



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

Valdivia, Chile, 19 - 22 June 2007

**Observer Report – Third Regular Session, Western and
Central Pacific Fisheries Commission**

Author: **Secretariat**

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Meeting Title: Third Regular Session, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Meeting Organisation: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Date and Location: 11 – 15 December 2006, Apia, Samoa

Website Address: <http://www.wcpfc.org/>

Your Name/Affiliation: Warren Papworth, ACAP Interim Secretariat

Capacity of Attendance: Observer, Intergovernmental Organisations

Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:

Document Number	Title	Author
WCPFC3-2006-25	Cooperation with Other Organizations.	Secretariat
WCPFC3-2006-DP03	Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds	FFA
WCPFC3-2006-DP05	Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme	FFA
WCPFC3-2006-IP03	Voluntary Small Working Group on Seabird By-catch Mitigation	Voluntary Small Working Group (TCC2)
	Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures in Pelagic Fisheries	BirdLife International
WCPFC3-2006/29 Rev.1	Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds	Drafting Group Convener

Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different:

Authors are as shown in the above table.

Summary of Content:

WCPFC3-2006-25 – Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other relevant intergovernmental organizations (IGO), particularly those with related objectives and which can contribute to the attainment of the Convention's objectives. Formal Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) are negotiated by the WCPFC with these organisations. ACAP is identified in the paper as an IGO that the WCPFC should collaborate with.

WCPFC3-2006-DP03 - The Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC2), 28 September – 3 October 2006, Brisbane, Australia recognised that additional work was required to consider the technical specifications of seabird by-catch mitigation measures that had been developed by the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006, Manila, Philippines.

During TCC2 Australia, New Zealand, other FFA members and the USA offered to provide technical specifications for measure implemented in their domestic fisheries. Australia offered to serve as coordinator for the group which agreed to work inter-sessionally to provide information to assist the Commission in its deliberations on seabird by-catch mitigation.

The voluntary small working group subsequently prepared an Information Paper to support the Commission's work on sea bird by-catch mitigation which provided a summary of the measure used in their domestic fisheries.

WCPFC3-2006-DP05 – Proposes the establishment of a WCPFC Regional Observer Programme. To assist the establishment of this programme an intersessional working group is proposed to expedite its development.

Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures – BirdLife International – Provides a summary of the review of seabird bycatch mitigation measures undertaken at a workshop convened by the Washington Sea Grant, University of Washington, in Hobart, Tasmania on 14 October 2006.

WCPFC3-2006/29 Rev.1 – Details the draft compromise agreed by the drafting group convened at WCPFC3 to advise on conservation and management measures to mitigate the impact of fishing on seabirds. The draft compromise supports the implementation of the IPOA – Seabirds, requires CCMs to report on their implementation of the IPOA – Seabirds; and proposes the adoption of guidelines for mitigation measures using the two column approach endorsed by the WCPFC-SC.

Outcome (e.g. summary of relevant discussion, resolution, etc):

Agreement to the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the WCPFC3 and ACAP.

Adoption of a conservation and management measure to mitigate the impact of fishing on seabirds

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

The proposed MoU will formalize ACAP's involvement in the WCPFC and allow greater ongoing cooperation between the two organizations. Specific areas that require ACAP involvement include strengthening of the Measure on seabird bycatch and engagement in the intersessional work being undertaken on the development of a regional observer programme to ensure it collects relevant data on seabird bycatch.

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

1. Ensure adequate representation and input into all WCPFC forums in which seabird bycatch mitigation has relevance. Due to the multiplicity of forums a strategic approach will be required to optimize the limited resources available to ACAP.
2. Seek agreement to the proposed MoU by the end of 2007.

Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat: Yes