

## TEN GOLDEN RULES FOR BOTTOM LONGLINERS TO SAVE PROTECTED SPECIES

1. Ensure your vessel has onboard the vessel's Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP), the Bottom Longline Operational Procedures, and a copy of the current bottom longline seabird regulations.
2. For the duration of all setting events you must use a tori line that meets the legal requirements. Additionally, you must either set at night, or use line weighting in accordance with regulations.
3. The tori line must achieve minimum aerial extent of 50m from the stern and be attached at least 5m above vessel's waterline as close to the stern as practicably possible. Hooks should be protected by aerial extent until they reach a depth of either 10m during high-risk periods or 5m outside of high-risk periods.
4. Streamers must be durable and brightly coloured. They must be spaced no more than 5m apart starting 5m behind the stern and extend the full aerial extent of the line. Streamers must reach the water's surface in the absence of wind and swell.
5. Know the line weighting legal requirements (for daytime setting):
  - If backbone is over 3.5 mm diameter, add minimum 4 kg metal weight (or 5kg non-metal weight) every 60 m of hook bearing line. Confirm your weight-to-float ratio complies with legal requirements
  - For backbone under 3.5mm diameter, place 0.7kg of weight spread over every 60m
  - No more than 3 floats every 60m, unless using 1kg more weight per additional float.
6. If not line weighting in accordance with legal requirements (above) you must set only at night. Minimise unnecessary deck lighting.
7. While hauling, hold fish waste (when possible) or discharge fish waste from the vessel's **opposite side** to the hauling station as legally required. Haul as quickly as practicable to reduce the amount of time hooks are at/near the sea surface.
8. No offal/fish waste discharge immediately before or during setting and 'hold & or batch discharge' when hauling (no continuous discharge). Use thawed bait for setting hooks.
9. Report all protected species captures by ERS or in the Nonfish Protected Species Catch Return (NFPSCR) logbook and send to FishServe. All crew should be familiar with and follow safe seabird handling procedures and protocols. Record bird band numbers and report. **It is illegal not to report NFPS captures.**
10. Report protected species trigger level captures to Liaison Officer. A trigger level is a capture level that actions a skipper in real time to try and increase mitigation to reduce ongoing risk of further captures. Please consult your Protected Species Vessel Risk Management Plan for relevant trigger levels.

For support phone your local Liaison officer.