



Indian Ocean Longline Tuna FIP

Mandatory Tori Line Announcement

June 2020

Seabirds often see baited hooks as a free meal when being set and often become hooked or entangled often resulting in their death, those that survive need to be dehooked and released effectively.

All five tuna RFMOs have established requirements for longline fishing vessels to use a combination of bycatch reduction measures in areas overlapping with albatross and petrel distribution to reduce the number killed accidentally as bycatch. In addition to helping reduce the catch of seabirds, these techniques can also help minimise bait loss and ensure that baited hooks are available to the target species. These techniques across the oceans include the following seabird bycatch mitigation measures:

- Bird-scaring lines (also known as bird curtains, streamer, or tori lines)
- Weighted branchlines
- Night setting
- Side-setting with bird curtains
- Blue-dyed bait
- Offal management
- Underwater setting chute and line shooter

However, these bycatch reduction measures are not necessary where the fishery fishes. In response to an observed amount of bird interactions through Electronic Observer Coverage we as a FIP aim to reduce our interactions with birds as much as possible to reduce our impact on the ecosystem as much as possible. To do this, we now ask that the following is adhered to from **1 July 2020**:

“On all sets within the Indian Ocean Longline tuna FIP tori or bird scaring lines are now mandatory and must be used at all times to reduce bird interactions, regardless of geographic location”

A bird scaring line, also known as tori line or bird streamer line, is a line (often 100 meters long) that is towed from a high point near the stern from which streamers are suspended at regular intervals. The streamers flap as the vessel pitches and rolls, and this deters the birds from flying near the stern of the vessel. The bird scaring line is most effective when the streamers are flapping directly above the baited hooks. The wind must be taken into consideration; if crosswinds blow the streamers to the side of the longline, then the baited hooks are exposed to the seabirds. If feasible, the most effective setup is to fly two tori lines, one to port and one to starboard of the baited hooks.