



Study of seabirds and fisheries
Logbook – Data Collection



GEAR: _____

Port: _____

NAME AND CALL SIGN VESSEL: _____

SEASON: _____

LOGBOOK NR _____

BirdLife Malta – LIFE PanPuffinus!

BirdLife Malta, established in 1962, works to protect birds and their environment. BirdLife Malta manages four nature reserves in Malta, runs environmental education programs, and carries out several projects funded by the EU's LIFE programme aimed at research and the protection of seabirds. This logbook was prepared as part of the LIFE PanPuffinus! project, which aims to better understand the relationship between fishers and seabirds, especially when accidental bycatch of these birds occurs in different types of fishing gear. The project works with the fishing sector—and specifically with fishers—to find the most effective ways to reduce these incidents, which affect both fishers and birds.

How does this logbook work?

This logbook is intended to collect information on the accidental capture of seabirds in longline fishing gear around the Maltese Islands, in collaboration with fishers.

Introduction: The aim of this logbook is to gather information, identify different species of seabirds, provide a description of the most common species found in Maltese waters, and offer guidance on how to rescue a captured bird that is still alive.

General Information: General information about the vessel, including its name and characteristics, the type of gear used, and technical details.

Fishing Reports: This part of the logbook should be filled in for every fishing trip and includes information about when and where the setting and hauling take place, and whether any mitigation measure was used. If any repairs, gear changes, or other problems occurred during fishing, these should be noted. There are 10 fishing report templates included in this logbook, and each report corresponds to a single fishing trip.

Accidental Capture: Detailed information about the accidental capture.

Final Opinion: Here, the vessel's captain is asked to give their opinion about accidental bycatch and the experimental use of mitigation measures that prevent or reduce seabird bycatch.

1. Introduction

Aim of this logbook

The information provided in this logbook will not be used commercially nor shared with third parties. Personal information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for the purpose of possible contact between BirdLife Malta and the fishers collaborating in this study. As required by the LIFE PanPuffinus! project, a list of vessels participating in the study will be provided using codes which in no way link the identification of the information collected for each vessel with personal information. For further information, you may contact BirdLife Malta at 2134 7645 / 7761 1553.

Seabirds are the most threatened group of birds in the world, and their conservation status reflects the condition of our seas. They often search for food in the most productive areas of the sea, which are also preferred by commercial fisheries. This may result in interactions between seabirds, vessels, and fishing gear. At times, such interactions can lead to accidental bycatch. This can also have negative effects on fishing operations. Therefore, it is essential to establish a partnership between fishers and the scientific and environmental community so that together we can find solutions to reduce accidental bycatch. For this reason, collecting information about the interaction between seabirds and fisheries is extremely valuable.

First and foremost, to find solutions for accidental bycatch, we must understand the problem:

Which seabird species are being caught in different types of fishing gear?

Is there a particular time of day or season when the risk of accidental capture is higher?

What factors influence seabird behaviour and bycatch risk?

What is the impact of seabird bycatch on fishing operations?

What solutions can be developed that are effective and acceptable to fishers?

The purpose of this logbook is to answer these questions.

Specifically this logbook has been adapted to collect data during tests of the scarybird kite and towed buoy during longline setting.

2. General Information

VESSEL NAME: _____

Port: _____

VESSEL LENGTH(m): _____ CREW NR (EXCEPT CAPTAIN) _____

CAPTAIN NAME: _____

CAPTAN MOB NBR: _____/Email: _____

CHOOSE GEAR USED ON VESSEL:

NETS: GILLNET TRAMMEL SEINE OTHER:

LONGLINE: BOTTOM SURFACE OTHER:

POTS

OTHERS:

HAVE YOU DONE ANY CHANGES IN GEAR ON VESSEL IN THE LAST YEAR?

YES NO SEASON:

OTHER GEARS USED ON VESSEL

NETS: GILLNET TRAMMEL SEINE OTHER:

LONGLINE: BOTTOM SURFACE OTHER:

POTS

OTHERS:

GEAR DETAILS

- FILL DETAILS OF GEAR MOST USED IN THE NEXT PAGES. FILL ONE PAGE PER VARIETY/CONFIGURATION of GEAR (HOOK, DEPTH, LENGTH ETC).
- THE GEAR CODE AND CONFIG (LETTER AND NUMBER) THAT ARE USED ON EACH SETTING SHOULD BE WRITTEN DOWN ON EACH PAGE WITH THE TRIP INFO.
- IF YOU MAKE CHANGES TO THE GEAR DURING A TRIP THIS NEEDS TO BE NOTED ON THE FISHING TRIP.

LONGLINE LL _____

Tip ta' Konz:

Weight - float zigzag



Weight - float piramidal



Bottom longline with weights along the line

Bottom longling without weight (just on the beginning and end)

Surface

Others (specify): _____

Thickness of main longline (mm): _____ Thickness branchline (mm): _____

Distance between branchlines (fathoms): _____

Branch length (fathoms): _____

Hook type (code): _____

Depending on the type of longline:

Nr of hooks between weights and float: _____

Nr hooks between floats: _____

Nr hook between weights: _____

Weight of the weights along the longline (kg): _____

Stone/ballast type (description): _____

Target species:

NOTES:

DRAW AROUND HOOK

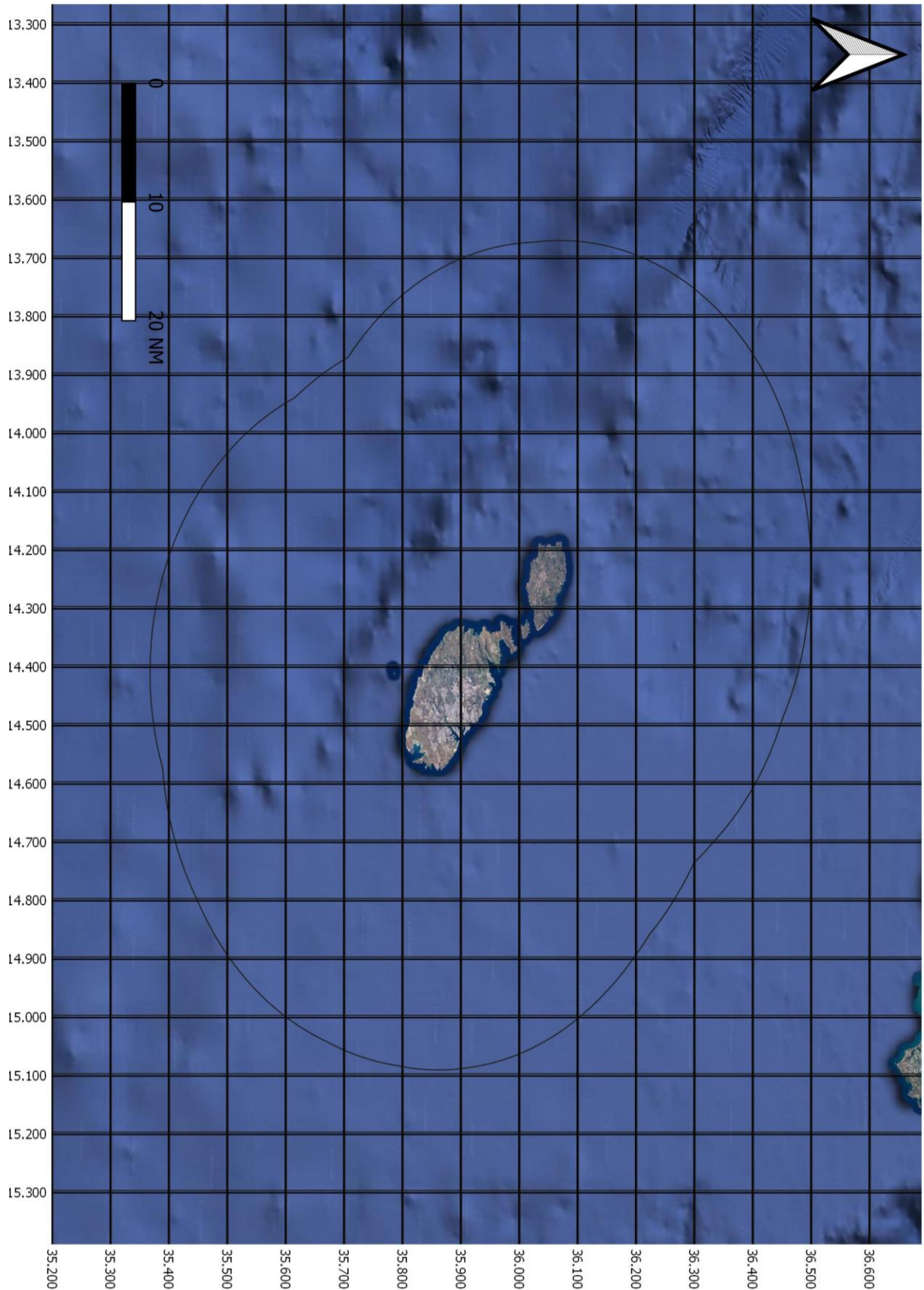
***FILL THIS PAGE FOR EACH DIFFERENT LONGLINE.**

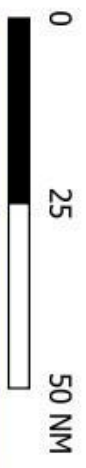
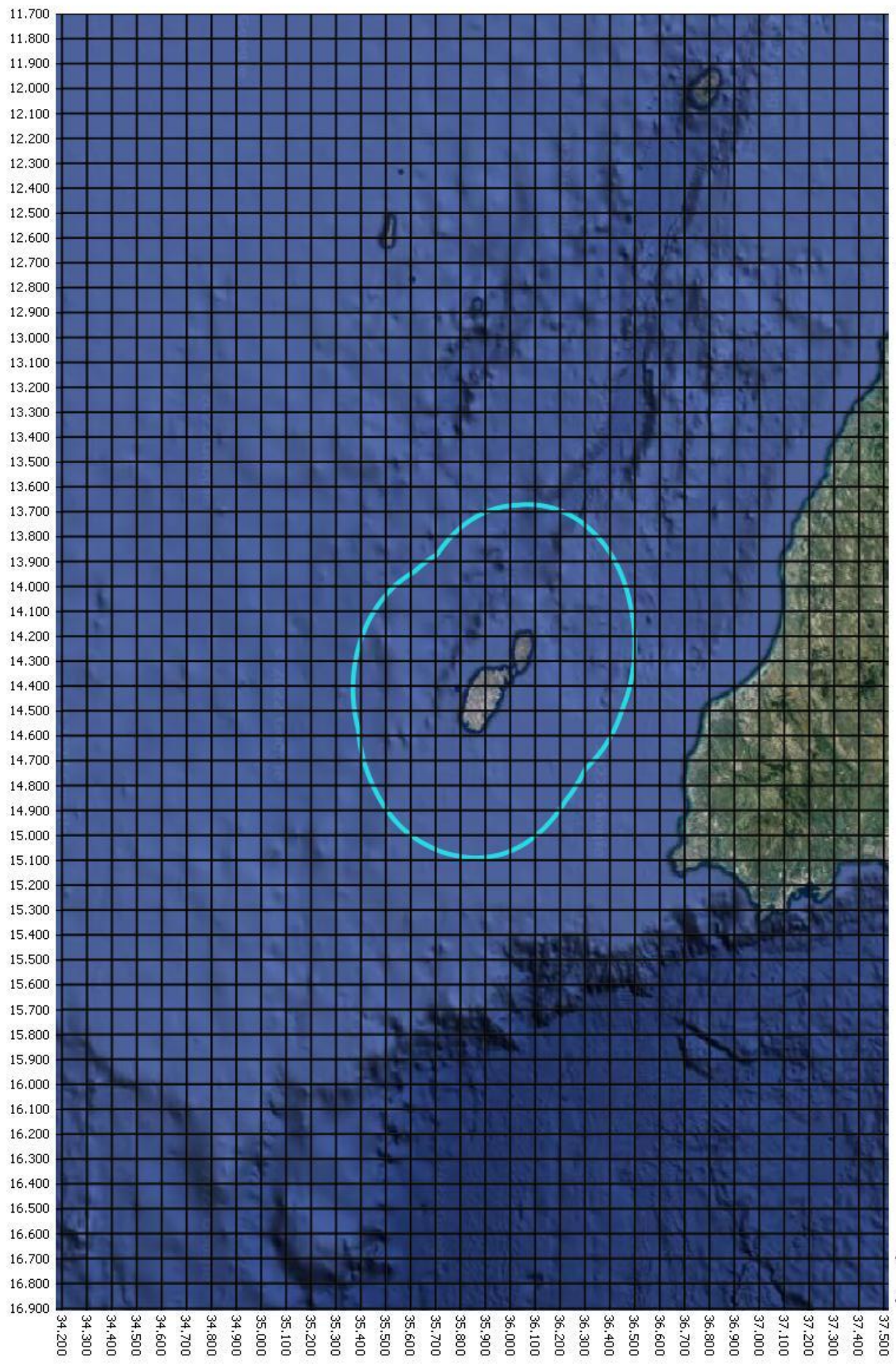
LLS - Set Longline

LLD - Drifting Longline

TRIP COORDINATES

FOR EACH TRIP , INDICATE COORDINATES FOR EACH SETTING BY USING GPS ABORD THE VESSEL. OR, YOU CAN USE THE MAPS HERE TO CHOOSE BOXES ON THE MAP AND MARK THE COORDINATES FROM THE BOXES FOR EACH SETTING.





FILL ONE PAGE PER TRIP

DATE OF LEAVING HARBOUR: _____ **DEPARTURE TIME:** _____

DATE OF RETURN TO HARBOUR: _____ **RETURN TIME:** _____

LONGLINE SETTING

VESSEL SPEED DURING SETTING(knots): ____

Nr*	TYPE OF LONG LINE	MITIGATION MEASURE FOR SEABIRDS	DATE & TIME OF SETTING START	SETTING COORDINATES	NR HOOKS	TYPE OF BAIT	SEABIRDS AROUND THE VESSEL
1		<input type="checkbox"/> Control <input type="checkbox"/> Scary bird <input type="checkbox"/> BALL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ NUMBER WEIGHTS ____					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE(0) <input type="checkbox"/> FEW (1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> AROUND A DOZEN(c12) <input type="checkbox"/> MANY 20+ <input type="checkbox"/> SCOPOLI <input type="checkbox"/> YELKOUAN <input type="checkbox"/> GULLS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS
2		<input type="checkbox"/> Control <input type="checkbox"/> Scary bird <input type="checkbox"/> Ballun <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn _____ Nru ta' Piż mal-Konz ____					<input type="checkbox"/> Xejn (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Ftit (1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Xi Tuzżana (c12) <input type="checkbox"/> Ħafna 20+ <input type="checkbox"/> Ċief <input type="checkbox"/> Garni <input type="checkbox"/> Gawwi <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn
3		<input type="checkbox"/> Control <input type="checkbox"/> Scary bird <input type="checkbox"/> Ballun <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn _____ Nru ta' Piż mal-Konz ____					<input type="checkbox"/> Xejn (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Ftit (1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Xi Tuzżana (c12) <input type="checkbox"/> Ħafna 20+ <input type="checkbox"/> Ċief <input type="checkbox"/> Garni <input type="checkbox"/> Gawwi <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn
4		<input type="checkbox"/> Control <input type="checkbox"/> Scary bird <input type="checkbox"/> Ballun <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn _____ Nru ta' Piż mal-Konz ____					<input type="checkbox"/> Xejn (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Ftit (1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Xi Tuzżana (c12) <input type="checkbox"/> Ħafna 20+ <input type="checkbox"/> Ċief <input type="checkbox"/> Garni <input type="checkbox"/> Gawwi <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn
5		<input type="checkbox"/> Control <input type="checkbox"/> Scary bird <input type="checkbox"/> Ballun <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn _____ Nru ta' Piż mal-Konz ____					<input type="checkbox"/> Xejn (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Ftit (1-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Xi Tuzżana (c12) <input type="checkbox"/> Ħafna 20+ <input type="checkbox"/> Ċief <input type="checkbox"/> Garni <input type="checkbox"/> Gawwi <input type="checkbox"/> Oħrajn

* NUMBER OF SETTING; USE NEXT PAGE FOR SEABIRDS INFO. TURN PAGE

SEABIRDS

IDENTIFY TO SPECIES OR GROUPS Eg CORMORANTS, LARGE GULLS, SMALL GULLS, YELKOUAN SHEARWATER, SCOPOLI SHEARWATER, TAKE A PHOTO. IF THE BIRD HAS A RING TAKE A NOTE OF NUMBER AND INSCRIPTION. IF THE BIRD IS ALIVE LEAVE THE RING ON THE BIRD. IF THE BIRD IS DEAD COLLECT THE RING.

Nr u*	SPECIES OF SEABIRDS ACCIDENTALLY CAUGHT	WHEN?	NUMBER OF SEABIRDS CAUGHT		PHOTO	NOTES (RELEASED, HEALTHY, INJURED, DISTANCE TO SHORE, WHERE IT WAS CAUGHT, MITIGATION MEASURE IN PLACE, RING?)
1		<input type="checkbox"/> SETTING <input type="checkbox"/> HAULING <input type="checkbox"/> SOAK TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> DEAD		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2		<input type="checkbox"/> Kalar <input type="checkbox"/> Rfigħ <input type="checkbox"/> Rkaptu fil-baħar	<input type="checkbox"/> Mejjet		<input type="checkbox"/> Iva <input type="checkbox"/> Le	
3		<input type="checkbox"/> Kalar <input type="checkbox"/> Rfigħ <input type="checkbox"/> Rkaptu fil-baħar	<input type="checkbox"/> Mejjet		<input type="checkbox"/> Iva <input type="checkbox"/> Le	
4		<input type="checkbox"/> Kalar <input type="checkbox"/> Rfigħ <input type="checkbox"/> Rkaptu fil-baħar	<input type="checkbox"/> Mejjet		<input type="checkbox"/> Iva <input type="checkbox"/> Le	
5		<input type="checkbox"/> Kalar <input type="checkbox"/> Rfigħ <input type="checkbox"/> Rkaptu fil-baħar	<input type="checkbox"/> Mejjet		<input type="checkbox"/> Iva <input type="checkbox"/> Le	

*SETTING NUMBER FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

4. Final Assessment

Thank you for completing the LIFE PanPuffinus! Logbook and participating in mitigation measure trials.

Would you like to highlight any information that caught your attention this year about the seabird interaction with fisheries?

Have you participated in other similars studies?

Yes No *What studies:*

How do you rate this experience?

Positive Negative Indifferent

Did it changed your view of seabirds?

Yes No *Reasons:*

Would you be interested in collaborating on future studies that aim to minimixe the problem of accidental captures?

Yes No

Do you have any suggestion about the structure and operation of this logbook?

Yes No *Suggestions:*

Do you think na electronic record such as a mobile APP could facilitate data collection?

Yes No

What perception do you have about the bycatch? In case of change, what do you think are the reasons?

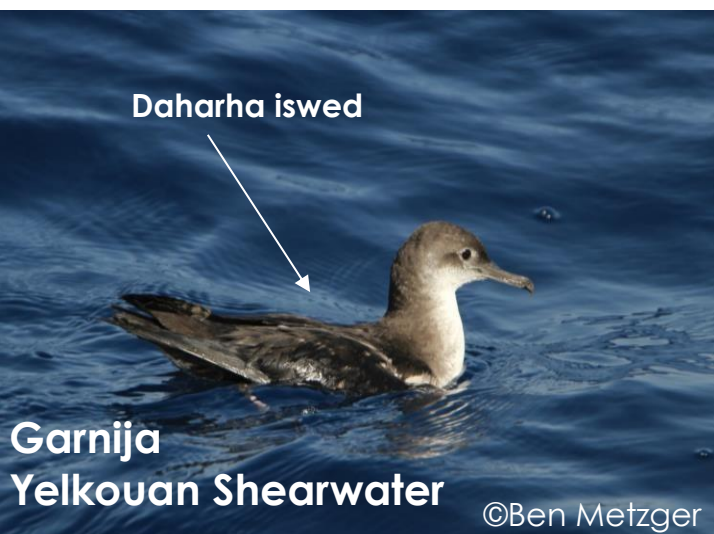
Increase Decrease Not changed

Do you have any other comments about the logbook or the interaction with the seabirds?

Thank you for your participation in this study. We appreciate your contribution. If you have any questions, or if you would like to know the final results of this project, please contact us on 2134 7645 / 7761 1553.



Seabirds nesting in the Maltese Islands



Other species in Maltese waters



©Jörg Hempel



©Lmbuga

Gawwija Prima
Yellow-legged Gull



©PxHere



©Richard Bartz

Gawwija Rasha Kannella
Black-headed Gull



©Luc Hoogenstein



©Carlos Mateus

Gawwija Rasha Sewda
Mediterranean Gull

Margun
Cormorant

- Adult
- ◆ Ferħ
- ▲ Fix-xitwa
- Żmien il-bejta

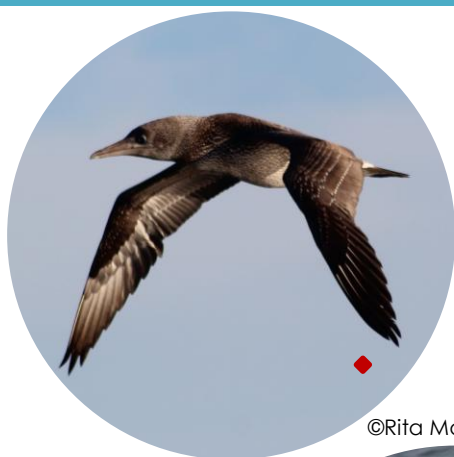


©Raju Kasambe

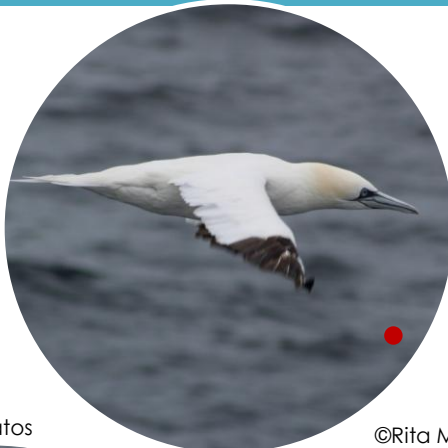


©Allan Hopkins

Other species in Maltese waters



©Rita Matos



©Rita Matos

**Sula
Gannet**

**Skuwa Prima
Great Skua**



©Rita Matos



©Rita Matos



©Aron Tanti



©Aron Tanti

**Ċirlewwa Sewda
Black Tern**

**Ċirlewwa tax-Xitwa
Sandwich Tern**



©Mario V. Gauci

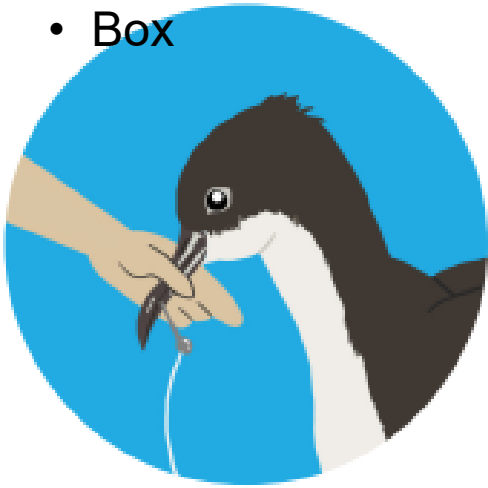


©Mario V. Gauci

- Adult
- ◆ Ferħ
- ▲ Fix-xitwa
- Żmien il-bejta

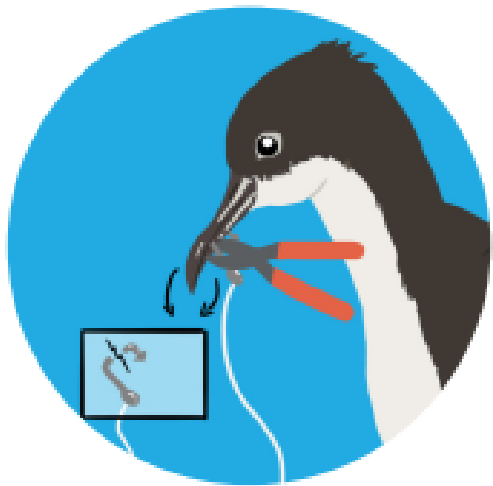
How to save a hooked seabird

Releasing Kit : • Landing net • Blanket • Bolt cutters
• Box



Bring the bird to the boat, if it's possible with a landing net. Grab the bird by the beak. **Never grab the wing.**

Fold the wings carefully and wrap the bird in a blanket, try to cover the eyes. **Don't let the bird touch on oil on deck.**



Cut the fishing line. Use bolt cutters to cut the hook's barb. Then remove the hook. If the hook is swallowed cut the fishing line the closest from the beak and leave the hook inside.

Never try to extract the swallowed hooks!

Let the bird recover in a box away from direct sun. Release it when the feathers are dry on water level.

If the bird is not recovering or has swallowed a hook, call us and we will pick up the bird as soon as you are in harbour. The bird will be then taken to a vet.

