

Underwater bait setter

An underwater bait setter keeps baited hooks out of sight and reach of seabirds.

Effect on fish catch

None.

Costs

The cost to buy, install, and train the crew is around US\$31,000. Annual maintenance is around US\$2,500. The life of the underwater bait setter can be extended indefinitely with replacement parts.

Effectiveness

The underwater bait setter reduces seabird captures by more than 95%. The science measuring effectiveness of underwater bait setting is good.

The underwater bait setter is a computer operated and hydraulically powered machine that releases baited hooks underwater.

How it works

An underwater bait setter keeps baited hooks out of sight and reach of seabirds. Baited hooks are placed inside a capsule, which is released and travels down a track underwater.

When the capsule reaches its deepest depth, baits are flushed from the capsule with water pressure from a spring-loaded door in the bottom section of the capsule. The release depth can be controlled and this allows baited hooks to be released beyond the reach of albatrosses and petrels.

Minimum effective standards

The underwater bait setter needs to release baited hooks below 5 metres directly at the stern of the vessel, and branchlines need to meet the line weighting standard.

A closeup of the capsule



Photos: Kieran Lawton, Skadia Technologies