

Conservation Measure 25-03 (2019)¹
Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in the course of trawl fishing in the Convention Area

Species	seabirds, marine mammals
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	trawl

The Commission,

Noting the need to reduce the incidental mortality of, or injury to, seabirds and marine mammals from fishing operations,

Adopts the following measures to reduce the incidental mortality of, or injury to, seabirds and marine mammals during trawl fishing.

1. The use of net monitor cables on vessels in the CAMLR Convention Area is prohibited².
2. Vessels operating within the Convention Area should at all times arrange the location and level of lighting so as to minimise illumination directed out from the vessel, consistent with the safe operation of the vessel.
3. The discharge of offal^{3,4} and discards⁵ shall be prohibited during the shooting and hauling of trawl gear.
4. Nets shall be cleaned prior to shooting to remove items that might attract birds.
5. Vessels should adopt shooting and hauling procedures that minimise the time that the net is lying on the surface of the water with the meshes slack. Net maintenance should, to the extent possible, not be carried out with the net in the water.
6. Vessels should be encouraged to develop gear configurations that will minimise the chance of birds encountering the parts of the net to which they are most vulnerable. This could include increasing the weighting or decreasing the buoyancy of the net so that it sinks faster, or placing coloured streamers or other devices over particular areas of the net where the mesh sizes create a particular danger to birds.

¹ Except for waters adjacent to the Kerguelen and Crozet Islands

² Net monitoring cables may be used on vessels using continuous trawling methods during the 2019/20 fishing season provided the vessels follow the specifications of a trial of mitigation devices outlined in SC-CAMLR-38, paragraphs 5.13 and 5.14. All vessels conducting the trial shall report results to WG-FSA, and this trial exemption will be reviewed at CCAMLR-39 following further advice from the Scientific Committee. This trial should compare different mitigation options for practicality and effectiveness in mitigating bird strikes on fishing-related cables (warps and net monitoring cables) in continuous trawling operations.

³ 'Offal' is defined as bait and by-products from the processing of fish and other organisms, including parts or sections of fish or organisms which are by-products of processing.

⁴ 'Stick water' is a liquid discharge produced as a by-product of processing of krill and fish. As stick water does not contain a source of food for birds, it is not considered as offal (see footnote 2).

⁵ For the purpose of this conservation measure, 'discards' are defined as whole fish or other organisms, except elasmobranchs and invertebrates where the vessel is fishing north of 60°S, returned to the sea dead or with low expectation of survival, as described in the Observer Longline Logbook 'Observed Haul Catch' form instructions.