

Report of the Brazilian National Awareness Workshop

for component 3.2.1 of the

Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ

14-15 December 2017
University of Veiga Almeida
Cabo Frio, Brazil

Prepared by BirdLife South Africa

Workshop Report

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

Reporting organisation: BirdLife South Africa

Report prepared by: Nini van der Merwe and Ross Wanless

**Brazil National Awareness Workshop for BirdLife component of the GEF funded FAO
Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project (Output 3.2.1)
14-15 December 2017, Cabo Frio, Brazil**

BirdLife South Africa report

Background – Brazil

Brazil, particularly through BirdLife International's Albatross Task Force team in Brazil, hosted by Projeto Albatroz (PA), has a long history of active engagement with the local fishing industry, collecting data and trialling mitigation measures in the fleet. This posed an unusual challenge for hosting a NAW, as the national capacity in certain sectors was already very high, and awareness generally is excellent. However, due to recent political events in the country, there have been some reassignments and new appointments in government, and there was a need for all interested and relevant parties to be informed of the current status quo relating to bycatch mitigation measures, reporting requirements and also the status of the bycatch data that Brazil has collected over the past 15-20 years.

Aims of the workshop

There were two main aims; first, to workshop the available datasets and broad approaches to estimate effort and bycatch that would be required for Brazil's exceptionally diverse tuna longline fleets, for a credible contribution to Element 4 of Project Output 3.2.1. Second was to explore synergies between Brazilian and South African ATF work, including sharing lessons learned in South Africa in overcoming challenges with lack of national observer programmes, and PA's experiences in trialling emerging seabird bycatch mitigation technologies. These two aspects speak directly to the broad outcome of the National Awareness Workshop Element, namely that the use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Project Output 3.2.1a). As a consequence of these objectives and the circumstances in Brazil, the agenda for this workshop was substantially different from most other NAWs.

Outcomes

There was verbal agreement from participants to collaborate and share datasets from various sources, so as to characterise better and more robustly the Brazilian tuna fleets' effort and possible/likely seabird bycatch rates, use of mitigation measures, etc. The workshop also concluded with confirmation that Dr Rodrigo Sant'Ana is best placed to analyse Brazil's data and contribute to Element 4. Less overt, but probably more important longterm outcomes included conscientising some recently appointed officials to the important role of PA, and the international expectations for Brazil regarding restoring its national fisheries management processes and reporting data to ICCAT. The need for observer data was clearly evident throughout most discussions, and relevant officials were encouraged to continue their efforts to develop comprehensive observer systems.

Participants

A full list of attendees is provided in Annex 1

Participants were welcomed on behalf of PA by Tatiana Neves and on behalf of BirdLife South Africa and FAO by Ross Wanless.

The workshop was attended by government representatives, representatives from marine conservation NGOs (including the PA team), a researcher from the University de Almeida, the project's stock assessment scientist consultant Dr Rishi Sharma (whose assistance and presence is granted to our work by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)) and three BLSA representatives.

Summary of presentations and facilitated discussions

The workshop agenda is provided in Annex 2.

The workshop was designed to give a broad understanding of the Common Oceans Tuna Project, an introduction to what is required by the tRFMOs in terms of seabird bycatch reduction measures and reporting requirements, as well as current research available for each measure. However, the discussions started with characterising and understanding the extremely diverse Brazilian fleet structure, location, size and fishing modalities. Sorting out some important data questions is essential for Brazil to bring a useful dataset to the Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment process (Element 4). Those discussions took considerably longer than anticipated, and some of the objectives (ATF-to-ATF team discussions) were shelved. Those discussions will take place in March when the whole ATF will meet.

Together with PA, we reviewed the new Brazilian National Plan of Action for seabirds, to discuss the possibility of future collaborations between Brazil and the Common Oceans Project. Our data specialist, along with the data specialist from Brazil, also discussed how the current Brazilian data set could be used and how data should be collected in future (this is elaborated on in an independent report produced by the data consultants).

A summary of each presentation is listed below:

1. Why are we talking today about seabirds? Seabird biology, bycatch impacts on seabird conservation, needs and opportunities.
2. Introduction of the Common Oceans project, general objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants
3. The importance of understanding patterns of seabird abundance and distribution to estimate seabird bycatch – also an introduction to Element 4 of the CO project.
4. Understanding the Brazilian fleet – characterization, numbers and dynamics
5. Understanding the Brazilian fleet – seabird bycatch
6. The NEW National Plan of Action for Albatrosses and Petrels – actions related with the workshop objectives
7. Pro-Tuna Project – the new observer programme
8. In an exploratory way, propose possible methods of data analysis for the available Brazilian data.

Facilitated discussions:

To gain a better understanding of the current situation in the Brazilian longline fishing industry, government and the relationship they have with PA, we relied on a number of facilitated discussion:

1. Facilitated discussion - Observer coverage in Brazil fleet - possible solutions
2. Developing heuristics for estimating effort in absence of logbooks - facilitated discussion

We discussed the current challenges and obstacles to the implementation of a functioning and representative observer programme and touched on possible alternative solutions (such as electronic monitoring). The discussion relating to the information present in logbooks also assisted all present to fully understand the scope of the challenges that Brazil is facing, relating to the analysing of bycatch data.

Survey of workshop participants

A post-workshop questionnaire was developed to assess the usefulness of the workshop and to receive constructive feedback from participants that can be used in the development and implementation of future workshops. In total, 13 participants completed the questionnaire (one attendee was absent on the final day). Participants involved in the organisation and implementation of the workshop did not complete the survey. The survey and assessment was conducted by Nini van der Merwe. A summary of the questions and responses is included below. The original questions and scoring guidelines are provided in Annex 3.

Q1. *[How useful was the information on the following topics presented at the workshop?]* 85% of participants thought the information was **very useful**, 15% of participants thought the information presented was **somewhat useful**. The highest ranked topics were: “*Why is it important that we understand seabird abundance?*”; “*Understanding the Brazilian fleet*”; “*Pro-Tuna Project – Observers Programme*” and “*Observer coverage in Brazil fleet*”.

Q2. *[How clearly did the organisers present material?]* **92%** of participants thought information was presented **very clearly**, **8%** of participants thought it was presented **somewhat clearly**.

Q3. *[Did the organisers allow enough time for the facilitated discussions?]* **83%** of participants thought that the amount of time allocated for discussion was **good**, **8%** thought it was **too short** and **8%** thought it was too long. (1 person did not answer the question)

Q4. *[Was the workshop long enough?]* **69%** of participants thought it was **about right**, while **23%** thought it was **too short** and **8%** thought it was **too long**.

Q5. *[Overall, how would you rate the workshop?]* **62%** of participants rated the workshop as **very good** while **38%** rated it as **good**.

Q6. *[Do you have a better understanding of the dynamics of the Brazilian fleet after the workshop?]* **92%** of participants said their understanding was **agreed**, and **8%** said they **somewhat agree**.

Q7. *[Do you agree with the suggested methods of data analysis proposed by Rodrigo Sant’Ana and Rishi Sharma?]* **91%** of participants **agreed** and **9%** **somewhat agreed**.

Q8. *[Do you think it will be possible to implement some/all of the proposed solutions to increase observer coverage in the Brazilian Pelagic Longline fleet?]* **69%** thought it was **somewhat possible** and **31%** thought it was **possible**.

Q9. *[Did the workshop manage to outline together with key stakeholders, how to effectively achieve a reduction of seabird bycatch in the Brazilian pelagic longline fleet?]* **69%** of participants **somewhat agreed** while **31%** of participants **agreed**.

Q10. *[Do you agree that the workshop succeeded in aligning the different stakeholders involved in fisheries management on the importance and gravity of seabird bycatch issues in Brazil?]* On average, **69%** of participants agreed, **23%** **somewhat agreed** and **8%** did **not agree**.

Q11. *[Do you have any other comments, suggestions or topics you would like included in future workshops?]* (BLSA responses in italics)

1. My concern relates to differences in the type of data collected on seabird bycatch in the various databases where the focus has been different. (*This was discussed*

during the workshop, and Rodrigo Sant'Ana will work with the data available to find an appropriate solution)

2. The workshop was good, now other steps need to be taken to further the work.
3. I have no concern with the amalgamation of methodologies.
4. It could be useful to include the overall impact on the fauna as a whole. *(It was mentioned in the introduction to the CO project, that other projects focus on sharks and turtles. Information on the impact on other fauna is available on the CO website)*
5. It would be interesting and maybe essential to give fisheries the opportunity to participate. *(Fisheries representatives were invited, but declined to attend.)*

Suggestions for future workshops

- Ensure that all parties involved are aware of dates and times specified for the workshop.
- Ample time for facilitated discussions is very beneficial in a small group setting.

Going forward with the project - next steps

A portion of the workshop was dedicated to discussing the newly written and introduced National Plan of Action for Seabirds in Brazil. Brazil has identified aspects of this plan and discussions are ongoing as to how assistance might be provided

Acknowledgements

The PA team are acknowledged for their time and assistance with logistics and presentations at the workshop. Funding for the workshop (including the venue, catering, travel and DSA for the invited expert and his time) was provided through the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project (LoA4).



Participants of the Brazil NAW in Cabo Frio, Brazil

Broad project outline

The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project is the largest of four projects that constitute the Common Oceans Program. The objective of the project is to achieve responsibility, efficiency, and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction), through the systemic application of an ecosystem approach in tuna fisheries.

With support from BirdLife International, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) is responsible for the implementation of Output 3.2.1 of the project. The revised objectives of Output 3.2.1 are linked to two outputs:

- **Output 3.2.1a:** *The use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and additional methods to monitor the uptake, use and effectiveness of these measures are tested.*
- **Output 3.2.1b:** *The capacity of national institutions to manage and conduct analyses of seabird bycatch data and the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures is strengthened, and assessment methods are harmonised to facilitate a joint tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization (tRFMO) assessment of the current bycatch mitigation measures contained in the relevant Conservation and Management Measures.*

Output 3.2.1 will be achieved through four separate, but linked, elements. This report outlines the outcomes of the Brazil National Awareness workshop held under Element 1. The main outcomes under this element are to 1) improve awareness of seabird bycatch and its mitigation; and 2) build capacity of the national observer programme, government representatives and the fishing industry to effectively implement best practice seabird bycatch mitigation based on best practice in Brazil.

Annex 1: List of workshop participants

(Presenters and mediators are marked with *)

Name:	Affiliation:
Thais E Coutinho	Ministry of Environment
Bruno Giffoni	TAMAR (Tartarugas Marinhas, Brazilian Sea Turtle Conservation Project)
Anna Carolina Lins*	ICMbio (Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation)
Eduardo Pimenta	Projeto Albartoz
Augusto Costa	Projeto Albartoz
Luíza Garcia	Projeto Albartoz
Rishi Sharma*	NOAA
Camila Camilo*	Ministry of Industry, International Trade and Services - MDIC
Igor Brito	IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources)
Caio G. Marques	Projeto Albartoz
Tatiana Neves*	Projeto Albartoz
Rodrigo Sant'Ana*	University de Almeida
Andrea Angel*	BLSA
Nini van der Merwe*	BLSA
Dimas Gianuca*	Projeto Albartoz
Humberto Hazin*	UFERSA (The Federal Rural University of the Semi-arid Region)
Ross Wanless*	BLSA

Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

Time	Presentation	Speaker
08:30-08:40	Welcome from host country	Tatiana Neves - Projeto Albatroz Eduardo Pimenta – UVA / Projeto Albatroz
08:40-08:50	Welcome from BirdLife South Africa	Ross Wanless - BirdLife South Africa
08:50-09:10	Introduction of Participants	All
09:10-09:40	Why are we talking today about seabirds? Seabird biology, bycatch impacts on seabird conservation, needs and opportunities	Andrea Angel - BirdLife South Africa
09:40-10:00	Introduction of the Common Oceans project, general objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants	Nini van der Merwe - BirdLife South Africa
10:00-10:30	The importance of understanding patterns of seabird abundance and distribution to estimate seabird bycatch	Rishi Sharma - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
10:30-11:00	<i>Tea</i>	<i>All</i>
11:00-13:00	Understanding the Brazilian fleet – characterization, numbers and dynamics	Rodrigo Sant’Ana - UNIVALI, Humberto Hazin - UFERSA
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>All</i>
14:30-15:15	Understanding the Brazilian fleet – seabird bycatch	Dimas Gianuca - Projeto Albatroz, Rodrigo Sant’Ana – UNIVALI
15:15-15:30	The NEW National Plan of Action for Albatrosses and Petrels – actions related with the workshop objectives	Anna Carolina Lins - CEMAVE / ICMBio
15:30-16:00	<i>Tea</i>	<i>All</i>
16:00-16:45	Developing heuristics for estimating effort in absence of logbooks - facilitated discussion	Facilitated discussion with Rodrigo Sant'Ana and Rishi Sharma
16:45-17:00	Close out, housekeeping, reminders, etc	All

Time	Break-out group - Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife South Africa	Speaker
08:00-08:30	Pro-Tuna Project – Observers Programme	Camila Camilo (SEAP-PR)
08:30-09:30	Facilitated discussion - Observer coverage in Brazil fleet - possible solutions	Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife South Africa
09:30-11:30	In an exploratory way, propose possible methods of data analysis	Rodrigo Sant’Ana and Rishi Sharma
11:30-12:00	Next Steps	Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife South Africa
12:00-12:15	Monitoring and evaluation	Nini van der Merwe
12:15-12:30	Closing	Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife South Africa

Annex 3: Post-workshop questionnaire

**Brazil National Awareness Workshop
13-14 December 2017 | Cabo Frio, Brazil
Post-workshop Feedback**

Ensuring we provide quality workshops and engagement for our projects is very important to BirdLife and the FAO. We appreciate your feedback on this workshop.

Name (Optional):

Occupation:

1. How useful was the information presented at the workshop?

Please rank: 1 = not useful, 2 = somewhat useful, 3 = very useful

Topic	1	2	3
Why are we talking today about seabirds? Seabird biology, bycatch impacts on seabird conservation, needs and opportunities (Andrea Angel, BirdLife South Africa - BLSA)			
Introduction of the Common Oceans project, general objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants (Nini van der Merwe, BLSA)			
Why is it important that we understand seabird abundance? (Rishi Sharma, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – NOAA)			
Understanding the Brazilian fleet – characterization, numbers and dynamics (Rodrigo Sant’Ana Universidade do Vale do Itajaí - UNIVALI and Humberto Hazin UFRS)			
Understanding the Brazilian fleet – seabird bycatch (Dimas Gianuca –PA and Rodrigo Sant’Ana UNIVALI)			
The NEW National Plan of Action for Albatrosses and Petrels – actions related with the workshop objectives (Anna Carolina Lins - CEMAVE / ICMBio)			
Facilitated discussion - Developing heuristics for estimating effort in absence of logbooks - (Rodrigo Sant’Ana UNIVALI - and Rishi Sharma - NOAA)			
Pro-Tuna Project – Observers Programme (Camila Camilo - SEAP-PR)			
Facilitated discussion - Observer coverage in Brazil fleet - possible solutions (PA and BLSA)			
In an exploratory way, propose possible methods of data analysis (Rodrigo Sant’Ana - UNIVALI and Rishi Sharma - NOAA)			

2. How clearly did the organisers present material?

1) Very clearly

2) Moderately clearly

3) Not at all clearly

3. Did the organisers allow enough time for the facilitated discussions?

1) Too short

2) Good

3) Too long

4. Was the workshop long enough?

- 1) Too long 2) About right 3) Too short

5. Overall, how would you rate the workshop?

- 1) Very good 2) Good 3) Average
4) Poor 5) Very poor

6. After the workshop, do you have a better understanding of the dynamics of the Brazilian fleet?

- 1) Agree 2) Somewhat agree 3) Don't agree

7. Do you agree with the suggested methods of data analysis proposed by Rodrigo Sant'Ana and Rishi Sharma?

- 1) Agree 2) Somewhat agree 3) Don't agree

Please list any concerns you have with the proposed methods:

8. Do you think it will be possible to implement some/all of the proposed solutions to increase observer coverage in the Brazilian Pelagic Longline fleet?

- 1) Possible 2) Somewhat possible 3) Not possible

9. Did the workshop manage to outline together with key stakeholders, how to effectively achieve a reduction of seabird bycatch in the Brazilian pelagic longline fleet?

- 1) Agree 2) Somewhat agree 3) Disagree

10. Do you agree that the workshop succeeded in aligning the different stakeholders involved in fisheries management on the importance and gravity of seabird bycatch issues in Brazil?

- 1) Agree 2) Somewhat agree 3) Don't agree

11. Do you have any other comments; suggestions or future topics you would like included in future workshops?

Thank you for your time ☺