



Meeting: Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group
Date: 8 June 2017
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Place: L6 Meeting Room, Eagle Technology House, 124 Victoria Street, Wellington
Chair: Kris Ramm (DOC) (ph: 027 201 3478; email kramm@doc.govt.nz)

Attendance: Karen Baird (Forest & Bird/Bird life International), Jack Fenaughty (Sanford), Dave Goad (Vita Maris), Barry Weeber (ECO), Nathan Walker, Lyndsey Holland, Jo Lambie, Amanda Richards (MPI), Igor Debski, Katie Clemens-Seely, Kris Ramm, Graeme Taylor (DOC).

CSP presentations

MIT2015-02 Tori line designs for small longline vessels – Dave Goad

- **BW** How are you defining small longline boats?
 - **ID** In the regulations for surface longline there is a 28m cut off point, which will be roughly what is being used here.
 - **DG** In bottom longline the cut off would largely exclude the autoliners.
- **ID** – for clarification purposes, the difference in length of aerial coverage required between snapper and bluenose demersal longline is driven largely by the speed at which the boats fish at, snapper demersal boats are shooting faster during fishing.
- In discussions on setting speed **JF** noted that you can get a good approximation of your speed by counting your hook rate per minute.
 - **DG** Works well for bottom gear, but becomes difficult with the bluenose boats because they're fishing so slowly and making stops.
- **ID** What do you know about the rest of the bluenose vessels in the fleet?
 - **DG** Of the three boats I sampled for this project, two were fulltime bluenose and one wasn't. In the fleet, there are another 2 that I know of that have working tori lines in place (a slightly different system to this, but one that appears to work), and that have an observer on them, there is probably another 2 boats that fall into this category and that fish in a very similar method.
- **BW** Where is the actual problem during the setting of gear?
 - **DG** The problem is the changeover between the down line and the tori line, which is not easy even during calm weather.
 - **BW** Do they have hooks in the water at this point?
 - **DG** At this point they do have hooks in the water.
- **BW** What about moon phases?
 - **ID** – That could be another consideration. If you have a bluenose vessel where longer tori lines are not feasible, then may need to consider moon phases, etc. in their VMP.
- **KB** Did you have enough surface longline vessels participating to compare those using line weights to those that weren't?
 - **DG** No we didn't. We only had two surface longline boats with observers on board when daylight sets were made, so a comparison wasn't possible. It is difficult to use those forms to yield quantitative numbers. They would need to be redesigned if that were the intention in the future.

- ID The focus of this project was to find a way for small longline vessels to get as close as possible to the regulations for tori lines, rather than comparative estimates of mitigation effectiveness.
- **BW** What is the next step in this process? I think more work is needed regarding line weighting and TDRs.
 - **DG** A lot of work has been done previously on this in the bottom and surface longline fleets.
 - **ID** This project is one component of a larger series of work. For example, one aspect is looking at the success of hook pods, and previously we have investigated line weighting.
- Discussion on what would be the best mitigation solution for each of the fisheries, what the recommendations for best practice mitigation would be, how to fold this work into discussions with the Seabird Advisory Group, and how this could feed into the review of the National Plan of Action for seabirds.
 - **BW** What are the science questions that would inform best practice discussion, and how do all the science bits fit together?
 - **ID** We've done trials with weights, which informs the aerial extent required for tori lines, and developed options to achieve various coverage. Across our projects we've been looking at those issues as a package. We've also been looking at hook pods as a possible alternative. Our research is considering all different aspects, but has been done by individual projects over a number of years.
 - **ID** agreed it would be beneficial to produce a meta-analysis of the recent projects so that we can report it in a more holistic way.

MIT2015-01 Seabird bycatch reduction – Dave Goad

- **KB** Which version of the report will be made available to stakeholders?
 - **DG** The final report, which summarises data by vessels, but doesn't identify the actual vessel.
 - **KR** DOC has received the final report and is currently reviewing it; the draft final report will be made available online shortly.
- **BW** A consideration for the Seabird Advisory Group and the review of the National Plan of Action for seabirds is how effective are the Seabird Management Plans? Are we getting useful data to input into the review of the NPOA?
 - Discussion about the criteria that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Seabird Management Plans. Ultimately observer coverage can monitor adherence to plans and measure changes in bycatch rate.
- Discussion about the nature of live captures (of seabirds) and whether the observers know about the post release survival of the birds. The data does not contain this information as the only comments indicated are "captured, released unharmed". The live caught birds are most often entangled in the line or have hooked their wing, they are rarely found to have taken the hook internally.
- Discussion about the nature of trigger levels and what they are currently (3 large (dead) in 24hrs or 5 small (dead) in 24 and no more than 10 (both alive and dead) in 7 days). Discussion about how moving to a system that would investigate all captures could be beneficial.
- Discussion about putting cameras on boats and whether the occurrence of cameras would increase fisher reporting rates.
- **KB** Do you get to look at the log book reporting?
 - **DG** Yes, but don't as a matter of course.

- Discussion about overlap issues and circumstances where fishing occurs in an area where lots of birds are present. Fishing in such an area could mean lots of bycatch. Attitudes have shifted slightly and skippers are more likely to choose to stop fishing now than previously.
- **KB** When will the report for the surface longline liaison work be available?
 - **KR** We would have liked to report on both aspects at once, but will have an equivalent report out shortly. The liaison project is becoming larger and we need to make sure to keep consistency across SOPs, etc.
 - **KB** Is it true that some liaison officer work may be done with set net fisheries?
 - **KR** There is a 3-year project for liaison work in the draft CSP Annual Plan for 2017/18, but have yet to determine how that setnet work would go ahead – whether there would be a characterisation first followed by further work, etc.
 - **MB** I would like to see this expanded out to all fisheries over time.
 - **KR** We are expanding the project out next year to include all protected species.
- Discussion on possible ways to mark live captured black petrels to distinguish them and track whether birds that have already interacted with fishing vessels are likely to interact with them again, and to investigate the survival of those individuals.