

BIRDLIFE/ISSF SEABIRD BYCATCH EDUCATION VIDEOS

Information Paper submitted to ERSWG12 by BirdLife International

1. Background

Bycatch has long been recognised as a major threat to seabirds globally. Developing appropriate awareness materials is key to effectively communicate the issue and the solutions to a variety of audiences, not least to skippers, fishing masters and crews.

A seabird bycatch workshop in 2013, funded by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) including representatives from the Fishing Entity of Taiwan, industry, BirdLife International, the Chinese Wild Bird Federation (BirdLife partner), identified the need to develop language appropriate materials for outreach work. One of the outputs produced as a result was an instructional video in Taiwanese Hokkien and English for use specifically with tuna longline vessels.

The target audience includes skippers and crews in large fishing fleets (particularly longliners); government fisheries officials (including fisheries observers and inspectors) and the general public not aware of the bycatch issue. It provides a simple overview of the threat posed by longline fishing to albatrosses, highlighting that RFMO regulations are in place, and explains the implementation of three best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures (bird-scaring lines, line weighting and night setting), as well as describing some gear adaptations for crew safety, such as sliding leads.

2. Availability

Recognising the value of the video to a broader range of fleets, it was adjusted and translated in 2016, with further funding from ISSF. It is currently available in seven languages: Japanese; Korean, English; Spanish; Filipino; Bahasa Indonesian; Mandarin and Taiwanese Hokkien, and accessible on the BirdLife International [YouTube channel](#) or [BirdLife website](#). For soft copies (.mov files) contact berry.mulligan@rspb.org.uk.

3. Usage

The seabird bycatch videos have proven a useful tool for training and outreach, specifically for (i) formal training/workshops (e.g. Fig. 1), (ii) vessel outreach (e.g. Fig. 2) and (iii) public events (e.g. seabird photo exhibition, Busan, Rep. of Korea). To date the videos have been used at national seabird bycatch awareness workshops in Korea, Indonesia, Namibia and Fiji (for Chinese skippers and crew) and training workshops with Korean observers under the GEF/FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project, as well as supporting port-based outreach in Cape Town and Mauritius. BirdLife International welcomes any inputs from those who have used or viewed the seabird bycatch videos to ensure that these tools remain relevant and fit for purpose.



Figure 1. Usage of bycatch videos during instructor and observer training, Kaohsiung, May 2016 © Berry Mulligan/RSPB



Figure 2. On-board outreach to longline skippers, Port Louis, Mauritius © Alton Liao/BirdLife International