



Ministry of
Fisheries
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

**Review of Sustainability Measures and Management Controls for Highly Migratory Species
Initial Position Paper July 2011**



Introduction

1 This Initial Position Paper (IPP) provides the Ministry of Fisheries (the Ministry's) initial views on proposals relating to sustainability measures for highly migratory species for the 2011/12 fishing year, commencing on 1 October.

2 The Ministry developed this Initial Position Paper (IPP) for the purpose of consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act). The Ministry emphasises the views and recommendations outlined in the paper are preliminary and are provided as a basis for consultation with stakeholders.

3 In August 2011, the Ministry will compile the Final Advice Paper (FAP) for the attached proposal. This document will summarise the Ministry's and stakeholder views on the issues being reviewed, and provide final advice and recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. A copy of the FAP and subsequently the Minister's letter setting out his final decisions will be posted on the Ministry's website as soon as it becomes available with hard copies available on request.

Deadline for Submissions

4 The Ministry welcomes written submissions on the proposals contained in the IPP. All written submissions on this consultation document must be received by the Ministry no later than 4pm on Monday, 1 August 2011.

Written submissions should be sent directly to:

Kara McKelvey
Ministry of Fisheries
P O Box 1020
Wellington

or emailed to Kara.McKelvey@fish.govt.nz

5 All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act and can be released, if requested, under the Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission withheld, please set out your reasons in the submission. The Ministry will consider those reasons when making any assessment for the release of submissions if requested under the Official Information Act.

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Part A: Review of catch limit and allowances for Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR 1)

Introduction

6 Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR 1) is managed under the quota management system (QMS), with a total allowable catch (TAC), total allowable commercial catch (TACC), and allowances for non-commercial fishing and other sources of mortality that were set in 2004. Since that time, a substantial recreational gamefishery has developed. The existing allowance for recreational fishing is inadequate to accommodate all the catches from this fishery, so it is proposed to increase this allowance.

The Issues

7 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) are a highly migratory species that are seasonal visitors to New Zealand waters. When present, they form a small but valuable component of a commercial surface longline fishery (which predominantly targets other species including southern bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish). Total catches have ranged between 13t and 22t over the last six years.

8 Pacific bluefin tuna are also the principal target of a gamefishery that has developed off the west coast of the South Island since around 2006. Pacific bluefin tuna can reach lengths of more than 3m and weights of up to 550kg. Their size, along with the observation that they can be caught in association with trawl vessels fishing for hoki off the west coast of the South Island in what is otherwise the off season for gamefishers, have contributed to the rapid development of a recreational fishery for Pacific bluefin. Records including a world record for a Pacific bluefin tuna caught on 60-kilogram line in September 2010 (for a 281kg fish) have contributed to the fishery's popularity.

9 Estimated catches now exceed the allowance for recreational fishing that was set when Pacific bluefin tuna was introduced into the QMS in 2004. It is proposed to review the TAC in light of the expanded gamefishery and make additional allowance for recreational fishing as part of the overall catch limit.

International management

10 Pacific bluefin tuna are believed to form a single Pacific-wide stock, whose sustainable management is undertaken by two regional fisheries management organisations, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). New Zealand is a member of WCPFC, and is responsible for ensuring that the management measures applied within New Zealand fisheries waters are compatible with those of WCPFC.

11 Catches from within New Zealand fisheries waters are very small (less than 0.5%) compared to those from the greater stock in the Pacific Ocean. While the New Zealand fishery (both commercial and recreational) is based on large, mature fish, the majority of catches are taken in purse seine fisheries north of the equator in the western and central Pacific Ocean and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. These fisheries are generally based on juvenile fish.

12 The International Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific (ISC) assesses the stock status of Pacific bluefin tuna and its assessments are reviewed by the Scientific Committee of WCPFC. The most recent assessment by the ISC in 2010 concluded that the stock was around the biomass level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), but there were concerns about the level of fishing mortality on juvenile fish.

Domestic management

13 Pacific bluefin tuna is managed under the QMS with a TAC, TACC and allowances as outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Existing TAC, TACC, and allowances for Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR 1)

Stock	TAC (t)	Recreational allowance (t)	Customary allowance (t)	Other sources of fishing-related mortality (t)	TACC (t)
TOR 1	120	1	0.5	2.5	116

14 The TAC for Pacific bluefin tuna is set under section 14 of the Fisheries Act 1996, which allows for a TAC to be set that is not directly related to reference points related to MSY. This is because as a highly migratory species it is not possible to estimate MSY for the part of the Pacific bluefin stock that is found within New Zealand fisheries waters.

15 Information on recreational catches of Pacific bluefin tuna is available from a number of sources (for a summary see table 2 below). Since 2007, amateur-fishing charter boat operators have been voluntarily recording the number and weight of fish their clients catch and land. In addition, the Ministry and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council operate a cooperative gamefish tagging programme. The gamefish tagging programme collects information including estimated weight for fish that are tagged and released. Recaptures provide information on movement, time at liberty, displacement rates, and growth rates.

Table 2: Landings and releases of Pacific bluefin tuna reported by amateur-fishing charter vessel operators, 2007-2010

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released	Landed	Released
Number of fish	44	87	59	145	21	45	13	17
Weight (kgs)	11,361	22,464	16,845	36,162	4,146	12,086	1,683	4,250

Landed data is compiled from Voluntary Reporting Forms

Release data is provisional and is compiled from Gamefish Tag Reports

16 The wide range of annual catch estimates in table 2 is related to a number of factors, including:

- Seasonal fluctuations in the availability of Pacific bluefin tuna in New Zealand waters.
- Variations in the number of boats operating in the fishery, which is related to how good the fishing is but also other social and economic factors. For example, economic conditions in 2009 and 2010 are likely to have led to a lower number of vessels operating in these years.

- Comprehensiveness of reporting. The earlier years of voluntary reporting are likely to cover a greater percentage of total catches. There has been a common reduction in enthusiasm for voluntary schemes over time and the transition to compulsory reporting has affected the cooperation of some fishers.¹

17 Given that the Pacific bluefin information currently relies on voluntary reporting and covers only amateur-fishing charter vessels (but not private vessels), it is unlikely to reflect all recreational catches of Pacific bluefin tuna. For example, it is estimated that in addition to around 12 charter vessels operating in 2008, there were probably about 8 other private vessels that also fished for Pacific bluefin tuna. The levels of catch for these vessels are unknown but it is considered likely that they would be a lot smaller than those of the amateur-fishing charter fleet.

18 The Ministry, with support from the Sport Fishing Council, encourages tagging and releasing in gamefisheries including for Pacific bluefin tuna. However, no rules are in place (or are currently considered necessary) to regulate whether recreationally caught fish should be retained or released alive. The proportions of fish that are tagged and released may vary from year to year (from around 66% of reported catches in 2007 to 74% in 2009). No trend over time in patterns of retaining or releasing catch is evident.

19 Overall, the Ministry estimates that recreational landings of Pacific bluefin tuna could be as high as 20-25t in some years (although in other years they could be well below this level). Total recreational catches (including fish that are tagged and released) could be as high as 60t.

Summary of Options

20 The proposed options for discussion are outlined in table 3 below:

Table 3: Management options for Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR 1) TAC, TACC, and allowances

Option	TAC	Recreational allowance	Customary allowance	Other sources of fishing related mortality	TACC
Option 1 – status quo	120	1	0.50	2.5	116
Option 2 – Increase TAC and recreational allowance	145	25	0.50	3.5	116

Rationale for Management Options

21 In response to scientific advice that fishing mortality on juveniles needed to be reduced, WCPFC adopted a conservation and management measure in 2010 which includes an interim management objective of ensuring that the current level of fishing mortality is not increased in the Convention Area.² The measure identifies controls over fishing efforts that will be used to achieve this objective, in particular:

¹ Since November 2010, amateur-fishing charter vessel operators have been required to register and report their fishing activity, including catch reporting for selected species including Pacific bluefin tuna. No data are yet available from this source, since the gamefishery takes place primarily between June and August.

² Conservation and management measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2010-04) - <http://wcpfc.int/conservation-and-management-measures>.

- Commission members, cooperating non-members and territories are to ensure that fishing effort by their vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of 20° North shall stay below 2002-2004 levels for 2011 and 2012, except for artisanal fisheries. Such measures shall include reducing catches of juveniles (age 0-3) below 2002-2004 levels.³
- Members shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting systems for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries.

22 This measure is important for contributing to overall sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock. New Zealand has an obligation to meet its international commitments, including as a member of WCPFC (as outlined in section 5 of the Fisheries Act). The Ministry considers the overall objective of the conservation and management measure for Pacific bluefin tuna should be taken into account in reviewing the TAC for TOR 1, even though the specific actions identified in the measure relate to reducing fishing mortality on fisheries in the northern portion of the stock, and particularly to reducing mortality on juvenile fish.

23 Both option 1 and option 2 outlined below are consistent with this measure. Taking into account the objective of the measure means that the TAC should reflect current catches at the time the measure was agreed (2010), rather than any increase. For New Zealand, current catches would include the recreational gamefishery that has occurred since 2007 (but is not yet reflected in the TAC).

Option 1 – Status Quo

Total Allowable Catch

24 The best information available to the Ministry at this time suggests the existing recreational allowance of 1t is inadequate to cover likely recreational catches in a given season. For this reason, the Ministry proposes an option to address this situation by increasing the recreational allowance (option 2).

25 However, it would be open to the Minister to retain the status quo TAC and allowances at this time (i.e. option 1), particularly if he considered that compulsory amateur-fishing charter boat reporting is likely to provide significant new information that may alter the current picture of an appropriate recreational allowance to set in this fishery.

26 Compulsory amateur-fishing charter boat reporting was introduced in November 2010, so 2011 is the first season in which compulsory reports will be received from amateur-fishing charter vessel operators on their catches of Pacific bluefin tuna. Given the variability in recreational catches outlined above, a time series of compulsory reporting would be required before an accurate picture of catches could be generated from this source.

TACC and allowances

27 Recreational landings in the last couple of years appear to have been lower than those in 2007 and 2008, although they are still estimated to be higher than the existing allowance. It is unclear the extent to which this relates to changes in reporting rather than changes in actual catch. Over the next few years, compulsory amateur-fishing charter reporting may provide additional information that could clarify the likely range of recreational catches, thus providing additional information with which to set the recreational allowance.

³ One member did not agree to apply measures to reduce its catch of juveniles.

28 However, the Ministry considers the best available information is that recreational catches will tend to exceed the existing allowance in at least some years. Therefore, if the status quo is retained at this time, thought may need to be given to whether recreational landings should be constrained to the level of the existing allowance. Additional information is provided below on the value provided by the recreational fishery.

Option 2 – Increase TAC and recreational allowance

Total Allowable Catch

29 Under option 2, it is proposed to increase the TAC and within the new TAC make additional allowance for recreational catches.

30 As noted at paragraph 18 above, option 2 is consistent with WCPFC's conservation and management measure. An increase in the TAC to accommodate a newly developed and regionally important recreational gamefishery would also be in line with the purpose of the Fishery Act to provide for utilisation while ensuring sustainability. Sustainability would be ensured by:

- setting an overall catch limit to reflect the historical interest in the fishery and monitoring its performance both domestically and internationally;
- closely monitoring the recreational fishery (including through compulsory amateur-fishing charter boat reporting); and
- taking any steps considered necessary to ensure total catches do not exceed the revised TAC (e.g. continuing to encourage tag and release amongst recreational fishers).

31 The existing TAC was set when Pacific bluefin tuna was introduced into the QMS in 2004. The TAC was set to accommodate the sum of provisional catch histories for commercial fishers, as well as a 20% allocation of quota to Māori (as part of the Deed of Settlement). In the context of the global fishery it was considered reasonable to allow fully for commercial interests in the fishery (including in excess of existing catches).

32 Likewise, it is now considered a reasonable option to set a TAC that better allows for recreational fishing interests. Furthermore, this approach would contribute to several objectives in the National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species, including:

- **Management objective 2**—Maintain/enhance world class gamefisheries in New Zealand fisheries waters
- **Management objective 6**—Maintain a sustainable fishery for HMS within environmental standards and **supporting operational objective 6.5**—Review non-commercial allowances and management measures when new information becomes available

33 The latter operational objective is identified as high priority, and Pacific bluefin tuna is identified as a species likely to require review in the near future (i.e. for the 2011-12 fishing year).

TACC and allowances

34 As outlined in the *Domestic management* section above, the current recreational allowance is not considered adequate to cover recreational existing catches, because it was set before the development of a substantial new gamefishery. In order to accommodate an increase in recreational allowance without increasing the TAC, the TACC would have to be reduced. This is not considered equitable.

35 The current TACC is not fully caught (recent catches range from 22.0t in 2004/05 to 13.1t in 2007/08, from a TACC of 116t). Nonetheless, individual quota holdings tend to be small, and some quota holders catch close to 100% of their holding, which suggests a reduction to the TACC would adversely affect them even though the stock as a whole is under-caught.

36 The alternative is therefore to increase the TAC and within that to set allowances and a TACC that fully provides for existing interests – i.e. to retain the existing TACC and to set a recreational allowance based on the best available information on recreational catches. Based on the information outlined in the *Domestic management* section above, the Ministry considers the recreational allowance should be set at around 25t. This amount is higher than reported landings of amateur-fishing charter vessels to accommodate non charter catch and also to accommodate a potential shift between landed and tagged fish.

37 Given the uniqueness of the fishing experience, the Pacific bluefin gamefishery provides high value for recreational fishers. The fishery also has the potential to make a contribution to the regional economy on the West Coast, as identified by the development of a West Coast Recreational Gamefishing Industry Development Plan.⁴

38 It is not proposed to change the allowance for customary fishing, since there is no new information to suggest customary catches (if any) exceed the customary allowance.

39 It is proposed to make a slight increase to the allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality, to allow for some mortality from fish that are tagged and released. This source of mortality is considered to be limited. For example, recent research using archival tags has not resulted in any described cases of post-tagging mortality. However, fishing methods and fish selection may vary between research tagging and recreational tag and release fishing, and there is likely to be at least some mortality amongst released fish. The Ministry recommends making provision for an additional 1t, bringing the allowance for other sources of mortality to 3.5t.

Conclusion

40 The Ministry has concluded that the best information available at this time suggests the existing recreational allowance of 1t is inadequate to cover likely recreational catches in a given season. The Ministry proposes to address this situation by increasing the recreational allowance to 25t and the TAC to 145t, with a slight increase to 3.5t to allow for other sources of fishing related mortality.

41 An increase in the TAC to accommodate a newly developed and regionally important recreational gamefishery would be in line with the purpose of the Fishery Act to provide for utilisation while ensuring sustainability. Specifically, the Ministry believes this proposal is consistent with s.11 (Sustainability measures), s.13 (TAC) and s.14 (Alternative TAC for Schedule 3 stocks) of the Fisheries Act.

⁴ The plan is a joint initiative of Development West Coast and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

42 In addition we believe this proposal is consistent with WCPFC's conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna.

Recommendations

43 It is recommended that the TAC for Pacific bluefin tuna is increased in order to accommodate an increased recreational allowance in line with option 2:

Part B: Review of catch limit and allowances for Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR 1)

Executive summary

44 The Ministry of Fisheries (the Ministry) proposes to amend the current provisions specifying seabird mitigation requirements in the surface longline fishery to remove an impediment to innovation in the prescribed line weighting regime, provide more flexibility in tori line specifications and to remove redundant reporting requirements. It is further proposed that the amended requirements are given effect by way of circular implemented under empowering regulations specifically designed for seabird mitigation and the setting of rules for vessels and or classes of vessels (Regulation 58A of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001).

The Issue

45 Seabird bycatch mitigation in the surface longline fishery is currently addressed by a combination of regulated measures and those that are implemented voluntarily by fishers. Existing regulated measures are:

- i. that tori lines (otherwise known as streamer lines or bird scaring lines) are carried and deployed when setting lines(which can deter birds from approaching the baited hooks as they descend through the water); AND
- ii. either longlines are set only at night (when most birds are less active and/or find it more difficult to detect baited hooks); OR
- iii. line weighting is used (with prescribed options for weighting) to increase the sink rate of baited hooks (reducing the period of time they are exposed to seabirds).

46 As well as these basic requirements, specifications are in place to prescribe key characteristics for the type of tori line that may be used (e.g. minimum length), and a requirement for fishers to provide advance notification of their intention to fish using surface longlines (intended to assist coordination of adequate observer coverage of the surface longline fishery).

47 The legislative basis for these requirements is:

- i. Fisheries (Seabird Sustainability Measures—Surface Longlines) Notice 2008 (No. F429) — this notice is made under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act), and establishes the requirement to use a tori line and either night set or use line weighting, as well as the requirements to give advance notice of fishing.
- ii. The Fisheries (Seabird Scaring Devices Minimum Standard and Procedures) Notice 2007 (No. F414) — this notice is made under **Regulation 58 of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001**, and establishes the standard and guidelines for the use of tori lines.

48 Any mitigation measures adopted for New Zealand surface longline vessels must also be consistent with the conservation and management measure (CMM) adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in 2007 to mitigate the impact

of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds⁵. This CMM requires the use of at least two mitigation measures chosen from a specified list and sets minimum technical standards for each measure.

49 The requirement to use tori lines when setting surface longlines has been in place for many years. Since the initial promulgation of additional New Zealand seabird mitigation rules in 2007 and 2008 it has become apparent that the regulatory framework could be improved by making a number of changes. Implementation of an amended framework using specific empowering provisions of seabird mitigation regulations promulgated in 2009 will also provide a mechanism for the possible future implementation of rules that relate to vessels and / or classes of vessels. The task of developing a vessel specific framework for consideration is set out in Objective 7.5 of the Operational Management Plan for large pelagic species (developed to support the National Fisheries Plan (approved under s 11A of the Act)).

Proposal

50 Specific provisions of the current rules proposed for change are as follows:

- i. The specified line weighting regime requires the use of “metal” weights. This requirement has the potential to stifle innovation in the application of a line weighting regime in the fishery. The line weighting regime derives from the specifications developed for the WCPFC seabird mitigation measure. The requirement for weights to be metal is not a feature of these specifications.
- ii. Amendment to the standards set for tori lines to better reflect the flexibility provided in the WCPFC measure by allowing either a minimum length of 150 metre (the current rule) or 100 metre if a towed object is attached to the line to maintain its aerial coverage.
- iii. Removal of the requirement to notify the use of surface longlines in advance of doing so.

51 Implementation of the new framework is proposed under regulation 58A of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001. This regulation provides that circulars may authorise or require seabird mitigation measures and a circular may specify different standards and requirements in respect of different types of seabird mitigation measure, including, in relation to any specified vessel or class of vessel, a specified fishing practice or method or a specified fishery or area. The Ministry considers that these options may require future consideration in mitigating the risk to seabirds from surface longline fishing.

Rationale for Management Change

Tori line standards and specifications

52 The aerial extent a tori line achieves is one of its more important features, because of the importance of keeping seabirds away from baited hooks as they are sinking, and particularly in the period before they sink deep enough to be vulnerable to diving seabirds such as petrels. The current rule seeks to achieve a standard of 50 metres of aerial coverage by requiring that tori lines are a minimum of 150 metres in length. The drag of this length of line in the water maintains tension on the line to achieve the required aerial coverage. Some fishers consider that a line of 150m is too long for some vessels and may

⁵ Conservation and Management Measure 2007-04 (see www.wcpfc.int).

contribute to line tangles. Fisher preference is for the additional option of a shorter line in combination with a towed object to maintain tension on the line.

53 To provide fishers with greater flexibility to achieve the standard of 50 metres of aerial extent of the tori line it is proposed that the current rules are amended to:

- i. Set a minimum length of a tori line at 100m (currently 150m).
- ii. Require that if a tori line is less than 150m in length, a towed object must be attached to the end.

54 This approach is consistent with the standards set out in the conservation and management measures adopted by the WCPFC. In the judgement of international scientists and technical experts that developed these standards, both would achieve the desired level of aerial coverage. In aligning the New Zealand standard with that set for surface long lining in the Western and Central Pacific, the Ministry considers that the key benefit of change is the additional flexibility provided to industry in the deployment of tori lines; this may encourage compliance with the measures since the risk of tangles can be an impediment to the use of tori lines, particularly in rougher weather.

Line weighting specifications

55 Surface longline fishers must deploy a tori line at all times when setting their fishing gear. As a second mitigation measure they have the option of either setting the longlines at night or adopting a specified line weighting regime. The current line weighting for the New Zealand fishery is that prescribed by the WCPFC as a minimum of 45g per hook with options for positioning the weight in relation to the hook as follows:

- a. Weights less than 60g must be within 1m of the hook; or
- b. weights of 60g-98g must be within 3.5m of the hook; or
- c. weights greater than 98g must be within 4m of the hook.

56 The requirement specified by notice in 2007 includes the provision that weights be metal, which is not specified with the WCPFC standard.

57 There has been an attempt to develop an artificial lure for use in the New Zealand surface longline fishery removing the requirement for bait and thereby substantially reducing the risk of seabird capture. The lures themselves also constituted weights, but were not made of metal. This innovation was not able to be developed as an alternative option to night setting.

58 Unfortunately there is no one measure that removes the risk of seabird capture in surface longline fisheries and we are reliant on a combination of measures, both regulated and voluntary. Innovation to develop new methods of mitigation should also be encouraged. The Ministry considers therefore that the requirement that weights be metal is an impediment to such innovation and should be removed.

Fishers to notify intention to set surface longlines

59 Seabird mitigation rules for surface longline fishing were first promulgated under section 11 of the Act in 2007. At this time achieving a reasonable level of observer coverage in the domestic fleet was problematic because it was difficult to identify which vessels would

be operating in either the bigeye or southern bluefin tuna fishery, both of which are highly seasonal. In order to assist planning observer coverage for a fishing season, a requirement was imposed for fishers to notify their intention to use surface longlines.

60 Participation in the fishery is now more stable with a consistent and known fleet of vessels from year to year and the notification requirement is no longer required as a key component of observer planning. There is an administrative cost for those that comply with this requirement and the Ministry considers that this cost outweighs the benefits of a continuation of this requirement.

Implementation mechanism

61 In 2009, Regulation 58A was developed to give the Ministry more flexibility to develop and implement seabird mitigation measures that take into account the characteristics of particular fisheries and how they operate. These more flexible options were not available when the additional seabird mitigation requirements (night setting and line weighting) were gazetted in 2007 and 2008. In reviewing aspects of the seabird mitigation framework it is logical to utilise this specific mechanism for implementation.

Conclusion

62 The Ministry has concluded that the framework in place to regulate seabird mitigation requirements in the surface longline fishery can be improved by a number of small amendments to develop flexibility and remove a redundant provision that imposes a compliance cost on industry that is no longer considered to be necessary. Implementing a revised framework using regulatory provisions designed to provide for targeted and generalised mitigation tools will be a useful precursor to further improvement in the regulatory arrangements for seabird mitigation for surface longline fishing if required to address specific areas of risk in the fishery. It has the further advantage of consolidating the mitigation rules for surface longline fishing in one place. This proposal is consistent with an objective outlined in Fisheries 2030 to review fisheries laws and regulations with a view to reducing compliance costs and improving effectiveness.

63 This proposal is also directed at achieving Objective 7.5 of the Operational Management Plan for large pelagic species developed to support the National Fisheries Plan (approved under s 11A of the Act) which is to “Develop and apply effective seabird mitigation, including options for vessel specific measures and compliance”.

Recommendations

64 It is recommended that:

- i. The Minister of Fisheries revokes the Fisheries (Seabird Sustainability Measures—Surface Longlines) Notice 2008 (No. F429)
- ii. The Chief Executive revokes the Fisheries (Seabird Scaring Devices Minimum Standard and Procedures) Notice 2007 (No. F414)

65 It is further recommended that the Chief Executive promulgates a circular under Regulation 58A of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 to implement the existing seabird mitigation framework for surface longline fishing with the following amendments:

- i. A change in the minimum tori line length from 150 to 100 metre with a requirement that, if the tori line is less than 150 metre, a towed object is attached.
- ii. Removal of the requirement for line weights to be metal.
- iii. Removal of the requirement for fishers to notify their intention to use surface longlines