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Title Video – Fishing the Seabird Smart Way – the New Zealand Experience

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Abstract

This note describes a video that has recently been produced by Southern Seabird Solutions on fishing methods that reduce the incidental capture of seabirds during fishing.

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust has recently produced a 20 minute video called 'Fishing the Seabird Smart Way - The New Zealand Experience. The video is narrated by a fisher and interviews a range of fishers who talk about the mitigation measures that they use on their vessel. Methods discussed include tori lines, night setting, management of offal discharge, Brady bird bafflers, blue dyed bait, and weighted longlines. The video also provides a step by step guide for construction of a tori line.

Copies of the video are being provided to all longline and trawl fishers in New Zealand. The video covers demersal and pelagic longline fishing methods. To date, the video has been very well received in New Zealand by fishers.

The video is also being translated into Spanish and a number of copies are being provided to fishers in Peru and Chile. New Zealand shares a number of seabird species with these two countries. Species such as the Chatham albatross, Buller's albatross, and black petrel breed in New Zealand but spend much of their adult life in waters off South America.

The purpose of the video is to raise awareness of the importance of not catching seabirds, and to offer advice to fishers on measures that they can use on their vessels. It is hoped that fishers in New Zealand and other countries will adapt mitigation measures for their vessels, based on the ideas presented in the video.