

# Preventing seabird bycatch in fisheries

Title



Every year at least 200,000 seabirds die as bycatch in fishing gears ? mainly long lines and gill-nets, but to a lesser extent also trawls and purse seines ? of EU fishing vessels, with the Baltic and eastern North Sea estimated to account for at least half of this toll.

All the birds involved are protected under the EU Birds Directive and for some, such as the endemic Balearic shearwater, bycatch is threatening the species with extinction in the next 40 years. Well beyond EU waters, in the Southern Ocean, 17 out of 22 albatross species are endangered, largely due to incidental bycatch in long lines and trawls of fleets, which include EU-flagged vessels.

For over a decade Birdlife Europe campaigned for the European Commission to come up with a robust strategy to protect these birds by introducing an EU Seabird Action Plan. This was achieved in November 2012 with the adoption by the European Commission of a Plan of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears. BirdLife Europe will take an active role in the implementation of the Action Plan and ensuring that it is an operational success.

## Related Topics

- [Preserving Seabirds and Marine ecosystems \(Programme\)](#)

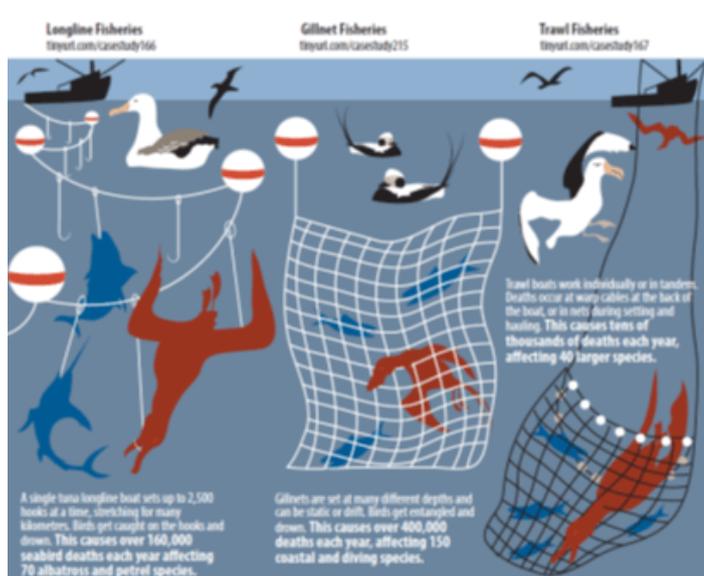
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## EU Marine and Fisheries section

- [Towards sustainable fisheries policy in the EU](#)
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## Briefings and Position Papers

- [Birdlife Europe position on development of a new framework for technical measures in the reformed CFP \(May 2014\)](#)
  - [Joint NGO position on the EU 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Programme for Data Collection \(DC-MAP; May 2014\)](#)
  - [BirdLife Europe Briefing: Time to halt seabird bycatch in the EU \(April 2013\)](#)
  - [BirdLife Europe Position: European Union Plan of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears \(April 2013\)](#)
  - [Seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries \(2012\)](#)
  - [Seabird bycatch mitigation factsheets](#)
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Picture illustrates how seabirds get caught and drown in

longline, gillnet and trawl fisheries.



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