
**AMENDING RESOLUTION 08/03 ON REDUCING THE INCIDENTAL BYCATCH
OF SEABIRDS IN LONGLINE FISHERIES**

SUBMITTED BY FRANCE (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)

The Indian Ocean Tuna commission (IOTC)

RECALLING Resolution 08/03, and in particular its paragraph 3

RECALLING the 2009 Arrangement between IOTC and ACAP, adopted in view to supporting the efforts of bycatch limitation of albatrosses and petrels in the IOTC area

NOTING that new studies presented to the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC-2009-WPEB-13) at its 2009 meeting show that the distribution areas of southern seabirds overlap the IOTC area up to 25°S and that, during essential parts of their life cycle (juveniles), several species of albatrosses and petrels threatened with extinction rely entirely on the IOTC area where they are particularly vulnerable to longline fishing activities

FURTHER NOTING that some studies conducted in 2007 in other tunas longline fisheries demonstrate the economic benefit of mitigation measures of seabirds bycatch, by significantly increasing the catches of targeted fisheries such as swordfish

RECALLING that measures taken in the CCAMLR area in view to mitigate the impact of longline fisheries conducted around their reproduction areas have already allowed a significant reduction of the mortality of adult seabirds belonging to threatened species of albatrosses and petrels, and that these measures should urgently be completed with mitigation measures of bycatch of juvenile birds belonging to the same species during the part of their lifetime they spend in the IOTC area of competence, based on the best scientific information available

AWARE that the results of several ongoing studies aiming to assess the efficiency of mitigation measures for the species present in the IOTC area will be available at the 2010 WPEB meeting and will provide a rigorous scientific basis for new recommendations

ADOPTS as follows :

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 08/03 is amended :

“Contracting Parties shall ensure that all longline vessels fishing south of **25°S** use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1 below, including at least one from Column A. Vessels shall not use the same measure from Column A and Column B.”