



Report of the Port-Based Outreach Inception Workshop

for component 3.2.1 of the

Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ

11 January 2018
Southern Cross Hotel Conference Room
Suva, Fiji

Prepared by James Nagan



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Workshop Report

Project: FAO-GEF Project *Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ (GCP/GLO/365/GFF)*

Reporting organisation: BirdLife South Africa

Report prepared by: James Nagan and Bronwyn Maree

**Port-based Outreach Inception Workshop for BirdLife component of the GEF-funded
FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project (Output 3.2.1)
11 January 2018, Suva, Fiji**

BirdLife South Africa report

Aims of the workshop

The aims of the Inception Workshop were to introduce key stakeholders (government officials, foreign fisheries agents, ports authority, and other NGO representatives) to the Port-based Outreach Pilot Project based in Suva, which falls within the BirdLife component (Output 3.2.1) of FAO's GEF-funded Common Oceans Tuna Project. It also provided the stakeholders the opportunity to share concerns and provide valuable information on how best to access vessels docking in port.

This report outlines the outcomes of the Port-Based Outreach Inception Workshop under Element 3 - Port-based Outreach Pilot Initiatives. The main outcomes under this Element are that:

- 1) the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans;
- 2) information collected through port visits of vessels on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, is assessed in terms of its value for monitoring purposes; and
- 3) awareness materials are provided to increase awareness of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations requirements in terms of mitigation measure use

The half-day workshop (held in Suva, Fiji on 11 January) served to introduce formally the pilot initiative to key stakeholders, including government and industry, to discuss, plan and agree on the approach and needs of the project going forward.

Participants

A total of 19 participants attended the workshop, including one BirdLife expert, two project staff, one invited expert, one representative from an International Governmental Organization (IGO), four foreign-flagged fisheries agents, four representatives from the fisheries observer agency or government officials and six local fisheries association members. The workshop was facilitated by Bronwyn Maree (Seabird Bycatch Project Coordinator), Ross Wanless (BirdLife South Africa) and James Nagan (Port-Based Outreach Expert, Fiji). A full list of participants is included in Annex 1.

Summary of discussions, outcomes and recommendations from the workshop

The workshop Agenda is provided in Annex 2.

The workshop was split into two sessions, namely the morning session which aimed at providing participants with background information while the afternoon session provided time for facilitated discussion on the Common Oceans project and the planning of the project going forward.

Background sessions summary

- Introduction to the Common Oceans Tuna Project was provided to set the scene and explain the various elements of the project to the group.
- Seabird bycatch in the ABNJ tuna longline fisheries presentation provided an overview of the status of seabirds and seabird bycatch, their overlap with tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the Chinese tuna longline fleet operating in areas of concern.
- Description of Chinese fleets operating in Fiji provided the local government the opportunity to share the background information on this fleet, issues that are encountered and improvements they hope to make going forward.
- Seabird bycatch mitigation and reporting requirements by tuna RFMOs outlined the requirements of observer and logbook reporting for fleets and gave detailed information on the three best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures (namely night setting, bird-scaring lines and branchline weighting), as well as new emerging technologies that are currently available.

Facilitated discussions and activities

- An introduction to the Port-based Outreach Pilot Project was provided as a starting point for the small group activity and facilitated discussions.
- Participants broke into small groups (Figure 1) where they were able to raise concerns and make positive suggestions for various aspects of the project (detailed below).
- A facilitated discussion followed, where key points raised during the small group work were discussed in more detail.

Finally, participants completed the Monitoring and Evaluation (post-workshop) Questionnaire followed by the closure of the workshop by a representative of the Fijian government.

Small group activity - Opportunities and Challenges

Participants provided input on what they considered possible/desireable and what was not possible/undesireable for implementing port visits during 3 stages of process: (1) before the port visit, (2) during the port visit, and (3) after the port visit. In addition they were asked to highlight challenges and opportunities for the project. A summary of this activity is below:

Before the harbour/port visit

<i>DO</i>	<i>DON'T</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get clearances from all relevant agencies e.g Port authority, Customs, Ministry of Fisheries, vessel agents etc.• Make sure that the captain, crew, agent and interpreter are on board during the visit.• Engage a suitable and reliable interpreter.• Discuss with vessel agents and company to verify Vessel Monitoring Systems.• Get the details of the vessels fishing ground in advance/before the vessel arrives to better understand if they operating south of 25°S.• Contact the agent before you visit any vessel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform others of intended visit.• Do not go to the vessel without any prior arrangement.

In the harbour/at the port visit/on the vessel

<i>DO</i>	<i>DON'T</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to vessel agent – verify operations. • Liaise with Fisheries for verifications on vessel movements, licenses and flags. • Organize interpreter. • Manage your time well and ensure that all parties are on board during the visit. • Provide aiding and demonstration materials. • Ensure that captains and crews understand the importance of conserving seabirds and the reason such programmes are implemented. • Ensure there is enough time to carry out the outreach program. Do not try to board the vessel when they are preparing for departure. • Wear necessary gear e.g. safety boots, I.D cards, hard hat, reflector vest etc. • Board vessels only after compliance officers have cleared the vessel. A good time to board will be during unloading of fish as everyone would be on board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the vessel does not fish 25°S then mitigating measures do not need to be emphasized. • Do not use threatening tone - PBO officer does not have any authority (unlike Fisheries Control Officers). • The captain and crew are tired from fishing and PBO officer shall not pressure them when the vessel comes in but rather allow time for them to rest before the vessel visit. • Share confidentiality of vessel operations and fishing area. • Interfere with boarding & inspections carried out by the border agencies such as Health, Customs, Fisheries etc. • Interfere with vessel or port landing procedures.

After port visit

<i>DO</i>	<i>DON'T</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the captain and crew are aware of the three best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. • Liaise with agents to improve fishing facilities to meet the requirements for these mitigation measures. • Leave outreach materials on board for captain and crews' references. • Provide a feedback report to the agent and owner or any relevant agency when required. • Evaluate each vessel and prepare spreadsheet of information discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information with competitors (keep confidentiality) • Threaten vessel agents or captain or crew on the next vessel visit. • Discuss the cost of implementing these mitigation measures.

OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and teach fishermen to preserve seabird populations. • Encourage fishermen to learn more about seabirds and mitigation measures by translating the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-ups and ensuring that the mitigation measures are implemented to reduce the loss of seabirds.
---	--

- materials into their own language for easy reference.
 - To improve fishing methods and reduce mortality of seabirds.
 - Improvement in catch which will lead to better market access.
 - Enhance good relationships between captain and crews.
 - To use latest mitigating tools, equipments and measures.
- Acknowledgement of captains and vessel owners in sharing their experiences in longline fishing.
 - Ensuring that captains and crews do not feel threatened.
 - Cost of implementing these mitigating measures.
-

After the above activity, the top three points raised (“confidentiality”, “training materials” and “obtaining buy-in from key stakeholders”) were identified and solutions discussed to help ensure these challenges are addressed adequately. However, it was clear that some agents had opposing views for how they would prefer this project to operate – this does not represent a problem, as it will be simple enough to follow preferred routes for different agents.

1. Confidentiality
 - Take into account owner versus vessel data confidentiality
 - Ask the captains understanding of the issues and requirements and then explain their obligations under the relevant RFMO(s)
 - Show a template of the reporting detail so that the captain does not feel threatened by the visit. This serves as a justification on what we observe and discuss. Reiterate that we are only on board to raise awareness of seabird bycatch mitigations measures
2. Materials to be used
 - Languages required: Indonesian, Chinese (Mandarin), Fijian, Vietnamese, Filipino and Korean. Identify the ethnicity of crews on board other than the Chinese
 - Print outreach materials which can be left behind on board for crews reference (suggested examples are below)
 - Awareness stickers – images are not bound by language
 - Brochures
 - Information on where to access the mitigation measure devices (if they are not accessible, they are unlikely to be utilized)
 - Seabird identification guides to be made available
 - Contact information on where to send images for verification of identification
3. Obtaining buy-in from key stakeholders
 - Identify all key stakeholders
 - Make sure there is little/no burden on companies/vessels (e.g. take your own translators, have own safety gear)
 - Important that the information on the project can feed down to all levels of the vessel (Master down to crew if possible). Suggested that the outreach materials are translated to Indonesian and Fijian languages for the crews.
 - Communicate the potential benefits to stakeholders

Going forward with the project/follow-up actions

- PBO officer to gain access to vessel arrival schedule
- PBO officer to finalize the detailed port-based inspection and monitoring template for each vessel visit
- PBO to prepare a spreadsheet outlining vessels that fish south of 25° South and those that do not, so there is a paper trail on all vessels visited and follow-ups conducted
- Continue to meet with relevant agents/stakeholders in order get buy-in and gain access to vessels

- PBO to investigate translator options
- PBO to create awareness materials and have them translated into relevant languages
- PBO to investigate availability of materials in Fiji for the development of bird-scaring lines locally

Summary of other activities conducted

There were other activities carried out by the project team, to aid in managing the project remotely and to gain insights into the challenges that the PBO Officer is likely to face, as well as to make decisions about cost-benefit evaluations for accessing remote ports: :

- Visiting the three ports in Suva where longline vessels dock. This aided in assessing the ease at which vessels can be assessed.
- Vessel visit on board a Chinese longliner docked in Suva. This was the first visit conducted during the PBO project.
- Visit to Levuka port on Ovalau Island, where the local cannery is located. Many foreign vessels offload albacore catch in this port. This visit was to assess the need and feasibility of adding this port to the vessel visit protocol (especially as it requires additional resources and time). After visiting the island, including a vessel docked in the Levuka port, two key observations were noted. Firstly, the majority of the vessels that dock in this port, also dock in Suva, as the only offload albacore tuna at the Levuka cannery. Therefore it is not necessary to include Levuka port in the PBO Pilot Project in Fiji. Secondly, we learnt that there are generally a number of Fijian crew on board these foreign-flagged vessels. This provides a unique opportunity for the PBO officer to verify what the captain has discussed with the local crew in their local dialect. It also means Fijian awareness materials will provide useful for the information to filter down to the crew on board these foreign-flagged vessels.
- Visit to the local chandlers to determine the availability of materials in Fiji to make bird-scaring lines. If mitigation devices are readily available locally, it is more likely that the vessels docking in Suva will utilize them.

Additional meetings and discussions attended by the team:

- Karen Baird (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand) to discuss more details of the project and the initial work being carried out by the Port-based Outreach Officer in Suva. She also shared ideas and experiences from PBO work done in New Zealand.
- Mike Donoghue (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, SPREP) to discuss and share ideas on port outreach programmes and the progress on this PBO pilot project since its inception. Mr. Donoghue discussed that SPREP will also be undertaking a similar project focusing on turtles. Discussions included the possibility of collaborating the two projects in the future.
- Ministry of Fisheries Compliance and Observer representatives during the workshop to understand their feelings around the project and how we can support each other. Their support on the program was encouraging.

Conclusions

The workshop provided a useful opportunity to present the Port-based Outreach Pilot Project and provided key stakeholders the platform to raise their concerns and suggestions on the implementation going forward. These discussions have helped shape the plans for the project and introduced the project staff to key stakeholders involved. We look forward to the successful boarding of vessels and fruitful discussions with skippers and crew onboard the foreign-flagged vessels docking in Suva, Fiji.

Acknowledgements

Funding for the workshop (including the venue, catering, travel and DSA for various project personal and experts) was provided through the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project (LoA4).



Figure 1: (a) James nagan presenting the PBO Pilot Project; (b) Ross Wanless explains best practice bird-scaring lines to the participants; (c) Karen Baird assisting participants during the small group activity; (d) Bronwyn Maree sharing the outcomes of the small group activity with the group; (e) Group picture from the Inception workshop and (f) James Nagan in conversation with local Fijians onboard a Chinese longline vessel docked in Levuka Port, Ovalau Island.

Monitoring and Evaluation (post-workshop) questionnaire

A post-workshop questionnaire was developed (see Annex 3) to assess the usefulness of the workshop and to receive constructive feedback from participants that can be used in the development and implementation of future workshops. In total, 13 participants completed the questionnaire. Participants involved in the organisation and implementation of the workshop did not complete the survey. The survey, and assessment, was conducted by James Nagan. A summary of the questions and responses is included below. The original questions and scoring guidelines are provided in Annex 3.

Q1. [*How useful was the information presented at the workshop?*] 93% of participants thought the information was **very useful** and 7% of participants thought the information presented was **somewhat useful**.

Q2. [*How clearly did the organisers present material?*] 93% of participants thought information presented was **very clearly**, while 7% thought it was **moderately** presented.

Q3. [*Did the organisers allow enough time for the facilitated discussions?*] 100% of participants thought that the time allocated for discussions was **good**.

Q4. [*Was the workshop long enough?*] 100% of participants thought it was the **right** length of time.

Q5. [*Overall, how would you rate the workshop?*] 80% of participants rated the workshop as **very good** and 20% as **good**. No participants rated the workshop as **poor** or **very poor**.

Q6. [*How would you rate your understanding of seabird bycatch BEFORE the workshop?*] 33% participants rated their understanding as **poor** before the workshop, 60% rated it as **good** and 7% as **expert**.

Q7. [*How would you rate your understanding of seabird bycatch AFTER the workshop?*] 67% of participants rated their knowledge of seabird bycatch as **good** and 33% as **expert** after the workshop.

Q8. [*Are you supportive toward the implementation of the RFMO seabird bycatch mitigation measures after the workshop?*] 100% of participants were **supportive**.

Q9. [*Do you support the PBO project and what it is setting out to achieve?*] 93% of participants were **supportive** and 7% **neutral**.

Q10. [*Do you have concerns about the PBO project?*] 7% of participants have **no concern** about the PBO project, 53% were **somewhat concerned** and 40% were **very concerned**. Cost, confidentiality and impact on operations were their highest concerns.

Q11. [*Do you have concerns about implementing mitigation measures?*] 14% of participants have **no concern** about implementing mitigation measures, 53% were **somewhat concerned** and 33% were **very concerned**. Line weighting, bird-scaring lines and the impact on the operations were their top three concerns.

Q12. [*Would you be interested to participate in such workshops in the future?*] 73% of participants were **very interested** in future workshops, while 27% were **neutral**.

Q13. [*Do you have any other comments or suggestions for future workshops?*] Some participants provided comments which are listed below.

- One participant requested additional training
- Workshop should start on time as per agenda (*the workshop started late due to the late arrival of most of the participants*)

- Thankful for the workshop. It highlighted the importance of collecting data on seabirds.
- Provide incentives for captains and agents to be interested in the program
- Ensure the industry representatives/fishing masters (if possible)/fishing operators are available to attend future meetings
- The cost of implementing these best practice measures needs to be clearly discussed as this is always a concern for operational costs
- Expand range of topics to include turtle, cetacean and shark bycatch and plastic pollution/safe disposal of waste. If possible include Ministry for Environment (Fiji) and Pacific Community (SPC) in future workshops.

Annex 1: List of workshop participants, Port-based Inception Workshop, Suva

Name	Organisation
Ross Wanless	BirdLife South Africa (BirdLife Expert)
Bronwyn Maree	Seabird Bycatch Project Coordinator - FAO
Karen Baird	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Invited Expert)
Mike Donoghue	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
James Nagan	Port Based Outreach Officer Suva, Fiji (FAO)
Leba Dranivesi	Head of Compliance, Ministry of Fisheries
Rupeni Dranivesi	Head of Observers Program, Ministry of Fisheries
Apenisa Sauturaga	Ministry of Fisheries
Timoci Tavusa	Fisheries Observer Coordinator, Ministry of Fisheries
Darren Zhang	Sunshine Fisheries
Alex	Golden Ocean Fish Limited
Ma Jing Kui	Ocean Pride
Shirley S Prasad	Yuh Yow Fisheries
Niny Yu	Yuh Yow Fisheries
Leong Chan	Yuh Yow Fisheries
Vikash Prasad	Yuh Yow Fisheries
Lu Yi Zu	Sea Fresh (Fiji) Limited
Shida Zu	Hangton Pacific Company Limited
Meli Ledua	Golden Ocean Fish Limited



AGENDA



Outreach Project Inception Workshop

Suva | Fiji | 11 January 2018 | 08:30 – 14:00

08:30 – 08:45 Welcome and Introductions

08:45 – 09:00 Introduction to the Common Oceans Tuna Project

Bronwyn Maree, Project Output Coordinator – FAO/BirdLife South Africa (BLSA)

09:00 – 09:30 Seabird bycatch in ABNJ Tuna longline fisheries

By Karen Baird, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand

09:30 – 10:00 Description of Chinese Fleets operating in Fiji

Leba Dranivesi spoke on behalf of Government

Jiten Kumar/ Anare Raiwalui (FFIA) to speak on behalf of the fishing industries

10:00 – 10:30 Tea Break – Join us for tea, coffee, and some light snacks

10:30 – 11:00 Seabird bycatch mitigation and reporting requirements by tuna RFMOs

Dr Ross M. Wanless, Seabird Conservation Programme Manager - BLSA

11:00 – 11:30 Introduction to the Outreach Project

James Nagan, Outreach Officer, Suva – FAO

11:30 – 12:15 Group Activity – Opportunities and Challenges

12:15 – 12:45 Facilitated Discussion – Solutions and way forward

12:45 – 12:55 Workshop Closing and Evaluation

12:55 – 13:10 Closing by Minister of Fisheries

13:10 – 14:00 Lunch Break – Please join us for a tasty lunch

Please RSVP to James Nagan at James.Nagan@fao.org (+679 9750929) by close of business on 15 December 2017 with the name, designation and contact details of those who will be attending. Please also include any dietary requirements.

Additional activities linked to PBO-Fiji Trip Agenda

January 9: Arrive in Fiji.

January 10:

1. 09.00 – 9.30 Meet with the BirdLife Pacific team in Suva
2. 09.30 – 10.30 Meeting at Conference room discussing progress on the pilot project in Suva
3. 10.30 – 11.30 Meet with Mike Donoghue on SPREPs projects and a possibility of collaborating with their EU approved turtle mitigation project.
4. 11.30 – 13.00: Continued discussions on the PBO pilot project in Suva
5. 13.00 – 14.00: Lunch
6. 14.00 – 16.00: Final preparation, touch-up of presentations and printing. Preparing participants folders
7. 17.30: James Nagan to meet with translator and discuss presentations

January 11:

1. 08:30 – 14:00 Inception Workshop (Southern Cross Hotel Conference Room).
2. After Workshop - Port visitations at:
 - Draunibota, Lami
 - Mua-l-walu 1
 - Mua-i-walu 2
 - Princess wharf
3. Visit the local Chandler to see available materials for the bird-scaring lines
4. Evening - meet and socialize with BirdLife Pacific office team members

January 12:

1. All day - Port visit at Levuka, Ovalau Island.

Annex 3: Port-based Inception Workshop post-workshop questionnaire



PBO Inception Workshop | 11 January 2018 | Suva, Fiji Post-workshop Feedback

Ensuring we provide quality workshops and engagement for our projects is very important to BirdLife and the FAO. We appreciate your feedback on today's workshop.

Name (Optional):

Occupation:

1. How useful was the information presented at the workshop?

Please rank: 1 = not useful, 2 = somewhat useful, 3 = very useful

Topic	1	2	3
Seabird bycatch in ABNJ Tuna longline fisheries (N. Brothers)			
Seabird bycatch mitigation requirements by t-RFMOs (R. Wanless)			
Introduction to the Common Oceans Tuna Project (B. Maree)			
PSM, flag and port state reporting requirements (B. Mulligan)			
Introduction to the Port-Based Outreach Project (B. Maree)			
Facilitated Discussions			

2. How clearly did the organisers present material?

- 1) Very clearly
- 1) Moderately clearly
- 2) Not at all clearly

3. Did the organisers allow enough time for the facilitated discussions?

- 2) Too short
- 3) Good
- 4) Too long

4. Was the workshop long enough?

- 1) Too long
- 2) About right
- 3) Too short

5. Overall, how would you rate the workshop?

- 1) Very good
- 2) Good
- 3) Average
- 4) Poor
- 5) Very poor

6. How would you rate your understanding of seabird bycatch BEFORE the workshop?

- 1) Poor
- 2) Good
- 3) Expert

