

**CRP 3/B/Rev.1/Annex
In-Session Version****ANNEX PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE SCC-SC:
AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES****UNEP/ScC-SC5/Doc.3/Annex/Part B**

During the discussion of document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.3/Annex/Part B Annex Programme of Work for the ScC-SC: Aquatic Species Conservation Issues, the opportunity was given for parties to raise new and emerging issues. The recently published work (Gianuca et al. 2020) on the impacts of mal-treatment and mutilation of seabirds was raised by Oceania Sessional Committee representatives on the Working Group. This topic was not directly covered under Decision 13.62 on Bycatch or Decision 13.64 on Aquatic Wild Meat but was considered a risk to migratory seabirds from fisheries. The Aquatic Working Group recommended that an intersessional Working Group be established to investigate this topic.

This intersessional Working Group shall have the mandate to investigate the nature and extent of this emerging threat and to gather information on what actions relevant authorities are doing to prevent it happening as set out in the Terms of Reference below. The Working Group will report back to the Sessional Committee at its 6th meeting on its findings and to inform a decision at COP14.

The Working Group should consist of the Range States identified in the published paper, as well as representatives of the Sessional Committee with concerns about their migratory seabird populations, experts from ACAP, other interested members and observers, and other seabird and fisheries experts as appropriate.

**Terms of Reference for the intersessional Working Group investigating
the mal-treatment and mutilation of seabirds in fisheries**

The intersessional Working Group should:

- a. Investigate the current situation in the South-west Atlantic fisheries where the reported sightings of mal-treatment and mutilation of seabirds has been observed (Gianuca et al. 2020 in Biological Conservation [Intentional killing and extensive aggressive handling of albatrosses and petrels at sea in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean - ScienceDirect](#)) to determine what actions are being undertaken to address this emerging threat to seabirds in that region;
- b. Work in close collaboration with concerned Range States of migratory seabirds, the CMS Secretariat, ACAP parties and other experts as needed, to explore the nature and extent of this threat (mal-treatment and intentional mutilation of seabirds) to determine if this problem occurs more widely than was reported in the Biological Conservation paper;
- c. Work in close collaboration with relevant government agencies concerned with managing fisheries and bycatch in Territorial and High Seas fisheries to understand what educational resources or fisheries observer programmes are currently in place that could prevent this practise becoming a more widespread threat;
- d. Develop recommendations in collaboration with experts and interested parties on the best ways to address any known occurrences of intentional mal-treatment or mutilation of seabirds, and prevent future mal-treatment or mutilation of seabirds occurring in fisheries;
- e. seek to collaborate with relevant experts from ACAP (who are also considering this matter at their next meeting in August 2021), to produce a joint report on the findings of this investigation and report back to the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee.