



**South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee**

**La Jolla, United States of America, 21-27 October 2013**

**SC-01-INF-05**

**International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries  
Incorporation into the Chilean Fisheries and Aquaculture Law**

*Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture - Chile*

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## INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR REDUCING INCIDENTAL CATCH OF SEABIRDS IN LONGLINE FISHERIES

### INCORPORATION INTO THE CHILEAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE LAW

Submitted by

Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture – Chile

In consideration of the use of the ecosystem approach for fisheries management encouraged by FAO in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995) and in order to be in conformity with the conservation measures adopted by the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) as well as the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Chile developed in 2007 its National Action Plan to reduce bycatch in longline fisheries (PAN-AM/Chile). This Plan is aimed to reduce seabird mortalities occurring in all longline fisheries in the country through the implementation of two programs: a) the immediate use of mitigation measures, and b) a research program for the improvement of the mitigation measures initially implemented. The PAN-AM/Chile (<http://www.subpesca.cl/publicaciones/606/w3-article-79723.html>) takes into account the differences in design and operation for each fishery and includes measures for the demersal fisheries of patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), southern blue whiting (*Merluccius australis*), and golden kingclip (*Genypterus blacodes*) and for the pelagic fishery of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).

Mitigation measures	Chilean sea bass	Southern blue whiting and golden kingclip	Sword fish
Use of streamer Tori- lines	Air coverage not less than 40 m and 100 m long.	Air coverage not less than 80 m and 100 m long.	Air coverage not less than 100 m behind stern.
Line weighing	The ground line must reach 10 m depth before the streamer line comes in contact with water. For the replacement of ballasts, vessels must have on board replacement ballasts weighing not less than 8.5 kg with an additional 20% weight for the setting of a longer line.	The ground line must reach 10 m depth before the streamer line comes in contact with water. For the replacement of ballasts, vessels must have on board replacement ballasts weighing not less than 8 kg with an additional 20% weight for the setting of a longer line.	The gangion (line attaching the hooks to the main line) with a weight attached not less than 60g in the swivel- The gangion length must be shorter than 2 fathoms (3.6 m).
Night setting	Night setting only in fortnights in which seabird bycatch exceeds 0.05 birds/ 1000 hooks.	Night setting: 1 hour after sunset up to 1 hour before sunrise. Keep stern lights at minimum.	Night setting required for each set during the Winter season (June 1st

			to August 31st).
Offal discharges	Offal discharges must be dumped from the opposite side regarding to hauling station. Additionally must not be dumped during the setting of the ground line or less than 30 min from each set.		Offal discharges must be dumped from the opposite side regarding to hauling station.

The specific measures referred to topics contained in the PAN-AM/Chile were not incorporated in the Law for Fisheries and Aquaculture, therefore its compliance was voluntary. However, the recent amendment of this law in February 2013 corrects such deficiency. In fact, its Article 4 incorporates prohibitions and administrative measures regarding seabirds' protection as follow:

- Requirement of using and carrying on board, fishing gear or devices to avoid or minimize bycatch during fishing operations, aiming to achieve more selective practices.
- Requirement of using and carrying on board, devices intended to facilitate the safe release of specimens caught accidentally by fishing gears.
- Establishment of Code of Conduct for good fishing practices to avoid or mitigate the incidental catch of marine mammals, seabirds and turtles.

Through the law modifications named above, it is expected to achieve an effective compliance with the measured contained in the PAN-AM/Chile. Accordingly, these measures will be soon incorporated into the management measures for each fishery.