



EU Action Plan for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in fishing gears

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Why do we need a Plan?

- *Interactions between fisheries and seabirds are frequent and widespread*
- *Conservative estimates put bycatch at 200,000 seabirds annually*
- *At least 60 of 346 species known to be incidentally caught in fishing gears*
- *49 species (25 in EU waters and 24 in non-EU waters) are of conservation concern either globally or at a local population level*
- *6 species in EU waters and 22 species in non-EU waters are of serious conservation concern and are IUCN listed as vulnerable or endangered*





What is the Plan?

- *A management framework to minimise seabird bycatch to as low levels possible*
- *An opportunity to define the problem and what actions to take*
- *Aligned with objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) of moving towards ecosystem management*
- *A voluntary instrument within the framework of fisheries and environmental legislation and international fishery legislation, Conventions and Agreements.*
- *A combination of binding and non-binding measures*





What is the Objective?

- *"To minimise and, where possible, eliminate the incidental catches of seabirds, with priority action focusing on individuals belonging to at least 49 threatened seabird populations by EU vessels operating in EU and non-EU waters, as well as by non-EU vessels operating in EU waters.*
- *For other seabirds where the populations are stable but bycatch is at levels that are cause for concern, bycatch should be reduced as a first step towards bycatch elimination".*



How to tackle the problem?

- *The PoA contains 30 separate actions under five headings:*
 - Identifying & addressing weaknesses/incoherencies in current measures (7 actions)
 - Data collection (6 actions)
 - Mitigation measures (8 actions)
 - Education and training (5 actions)
 - Research(4 actions)





What are the key actions!

Identifying & addressing weaknesses/incoherencies in current measures

- *Define what a seabird bycatch problem is!*
- *Progress designation of the SPA network*
- *Implement fisheries management measures within SPAs, MPAs, as well as in IBAs*
- *Review what the RFMOs are doing*



What are the key actions?

Monitoring and Data Collection

- *Review existing data – what do we know?*
- *Incorporate seabird monitoring into the new DC-MAP/DCF*
- *Undertake monitoring of high-risk fisheries*
- *Ensure observers record seabird bycatch in RFMOs*
- *Establish a reporting format*



What are the key actions?

Mitigation

- *Implement proven mitigation measures in high-risk longline fisheries*
- *Investigate measures for mitigating bycatch in static net fisheries*
- *Incorporate relevant mitigation measures under the new technical measures framework*
- *Include bycatch mitigation measures under Multiannual plans where appropriate*
- *Assess how mitigation is working in the RFMOs*



What are the key actions?

Education and Training

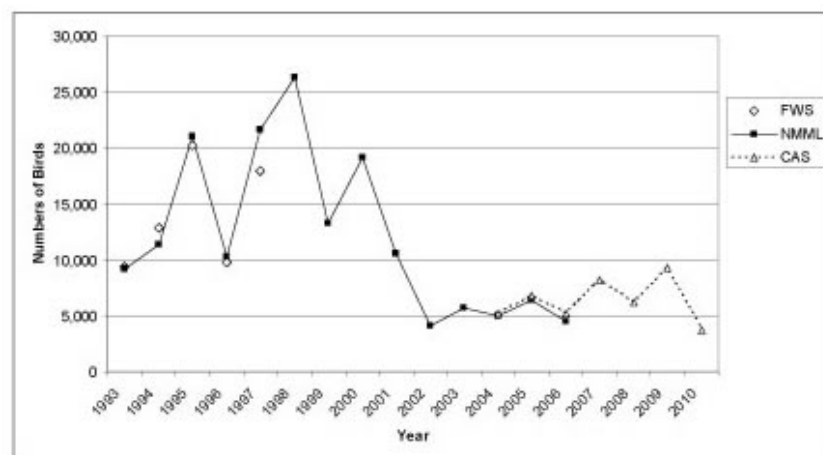
- *Promote mitigation measures*
- *Make sure funding is available under the EMFF*
- *Continue to work with the RFMOs*
- *Extend awareness-raising to other stakeholders*

Research

- *Mitigation measures in static net fisheries*
- *Alternative gears*
- *Novel monitoring techniques*
- *EU funding programmes (FP7, LIFE, EMFF)*

Monitoring and Reporting?

- *MS should report bi-annually to COM*
- *Level of bycatch observed, implementation and effectiveness of any mitigation measures introduced*
- *Interim assessment on the basis of these reports*
- *Report to Council and EP after the second of these reports (4 years)*
- *Full review after 8 years of the PoA (around 2020)*



Thank you for your attention!

