

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Twelfth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p><i>Lima, Peru, 5 – 7 August 2024</i></p> <p><b>Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets Update</b></p> <p><b><i>Sebastián Jiménez, Yann Rouxel, Secretariat</i></b></p>
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### SUMMARY

Following SBWG11, progress has been made with a factsheet on pelagic longline bird scaring lines for vessels <35m. Factsheets for vessels ≥35m, and for demersal longline bird scaring lines, remain to be completed as a priority, along several others that are yet to be converted into the new simplified format: demersal longline line weighting (currently separate sheets for external weights, integrated weights and Chilean system), trawl warp strike and trawl net entanglement.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Seabird Bycatch Working Group is asked to:

1. Review and endorse the draft bird scaring lines factsheet for pelagic longline vessels <35m presented in ANNEX 1.
2. Review the priorities for factsheet updates, and their target languages.
3. Consider assisting with in-kind support for translations and proofreading.

## **Actualización de las fichas informativas sobre mitigación de captura secundaria**

### RESUMEN

Luego de la undécima reunión del GdTCS, hubo avances con una ficha informativa sobre líneas espantapájaros en los buques de palangre pelágico de <35 m. Las fichas para buques de ≥35 m y para líneas espantapájaros en el palangre demersal aún no se han completado y siguen siendo una prioridad, junto con otras que todavía no se han adaptado al nuevo formato simplificado: lastrado de palangre demersal (actualmente existen fichas separadas para pesos externos, pesos integrados y el sistema chileno), colisiones con los cables de arrastre y enredos con la red de arrastre.

## RECOMENDACIONES

Se pide al Grupo de Trabajo sobre Captura Secundaria de Aves Marinas:

1. Que revise y apruebe el borrador de la ficha informativa sobre líneas espantapájaros para buques con palangre pelágico de <35 m que se presenta en el ANEXO 1.
2. Que revise la priorización de las actualizaciones a las fichas informativas y los idiomas de traducción.
3. Que considere la posibilidad de colaborar en especie con traducciones y revisiones.

## Mise à jour des fiches pratiques sur l'atténuation des captures accessoires

### RÉSUMÉ

Suite à la GTCA11, des progrès ont été effectués sur la rédaction d'une fiche pratique sur les dispositifs d'effarouchement des oiseaux pour les palangres pélagiques sur les navires de <35 m. Les fiches pratiques pour les navires  $\geq 35$ m et pour les dispositifs d'effarouchement des oiseaux pour la palangre démersale doivent être terminées en priorité, tout comme plusieurs autres qui n'ont pas encore été converties au nouveau format simplifié : lestages des palangres démersales (actuellement réparties en fiches séparées pour les lests externes, les lests intégrés et les systèmes chiliens), les collisions avec les funes et l'enchevêtrement dans les chaluts.

### RECOMMANDATIONS

Le Groupe de travail sur les captures accessoires est invité à :

1. Réviser et approuver le projet de fiche pratique pour les dispositifs d'effarouchement des oiseaux pour les navires de pêche à la palangre pélagique <35m présenté en ANNEXE 1.
2. Réviser les priorités pour les mises à jour de fiches pratiques et leurs langues cibles.
3. Envisager d'apporter une contribution aux traductions et à la relecture.

## 1. CURRENT STATUS

At SBWG9/AC11, there was agreement to adopt a new simplified factsheet design, and the new **night setting**, **pelagic longline line weighting** and **hook shielding** factsheets were finalised. With FAO funding support, the three sheets were translated and published on the ACAP website ([www.acap.aq/link/mtqfs](http://www.acap.aq/link/mtqfs)) in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

The next priorities for update were the longline bird scaring line factsheets (it was subsequently considered optimal to maintain separate sheets for demersal and pelagic vessels), as well as an **introductory factsheet** and one on **improving crew safety during branchline hauling**. The latter two were reviewed during SBWG10 and finalised. They were translated from English into the eight languages noted above and proofread by native speakers with expertise in the field where possible. Following discussions at SBWG10, the hook shielding factsheet was also updated.

An **updated factsheet on pelagic longline bird scaring lines for vessels <35m** is presented for SBWG review in **ANNEX 1**. Unfortunately, capacity issues (coupled with some of the complexities of simplifying the bird-scaring line text for the new factsheets format) mean that not all the bird-scaring line factsheets are ready to be reviewed at SBWG12.

At SBWG10, three addition factsheets were proposed: on modified purse seine, trawl offal and discharge management, and underwater bait setters in pelagic longlines. The current status of all 23 existing or proposed factsheets is shown in **Table 1**.

## 2. NEXT STEPS

### 2.1. Bird scaring line factsheets

Discussion among SBWG members after SBWG9 highlighted the need for the bird-scaring line factsheets to strike a balance between identifying the best practice design specifics and the practical reality of available materials and conditions at-sea. SBWG members and others are encouraged to contact SBWG Co-convenor Sebastián Jiménez with any further ideas to progress the remaining factsheets on demersal and pelagic bird scaring lines intersessionally.

Factsheets on **pelagic longline bird scaring lines** (<35m and ≥35m) will be translated into eight target languages (as budget allows): French, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

Factsheets on **demersal longline bird scaring lines** (<35m and ≥35m) will be translated into six target languages (as budget allows): French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

### 2.2. Future priorities

The outstanding best practice factsheets that are yet to be converted into the new simplified format, with leads agreed at SBWG11, and target languages (as budget allows) are:

- **Demersal longline line weighting** (combine into one factsheet from three separate sheets for external weights, integrated weights and Chilean system), Barry Baker to lead. Translate into six target languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese.
- **Trawl warp strike**, Marcelo Garcia to lead. Translate into six target languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese. Background information and draft text for discussion is presented in **SBWG12 Inf 07**.
- **Trawl net entanglement**, Verónica Iriarte to lead. Translate into six target languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese.

We would be grateful for any offers of in-kind support to assist with translations and proofreading.

It is worth noting that the current longline sheets focus on the mitigation measures *per se*, while the two trawl sheets encompass types of seabird interaction with fishing gear, and contain numerous mitigation measures within. In order to maintain the simplified, concise format of the sheets – and depending on the level of detail required – separation of the measures into individual sheets may be merited.

**Table 1.** Current status of Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets.

	Factsheet	English	Spanish	French	Portuguese	Korean	Simplified Chinese	Traditional Chinese	Japanese	Indonesian
1	<b>Intro</b>	Aug 2021	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated
	1 Demersal Bird Scaring Lines*	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
2	Demersal Bird Scaring Lines ≥35m								-	-
3	Demersal Bird Scaring Lines <35m								-	-
4	2 Demersal LL Line weight external#	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
	3 Demersal LL Integrated weight#	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
	4 Demersal LL Line weighting Chilean system#	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
5	Demersal & Pelagic LL Night-setting	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019 translated	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019
6	6 Demersal LL Underwater setting chute	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
7	7a Pelagic LL Bird Scaring lines ≥35m	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	
8	7b Pelagic LL Bird Scaring lines <35m	<b>Draft June 2024</b>	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	
9	Pelagic LL Line weighting	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019 translated	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019
10	9 Pelagic LL Side-setting	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-
11	10 Pelagic LL Blue-dyded bait squid	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-
12	11 Pelagic LL Bait caster and line shooter	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-
13	12 Demersal & Pelagic LL Haul Mitigation	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	
14	13 Trawl fisheries warp strike	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
15	14 Trawl fisheries Net entanglement	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	Sep 2014	-	-
16	Pelagic LL Hook-shielding devices	Updated Aug 2021	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019 translated	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019	May 2019
17	Pelagic LL - Improving safety when hauling branch lines	Aug 2021	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated	Aug 2021 translated
18	Modified Purse Seine (new)									-
19	Trawl offal and discharge management (new)									-
20	Pelagic LL - underwater bait setters (new)									

\* factsheet 1 on demersal bird scaring lines will be replaced by 2 separate factsheets for vessels <35m and ≥35m

# factsheets 2, 3 and 4 on demersal LL weighting will be replaced by 1 factsheet

- not required in this language



# Preventing Seabird Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fisheries

## BIRD SCARING LINES

(VESSELS <35 M)

## Factsheet

Updated June 2024

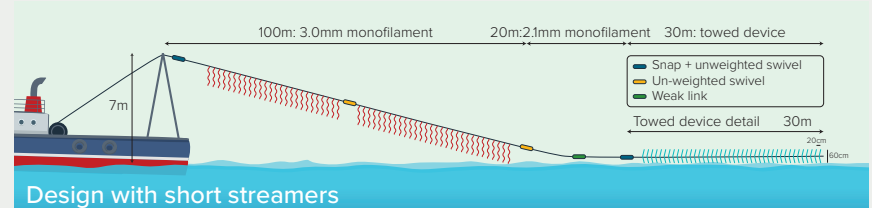
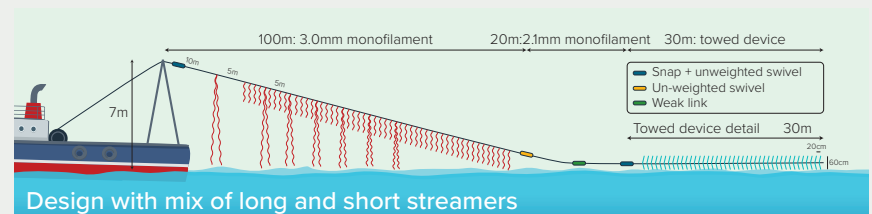
### What is it and how does it work?

A bird scaring line (BSL) - also called a tori or streamer line - is a line with streamers that is towed from the stern of a vessel. As the vessel moves forward, drag on the line creates an aerial segment (extent) from which streamers are suspended at regular intervals. A towed object or mechanism that creates additional drag at its terminus is essential to maximise the aerial extent.



The goal is to maintain the BSL over the sinking baited hooks in such a way that the streamers prevent seabirds from attacking bait, becoming hooked and subsequently killed.

BSL should be the lightest practical strong fine line. To achieve a minimum recommended aerial extent of 75 m, BSL should be suspended at least 6 m above the water at the stern. In all cases, streamers should be brightly coloured. Two designs have been shown to be effective for vessels <35 m total length



### Problems and troubleshooting

BSL are very effective at reducing seabird bycatch, but can be challenging to use in pelagic longline fishing. In general, pelagic longlines are set at faster vessel speeds and hooks sink slower than in demersal longline fishing. These factors make baited hooks accessible to seabirds' attack far astern the vessel.

BSL can tangle with float lines leading to loss of equipment, interruption with fishing operations, and can pose danger to the crew. This makes some fishermen reluctant to use BSL. These events usually occur when floats catch on the towed object, but they can also occur when a swell throws a float and line over the bird scaring line backbone.

To minimise risks, the crew can develop a plan to deploy floats in such a way that the likelihood of tangles is reduced, taking into consideration the current, wind and position of the BSL. Alternatives, such as adding short streamers to the in-water portion of the BSL, can enhance drag while minimising tangles with float lines. The best way to avoid tangles and maximize aerial coverage of the BSL is to use a long in-water section of rope or monofilament. It is recommended to use a weak link to allow the BSL to break-away from the vessel in the event of a tangle with the fishing gear. Several ready-made bird scaring lines and sufficient material to replace them during breakages should be available. Some of these materials may already be available on board.

### Combination with other measures

BSL used alone can rarely protect baited hooks beyond the aerial extent of the line. Consequently, the simultaneous use BSL, branch line weighting and Night-setting should be employed to compensate for these limitations.

Night setting helps to limit bycatch as there are fewer birds around.

Albatrosses and petrels are the birds most impacted by longline and trawl fisheries.

**Bird scaring line**  
This helps to scare birds away from the danger zone.

**Line weighting**  
Sinking hooks out of the danger zone as quickly as possible reduces bycatch.

DANGER ZONE DEPTH 10m

Most seabird attacks on bait are in the upper 10m of the water column.

