

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 6

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP INVESTIGATING
THE MAL-TREATMENT AND MUTILATION OF SEABIRDS IN FISHERIES**

The Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) held from 28 June to 9 July, decided to establish an Intersessional Working Group on the above subject.

This 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 from 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 the 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 practice from 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.