SEABIRD SAFE PELAGIC LONGLINE HOOK DEVELOPMENT

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The objective of the following advice is to help CCSBT Members and the wider international pelagic longline communities meet seabird bycatch mitigation obligations. This new type of weighted tuna hook which offers acceptable operational and fish-catch performance is now available at Segye Fishing Hook Company in Korea (contact details below).

The hook, named Procella, has undergone commercial fishing evaluations throughout 260 longline sets (over 240,000 hooks) which have proven acceptable fish catch and line weighting operational performance. Procella hooks are still in use in the New Zealand longline fishery where they were originally tested, and there are further Procella trials planned in other regions by Birdlife International.

A new safe-coating process is used on the lead component of Procella which reduces the hazard of lead exposure to crew and the environment.

Procella is available in various standard hook sizes and comes in total weight of 40 g. It offers an alternate means of line weighting which meets the baited hook sink rate criterion for seabird bycatch avoidance. The hook will be particularly helpful for vessels that preferentially set lines at night-time but extend into daytime (straddling sets) as these require prescribed line weighting to be used as for all day set lines wherever seabird mitigation is a requirement.

Although currently costing more than a regular hook, there are multiple operational advantages to consider. As with most new or different items of fishing equipment, and any weighted gear Procella use must take safety issues into account. Further information is available from the ACAP which, along with Humane World for Animals (Australia), contributed hook development funds.





Above are 40g Procella examples in hook sizes 14/O and 16/O with
Segye company details for Procella orders & enquiries.