

## DRAFT Conservation Services Programme Annual Plan 2013/14

### 4.6 Development of bird baffler design for offshore trawl vessels

Project code: MIT2013-05  
Start Date: 1 July 2013  
Completion Date: 30 June 2016

#### Overall Objective

To assess and improve where necessary the design, durability and performance of bird bafflers currently deployed on trawl vessels >28 m in length.

#### Specific Objectives

1. To design and construct one or more improved bird baffler design(s).
2. To conduct at sea trials of the improved baffler(s) in order to assess efficacy and utility of the design.
3. To produce recommendations in the construction of bird baffler designs in a variety of media in order to maximise uptake in commercial fisheries.

#### Rationale

Previous work on the assessment and improvement of seabird scaring devices on trawlers >28 m in length by Cleal et al (2013), identified that further work is required to improve the design and performance of bird bafflers currently in use. This project will aim to work collaboratively with vessel operators to identify and construct improved bird bafflers.

#### Research approach

It is envisaged that this project will involve the design, construction, installation and testing of bird bafflers onboard a number of commercial trawlers. Opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of the project will be actively sought. The functionality of the designs should be tested in terms of effectiveness at mitigating seabird captures, crew safety, resilience to weather and ease of use. Recommendations should then be developed in suitable media such as publication, fact sheets and industry newsletters in order to maximise uptake in commercial fisheries.

#### Outputs

1. Design and construction of one or more bird baffler designs.
2. Written report detailing the design, testing methodology and results in terms of mitigation effectiveness, crew safety, resilience to weather and ease of use.
3. Resource factsheet(s) for offshore trawl vessels on optimal designs for seabird scaring devices

#### References:

Cleal, J., Pierre, J. P., Clement, G., 2013: Warp strike mitigation devices in use on trawlers >28 m in length operating in New Zealand fisheries. Research report to the Department of Conservation. Available for download from

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservationservices/approved-mcs-annual-plan-2011-12.pdf>. Research Cost: \$70,000

Cost Recovery: F(CR) Item 4 (100% Industry) How to submit

**Submissions must be made by email to [csp@doc.govt.nz](mailto:csp@doc.govt.nz) by 5:00 pm, 29 May 2013.**

Contact; any queries should be made by email to [csp@doc.govt.nz](mailto:csp@doc.govt.nz) or directed to: Ian Angus  
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