

National Policy Recommendations for Seabird Bycatch

Compiled as part of the E2 Action of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project

Summary

The recommendations presented in this document are informed by experience gained through the LIFE PanPuffinus! project, in particular from the implementation of actions aimed at quantifying and reducing seabird bycatch. They also draw on the broader expertise of project partners acquired through other initiatives addressing seabird bycatch. These recommendations are largely based on recommendations developed in 2022 by LPO, a project partner, within the framework of project MAVA Medbycatch.

The purpose of these recommendations is to support national authorities and relevant stakeholders in defining objectives and actions to prevent the incidental capture of seabirds in professional fishing gear. Ultimately, it is recommended that these are implemented through a National Action Plan, in line with approaches adopted by the FAO, the European Commission, and national authorities in countries such as Portugal and Spain. The recommendations focus on professional fishing, however, it is important to note that recreational fishing activities may also carry a risk of incidental seabird capture. We recommend that the prevention of incidental captures in recreational fishing be addressed in the future by the relevant authorities and stakeholders

Reference :

Austad, M., Borg J., Russo, M., Caron-Strehlow, A., Faure, C., Almeida, A., Bazioti, E., Petza D., Portolou, D., Lago, P. 2026. 'National Policy Recommendations for Seabird Bycatch' compiled as part of Action E2 of the LIFE PanPuffinus! Project LIFE19 NAT/MT/000982