IPOA-Seabirds: IMPLEMENTATION by RFMOs

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COFI-26 Recurring Themes---

✓ Implement Existing Instruments
✓ Ecosystem-based Approaches
✓ Roles & Responsibilities of RFMOs
FAO Involvement

68 FAO members reported they longline in 2003
The IPOA-Seabirds

International Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries

International Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks

International Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity

The IPOA-Seabirds
IPOA-Seabirds states (para 19):

States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, should strive to cooperate through regional and subregional fisheries organizations or arrangements, and other forms of cooperation to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.
OBJECTIVES:

✓ Why is fishery-focused action necessary?
✓ Inform about status of NPOAs
✓ RFMO responsibilities & actions
✓ Next Steps
Why an IPOA-Seabirds?

- LOTS of birds killed annually---estimated 300,000 (1/3 albatrosses)
- Declines of some albatross populations linked to longline fishing
- Some populations threatened with extinction
Significance of bycatch related to seabird biology

Large size
Long lived . . .
☑ Delayed sexual maturity
☑ Breed with same mate each year
☑ Some species only breed every other year
...and related to their behavior

- Eat fish & squid
- Attracted to fishing vessels
- Highly migratory
- Global distribution
RFMOs in unique position to augment action by individual States and implement ecosystem approaches to solve this problem.
IPOA calls on States to assess its longline fisheries---if a “problem” exists with respect to incidental catch of seabirds....

Then, develop a National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch

NPOA Elements:

✓ Assessment

✓ Prescription of Mitigation Measures

✓ Research & Development

✓ Education, Training, & Publicity

✓ Data Collection
COFI/2005/2-- Of 49 Members reporting:

✓ 45% assessed longline fisheries (22)
✓ 2 in 5 concluded NPOA needed (8)
✓ 1 in 3 are implementing NPOAs (7)

Of 17 RFBs reporting:

✓ 4 had made efforts to assist with IPOA-Seabirds
✓ CCAMLR, CCSBT, FFA, ICCAT
NPOAs—complete or in progress

- Japan
- United States
- New Zealand
- (Falkland Islands/Malvinas Islands)
  - Brazil
  - Chile
  - South Africa
    - Australia
    - Canada
    - Namibia
    - (Taiwan)
    - Angola
    - Uruguay
NPOAs alone will not solve problem

- NPOAs often focus on EEZ
- Most high seas & distant water fleets operate without NPOA measures
WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

✓ RESOURCES NEEDED

✓ POLITICAL WILL TO MOVE FORWARD
Solutions to the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries are available today—effective, practical, inexpensive.

Implementation of existing instruments:
- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- IPOAs
- Resolutions

NPOAs by FAO Members...and RFMOs

Reduction of seabird incidental catch is an excellent model for incorporating ecosystem approaches in fisheries management by RFMOs.