

design and artwork: Ray Carneiro-MCFS-Malta 2008



**big problem...**

*More than 20 species of seabirds occurring in the ICCAT Convention Area are at risk of extinction. Bycatch in fishing operations is known to be a significant contributor to seabird population declines, and mitigation actions are needed to reduce the number of seabirds killed.*

*For further details on mitigation measures see the reverse of this poster.*



**simple solutions...**



ICCAT CICTA CICAA

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS





## INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

### Why are seabirds under threat?

*Seabirds are attracted to fishing vessels for the easy meal provided by discards, offal and bait. The short-term benefits of a free meal are outweighed by the long-term cost of seabird bycatch. Seabirds reproduce very slowly and vulnerable species are unable to sustain the number of birds hooked and drowned while feeding on longline baits.*

*ICCAT recommends reductions in seabird bycatch through the use of several mitigation measures, including tori lines (which are mandatory for longliners operating below 20° South).*

### Other mitigation measures include:

- *Sinking hooks quickly using weighted lines and thawed bait.*
- *Line setting at night, preventing seabirds from locating bait.*
- *Not discarding fish parts and used baits during setting, which attracts birds to fishing vessels.*

*These measures not only help to reduce the number of birds killed but also improve fishing efficiency by limiting the number of baits stolen by seabirds.*