



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2007-2008 FOR BYCATCH COUNCILLOR

(Prepared by Mr. Barry Baker, Conference-appointed Councillor for bycatch)

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DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2007-2008 FOR BYCATCH COUNCILLOR

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	Topic/Task	Timeframe	Detail
1	Establish a small informal working group of interested parties and technical experts to assist the Scientific Councillor	August 2007	<p>A small working group will be established to ensure thorough coverage of faunal groups and access to technical expertise on mitigation techniques and application.</p> <p>Membership of the working group will be expertise based and may comprise members not directly involved with the CMS Scientific Council. The working group will assist the Scientific Councillor on Bycatch in implementing the Work Program.</p> <p>Scientific Councillor to approach relevant experts and seek their involvement.</p>
2	Conduct a study to assess bycatch in global fisheries	<p>Commission study August 2007</p> <p>Complete study September 2008</p>	<p>Commission a consultant to carry out a comprehensive review of all global commercial and artisanal fisheries. Study will assess the available information on bycatch of seabirds, marine turtles, sharks and marine mammals, focusing particularly on CMS listed species. It will assess the importance of bycatch as a threat to migratory species and provides an overview of priority fisheries, regions and species which will benefit from international action through the CMS.</p> <p>The scope (spatial or taxonomic coverage) of the study will be modified, if necessary, to suit available funding.</p>
3	Work closely with other international competent bodies such as FAO and relevant RFMOs	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Request observer status at meetings of key RFMOs and FAO COFI— May 2007</p>	<p>FAO and RFMOs have direct management responsibility for most of the global high seas fisheries. Attendance at key meetings of these bodies is essential to influence adoption of mitigation strategies and implementation of independent observer programs, necessary for improving knowledge of bycatch issues.</p> <p>Key RFMOs are CCSBT, CCAMLR, ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, WCPFC</p> <p>Adoption of mitigation strategies by RFMOs may lead to flow-on effects to EEZ fisheries of RFMO members.</p>

4	Risk assessments. Continuously review and utilise available information on the at-sea distribution of migratory species to assess overlap with fishing operations and hence the risk of bycatch in fishing regions	Ongoing	<p>Fishing regions include RFMO areas of competence, and national EEZs.</p> <p>Risk assessments carried out annually by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources provide an excellent model.</p>
5	Review information on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact migratory species	Ongoing	<p>Concise reviews of current knowledge on mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fishing have been produced over the last few years, but do not exist for other faunal groups or fishing methods.</p> <p>Work with fishery managers and RFMOs is required to comprehensively assess fishing techniques and gear used in EEZ and high seas fisheries, to identify those elements that have been shown to reduce or eliminate by-catch mortality of migratory species.</p> <p>Products of review are described in Item 9 (below)</p> <p>Initial work should focus on pelagic longline methods for seabirds and turtles. Advice on priority areas for sharks and marine mammals from Scientific Councillors and specialist observers to the Scientific Council would be appreciated.</p>
6	Develop and maintain a database of relevant scientific literature on bycatch	<p>By end 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Develop a bibliographic database on published references to bycatch and mitigation research to assist the work of the Bycatch Working Group and the Scientific Council</p> <p>Maintain the bycatch bibliographic database and regularly update to reflect current literature</p>

7	Develop a bycatch webpage	By end 2007	<p>Develop a page for the CMS website providing information on CMS activities to ameliorate the impacts of bycatch on migratory species.</p> <p>The website could also provide a 'toolbox' of best practice species-specific techniques to reduce bycatch in fishing operations, such as FAO publications <i>Expert consultation on interactions between sea turtles and fisheries within an ecosystem context</i>, and <i>The Incidental catch of seabirds by longline fisheries: Worldwide review and technical guidelines for mitigation on the interactions between sea turtles and fisheries</i>.</p>
8	In consultation with CMS daughter agreements, develop products to assist RFMOs and other relevant international and national bodies in reducing bycatch.	Ongoing	These could include: observer programme designs including protocols for the collection of bycatch data, analytical methods for assessing bycatch, best-practice mitigation measures
9	Develop materials and guidelines to assist CMS representatives attending RFMO and other relevant meetings to maximise effective participation and consideration of issues relevant to the minimisation of bycatch	Ongoing	<p>These could include technical information to be delivered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — concise reports that are based on sound, scientifically supported peer-reviewed papers — presentations and submission of relevant papers to meetings to support the information being conveyed, together with active participation at meetings; — workshops with industry to progress uptake of mitigation in particular — building relations with fishers, national fisheries managers, RFMO Secretariats and UN FAO officials
10	Assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of FAO NPOA-Seabirds and FAO NPOA-Sharks	Ongoing	<p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — development of best practice guidelines, an initiative adopted by FAO COFI in March 2007 for IPOA-Seabirds — providing assistance to Parties and Range States in the development of NPOA-Seabirds and FAO NPOA-Sharks.
11	Provide report to Scientific Council on Bycatch Councillor activities	SC 15	Provide a report to 15th meeting of the Scientific Council on the activities of the Bycatch Councillor during the inter-sessional period