Alaska Seabird Avoidance Measures

**Vessel Description**
Vessels using snap gear >26 ft. to 55 ft. length overall (LOA) and have mast, poles, or rigging; or greater than 55 ft. length overall

**Requirement**
Single streamer line

![Diagram of a boat with streamers](image)

- At least 4 streamers out of water behind the boat
- Streamers must be in the air for a minimum of 20 m (65.6 ft.) and within 2 m (6.6 ft.) horizontally of the point where the main groundline enters the water.
- 45 m (147.6 ft.) minimum length

**Weather Exception:** For vessels greater than 55 ft. LOA in winds exceeding 45 knots (storm or Beaufort 9 conditions), the use of a single streamer line is discretionary. For vessels >26 ft. to 55 ft. LOA in winds exceeding 30 knots (near gale or Beaufort 7 conditions), the use of a single streamer line is discretionary.

Questions? Call NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228

Updated April 2017
What to do if you encounter an Endangered Short-tailed Albatross

**Safe Release of Short-tailed Albatross**

Live birds should be released on site if the bird meets all of the following criteria:

- Looks normal.
- Capable of holding its head erect.
- Responds to noise and motion stimuli.
- Breathes without noise.
- Can flap both wings, and it can retract the wings to a normal folded position on the back.
- Capable of elevating itself to stand on both feet, with its toes pointed in the proper position (forward).
- Dry.

If criteria for release are not met, contact Alaska SeaLife Center stranded animal hotline: 1-888-774-7325 or 907-224-6395.

**Hook Removal from Seabirds**

If you hook birds while hauling gear and they come on board alive, make every reasonable effort to ensure that they are released alive. Whenever possible, remove hooks without jeopardizing the life of the bird:

Wrap the bird’s wings and feet with a clean towel to protect its feathers from oils or damage. Protect yourself from the bird’s beak – wear eye protection and heavy gloves.

- **If the hook is visible:**
  
  Use pliers (or bolt cutters) to cut off the hook or flatten the barb. Pull the hook back out of the bird.

- **If the hook is swallowed and removal is not possible:**
  
  Cut the line as close to the point of entry as possible and leave the hook in the bird.

Streamer lines can be purchased from LFSI in Seattle: (800) 647-2135

**If injured or sick**

Fisheries observers or—if no observer is on board—boat captains are responsible for carrying out these instructions.

1. Call Alaska SeaLife Center hotline at 1-888-774-7325 or 907-224-6395.
2. Report to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-800-858-7621 or 907-271-2888.
3. Retain live birds in a safe location.
4. Surrender it as soon as possible (alive or dead) as directed by USFWS.

**Reporting a dead short-tailed albatross**

1. Call NOAA Fisheries at 1-800-853-1964 or 907-586-7228, or
2. Call U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-800-858-7621 or 907-271-2888.
3. Immediately freeze any dead short-tailed albatross (if freezing is not available, keep it as cold as possible).
4. Label with vessel name, latitude and longitude where hooked, and the numbers and colors of any leg bands (leg bands must be left attached).

**ID a Short-tailed Albatross:** Bright pink bill with thin black line around base

Juvenile | Sub Adult | Adult

**Offal Discharge Requirements**

During hauling or setting, discharge offal in a manner that distracts from baited hooks, either:

- Aft of the hauling station, or
- Opposite side of the vessel

Remove hooks from discharged offal. Eliminate directed discharge through chutes or pipes from the stern. If not setting from the stern, eliminate directed discharge of residual bait and offal over sinking hooks.