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Collecting data on bird bands

Delegation of France Overseas Territories

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Abstract	
<p>Fishery observers can observe bands on birds around fishing vessels. Those bands are used to identify individuals and are important to study bird populations. It is important to collect those information and circulate them.</p>	

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

That the SIOFA SC **considers** that:

- Bands from birds found dead should be returned to the SIOFA secretariat.
- Photographs of bird bands (on dead or live animals) should be submitted to the SIOFA secretariat and reported in the observer's report.
- Bird bands data should be reported in the observer logbook.
- The information on bird bands should be circulated to the scientific community by the SIOFA secretariat.

This should not be applied when in contradiction with avian flu directives (if manipulation of birds is needed).

Collecting data on bird bands

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Banded bird in flight, photo by R. Bochart.

Fishery observers can observe bands on birds around fishing vessels. Those bands can be made of metal or plastic (called “Darvic”), a number is engraved to identify individuals and participate in bird scientific studies (Figure 1). Mark – recapture models mainly use data of birds observed on land colonies but rarely at sea so those information are thus important.



Figure 1 : Metal band (left) and plastic Darvic band (right)

Those bands can be observed in different cases:

- Birds in flight
- Birds landed on water
- Birds landed on the vessels
- Dead birds due to accidental catch or collision