



Report of the discussions regarding data availability and preliminary work plan

Seabird Bycatch Component

Republic of Korea

for component 3.2.1 of the

Sustainable Management
of Tuna Fisheries
and Biodiversity Conservation
in the ABNJ

26 January 2018
National Institute of Fisheries Science
Busan, Republic of Korea

Prepared by Joel Rice for BirdLife South Africa



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Workshop Report

Project: FAO-GEF Project *Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ* (GCP/GLO/365/GFF)

Reporting organisation: Joel Rice Consulting

Report prepared by: Joel Rice

Report of discussions regarding data availability and preliminary work plan FAO Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Common Oceans Tuna Project – Seabird Bycatch Component Republic of Korea 26 January 2018

Introduction

This report focusses specifically on discussions relating to the data availability and proposed analytical work relating to the goals of the Common Oceans and BirdLife International (CO, BLI) project on seabird bycatch assessment. The discussions were held between the BirdLife seabird assessment project team members and members of the Republic of Korea (ROK) National Institute for Fisheries Science (NIFS). An informal meeting was held directly after the National Awareness Workshop, which took place in Busan, ROK on 25 and 26 January 2018.

Background

In 2017, with the support of the FAO's CO programme, BLI commenced supporting national scientists to undertake work towards the evaluation of seabird bycatch from tuna longline fishing in the waters south of 25°S. The purpose of this work is twofold:

1. To estimate the number of seabirds accidentally killed in tuna longline fishing annually, from the most recent and credible set of annual observer and effort data (expected 2012 to 2016)
2. To evaluate the impact of seabird bycatch mitigation measures on Birds Per Unit Effort (BPUE)

The first phase of the project focuses on national scientists compiling national bycatch data and producing standardised reports and undertaking basic exploratory analysis. The second phase of the project (occurring concurrently with phase 1) will have the national scientists undertaking collaborative, intersessional work to collate datasets and identify factors contributing to the differences in BPUE.

The following points summarise the discussions regarding potential data availability and the preliminary work plan discussed at the meeting. For additional information regarding the meeting, such as agenda and attendance list, please see the associated ROK National Awareness Workshop Report (<https://goo.gl/7cK7VY>).

Summary of Discussion Regarding Data Availability and Analysis

Discussion regarding the goals of the CO BLI project took place at the NIFS campus in Busan, ROK, on 26 January 2018. Representatives of BLI identified that the project outcomes could be most effectively achieved via collaboration between CPCs involved in the project. BLI is interested in facilitating this collaboration with respect to the planned assessment of seabird bycatch.

As part of achieving the CO project objectives, BLI will be hosting the Common Oceans Seabird Bycatch Data Preparatory Workshop (COSBDPW) in Peru (20-24 February 2018). This meeting will discuss analytic methods for deriving estimates related to the project goals (see above). Participants noted that because the implementation of mitigation measures (MM) is not uniform, between and amongst fleets, this is anticipated to require collaboration between multiple CPCs. It was further noted that because the implementation is vessel specific, overall effectiveness of MM may be related to the fishing master or vessel captain, rather than the effectiveness of the MM. While the requirement for the use of mitigation measures came into force at different times in different RFMOs, some aspects (i.e. night setting) could be analysed as a whole across the RFMOs. Discussion of the project goals noted that while estimation of seabird bycatch is important, it may be necessary to expand the analyses to a species or population level to evaluate bycatch impacts on species. This is considered to be outside the current scope of the project, but should be considered to allow possible future work to build upon the accomplishments of the current project.

ROK noted that since September 2015, they have implemented electronic reporting of logbook data. However, the logbook data does not record data specific to seabird bycatch. Before 2013 the submitted logbook data covered 70-90% of the total effort, since then it accounted for approximately 100%. Furthermore, information regarding seabird bycatch is not commonly recorded in logbook data and is often limited to observer databases.

Plan going forward

Participants noted that the COSBDPW in Peru will be a chance for CPCs who are custodians of data and analysts to discuss future collaborations, and develop a comprehensive work plan. The main goal of this upcoming workshop is to identify methods to draw from individual strengths of different data sets and multiple assessment methods. Specific topics of the workshop will include:

- Analysis of the general strengths and weakness (gaps) of the data via a data cataloguing process
- Discussion of analysis methods most appropriate to the data
- Development of a workplan to achieve the goals of the CO BLI seabird assessment project

One goal of the consultation was to identify ways that ROK can collaborate with the overall CO process. To that end, participants discussed potential mechanisms by which BLI can support NIFS with capacity development regarding seabird bycatch assessment and related subjects. Participants agreed that it would be most useful to continue bilateral work over the next 12 months, to develop individual analysis and also joint analyses (i.e. among CPCs) where possible. Participants noted that any future collaboration that involves data sharing would require a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU would consist of a request for data sharing and limit the use of the data to analyses pertinent to the seabird bycatch assessment project. It was acknowledged that without collaboration with other major distant water fishing nations data, producing a relevant global estimate may be difficult.

Participants agreed that in the following weeks the BLI project team will contact NIFS with information regarding the COSBDPW meeting including information on the data cataloguing process and overall desired outcomes of the COSBDPW. It is anticipated that at the COSBDPW the group will develop a comprehensive work plan to achieve the goals of the project. The group will subsequently outline an agreement for working on producing analyses of seabird bycatch and develop an MOU for data analysis and potentially for data sharing.

For more information on this project, please contact:

Nini van der Merwe

International Liaison Officer

Nini.vdmerwe@birdlife.org.za