



Report of the Republic of Korea National Awareness Workshop

for component 3.2.1 of the

Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ

25 January 2018
National Institute of Fisheries Science
Busan, Republic of Korea

Prepared by BirdLife South Africa



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 (BLSA)

Report prepared by: Nini van der Merwe

Republic of Korea National Awareness Workshop for BirdLife component of the GEF funded Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project (Output 3.2.1)

25 January 2018, Busan, Republic of Korea

BirdLife South Africa report

Background – Republic of Korea

In 2012, at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Scientific Committee meeting, the National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) of Republic of Korea (ROK) played a pivotal role in ensuring that Resolution 12/06 was passed. This resolution requires that all tuna longline fleets operating south of 25° South have to implement at least 2 out of 3 bycatch mitigation measures in order to reduce the accidental bycatch of seabirds. Funding made available by the Common Oceans project allowed NIFS and BLSA to set up demonstrations for Best Practice line weighting systems in the Korean tuna longline fleet. This work was designed to assist the Korean fleet to adopt Best Practice, and was done with co-funding from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

Demonstrations were conducted between 2013-2016, by ROK observers trained through the Observer Training Workshop process under this project, as well as from other observers that BirdLife South Africa provided. The demonstrations were successful and since then, the entire ROK tuna longline fleet has implemented sliding leads as part of their gear configuration.

Aims of the workshop

The National Awareness Workshops (NAW) aim to facilitate communication with fleets, so that the use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Project Output 3.2.1a). Due to the long working history between BLSA and NIFS, the agenda for this workshop was more advanced than for previous NAWs, and could be viewed as a 'wrap-up' meeting to affirm satisfaction from industry and government with the outcomes of the past 4 years' collaborations. The workshop focussed on presenting to the fleet (via industry representatives) and discussing the outcomes of the line weighting demonstrations, as well as getting some feedback from observers who have been working on the vessels since line weighting has been implemented across the fleet.

Industry representatives were interested to explore how their transformational efforts might receive recognition and potentially some market-related returns.

Participants

A full list of attendees is provided in Annex 1

Participants were welcomed on behalf of NIFS by Du Hae An and on behalf of BLSA and FAO by Ross Wanless.

The workshop was attended by government (NIFS), observers, Korea Overseas Fisheries Association, industry, a representative of the fishing captains (Korea Overseas Captain Association), Dominic Rollinson (BLSA observer), Joel Rice (consulting to the Common Oceans project) and BLSA.

Outcomes

The workshop succeeded in confirming that ROK tuna longliners that operate south of 25°S are comfortable using sliding lead weights during fishing, and are compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/06. There were no concerns expressed about continuing to use line weighting during fishing. Of particular concern from industry is the potential impact of using mitigation measures on catch rates; they were reassured that the seabird bycatch mitigation measures do not affect SBT catch, which is a target species of ROK tuna longliners in the area. The workshop also affirmed the positive and successful working relationship between NIFS and BLSA. The workshop was also a good opportunity to congratulate those present for Korea's collaborative and successful approach to making their tuna longline industry more sustainable and in line with tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (tRFMO) requirements.

Summary of presentations and facilitated discussions

The workshop agenda is provided in Annex 2.

As this was a follow up workshop after at-sea demonstrations had taken place, the presentations differed from those usually presented at a NAW. The presentations focussed on the results and outcomes and possible future collaborations. The workshop was also used as an opportunity to discuss the Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment process (Element 4 of Output 3.2.1) and specifically ROK's role in this.

A summary of each presentation is listed below:

1. Introduction of the Common Oceans project: general objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants.
2. Background on Collaboration between National Institute of Fisheries Science and BirdLife South Africa: A brief history of the working relationship between NIFS and BLSA and why multilateral collaboration is important to continue the protection of seabirds.
3. Description of the Korean at-sea trials: Vessels, companies and observers, as experienced by Dominic Rollinson during his at-sea trials.
4. Results of trials undertaken in the Korean fleet: A discussion on the data collected during and after the at-sea trials and the analyses, presented by Sung Il Lee of NIFS.
5. Korea and their participation in Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment (GSBA): What is the purpose of the GSBA and why is it important for ROK to participate.

Facilitated discussions:

1. Future of seabird bycatch mitigation measures and facilitated discussion on next steps: this discussion focussed on possible future collaborations between NIFS and BLSA. There were also comments from industry that they would appreciate assistance on MSC (or other) certification in order to increase their international market for their export tuna.

Survey of workshop participants

A post-workshop questionnaire was developed 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, 18 participants completed the questionnaire (some participants left before the workshop concluded). Participants involved in the organisation and implementation of the workshop did not complete the survey. The survey and assessment was conducted by Nini van der Merwe. 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 on the following topics presented at the workshop?]* **86%** of participants thought the information was **very useful**, **14%** of participants thought the information presented was **somewhat useful**. The lowest ranked topics were: “*Introduction to the Common Oceans Project*” and “*Results of the trials undertaken in the Korean fleet*”. All other presentation received **very useful** scores.

Q2. *[How clearly did the organisers present material?]* **67%** of participants thought information was presented **very clearly**, **33%** of participants thought it was presented **somewhat clearly**.

Q3. *[Did the organisers allow enough time for the facilitated discussions?]* **94%** of participants thought that the amount of time allocated for discussion was **good**, **6%** thought it was **too short**.

Q4. *[Was the workshop long enough?]* **94%** of participants thought it was **about right**, while **6%** thought it was **too long**.

Q5. *[Overall, how would you rate the workshop?]* **33%** of participants rated the workshop as **very good** while **61%** rated it as **good** and **6%** thought it was **average**.

Q6. *[After the workshop, do you have a better understanding of the purpose and goals of the Common Oceans Tuna project?]* **83%** of participants said their understanding was **agreed**, and **17%** said they **somewhat agree**.

Q7. *[How would you rate your level of understanding of the importance of multilateral collaboration for this project BEFORE the workshop?]* **28%** of participants rated themselves as **expert**, **61%** rated themselves as good and **11%** rated their understanding as **poor**.

Q8. *[How would you rate your level of understanding of the importance of multilateral collaboration for this project AFTER the workshop?]* **28%** of participants rated themselves as **expert** and **72%** rated themselves as good.

Q9. *[Are you supportive of continued collaboration between BirdLife South Africa and the National Institute of Fisheries Research Science?]* **94%** of participants are supportive while **6%** were **somewhat supportive**.

Q10. *[After the workshop, do you have a clear understanding of how the Korean at-sea trials were set-up and managed?]* On average, **56%** of participants were **very clear**, **38%** were **somewhat clear** and **6%** were not clear.

Q11. *[Are you supportive of Korea participating in the Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment?]* **81%** of participants are supportive while **19%** were **somewhat supportive**.

Q12. *[Do you have any other comments, suggestions or topics you would like included in future workshops?]* BLSA comments in *Italics*.

1. It would be a great chance to find out the effectiveness of new technologies for mitigating seabird bycatch for both Korea (NIFS) and BLSA. [*There are ongoing discussions between NIFS and BLSA to do further trials of new mitigation measures in the ROK fleet.*]
2. I want to know that there is any relationship between CMM on seabirds and the increase of tuna stocks.
3. I would like to request various trials on the distance of weighting from the hook (eg 50cm or 1m). Could you suggest various alternatives? (ex. use certain weight of swivel instead of weights) [*The NIFS and BLSA trials did experiment with different distances of weight from the hook, this information will be made available once the results have been published.*]
4. I think that using a swivel makes the workload of the fishing operation less. It is better than using a sinker and is helpful to prevent the entanglement of lines.
5. When trials to investigate the effectiveness of line weighting on catch is carried out, it would be better that at least two fishing vessels conduct together (within 2~4 miles) under same conditions like operating pattern, depth of setting, gear configurations.
6. It would be good if there was some benefits for the fishing companies who actively participated in the trials.
7. At the next workshop, I would like a presentation on the number of seabirds falling victim to bycatch when a scientific observer is on board.

Going forward with the project - next steps

The following next steps for the Republic of Korea were noted from discussions:

- NIFS and BLSA will continue to work together to finalise the results of the at-sea trials and publish the results.
- Doo Nam Kim and Sung Il Lee will represent ROK and NIFS at the GSBA workshop in Peru in February 2018.
- NIFS and BLSA will explore further collaborations (which might include demonstrating new systems to reduce seabird bycatch) in the ROK fleet.

Suggestions for future workshops

- Ample time for facilitated discussions is very beneficial in a small group setting.

Acknowledgements

“Tuna Research Team” from NIFS are acknowledged for their time and assistance with logistics and presentations at the workshop, as well as their generosity and continued willingness for collaboration. Funding for the workshop (including catering, travel and DSA for the invited experts) was provided through the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project (LoA4). NIFS generously provided the meeting venue and associated logistics.

Broad project outline

The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project is the largest of four projects that constitute the Common Oceans Program. The objective of the project is to achieve responsibility, efficiency, and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction), through the systemic application of an ecosystem approach in tuna fisheries.

With support from BirdLife International, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) is responsible for the implementation of Output 3.2.1 of the project. The revised objectives of Output 3.2.1 are linked to two outputs:

- **Output 3.2.1a:** *The use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures is enhanced and accelerated by fleets operating in critical fishing areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and additional methods to monitor the uptake, use and effectiveness of these measures are tested.*
- **Output 3.2.1b:** *The capacity of national institutions to manage and conduct analyses of seabird bycatch data and the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures is strengthened, and assessment methods are harmonised to facilitate a joint tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization (tRFMO) assessment of the current bycatch mitigation measures contained in the relevant Conservation and Management Measures.*

Output 3.2.1 will be achieved through four separate, but linked, elements. The main outcomes under element 1 (National Awareness Workshops) are to 1) improve awareness of seabird bycatch and its mitigation; and 2) build capacity of the national observer programme, government representatives and the fishing industry to effectively implement best practice seabird bycatch mitigation based on best practice in the Republic of Korea.



Participants at the Republic of Korea Common Oceans National Awareness Workshop

Annex 1: List of workshop participants

(Presenters and mediators are marked with *)

Name

Affiliation

Kim Ducklim	SAJO Industries Co.,Ltd
Kyungpill Kim	Dongwon Industries Co., Ltd
Jaehwan Kim	Dongwon Industries Co., Ltd
Jung Hoon, Hwang	DONG WON FISHERIES CO., LTD.
Sung Jun, Kang	DONG WON FISHERIES CO., LTD.
Han soo Kim	SILLA CO., LTD
Ho Jeong JIN	Korea Overseas Fisheries Association
Soo Yong Park	Hansung Enterprise Co., Ltd
Gi Chul Choi	Observer
Deuk Kyun Ahn	Observer
Bo Kyun Choi	Observer
Jae Gu Jung	Observer
Jae Ok Lee	Korea Overseas Captain Association
Su Keun Yoon	Sojin Shipping CO., LTD.
Nini van der Merwe*	BirdLife South Africa
Joel Rice*	Independent consultant
Dominic Rollinson*	BirdLife South Africa invited expert
Ross Wanless*	BirdLife South Africa
Du Hae An	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Eun Jung Kim	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Jong Hee Lee	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Sang Deok Chung	National Institute of Fisheries Science
You Jung Kwon	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Sung Il Lee*	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Doo Nam Kim*	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Mi Kyung Lee	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Zang Geun Kim	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Jeong Eun Ku	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Ji Yoon Kim	National Institute of Fisheries Science
Haw Sun Sohn	Cetacean Research Institute

Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

Time	Presentation	Speaker
10:00-10:10	Welcome from host country	Du Hae An
10:10-10:20	Welcome from BirdLife South Africa	Ross Wanless
10:20-10:30	Introduction of Participants	All
10:30-11:00	Introduction of the Common Oceans project, general objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants.	Nini van der Merwe
11:00-11:30	<i>Tea</i>	
11:30-12:30	Background on Collaboration between National Institute of Fisheries Science and BirdLife South Africa	Ross Wanless
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30-14:00	Description of the Korean at-sea trials - Vessels, companies, observers	Dominic Rollinson
14:00-14:30	Results of trials undertaken in the Korean fleet	Sung Il Lee
14:30-15:30	Future of seabird bycatch mitigation measures and facilitated discussion on next steps	Ross Wanless and Doo Nam Kim
15:30-16:00	<i>Tea</i>	
16:00-16:45	Korea and their participation in Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment	Joel Rice
16:45-17:00	Monitoring and evaluation	Nini van der Merwe
17:00	Closing	Ross Wanless and Doo Nam Kim

- 1) Agree 2) Somewhat agree 3) Don't agree

7. How would you rate your level of understanding of the importance of multilateral collaboration for this project BEFORE the workshop?

- 1) Expert 2) Good 3) Poor

8. How would you rate your level of understanding of the importance of multilateral collaboration for this project AFTER the workshop?

- 1) Expert 2) Good 3) Poor

9. Are you supportive of continued collaboration between BirdLife South Africa and the National Institute of Fisheries Research Science?

- 1) Supportive 2) Somewhat supportive 3) Not supportive

If not, please state why you are not supportive:

10. After the workshop, do you have a clear understanding of how the Korean at-sea trials were set-up and managed?

- 1) Very Clear 2) Somewhat clear 3) Not at all clear

11. Are you supportive of Korea participating in the Global Seabird Bycatch Assessment?

- 1) Supportive 2) Somewhat supportive 3) Not supportive

12. If not, please state why you are not supportive:

Do you have any other comments; suggestions or future topics you would like included in future workshops?

Thank you for your time 😊