



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

TCC11 Small Working Group report on seabirds

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1030

Outcome of TCC11 small working group on seabirds

Draft TCC11 report language for agenda item 11.5, Seabirds (CMM 2012-07):

In accordance with paragraph 10 of CMM 2012-07, the TCC has evaluated the constraints and opportunities for small vessels to employ seabird mitigation measures in the North Pacific Ocean. Based on reports provided by Chinese Taipei (TCC10-DP11), Japan (TCC10-DP10 and TCC11-DP05), and the USA (TCC9-DP05) in accordance with paragraph 387 of the report of TCC8, the TCC finds that:

- No constraints for small vessels have been identified with respect to the use of side setting, night setting, blue-dyed bait, deep-setting line shooters, or management of offal discharge (but the TCC notes that night setting may not be practical for some small vessels).
- Small vessels face constraints with respect to the use of some types of tori lines, which are subject to tangling with the fishing gear due to the size of the vessel.
- There is an opportunity and need to develop alternative minimum specifications for a tori line that is tailored for small vessels.
- There are opportunities to identify areas in which seabirds are rare and in which seabird mitigation methods are not needed or can be relaxed.

Some CCMs noted that the identification of areas in which seabirds are rare potentially could also be applied to large vessels.

One CCM noted that in the area to the south of 30 degrees North and to the west of 130 degrees East, seabirds are rare and the seabirds mitigation methods are not needed, and should be excluded from the application of the mitigation measures for small vessels.

And

TCC11 notes most CCMs supported that the boundary of the mitigation requirements of CMM 2012-07 as they apply in the South Pacific Ocean, as described in para 1 of the CMM, be moved north to 25°S (excluding the EEZs of those CCMs with less than 15% of their EEZ in the area south of 25°S, which are the EEZs around French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji). Most CCMs agreed that moving the boundary to 25°S would improve the ability of longline fishing vessels to comply with the mitigation requirements of this measure, and improve monitoring, control and surveillance of the Convention Area south of 25°S.