

Verifying seabird-safe practices WITH DOCKSIDE INSPECTIONS

The presence of seabird-safe practices (except night setting) can be checked when a vessel is in port and able to be boarded.

The materials and design specifications of line weights and bird scaring lines can also be checked. However, it is not possible to check whether the practices are used during fishing, or whether they are being used correctly.

Some indication of whether the bird scaring line is used can be checked from its condition and where it is stored.

Port access, Health & Safety

There will be a range of necessary permissions and procedures to gain access to the vessel. These may vary by port.

Useful equipment

Measuring tape, scales, camera.

Photo: Nigel Hollands



Scales are useful to check the mass of weights.

What to check

Bird scaring lines

- Presence of an adjustable tori pole with an angle that holds the bird scaring line to the side of the vessel so that the streamers hang over the baited hooks.
- Height of the bird scaring line attachment point above the waterline.
- Length of the bird scaring line.
- Number of streamers, length of longest streamer, spacing, and streamer material.
- Presence of an in-water drag section, including materials.
- Presence of spare bird scaring line materials on board.

Line weighting

- Type of weight (lead swivel, weighted hook, sliding weight, double weight).
- Mass of weight closest to hook.
- Distance between the hook and the weight.
- Proportion of branchlines with weights.
- Presence of spare weights on board.

Hook-shielding device (Hookpod)

- Name of manufacturer.
- Presence of hook-shielding devices on all branchlines.
- Spare hook-shielding devices on board.

Underwater bait setter

- Name of manufacturer.
- Maintenance record.
- Data collected by the control unit to show use and depth settings.