

ACAP advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fishing operations on seabirds

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Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

... “to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status of albatross and petrel species”

- Multilateral environmental agreement; 2004
- 13 Member Countries
- 31 species of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters



Review of seabird bycatch mitigation measures



- ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group routinely reviews research relating to seabird bycatch mitigation
- Determination of best practice based on a set of criteria

- Most recent review conducted in **September 2017**



ACAP criteria for assessing efficacy of mitigation measures

- Demonstrated by **EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH** to significantly reduce the rate of seabird incidental mortality to the lowest achievable levels
- Should have clear and proven **SPECIFICATIONS** and **MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**
- Should be demonstrated to be **PRACTICAL, COST-EFFECTIVE & WIDELY AVAILABLE**
- To the extent practicable, should **MAINTAIN CATCH RATES OF TARGET SPECIES**
- To the extent practicable, should **NOT INCREASE BYCATCH RATES OF OTHER TAXA**



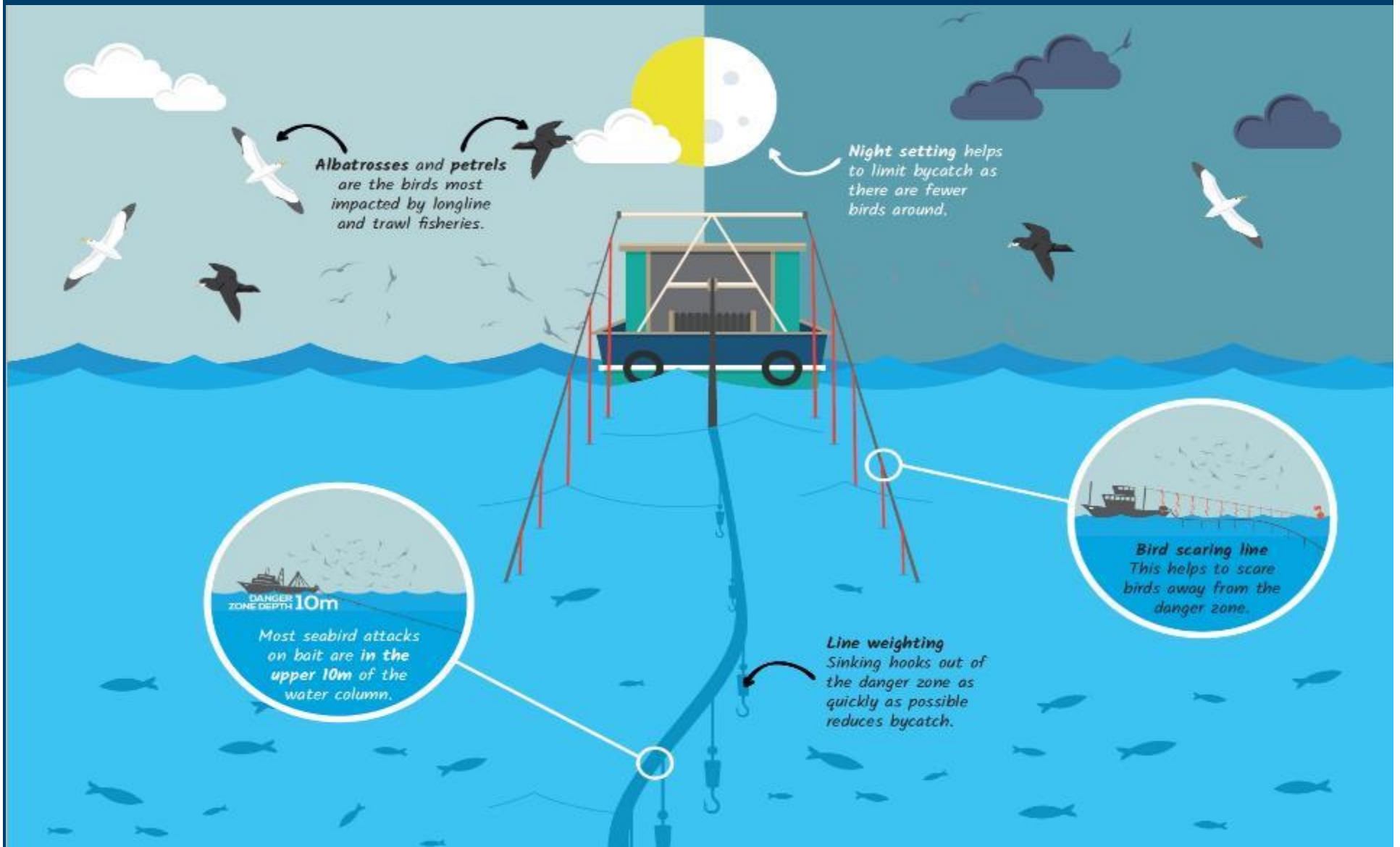
Developing & Updating Advice

- Iterative and evolving process
- Recommendations made on the **BALANCE OF EVIDENCE**



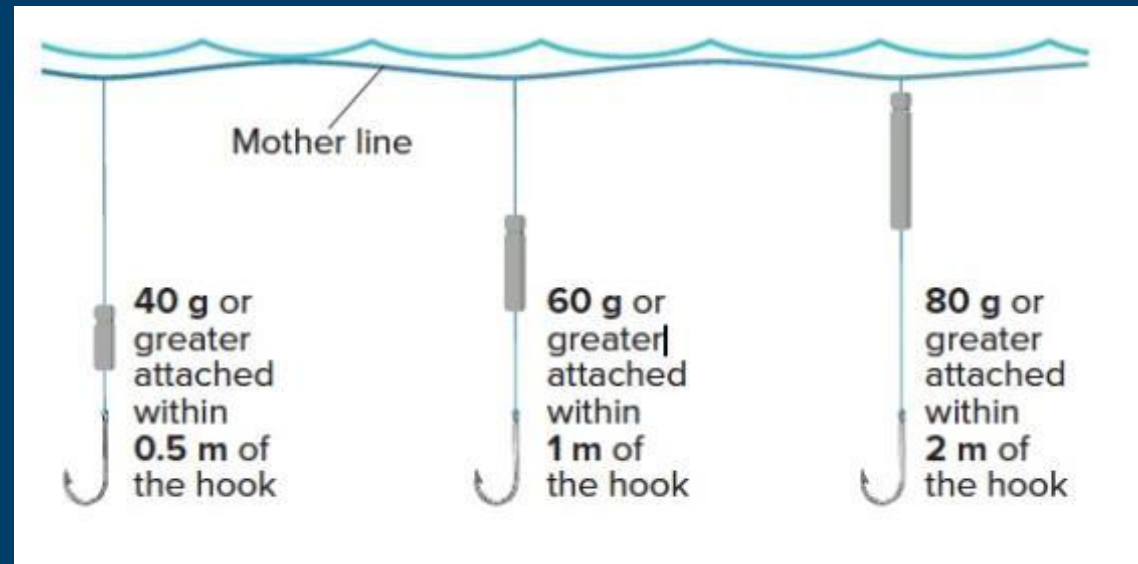
Best practice mitigation measures – pre May 2016

Branchline weighting, Bird Scaring Lines & Night setting



Following ACAP review in May 2016

weighted branch lines, bird scaring lines and night-setting...



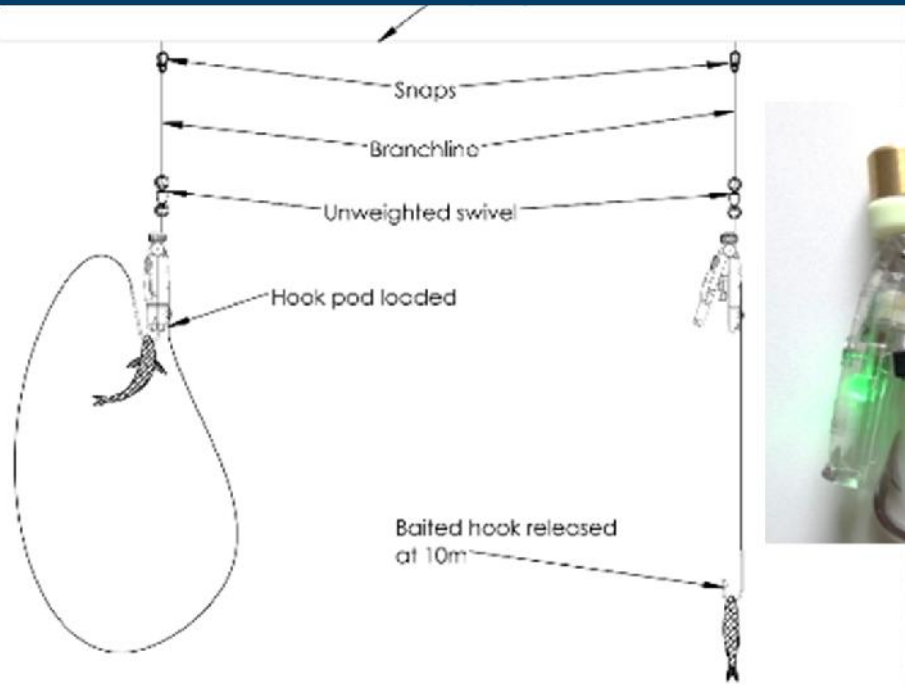
Changes to ACAP Best Practice Advice

Previously	Revised (in May 2016)
≥ 45 g attached within 1 m of the hook	≥ 40 g attached within 0.5 m of the hook
≥ 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook	≥ 60 g attached within 1 m of the hook
≥ 98 g attached within 4 m of the hook	≥ 80 g attached within 2 m of the hook



PLUS....

Hook-shielding devices



Preventing Seabird
Bycatch in Longline
and Trawl Fisheries

Created by:



Hook shielding

ACAP and BirdLife Best Practice Factsheet X

What is it and how does it work?

Hook shielding devices encase the point and barb of longline hooks during line setting, and thus prevent seabirds from being hooked during this period. Because these attacks occur primarily in the upper reaches of the water column (down to 10m), effective hook shielding devices should release hooks from their protective encasements at a depth of at least 10m, or after 10 minutes of soak time, by which time they would have sunk below 10m depth.





Hook shielding

- the device shields the hook until a prescribed depth of 10 m or immersion time of 10 minutes is reached
- the device meets current recommended minimum standards for branch line weighting
- experimental research has been undertaken to allow assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and practicality of the technology against the ACAP best practice seabird bycatch mitigation criteria



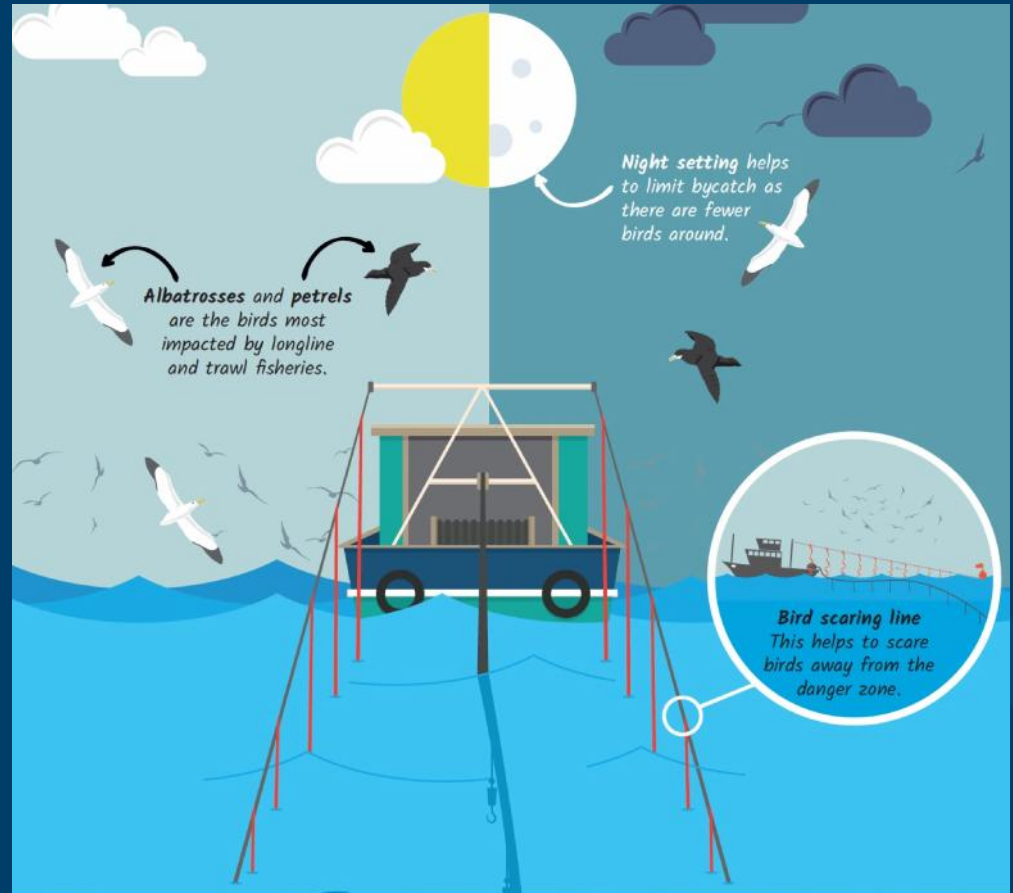
‘Hook Pod’ and ‘Smart Tuna Hook’

Most recent updates (September 2017)

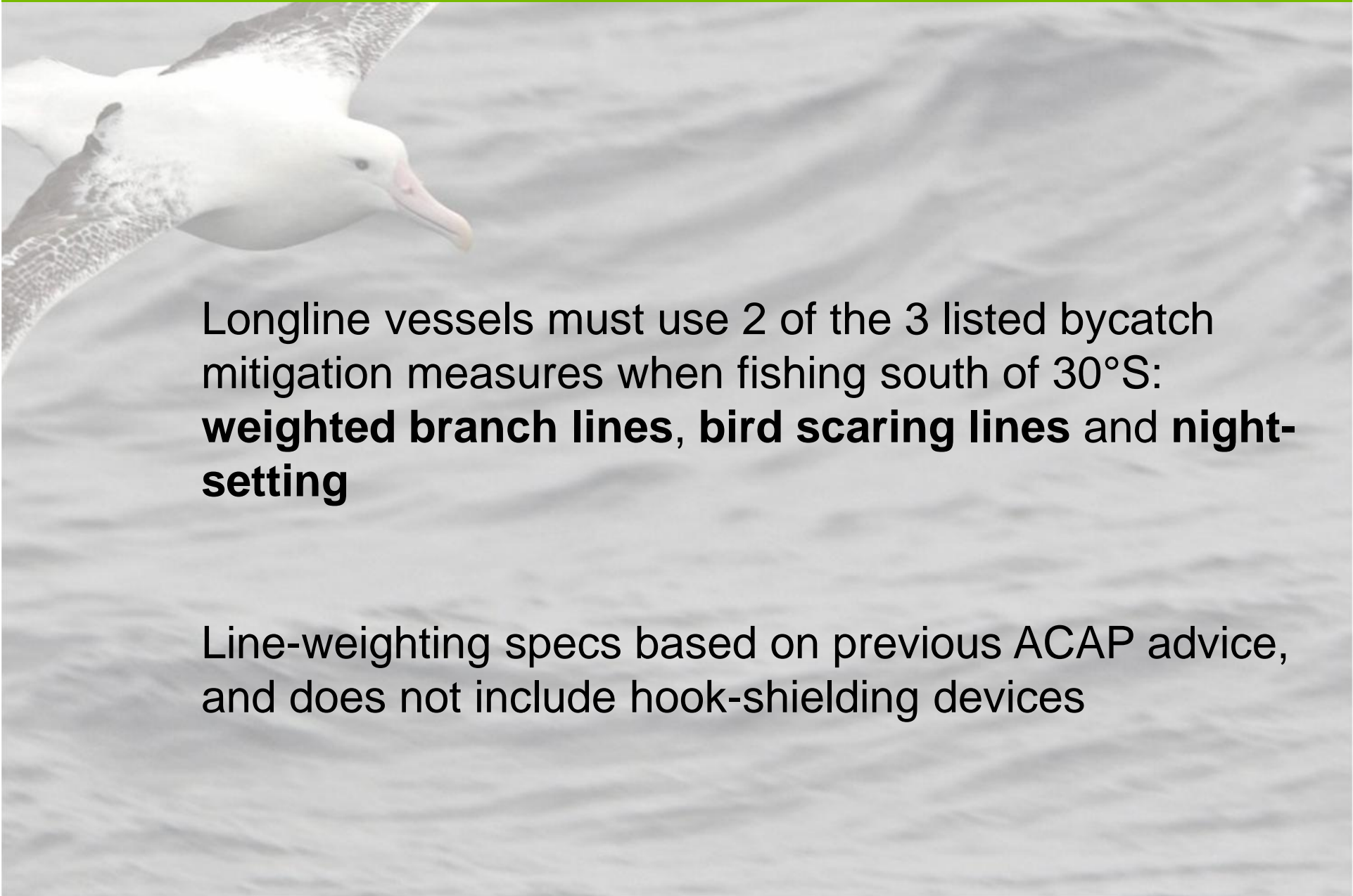
- New guidance on the technical specifications of Bird Scaring Lines, especially for small vessels (<35m length)

- Weak links
- Improving Drag
- Attachment height

WCPFC (CMM 2017-06) has incorporated these for vessels south of 30S



WCPFC CMM 2017-06

A white albatross is shown in flight, moving from the left side of the frame towards the right. The bird's wings are spread, and its long, hooked beak is visible. The background consists of a vast, slightly rippled ocean surface under a clear sky. The overall image has a soft, slightly desaturated appearance.

Longline vessels must use 2 of the 3 listed bycatch mitigation measures when fishing south of 30°S:
weighted branch lines, bird scaring lines and night-setting

Line-weighting specs based on previous ACAP advice, and does not include hook-shielding devices

Recommendations

Note discrepancies between WCPFC
CMM 2017-06 and current ACAP advice:

- Branchline weighting specifications
- Hook-shielding devices
- Bird Scaring Lines for small vessels North of 23° N



Thank you

