Seabird bycatch in Spain. Demersal long-liners in the Catalan coast

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By catch, a global problem

- Big threat for albatrosses in the Southern seas
- Concern extended to other seas
- Global estimates: >160,000-320,000 long liners, >400,000 nets (...
- Effective mitigation programmes -- bycatch reduced >90% (FAO; BirdLife International – Albatros Task Force)
Why Catalonia?
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Why demersal long-liners?
Questionnaire survey
Seabird by catch risk in Spain

614 questionnaires (FAME & INDEMARES)

67 harbours (Atlantic + Mediterranean)

(a) Demersal long-liners
(b) Pelagic long-liners
(c) Trawlers
(d) Purse seiners
Questionnaire overall results

Trawlers
Purse-seiners
Set nets
Pelagic longlines
Demersal longlines

(3500)
Concern that goes back a long way

• 90’s first on-bord surveys and evidences of higher impact of demersal long-liners

• 2000’s collection of data of massive by catch events

• 2010’s collaboration with UB

http://www.seo.org/aves-marinas/

http://seabirdbycatch.com/

https://www.copy.com/s/NzuI3LFcr0NcQgpZ
Demersal long-lining
Demersal long-lining
Demersal long-lining in Catalonia

15 boats in the study area
The observers programme

Collaboration with 6 boats, allowing observers
The observers programme

Main fishing grounds
The observers programme
The observers programme

Transect seabird counts

hauling

setting
The observers programme

- 68 days at sea
- 150,000 set hooks monitored
- 200 operations monitored
- 1,500 seabird census during operations (10 minutes)
- 1,200 attacks to the bait recorded
- 6 birds caught
  - 3 Scopoli’s Shearwaters
  - 3 Yellow legged gull

0.04 birds/ 1,000 hooks
The observers programme
Some results

Attacks to bait or discards

Set

- Calonectris diomedea: 208
- Puffinus mauretanicus: 1
- Puffinus yelkouan: 37
- Morus bassanus: 1
- Larus audouinii: 23
- Larus melanoleptus: 1
- Larus michahellis: 3
- Rissa tridactyla: 1

Haul

- Calonectris diomedea: 148
- Puffinus mauretanicus: 1
- Puffinus yelkouan: 54
- Morus bassanus: 212
- Larus audouinii: 0
- Larus melanoleptus: 3
- Larus michahellis: 0
- Rissa tridactyla: 0
The observers programme
Some results

Attacks to bait during hauling
Monthly distribution
The observers programme
Some results

Attacks to bait during hauling
Sundays vs Weekdays
The observers programme
Some results

Attacks to bait during hauling
Time respect to the sunrise
Next step

Testing and implementation of mitigation measures
Thanks!