

CONSERVATION MEASURE 29/XIII^{1,2}
**Minimisation of the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in the Course of
Longline Fishing or Longline Fishing Research in the Convention Area**

The Commission,

Noting the need to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing by minimising their attraction to the fishing vessels and by preventing them from attempting to seize baited hooks, particularly during the period when the lines are set,

Agrees to the following measures to reduce the possibility of incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing.

1. Fishing operations shall be conducted in such a way that the baited hooks sink as soon as possible after they are put in the water. Only thawed bait shall be used.
2. Longlines shall be set at night only (i.e., between the times of nautical twilight). During longline fishing at night, only the minimum ship's lights necessary for safety shall be used.
3. Trash and offal should not be dumped while longlines are being set or hauled; if discharge of offal is unavoidable, this discharge shall take place as far as possible and/or on the opposite side of the vessel from the area of the vessel where longlines are set or hauled.
4. Every effort should be made to ensure that birds captured alive during longlining are released alive and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned.
5. A streamer line designed to discourage birds from settling on baits during deployment of longlines shall be towed. Specification of the streamer line and its method of deployment is given in the Appendix to this Measure. Details of the construction relating to the number and placement of swivels may be varied so long as the effective sea surface covered by the streamers is no less than that covered by the currently specified design. Details of the device dragged in the water in order to create tension in the line may also be varied.
6. Other variations in the design of streamer lines can be tested on vessels carrying two observers, at least one appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, providing that all other elements of this Conservation Measure are complied with³.

¹ Except for waters adjacent to the Kerguelen and Crozet Islands

² Except for waters adjacent to the Prince Edward Islands

³ The streamer lines under test should be constructed and operated taking full account of the principles set out in WG-IMALF-94/19 and available from the CCAMLR Secretariat.

APPENDIX TO CONSERVATION MEASURE 29/XIII

1. The streamer line is to be suspended at the stern from a point approximately 4.5 m above the water and such that the line is directly above the point where the baits hit the water.
2. The streamer line is to be approximately 3 mm diameter, have a minimum length of 150 m and have a device at the end to create tension so that the main line streams directly behind the ship even in cross winds.
3. At 5 m intervals commencing from the point of attachment to the ship five branch streamers each comprising two strands of approximately 3 mm diameter cord should be attached. The length of the streamer should range from approximately 3.5 m nearest the ship to approximately 1.25 m for the fifth streamer. When the streamer line is deployed the branch streamers should reach the sea surface and periodically dip into it as the ship heaves. Swivels should be placed in the streamer line at the towing point, before and after the point of attachment of each branch streamer and immediately before any weight placed on the end of the streamer line. Each branch streamer should also have a swivel at its attachment to the streamer line.

