

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**SEABIRD REPORTING TEMPLATE**

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**SUMMARY**

The seabird conservation and management measure, [Resolution C-11-02](#), adopted by the IATTC in 2011 to mitigate the impact of fishing on seabirds in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), requires Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) to ensure that longline vessels over 20 meters in length employ at least two seabird bycatch mitigation measures in designated high-risk areas, and to report annually to the Commission on the mitigation measures their flag vessels plan to use.

In 2024, the IATTC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group-2 adopted the [seabird action plan \(SAP\)](#). The SAP identified several tasks for the scientific staff with the goal towards updating the outdated seabird Resolution. One of the tasks requested the scientific staff to,

*“Overview of mitigation measures in use by CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area as required in paragraph 5 of C-11-02. This should account for all CPCs, including any that may have vessels fishing in areas where bycatch mitigation measures are not required”.*

In an attempt to meet the above request and compile the mitigation measures reported by CPCs each year, multiple challenges were encountered due to the lack of standardized reporting. The type of reports submitted varied considerably across CPCs with, for example, some CPCs providing the mitigation measures each vessel used, while others simply referred to the measures in Resolution C-11-02. The specifications of each measure were often not identified and were thus assumed to be following those described in C-11-02. To support CPCs in fulfilling the reporting obligations laid out in Resolution C-11-02 Paragraphs 5 and 7, among others:

*“5. CPCs shall inform the IATTC, by 1 September 2011, and annually thereafter, of the mitigation measures that their flag vessels plan to employ in the implementation of this resolution.”*

*“7. CPCs shall provide annually to the IATTC any available information regarding interactions with seabirds involving their flag vessels in the fishery, including bycatches of seabirds and details of seabird species and all relevant information available from observer or other monitoring programs.”*

And in accordance with the recommendation from the IATTC scientific staff and [EBWG-3 in 2025](#):

*“Recommends that the IATTC staff develop a seabird mitigation reporting template relative to compliance with Resolutions in force regarding mitigation measures for seabirds for consideration by the SAC, with*

*due consideration to the operational feasibility of data collection.”*

The staff has developed a seabird reporting template that will facilitate reporting in a consistent and comprehensive manner through a standardized format for submitting seabird bycatch data and mitigation information to the IATTC Secretariat. A standardized template benefits both CPCs and the Commission in several important ways: it reduces the burden on national reporting staff by providing clear, structured fields that remove ambiguity about what information is required; it ensures that data are reported at a spatial and temporal resolution sufficient for meaningful scientific analysis; and it enables the IATTC staff to compile and compare standardized information across fleets and years to assess the level of implementation of Resolution C-11-02, identify data gaps, and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures over time. Consistent, high-quality seabird bycatch data are essential for estimating fleet-wide bycatch rates and total mortality — two key indicators recommended by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) — and for informing any future updates to the Resolution. Ultimately, this template is a practical tool to strengthen seabird conservation in the EPO by transforming a reporting requirement into actionable information.

The draft seabird reporting template can be found in Annex 1.

Annex 1.

**IATTC REPORTING TEMPLATE. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION [C-11-02](#)  
ON MITIGATING THE IMPACTS ON SEABIRDS OF FISHING.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This compliance report contains six questions. Before each question, the relevant paragraph from the resolution that requires or encourages the relevant information is provided in *italics* with the paragraph number, for reference. Questions 1-3 are regarding actions that CPCs are **required** to report to IATTC according to the Resolution. Questions 4-6 are regarding actions that CPCs are **encouraged** to report to IATTC. For each question, two options exist, YES and NO. For some questions, additional information will be required. This template will need to be completed and submitted to the Secretariat annually to [datahandlers@iattc.org](mailto:datahandlers@iattc.org).

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**Reporting CPC:**

**Date:**

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**QUESTION 1**

**PAR. 1.** *Members and Cooperating Non-Members (“CPCs”) shall report to the IATTC on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action (NPOA) for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries.*

**1.1.** Has the CPC established a NPOA for conservation and management of seabirds, in accordance with FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Seabirds? Please select the correct box representing the status of your NPOA. If “COMPLETED” please indicate Year it was completed, if “IN PROGRESS” please indicate the status of the NPOA drafting process, if “NOT APPLICABLE” please explain why.

COMPLETED  Year Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

IN PROGRESS  Please indicate the status of the NPOA drafting process:

NOT APPLICABLE  Please explain why:

**1.2.** Has the CPC reported to the IATTC on the actions and activities it has undertaken in relation to the implementation of the FAO Seabirds IPOA? If not, please attach the relevant report, as required pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Resolution. If “NOT APPLICABLE” please explain why.

YES  What year was it reported? \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE  Please explain why:

NO, SEE ATTACHED

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**QUESTION 2**

**PAR. 2.** CPCs shall require their longline vessels of more than 20 meters length overall that use hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical systems and that fish for species covered by the IATTC in the EPO north of 23°N (except in Mexican waters as described in the minutes of the 81st meeting of the IATTC and as shown on the map in Annex 1 of the Resolution) and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S (see Annex 1) to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. Vessels shall not use the same measure from Column A and Column B.

**Table 1: Mitigation measures**

Column A	Column B
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines <sup>2</sup>	<i>Tori</i> line <sup>3</sup>
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	Weighted branch lines
<i>Tori</i> line	Blue-dyed bait
Weighted branch lines	Deep-setting line shooter
	Underwater setting chute
	Management of offal discharge

**PAR. 3.** CPCs with longline vessels fishing in the EPO other than the area mentioned in paragraph 2, are encouraged to voluntarily employ at least one of the mitigation measures included in Table 1.

**PAR. 5** CPCs shall inform the IATTC, by 1 September 2011, and annually thereafter, of the mitigation measures that their flag vessels plan to employ in the implementation of this resolution.

**2.1.** Pursuant to paragraph 2, has the CPC required that its flagged longline vessels implement seabird mitigation measures inside the area described above? Please indicate “YES” or “NO”, below. If yes, in the top half of the table below under “IF YES” please indicate the proportion of vessels using mitigation measure options from Column A and Column B listed in Table 1, under “Inside mitigation area” column in the table below. If no, please fill in the bottom half of the table below, under “IF NO” and select which reason why no seabird mitigation measures were reported.

YES  NO

**2.2.** Pursuant to paragraph 3, has the CPC encouraged that its flagged longline vessels implement seabird mitigation measures outside the area described above? Please indicate “YES” or “NO”, below. If yes, in the top half of the table below under “IF YES” please indicate the proportion of vessels using mitigation measure options from Column A and Column B listed in Table 1, under “Outside mitigation area” column in the table below. If no, please fill in the bottom half of the table below, under “IF NO” and select which reason why no seabird mitigation measures were reported.

YES  NO

Mitigation measure used in the mitigation area in [year]		
IF YES:	Proportion of mitigation measures used across vessels	
Mitigation Measures	Inside mitigation area (Mandatory)	Outside mitigation area (Voluntary)
<b>Table 1: Column A</b>		
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines <sup>1</sup>		
Night setting		
Tori Lines <sup>2</sup>		
Weighted branch lines		
<b>Table 1: Column B</b>		
Tori Lines <sup>2</sup>		
Weighted branch lines		
Blue-dyed bait		
Deep-setting line shooter		
Underwater setting chute		
Management of offal discharge		
<b>IF NO:</b>	Why?	Why?
No active longline vessels > 20m in IATTC Convention Area		
No active longline vessels >20m in the mitigation area		
No observer program to monitor mitigation measures		
Other		

<sup>1</sup>This measure can only be applied in the area north of 23°N until research establishes the utility of this measure in waters south of 30°S. If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from column A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

<sup>2</sup> If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

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**QUESTION 3**

**PAR. 7** *CPCs shall provide annually to the IATTC any available information regarding interactions with seabirds involving their flag vessels in the fishery, including bycatches of seabirds and details of seabird species and all relevant information available from observer or other monitoring programs.*

**3.1.** What monitoring programs are currently in place for fleets interacting with seabirds? Please indicate the proportion of coverage (i.e., observer program, electronic monitoring, vessel logbooks) for each fleet category (>20 m or ≤20 m)? Please provide details in the table below:

<b>Fleet Category</b>	<b>Monitoring program</b>	<b>Proportion of fleet coverage by monitoring program</b>	<b>Data provided to Secretariat? Y/N</b>	<b>Dataset name</b>

**3.2.** Has the CPC observed interactions between the longline fishery and seabirds? If yes, please provide the number of individuals (# of ind) that interacted with the fishery for each species inside and outside the mitigation area, as well as, when available, the discard fate in the top half of Table 3 under "IF YES." If no, please indicate the possible reason why no observed interactions occurred between the longline fishery and seabirds in the bottom half of the table below, under "IF NO". If interactions with multiple "Other" seabirds occur, please attach additional sheets as needed.

YES  NO

<b>Relevant Information: Observed seabird interactions and discard fate in [year]</b>					
<b>IF YES</b>	<b>Observed interactions (# of ind)</b>	<b>Discard Fate (# of ind)</b>			
<b>Species</b>		<b>Kept</b>	<b>Released Alive</b>	<b>Released Dead</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Antipodean Albatross					
Black-browed Albatross					
Black-footed Albatross					
Buller's Albatross					
Chatham Albatross					
Grey-headed Albatross					
Laysan Albatross					
North Royal Albatross					
Salvin's Albatross					
Wandering Albatross					
Waved Albatross					
Unidentified Albatross					
Black Petrel					
Grey Petrel					
North Giant Petrel					
Westland Petrel					
White-chinned Petrel					
Unidentified Petrel					
Other _____					
Unidentified seabird					
<b>IF NO</b>	<b>Why?</b>				
No active longline vessels > 20m in IATTC Convention Area					
No active longline vessels >20m in the mitigation area					
No observer program to monitor mitigation measures					
Among active vessels no observed interactions					
Other					

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**QUESTION 4.**

**PAR. 6.** *CPCs are encouraged to work, jointly and individually, to undertake research, especially on specifications for weighted branch lines, to further develop and refine methods for mitigating seabird bycatch, including measures for use during the process of hauling in longlines, and shall submit to the IATTC any information derived from such efforts. Preferably, research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas in which the measures will be used.*

Has the CPC conducted any research as encouraged above? If yes, please provide details of research conducted to mitigate seabird bycatch as an annex to this document.

YES  NO

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**QUESTION 5.**

**PAR. 8.** *CPCs are encouraged to establish national programs to place observers aboard longline vessels flying their flags or fishing in their waters, for the purpose of, inter alia, gathering information on the interactions of seabirds with the longline fisheries.*

Has the CPC established a national program to place observers aboard longline vessels as encouraged above? If yes, please ensure the first table in Question 3 is completed.

YES  NO

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**QUESTION 6.**

**PAR. 9.** *CPCs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longline fishing operations are released alive and in the best condition possible, and that, whenever possible, hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird.*

Has the CPC adopted measures aimed at ensuring seabirds are released alive as encouraged above? If yes, please add additional details as an annex to this document.

YES  NO

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