dr Johanne Fischer**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**  
**Level 26 Plimmer Towers**  
**2-6 Gilmer Terrace**  
**Wellington 6011, New Zealand**

Dear Dr Fischer,

On behalf of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), I would like to provide few inputs that may be relevant to the Agenda of the 5th Meeting of the Commission which was circulated recently. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. However, I will engage with other Delegates to share information regarding the relevant agenda items and brief them in more detail if needed.

#### Agenda Item 6. Conservation and Management Measures

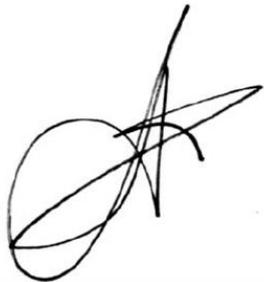
- The ACAP Best Practice Advice for [demersal longline fisheries](#) and [trawl fisheries](#) were revised in 2016 during the Seabird Bycatch Working Group meeting (SBWG7) in La Serena, Chile. No new mitigation was included or amended in either of these two documents; simply minor edits were made to improve the presentation of information.
- The ACAP Advisory Committee, in collaboration with BirdLife International, is in the process of reviewing the [Bycatch Mitigation Fact Sheets](#), product meant to assist Fisheries Organisations, managers, decision makers and others in implementing seabird bycatch mitigation methods from technical aspects. This review process has just started with two of the fact sheets which are relevant to pelagic longline fisheries; other reviews will follow in 2017 and 2018.

Agenda Item 8. SPRFMO Observer Programme

- Relevant to point 7 in CMM 4.09, I would like to note that ACAP, together with colleagues from the Japan Fisheries Research Agency, produced a [Seabird Bycatch ID Guide](#) to assist observers in the identification of albatrosses and some commonly caught petrels and shearwaters killed in longline operations. The ID guide is currently available on the ACAP website in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.
- Relevant to point 6 in CMM 4.09, a [Seabird de-hooking Guide](#) is available on the ACAP website as well. These guidelines will assist fishery observers in the proper handling of live seabirds bycaught in longliners, and improve their likelihood of survival. Similar guidelines for net fisheries are programmed for drafting by ACAP in the near future.

Hope the information provided will be useful for the upcoming meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you or any Delegate require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long, sweeping stroke that extends upwards and to the right.

Dr Marco Favero  
Executive Secretary