



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

GENERAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR

The Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit
- Industry Roundtable
November 29th, 2023
Online

Organizer: Department of Conservation of New Zealand and Ministry for Primary Industries

Event held under APEC Project: The Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit

Sponsoring Economy / Project Overseer: New Zealand / Clara Beauvoir

Co-Sponsoring APEC Economies: Chile; Chinese Taipei; People's Republic of China; Peru; the United States.

Self-Funded Project

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1. PROJECT - THE SEABIRD-SAFE LONGLINE FISHING TOOLKIT

The 'Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit' ('the Toolkit') is a self-funded project, developed by New Zealand¹ in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). It is supported by five co-sponsors economies: Chile, Chinese Taipei, People's Republic of China, Peru, and the United States.

This project will produce an information toolkit to support the tuna industry in their efforts to reduce seabird bycatch. An online industry roundtable has been organised for the 29th of November to gain key insights and input from economies and industry experts to ensure the Toolkit is fit-for-purpose.

In line with the common view of the APEC blue economy and the third economic driver of APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, the Toolkit contributes to the OFWG's Strategic Plan 2021-2023 by improving the understanding of the oceans, marine ecosystems and their economic and social value, and promoting the blue.

2. OBJECTIVES

Consumers worldwide are becoming more aware of the environmental impacts of fishing on marine wildlife like seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals. High-value markets are increasingly seeking tuna with sustainability credentials, such as Marine Stewardship Council certification (MSC). Tuna fishers are responding to this demand and working to improve their practices.

New Zealand is developing the Toolkit. It aims to support the tuna fishing industry in its movement toward more seabird-safe fishing, by making accessible the essential information on practical methods to avoid catching seabirds.

The Toolkit will help build the understanding and knowledge about seabird bycatch mitigation and good practice verification. This will benefit prosperity of fishing economies by helping to secure access to high-value markets, and it will benefit marine wildlife.

The industry roundtable

The online industry roundtable is a way for the end users of the Toolkit to input into its development and provide advice to ensure the Toolkit is fit-for-purpose. The roundtable participants will be tuna longline fishing industry stakeholders who are interested in reducing seabird bycatch. The roundtable will open a dialogue between economies and industry on how the Toolkit can best benefit them.

3. DATES

The online industry roundtable meeting will be held on 29th November 2023, 1:00PM – 3:30PM New Zealand time (UTC+12).

4. VENUE

The roundtable will be held online, conducted via Teams. The event organizer will send a link to the meeting and relevant login information to all confirmed attendees before the meeting.

¹ The project partners include the New Zealand Government and the [Southern Seabirds Trust](#) – a collaboration between three New Zealand Government agencies, fishing Industry organisations and WWF-New Zealand.

Recording

The roundtable will be recorded by the host for the purpose of note taking. Should the host decide to publicly disseminate any part of the recording, the recording will be edited and shared with the OFWG for endorsement, as per the requirements of the APEC Project Event Recording Policy.

5. AGENDA

Key features of the roundtable event include:

1. Global seabird experts will introduce the issue of seabird bycatch. International sustainable seafood industries will explain the market pressures for seabird-safe fishing, and how the tuna longline industry is responding.
2. Participants will explore their interests and objectives for improving seabird bycatch mitigation and developing their fisheries businesses for shifting markets.
3. The project team will present the Toolkit project and how it will help to address key challenges.
4. Participants will share their thoughts on the draft Toolkit content in the three main areas:
 - i. seabird distribution mapping and important ocean areas to seabirds;
 - ii. practical measures to avoid seabird bycatch;
 - iii. practical ways to demonstrate that vessels are using the measures.
5. The project team will set out the next steps for the development of the Toolkit and the opportunities for further participation in the project.

The definitive agenda including speakers will be delivered a few weeks before the Roundtable.

6. PARTICIPANTS AND SPEAKERS

Please fill in [the form linked here](#) to register your interest in attending the roundtable, **by 15th November 2023**. If there is any issue with the link, please fill the registration form (Annex I), and send it to the project overseer.

All 21 APEC member economies are welcome and invited to attend and actively participate in the roundtable Meeting. There is no limit to the number of participants. Participation of qualified female participants is particularly encouraged. **Member economies are encouraged to share the invitation with relevant tuna fisheries industry that would benefit from the project.**

The Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) may nominate appropriate expert speakers for consideration by the PO. 'Non-Member Participants', such as experts from academia, international organisations, private companies, and other independent organisation will be submitted to the OFWG members' approval, according to APEC procedures.

Appropriate expert speakers are invited by the New Zealand team.

If an economy or an industry is interested in being a speaker and sharing its

experience in seabird bycatch mitigation during the roundtable, please contact the New Zealand team.

7. METHODOLOGY

Target audience

The target audience for this project is end users of the Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit: longline tuna fisheries companies and their stakeholders that are interested in seabird bycatch mitigation.

Evaluation

Participants are asked to complete and return an evaluation form by the end of the roundtable meeting. In this form, each participant is encouraged to share their view and advice on the meeting's impact and efficiency, as well as possible suggestions for future APEC related cooperation programs and activities.

Language

The meeting will be conducted in English. Please contact the New Zealand OFWG Lead if you require translation services..

8. INSTITUTION

The roundtable will be organized by the [Department of Conservation of New Zealand](#), in collaboration with the [Southern Seabirds Trust](#), and supported by the [Ministry for Primary Industries of New Zealand](#).

Focal points:

Mandy Leathers

Project Overseer

Department of Conservation, New Zealand

Email: mleathers@doc.govt.nz

Mandy is leading the New Zealand Government's work on the Toolkit.

Clara Beauvoir

New Zealand OFWG Lead

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

Email: clara.beauvoir@mpi.govt.nz

9. MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Please test all the equipment well in advance of the meeting to ensure a smooth experience is shared by speakers and participants. Prior testing will also allow for technical issues to be resolved before the meeting.

(2) In order to avoid disruption to the meeting, please make sure that your microphone is muted at all times except during your intervention, or as and when you have been requested to speak by the host.

(3) APEC highly values collaboration with appropriate external stakeholders. Participation in all APEC events is governed by APEC's [Guidelines for Managing Co-operation with Non-members](#), and attendance of nominees for this meeting who are not

government officials (or part of a government delegation), for instance from the private or academic sectors, may be subject to OFWG approval as per the aforementioned Guidelines.

(4) Speakers and participants are required to strictly observe the meeting schedule.

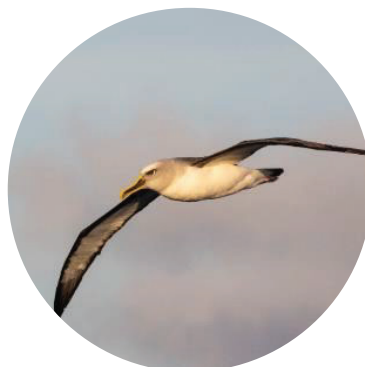
(5) The presentations and other documents from the Meeting will be collated by the Project Overseer (or their delegate) who will send them to the APEC Secretariat within 2 weeks of the event. The presentations will be made publicly available shortly after through APEC's [Meeting Document Database](#) (unless they are indicated to be for restricted circulation only to OFWG members). Presenters are reminded that all meeting materials must comply with [APEC Publication Guidelines](#). The meeting deliberations also need to comply with the [APEC Hosting Guidelines](#). In particular organisers, speakers and participants should ensure compliance with the following IMPORTANT APEC REQUIREMENTS contained in those Guidelines as required by APEC Senior Officials:

All attendees need to ensure while drafting any meeting documents or making presentations at the meeting to please be mindful of APEC nomenclature. APEC is a grouping of economies. Therefore, it is inappropriate to use anything, such as flags or emblems, which may imply the “political status” of any member economy. Disputed maps should not be included in any presentations or materials distributed at an APEC event. Members of APEC should be referred to as “member economies” or “members” or “economies”. Please do not use in reference to APEC member economies the words “country”, “nation” or “national”.

Please also be mindful to use the correct names of the APEC economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China (China also acceptable); Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines (the Philippines also acceptable); the Russian Federation (Russia also acceptable); Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America (the USA, the US or the United States also acceptable); Viet Nam.

10. DATA PRIVACY

The APEC Secretariat collects, uses and stores personal data from participants in APEC-funded projects to support our project administration and evaluation processes. APEC Project Overseers transfer participant personal data to the APEC Secretariat for these purposes. APEC Secretariat has in place a Personal Data Protection Policy and collects, uses, stores and disposes of personal data in accordance with Singapore's Personal Data Privacy Act 2012.



ANNEX I
REGISTRATION FORM

The Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit Industry Roundtable
OFWG 07 2023S

Link to the online registration form: <https://forms.gle/KD7u1XJLCckdrf6Z8>

If it does not work, please complete all fields of the registration form below, and return to:

Clara Beauvoir

New Zealand OFWG Lead

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

Email: clara.beauvoir@mpi.govt.nz

By completing and returning this form, I consent to the collection, use and disclosure of the personal data provided below to the APEC Secretariat, for the purposes of project administration and evaluation and to be handled in accordance with the APEC Secretariat Personal Data Protection Policy.

APEC Member Economy: [INSERT]

Organisation Name: [INSERT]

Surname of the Participant: [INSERT]

Name of the Participant: [INSERT]

Title of the Participant (Dr/Mr/Ms/Mrs): [INSERT]

Position: [INSERT]

Gender (M/F/other term/prefer not to say): [INSERT]

Email: [INSERT]

Nominated as: Expert Speaker:

Active Participant:

Observer:

Government official: Yes / No

Please complete all fields in this form and email it to the project overseer given above, no later than:

15/11/2023 for both speaker and participant nominations

***** LATE NOMINATIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED *****