

Seabird bycatch reduction

Liaison officer

Project objective:

Review and update Seabird Management plans for the north east coast demersal longline fleet.

Presentation to CSP Technical Working Group
4692-3 Liaison Officer MIT2015-01



Background - liaison role

Since 2010

'Bottom up' approach

Documenting what is happening at sea

Putting not catching birds up the priority list

Sharing ideas

Lots of listening

Not repackaging regulations



Background - Seabird Management Plans

SMPs in current iteration since 2014/15

Vessel details

Setting mitigation

- Every set – weight, tori etc.
- ‘Extra’ at high risk times
- When they will stop setting

Hauling mitigation

- Bait management

Handling live birds

Reporting

Supporting information: ID guides, ACAP flyers

Sticker for wheelhouse

Research approach

Slimmed down approach for demersal fleet this year

Update fleet list

Update SMPs

Audit SMPs using observer data

Visit all 'new' vessels and those in Coromandel Peninsular

Reporting

- Spreadsheet
- Monthly
- Final report
- Vessel by vessel report

Results

Fleet changes

- Less bluenose boats, more big snapper boats

SMP changes

- 8 new vessel / skipper combinations
- 5 improved mitigation (weight / tori)
- 1 slightly larger weight spacing
- Established boats SMPs unchanged or very similar

Results

Observer trips

- Started early, more data than previously.
- 15 boats observed
- 250 days at sea
- 279+ sets
- 1 dead flesh-footed shearwater
- 14 live black petrel captures
- 2 live black-backed gull captures



Results SMP audit

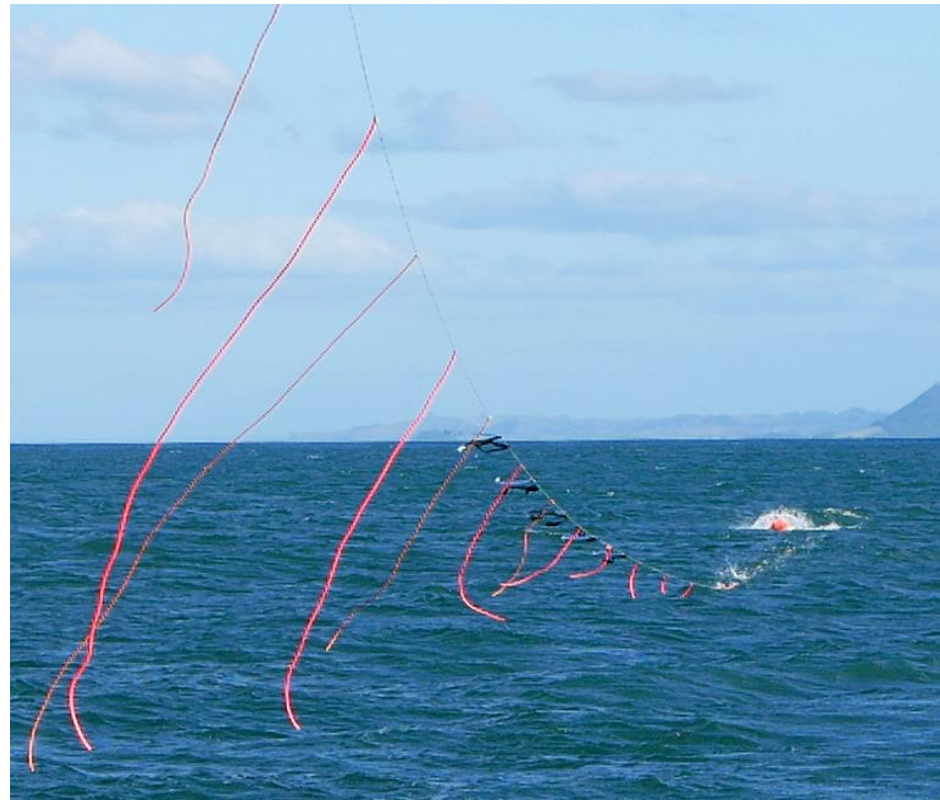
SMPs

- SMPs representative for 14 boats
- 1 boat working larger weight spacing (SMP updated)

Tori lines

- 10 boats tori all sets
- 1 boat – dawn sets only
- 3 boats – tori not used

Cameras



Conclusions

SMPs are a good way to engage the fleet

Level of vessel / skipper turnover warrants constant attention

Audit indicates that SMPs are representative

Established boats/skippers happy with their mitigation

Opportunities for improvements in role



Recommendations

Liaison role

Start liaison role earlier

Observe fleet systematically (better SMP audit)

South of East Cape and west of North Cape (birds have wings!)

Review observer data collection

Continue direct contact between liaison officer, observers, and fishers

Sea time important

Recommendations

Mitigation

'Induction' at sea for new skippers

Develop a Brickle curtain type device for bluenose vessels

Investigate all captures

Use cameras

Reporting

Wider reporting from liaison role

Report on capture rates and targets

Recommendations

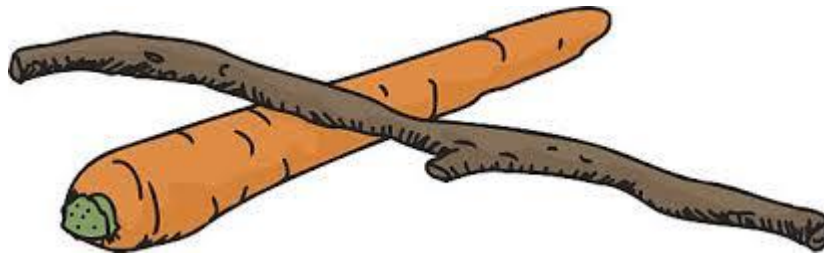
Regulations

Review regulations, especially tori lines, use of oil, cameras.

Consider a vessel by vessel SPRFMO type approach

Proactively encourage and support compliance

Separate liaison role from compliance



Acknowledgements

The owners, skippers, and crew for their time, patience, and willingness to buy into SMPs

Dan at observer services, and the observers, especially those that keep coming back!

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